

## YUSUF XOS HOJIB'S VIEWS ON KNOWLEDGE, REASON, AND PERCEPTION

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**Annotation:** This article presents reflections on the rich and meaningful teachings found in the work "Qutadg'u bilig" by Yusuf Khas Hajib, one of the great Eastern thinkers, as well as their significance in the present day.

**Keywords:** Knowledge, intellect, understanding, education, character, happiness, prosperity, language, word.

Yusuf Xos Hojib is one of the great figures of our spirituality, a distinguished Turkic poet, thinker, and statesman. Very little information about him has survived. What we know about him comes mainly from his famous work Qutadg'u bilig. In the preface of this work, the author writes about himself as follows:

"This book was composed by a patient and contented man born in Balasagun. However, he completed it in Kashgar and presented it at the court of the ruler of the East, Tavghach Khan. The ruler honored and praised him and granted him the position of 'Khas Hajib' (chief chamberlain) in his palace. Therefore, he became widely known by the name Yusuf Khas Hajib."

The work "Qutadg'u bilig" by Yusuf Khas Hajib not only marked the beginning of Islamic Turkic literature but also raised it to a new level. It was created through the creative assimilation of not only Turkic literary traditions but also the experiences of related cultures, such as Persian literature. It can be assumed that while writing this work, the thinker traveled beyond his homeland and studied various literary and cultural monuments. This idea can be supported by the following lines.

"The Chinese call it 'Adab al-Muluk,'  
The people of Machin say 'Anis al-Mamalik,'  
The wise men of the East  
All have named it 'Ziynat al-Umara,'  
The Persians have titled it 'Shahnameh,'  
Among the people of Turan, it is known as 'Qutadgu Bilig.'"

In addition, the poet's ideas in the work are adorned with beautiful images, lifelike comparisons, metaphors, and expressive symbols. Yusuf Khas Hajib was able to feel the power of words and the inner potential of his native language. He himself wrote: "I understood Turkic words like a wild mountain deer. Nevertheless, I tamed them and trained them carefully." Among such "tamed words," there are many folk proverbs and wise sayings. That is why this work has contributed to the spiritual development of our youth and continues to do so even today.

The book "Qutadg'u bilig" was primarily written for khagans and beks—that is, the rulers of the land. It is a rare masterpiece of 11th-century literary art, in which the advanced socio-political, spiritual, and moral issues of its time are artistically interpreted. It provides detailed information about the history, culture, science, customs, traditions, way of life, and values of Turkic peoples. The artistic value of "Qutadg'u bilig" is extremely high; every aspect of it is rich in meaning.

"Speak all your words with knowledge, and honor every person for their knowledge. The key to a leader's eloquence is the tongue. It is speech that elevates a person and brings them happiness. As Hazrat Alisher Navoi said:

It is the word that gives life to the dead,  
It is the word that brings news to the soul from the beloved,  
It is the word that separated man from the animal,  
Indeed, there is no nobler craft than it.

The word is a powerful and tool. One should never speak too much; it is better to speak little. Yusuf Khas Hajib also advised in this regard:

Through words, a person may become a king,  
Excessive speech, however, bows the head low.

Too many words can bring discomfort to a person. Yet, remaining completely silent is also not possible, as one may then be called mute. Therefore, one should follow a moderate path. A person who maintains balance in speech attains happiness and fortune.

Guard your tongue – your head will be safe,  
Guard your words – your life will be prolonged.

The benefits that come from the tongue are many, and they should not be lost through carelessness. At times, the tongue deserves praise, and at times, it deserves blame. Therefore, always be mindful of when and how much you speak. When you do speak, let your words be as clear and meaningful as sight for the blind.”

As the poet and thinker Alisher Navoi said, every misfortune that befalls a person comes from the tongue; the lines of Yusuf Khas Hajib quoted above express the same idea. If you ask what this has to do with knowledge – after all, only knowledgeable and wise people can speak correctly. Their words soothe a person’s heart like a healing balm.

A person does not feel old because of two things: one is good character, and the other is kind speech. The legacy that remains from a person after death is their word. The person passes away, but their words remain forever.

