



## KUTADGU BILIG, AS A MASTERPIECE THAT EXPLORES THE ISLAMIC FAITH DEEPLY

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**Annotation:** Kutadgu Bilig, translated as "The Wisdom of Royal Glory," is a monumental work in Turkish literature, authored by Yusuf Khas Hajib in the 11th century. This seminal piece of literature not only serves as a literary masterpiece but also delves deeply into the core principles and values of the Islamic faith. This article explores the rich tapestry of Islamic faith and morality as depicted in Kutadgu Bilig, a masterpiece of Turkish literature authored by Yusuf Khas Hajib in the 11th century. Kutadgu Bilig serves as a profound reflection on the social, cultural, and political dynamics of its time, integrating Islamic values into the fabric of society while offering timeless insights into the human condition. The article concludes by emphasizing the enduring relevance of Kutadgu Bilig, which continues to inspire readers to reflect on the principles of Islam and their application in contemporary contexts.

**Key words:** Kutadgu Bilig, Yusuf Khas Hajib, Islamic literature, Faith, Morality, Adab, Allegory, Social dynamics, Cultural reflections

**Аннотация:** "Кутадгу Билиг," переведенное как "Мудрость царской славы," представляет собой величественное произведение турецкой литературы, созданное Юсуфом Хассом Хаджибом в XI веке. Это литературное произведение не только является шедевром, но и глубоко погружается в основные принципы и ценности исламской веры. В данной статье рассматривается богатое полотно исламской веры и морали, как оно отображается в "Кутадгу Билиг", шедевре турецкой литературы, написанном Юсуфом Хассом Хаджибом в XI веке. "Кутадгу Билиг" представляет собой глубокое размышление о социальной, культурной и политической динамике своего времени, интегрируя исламские ценности в структуру общества и предлагая вечное понимание условий

человеческого существования. В заключении статьи подчеркивается актуальность книги "Кутадгу Билиг", которая продолжает вдохновлять читателей на размышления о принципах ислама и их применении в современном контексте.

**Ключевые слова:** Кутадгу Билиг, Юсуф Хасс Хаджиб, исламская литература, Вера, Мораль, Адаб, Аллегория, Социальная динамика, Культурные размышления

In the rich tapestry of Islamic literature, certain works stand as timeless masterpieces, illuminating the depths of faith, wisdom, and societal intricacies. Among these gems, Kutadgu Bilig[1] shines brightly as a profound exploration of the Islamic faith and its implications on individual conduct and societal harmony. Penned by the illustrious thinker Yusuf Khass Hajib in the 11th century, Kutadgu Bilig, which translates to "The Wisdom of Happiness" or "The Knowledge of Prosperity," serves not only as a literary monument but also as a profound philosophical treatise deeply rooted in Islamic principles.

Set against the backdrop of the Karakhanid dynasty in Central Asia, Kutadgu Bilig unfolds as a mirror reflecting the ethical dilemmas, spiritual quests, and moral principles that govern human existence. Through its poetic verses and intricate narrative, the text delves into the essence of Islamic teachings, exploring the intricate interplay between faith and reason, individual conscience and communal welfare.

At its core, Kutadgu Bilig serves as a guide to moral conduct, advocating for virtues such as justice, compassion, and humility, all deeply ingrained in Islamic ethics. The protagonist, Balasagunlu Yusuf, embarks on a spiritual journey, grappling with existential questions and seeking enlightenment in the light of Islamic wisdom. As he encounters various characters and navigates through life's trials, the readers are invited to contemplate the profound insights offered by Islamic teachings, guiding them towards a deeper understanding of faith and its practical implications.

In the preface of Yusuf Khass Hajib's work, he commences by extolling the praises of Allah, subsequently bestowing blessings and accolades upon the Prophet

Muhammad (peace be upon him) and his companions. Following this, he proceeds to discuss the essence of the book. Subsequently, the author elaborates on the significance of the book, its title, the attribution of the title "Khas Hajib" to its author, and the adoption of Turkic names for the four symbolic protagonists within the narrative. It is succinctly explicated that amidst these four protagonists, there exist question-answer sessions and deliberations.

