European Journal of Innovation in Nonformal Education (EJINE)
Volume 4 | Issue 6 | June - 2024 ISSN: 2795-8612

"Barley Charm" of Azerbaijan

Shakhodatkhon Khabitovna Imomnazarova
Institute of Uzbek language, literature and folklore of Academy of Sciences of Republic of Uzbekistan

A B S T R A C T
This article talks about the Navruz holiday, which is one of the favorite holidays of the people of Azerbaijan as well as all the Turkic peoples, and the traditions that take place on the eve of the holiday, and about making sumak, folk games, growing wheat, and the ceremony called "Charm of Barley", which is considered as a magical value.

A R T I C L E I N F O
Article history:
Received 11 Apr 2024
Received in revised form
10 May 2024
Accepted 13 Jun 2024

Keywords: Navruz, nature, wheat, games, tradition, custom, ceremony, folklore.

Hosting by Innovatus Publishing Co. All rights reserved. © 2024

It is known that Navroz holiday is recognized as the "most popular" holiday. As in our country, Navruz holiday was considered one of the most favorite holidays in Azerbaijan. According to the information provided by Aynur Aydin Ibrahimova, associate professor, doctor of philosophy of philological sciences, employee of the Institute of Folklore of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, this holiday will last almost a month in the country. People celebrate the vernal equinox, which marks the renewal of nature. On holidays, folk parades and celebrations are held, ropewalkers, wrestlers demonstrate their skills, folk performances are shown on the squares. As night falls, bonfires are lit in the streets. According to popular belief, its flames destroy evil and diseases. People hold each other's hands and play around the bonfire, then jump over it and say, "We throw all our worries into this bonfire." On holidays, houses prepare various delicacies, among which pilaf, shekerbura, baklava, gogal and others can be noted. In Navruz, there is also a custom of coloring eggs and fighting each other. Grain is planted and wheat is grown. A table is set on the table and filled with various goodies, after lighting a candle, wheat wrapped in a red ribbon is placed in the middle of the tray.

In 2009, the Navruz holiday was included in the UNESCO list of intangible cultural heritage of humanity in Azerbaijan as well as in a number of countries. Great values such as peace and unity, harmony and neighborliness are put forward in Nowruz, as in our country. For example, elders reconcile warring families and save families. In Azerbaijan, people with broken relationships reconciled on their own without the advice of elders. In these cultural ceremonies, customs such as cultural diversity and humanitarianism, healthy lifestyle and renewal of living conditions are passed down from generation to generation.

These celebrations are imprinted in the memory of children, and they will continue these traditions and teach them to the next generation.

There are many rituals associated with Holy Wednesday barley in Azerbaijan. One of them is the custom of "sprouting barley". A person who has some wish in the bottom of his/her heart puts the wheat in large trays and boils it, grinds the sprouts, squeezes out the juice, adds some water to the juice, and boils it for two or three days. Nuts are added to it, and then distributed on "khancha" (decorated gift basket or tray) trays. They put "Khonchas" in the net of the house, stay awake at night and pray for the acceptance of the

intention. If it turns out to be sweet, it means that the offering has been accepted. This is a mythic custom in nature.

One of the legendary traditions of Navruz is the “Magic Barley” ceremony. This ceremony is held for childless women. The order of the ceremony is as follows: a woman with a son or daughter puts bruised wheat on the head of a childless woman on Wednesday. "Wednesday water" brought from a spring or river is poured over the barley. Another woman who has brought up a son cuts the wheat with scissors and says: “If you make your wheat grow, give this woman offspring too.” Here we see the roots of the main plant (barley-wheat) and traces of water. Sprung barley means the wound of a woman, and water means the wound of a man - fertilization. A great feature of the ceremony is that it is performed on Wednesday. A new year means the beginning of a new life. People want to create a new destiny and change the old, bad fate with the magic of barley.

The following customs are performed in the country during Navruz holiday:

Throwing a hat. In the month of Navruz, a cap is left near the door or window of a household with an adult daughter. This custom is performed by young men. The young men go to the house of the girls they admire and leave their hats under the door. If the girl agrees, she puts sweets in her hat and put them in front of the window. The young man, who received a hat filled with sweets, understands that the girl agrees and sends a suitor to the girl's house the next day. If the girl leaves the cap empty, it means that the girl has rejected the guy.

Jumping over the fire. Bonfire is an archaic ritual. Fire - blessing, fire-is a symbol of the sun on earth, fire - is a living being. A Wednesday bonfire is lit to say goodbye to the passing year, and a festive bonfire is lit in honor of the new year. People are cleansed by the fire of last Wednesday, that is, from the torment of the old year. Even today, the people of Azerbaijan believe in the power of fire and jump over bonfires. People burn their burdens and illnesses in a bonfire, they start a new day, a new life with purity.

Divination by the ring. Girls tie the ring to the handle and put it in a glass full of water. How many times the ring touches the glass, the girl will get married at that age.

Egg hatching. As a result of the game, one of the parties fulfills the requirements of the winning party.

Visiting a guest. During Navruz, they go to the homes of relatives and acquaintances and give them Navruz gifts.

Lighting a candle. During Navruz, they light candles as many as the number of family members.

This means that in this country too, women lead ceremonies, teach the youth about traditions and customs, and play a key role in such cultural ceremonies. They play an important role in the rituals and in some cases they are the only person who leads the ceremony and prepares the “Samani” (halva that is made from malted wheat. Its tradition in Azerbaijan is to make halva communally, using flour from seven different homes) as a sacred food.

References

1. Tadqiqotchi Shahribonu Mirzayevaning AMEA Folklor instituti xodimi, dotsent, filologiya fanlari bo‘yicha falsafa doktori Aynur Aydin qizi Ibrohimovadan yozib olgan ma’lumotlar asosida “ekspeditsiya kundaligi”dan.
2. https://525.az/news/217543-novruz-yeni-il-yeni-baslangicdir-aynur-aydin-qizi-ibrahimova-yazir.
3. O.Madayev, T.Sobitova Xalq og‘zaki poetik ijodi. –T:”Sharq” 2010-y
4. Mahmud Koshg‘ariy. Turkiy so‘zlar devoni. (Devonu lug‘otit turk) uch tomlik. – T: “O‘zfanakademnashr”, 1963-y
5. O‘zbek tilining izohli lug‘ati. “O‘zbekiston milliy entsiklopediyasi” Davlat ilmiy nashriyoti, 2006-y