

**THE IMAGE OF BABUR IN WORLD LITERATURE (IN HAROLD LAMB'S
INTERPRETATION)**

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Annotation: The work Baburnama by Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, who left a significant mark on world literature and history, has an encyclopedic character. Baburnama stands out among the memoir and historical works of its time due to its broad scope, educational, scientific, and artistic value. Being encyclopedic in nature, it serves to study the historical period, multifaceted social, and natural life in a comprehensive way. Numerous research works and artistic interpretations have been written about this work in world literature. The work of the American writer Harold Lamb is also dedicated to the life and creativity of Babur. This article examines the image of Babur created in his work.

Keywords: Babur, king and poet, English (American) writer, Baburnama, realism, India, military skill.

Introduction.

The work Baburnama by Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, who left a deep trace in world literature and history, possesses an encyclopedic character. Baburnama, with its many qualities, differs from other memoir and historical works of its era by its wide scope, educational, scientific, and artistic significance. This encyclopedic work allows one to study the historical period, the multi-layered social and natural life in all its complexity.

Babur, along with being a poet and writer, was also a great commander who mastered the secrets of military art — qualities vividly expressed in Baburnama. The famous American orientalist and biographer Harold Albert Lamb depicted Babur's adventurous life path realistically and vividly in his work Babur the Tiger, based on Baburnama. He describes Babur's military campaigns, his mastery of the art of war, and his relationship with his soldiers in detail.

Research purpose.

To discuss the skill of Harold Lamb in portraying the image of Babur in world literature.

Methods and materials.

Analytical and comparative methods were used in the study. Harold Lamb's Babur the Tiger

novel and Baburnama served as the main materials.

Results and discussions.

The mastery of military art was inherited by Babur from his grandfather Amir Temur. His father, Umarshaykh Mirzo, though a skilled horseman, was not an excellent archer. Therefore, when his son reached ten years old, he began teaching him the use of weapons and entrusted him to military masters. Lamb writes:

“Babur’s military instructors would summon him to practice whenever they pleased — whether he was asleep or picking apples in the garden. His instructor, an experienced warrior, trained him in horseback maneuvers, teaching him how to act during combat, how to extricate himself from difficult situations — tasks that, though demanding, proved invaluable in battle. The mentor paid special attention to teaching the young prince how to handle a short curved sword from the saddle, how to hold and use a shield during battle. Along with this, he demanded mastery in using the Turkish bow — shooting precisely, shooting backward while retreating, or while galloping past a target.” [6,24]

Lamb also elaborates on Babur’s other instructors in military art. For example, his elderly mentor Qosimbek Qavchin required Babur to deliver blows with great power, ensuring that his opponent would fall from a single arrow. Another instructor, Hasan Ya’qubbek, taught him how to urge his horse forward by pressing with his knees and heels, and how to skillfully retreat from dangerous situations, constantly reminding him: “If your movements are slow, achieving your goal will be difficult.”

It is evident that Babur’s interest in military science (though literature and reading dominated his passions) began early and became a life necessity. From a young age, he also learned to analyze situations and draw proper conclusions — skills that proved useful in conquering Samarkand (three times), Kabul, and later India. The author emphasizes another of Babur’s qualities: “Although Babur Mirza’s experience in selecting tactics during military operations was still limited, his inner intuition was highly developed.” Lamb believes that this intuition ensured his success in later battles.

Indeed, due to this intuition and determination, Babur conquered Kabul with a small army and defeated Ibrahim Lodi, who commanded a vast force of soldiers and war elephants. Babur himself wrote in Baburnama:

“...I placed my foot in the stirrup of courage, trusted in God, took the reins in hand, and marched against Sultan Ibrahim... His army was said to number one lakh (one hundred thousand) men. The number of his and his nobles’ elephants reached a thousand...” [3,98]

Lamb describes this in detail, marveling at Babur’s military genius:

“Babur’s troops built a defensive line stretching from Panipat to the battlefield. Along this line, seven hundred carts were tied together with strong leather thongs made from ox hide. Between

the carts, they left spaces where men, protected by shields, could stand. Turkish-made cannons were placed in these positions, and musketeers took aim from behind the carts and shields...” [6,215]

Thus, by constructing fortified trenches, using firearms, and employing strict discipline, Babur defeated an army many times stronger than his own through strategic mastery.

Lamb also provides detailed depictions of the famous battles of Panipat and Kanwa. In many parts of the book, he highlights Babur as a brilliant military commander deeply versed in the art of war, emphasizing the realistic and authentic portrayal grounded in Baburnama itself.

Conclusion.

When reading Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur’s Baburnama, one becomes captivated by the king and poet’s life, sorrows, emotions, loved ones, and passionate love for his homeland. Reading Harold Lamb’s work, we vividly see the image described by Jawaharlal Nehru — a brave, fearless warrior, an outstanding commander, poet, and king — Babur the Tiger.

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