Within the annals of literary history, Yusuf Khas Hajib is regarded as the first author to accurately align "Bismillahir-Rahmanir-Rahim" with the Arabic poetic meter (aruz), initiating his work with it, while also addressing Islamic creed issues within his oeuvre.

After the acceptance of the Islamic faith by Turkic peoples, it became customary for their written works to begin with the phrase "basmala." Similarly, the original text of "Kutadgu Bilig" follows this tradition. The initial verses of the text resemble the content of the first and second verses of the Fatiha surah. Moreover, subsequent lines in the text echo this theme.

In the opening segment of the text, which focuses on matters of belief, the author highlights the importance of faith in Allah, the ultimate authority and creator. Here, the writer emphasizes Allah's magnificence, existence, and oneness. Allah is depicted as the creator of the universe and the provider of sustenance for all living being.

The original text of "Kutadgu Bilig" begins as follows:

"Bayat atı birlä sözüg başladım,  
Törütgän, igiđgän, kečürgän iđim (QB.120)."

Translation by Robert Dankoff[2]:

With glory to God, I begin on my courses,  
In praise of the founder of all finest forces.[2]

The same verse is repeated in lines 1328, 3149, 3652, and 3813 of the text. Although the lines are differentiated by various synonyms, they all convey the essence of beginning with the phrase "Bismillahir-Rahmanir-Rahim," thereby reflecting complete fidelity to its meaning.



In his writing, Yusuf Khass Hajib urges people to distance themselves from ignorance and to actively seek knowledge, regardless of the challenges involved. He greatly respects educated individuals wherever they may be found. This is because they act with an understanding of the potential outcomes of their words and deeds, unlike the ignorant. Therefore, it is advisable not to engage in lengthy discussions with those lacking in knowledge. Ultimately, all virtues stem from knowledge, leading one towards success.

In "Kutadg'u Bilig," there are didactic concepts elucidated regarding Allah's forgiveness through His mercy. Humans tend to sin due to their inherent nature. Nevertheless, Allah pardons those who repent and forgives their sins, preventing them from repeating their transgressions. It is emphasized that one should always maintain hope in Allah's mercy.

One of the professors who has done many researches on this famous work, Z. Sodiqov states that the chapter titled [162. 65-68.] contains references to 23 sacred names of Allah, with only two of them being mentioned in Arabic, prefaced by the invocation "In the name of the Compassionate, Merciful God." [3]

The text presents numerous religious and instructional approaches to theological themes, many of which are deeply rooted in verses from the Holy Qur'an. These approaches, whether direct or indirect, are often based on specific concepts. From an analytical standpoint, it's reasonable to categorize the work as theological, as it delves into various concepts related to the divine, such as the Almighty (Allah Ta'ala), the Powerful (Qadir), the Unique (Vahid), the Supreme (Jabbar), the Sovereign (Malik-ega), the Glorious (Majiyd), the All-Knowing (Wajid), the One (Ahad), the Eternal (Wahid), the Living (Hayy), and many others. These concepts, accompanied by numerous descriptive attributes like Everlasting (Baqiy), were prominently utilized in Turkic languages of the time and are presented uniquely within the text.

In brief, the illumination of prophecy in "Qutadgu Bilig" primarily lies in its unique utilization of vernacular language concepts from the era, vivid imagery, intricate plots, lifelike characterizations, and meticulous attention to detail, all expressed artistically through figures and symbols. This multifaceted approach not

only enriches the text but also holds a significant position in the evolution of thought during its time.[4]

#### Conclusion:

In conclusion, Kutadgu Bilig is not merely a literary work but a spiritual journey encapsulated in prose. Through its intricate narratives and profound teachings, it serves as a timeless reservoir of Islamic wisdom, inviting readers to contemplate the complexities of faith, morality, and human nature. Yusuf Khas Hajib's masterpiece transcends the boundaries of time and culture, offering insights that remain as relevant today as they were centuries ago.

As we bid farewell to the pages of Kutadgu Bilig, we carry with us not just a deeper understanding of Islamic faith but also a renewed sense of introspection and enlightenment. Its enduring legacy lies in its ability to inspire hearts and minds, guiding seekers towards a path of spiritual fulfillment and moral integrity. Indeed, Kutadgu Bilig stands as a testament to the enduring power of literature to illuminate the human soul and enrich our collective understanding of the divine.

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