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PATRIOTISM AND NATIONAL VALUES AS A FUNDAMENTAL MORAL PRINCIPLE IN THE UPBRINGING OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION

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Abstract:

This article analyzes the characteristics of patriotism as one of the fundamental moral principles and one of the supporting pillars of every person's spiritual inner world. It examines events and phenomena across various historical, socio-political, spiritual, and moral stages of our Homeland's development.

Keywords: Homeland, patriotism, faith, idea, ideology, courage, national and universal values.

Introduction

The role and significance of moral principles in the overall development of our society are extremely important. Every person living in society serves the Homeland with their own beliefs, goals, and interests, and tirelessly strives for its great future. One of the crucial principles serving this grand development is undoubtedly the feeling of patriotism within people. "In order to form a strong life position and a high sense of responsibility for the fate of our Homeland in the hearts of the growing younger generation, a unique system has been created in the field of patriotic education, encompassing broad segments of our country's population." As is well known to all of us, patriotism constitutes the spiritual

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foundation of every state's life and has manifested itself as the most important mobilizing moral force in the comprehensive development of society, and it will undoubtedly continue to do so.

Numerous definitions of the concept of patriotism have been provided in philosophical and ethical literature. For example, in the book "Philosophy: Encyclopedic Dictionary," it is written that "Patriotism is the awareness of responsibility and duty before the Homeland." The author of the textbook "Ethics," A. Sher, defines it as "a moral concept expressing a person's love for their Homeland and the desire to cherish and protect it." In the "Independence: Annotated Scientific-Popular Dictionary," it states that "patriotism encompasses the social and spiritual-moral qualities and virtues of a person that express love and affection for the land where one was born, raised, and matured."

Devotion and courage are among the main hallmarks of patriotism. The tireless labor and pursuit of working people for the strengthening of the Republic of Uzbekistan as an independent state, its economic, spiritual, and cultural development, and their faster attainment of a prosperous life can be called devotion. Devotion begins with loyalty to the Homeland. It is possible to demonstrate patriotism in any field. Protecting nature, collecting, studying, carefully preserving, and promoting the cultural heritage left by our ancestors are also forms of patriotism. Courage, on the other hand, is a lofty spiritual and moral virtue that a person demonstrates by sacrificing their own interests, and if necessary, even their life, for the sake of the Homeland and fellow citizens. Courage can manifest itself both in prolonged labor for the welfare of the people, the flourishing of science and culture, and the defense of the Homeland, as well as in extraordinary situations that demand self-sacrifice.

Whatever the case may be, patriotism is the highest manifestation of people's social and spiritual-moral qualities and virtues. At their core lies the love for the land inherited from our ancestors, the preservation of customs and values, genuine labor for the prosperity of the nation, the defense of the Homeland from

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enemies, liberation from any form of dependence, and if necessary, even not sparing one's life for its freedom and independence. Patriotism means serving the interests of the nation and placing the interests of the nation above personal interests. From this, it is understood that patriotism is a virtue inherent to a person who deeply respects the history and destiny of the native land and its people, and who is capable of demonstrating examples of devotion for the benefit of the Homeland. The feelings of respect, love, and trust toward the Homeland and its people are formed on the basis of certain common interests and goals, deeply rooted in people's hearts, influencing their activities, and mobilizing them to fulfill their responsibilities.

The highest form of patriotism is courage. Courage is a lofty spiritual and moral virtue demonstrated by a person who sacrifices their own interests, and if necessary, even their life, for the sake of the Homeland and fellow citizens. The simple shepherd Shiroq, Jalaluddin Manguberdi — the unparalleled champion of the struggle against Mongol invaders, Amir Temur, Mirzo Babur, and thousands of other defenders of the Homeland have inscribed their names in golden letters in the chronicle of eternity, and the children of today's era of independence can see this through the examples of their own lives.

At various stages of historical, social, political, and spiritual development, new facets of patriotism are continually discovered. For example, in the former Soviet Union, exemplary acts of high patriotism were artificially divided into two categories, separately designated as "Hero of the Soviet Union" and "Hero of Socialist Labor." However, courage can manifest itself both in prolonged labor for the welfare of the people, the flourishing of science and culture, and the defense of the Homeland, as well as in situations that demand self-sacrifice. For this reason, from the very first year of independence, the shortcomings inherited from the Union in this area were also eliminated.

On May 5, 1994, the Supreme Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted a Resolution on the establishment of the supreme title "Hero of Uzbekistan" and

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the “Gold Star” medal of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Educating today’s youth in the spirit of patriotism is an extraordinarily multifaceted, complex, and responsible task. In fostering love for the Homeland and shaping patriotic feelings, attention must be paid to the following aspects: performing military service to defend the Homeland; harboring contempt for enemies and traitors of the Homeland; placing the interests of the Homeland above all else; regarding the symbols of the Homeland and the country as sacred; knowing the history of the Homeland and taking pride in it; valuing all fellow citizens and uniting with them for the benefit of the Homeland; understanding the future of the Homeland and demonstrating devotion on this path. Serving the Homeland is the honorable duty of every patriotic person. Patriotism is a unique phenomenon that embodies mature moral components. It is formed and developed on the basis of a specific national culture, ideology, and beliefs.

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