

The world and genius of Nasimi

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The deep mark thinker and poet Imadeddin Nasimi left on the centuries-old artistic and philosophical heritage of the Azerbaijani people continues to play an important part in people's moral and spiritual education today. Nasimi holds a special place in the cultural treasury of peoples of the East and has been a subject of scientific and literary research for many years.

Starting off his activities with poems of love and lyricism, Nasimi then moved on to political, public and moral subjects. He was one of the founders of the genre of philosophical ghazals in the native language. Nasimi skillfully conveyed his criticisms of life and society through beautiful verses of love or nature. The works of Nasimi have played an immense part in shaping up the Azerbaijani poetry and literary language. His eloquent style seems to reflect the entire completeness and diversity of the Azerbaijani language of the Middle Ages. Many of his poems have had a profound impact on the formation of public thought in a number of peoples of the time. His philosophical views, his ideas of Hurufism, as well as Life and Universe are expressed in a concise and logical manner. The works of Nasimi earned him tremendous respect in Azerbaijan, Middle East, Iraq, Asia Minor and Syria, as well as Central Asia and among the Uighurs.

The poems Nasimi wrote in the Azerbaijani language have also had a powerful impact on the development of the Azerbaijani poetry, including the activities of such prominent personalities as Khatai, Fizuli and Vagif. His poems emphasizing greatness of man, love and personality have won a well-deserved place in the world poetry treasury.

The analysis of the poet's works reveals that the education Nasimi received in Shamakhi could match the level of education of the best universities of the time. He thoroughly studied the classical philosophy and literature of the East and Ancient Greece, had in-depth knowledge of Islam and Christianity, and was expert in medicine, astronomy, astrology, mathematics and logic. He also spoke and wrote beautiful poems in the Azerbaijani, Farsi and Arabic languages. His Azerbaijani poems are noted for the richness of their language and vernacular style. His works are full of proverbs, as well as wise and witty sayings. The verses of Nasimi are close to bayaties, a kind of Azerbaijani poem created by common people. Imadeddin Nasimi has gone down in history as an advocate of truthfulness, justice and freedom of thought, and continues to live in the memories of people of the East to this day.

This year has been declared a Year of Nasimi in Azerbaijan as the poet turns 650. According to a decree of President Ilham Aliyev, anniversary celebrations will be organized at state level this year. We at IRS-Heritage plan to release a number of publications in memory of Nasimi in 2019. This issue is one in this series. Enjoy!