No human mind can encompass all the words in the world. However, one should not be forced to speak – only the necessary words should be spoken.

I have spoken to you, my dear son,  
I have given you advice myself, my dear son.  
If silver is left to you as an inheritance,  
Do not value it as much as these words.  
If silver is spent, it will diminish and be gone,  
But if my words are put into practice, they will yield gold.

The inheritance passed from one person to another is the inheritance of words. If you follow them, you will gain countless benefits and blessings.

Wisdom always teaches this: a harsh word brings misfortune upon a person. Envious words can turn a person’s rosy face pale like straw. There is no person who never makes mistakes in speech.

Ignorant people are enemies of the wise. The uneducated always wish humiliation upon the wise – this is a sign of the envy deeply hidden in their hearts.

Our great ancestor left many meaningful teachings. In particular, he spoke about important matters such as knowledge, intellect, and justice. For example:

Whoever possesses wisdom is truly a noble person;  
Whoever has knowledge attains high rank.

A knowledgeable person is certainly broad-minded and tolerant. They rely on their knowledge. They do not see the world as narrow, but as multifaceted. Such a person is, above all, a servant of life.

As the great thinker Yusuf Khas Hajib said:

“In this world, two kinds of people are considered truly human: one who teaches and one who learns.”

A man needs support and helpers.  
He needs wise, knowledgeable, and intelligent leaders.  
Helpers who understand all matters are necessary,  
Because if a person works with knowledge, they achieve their goals.  
If there are many helpers, the ruler will not suffer hardship.  
All affairs will be in order, and law and governance will not be disrupted.  
Do not let worldly wealth deceive you;  
In all matters, seek righteousness.

There is another piece of wisdom: Prophet Adam is honored because of knowledge, intellect, and understanding. The greatness of humankind comes from knowledge. Through intellect and reasoning, a person is capable of solving countless problems. Anyone who possesses understanding, intellect, and knowledge is honorable.

Our wise and knowledgeable ancestor, through these teachings, emphasizes how essential knowledge is for humanity. A person should always strive for knowledge, as this is one of the most important human virtues. Since ancient times, humans have sought to understand nature. Not only to know, but also to learn how to do something, to acquire a profession, and to engage in work they love—knowledge is essential.

Thus, to live a *правильный*, happy, and prosperous life, one must first have knowledge, intellect, and wisdom. Today, favorable conditions are being created for our youth to receive education and become knowledgeable. In particular, the fact that the year 2020 was declared the “Year of Science, Enlightenment, and the Development of the Digital Economy” is a clear example of this.

Indeed, the greatest wealth is intellect and knowledge, while the greatest poverty is ignorance. To achieve all the goals we set before ourselves, we need educated specialists with modern knowledge and a younger generation that thinks in new ways. That is why our President is increasing admission quotas and state grants for entry into higher educational institutions.

On the matter of knowledge and intellect, Yusuf Khas Hajib offered many teachings. Here is another example:

“Knowledge is wealth, indeed, far from decline,  
No thief, however skillful, can ever steal it.”

A person should always seek knowledge. All happiness and prosperity come from knowledge, and the means that lead one to their goals is the book. Books are diverse; they guide a person not only toward their aims but also toward goodness. Therefore, if we wish to do good to one another, reading books and sharing them is also an act of kindness.

However, for reading books to be truly beneficial, good character and proper upbringing are also necessary. According to Abdulla Avloni, a person is not born with bad character. Under certain conditions and as a result of poor upbringing, negative traits appear and develop. The perfection of a person’s abilities is achieved through education and upbringing. If a person receives good *воспитание*, avoids bad habits, and grows accustomed to noble qualities, they will earn everyone’s respect and attention. Otherwise, they may grow into an ignorant, unwise, and even harmful individual who engages in wrongful deeds.

We often become convinced of these truths throughout our lives. Therefore, giving great importance to upbringing is absolutely right.

An intelligent person embodies wisdom, wealth, love, longevity, and great creative power. A strong desire to learn new things always leads to great success in any endeavor. A person who reads a lot achieves excellence in life and lives happily.



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