

**“ABAI IS AN AMBASSADOR
OF SPIRITUAL UNITY
CALLING
ALL NATIONS FOR PEACE
AND ACCORD”**

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ABAI WAS BORN IN 1845 AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CHINGIZ MOUNTAIN IN THE TODAY'S ABAI DISTRICT (FORMER KARKARALY) LOCATED IN EASTERN KAZAKHSTAN REGION (FORMERLY, THE SEMIPALATINSK REGION).

HE WAS A WELL-KNOWN KAZAKH POET, A GREAT THINKER, COMPOSER, PHILOSOPHER, THE FOUNDER OF WRITTEN KAZAKH LITERATURE, AND ITS FIRST CLASSIC.



- ◎ The heritage he left his nation is rich in songs and poems, translations and prose. His translations of the poetry written by Russian writers and poets such as Pushkin, Lermontov, and Krylov became the national patrimony of Kazakhstan. He translated the works of Schiller, Goethe, and Byron into Kazakh language.
- ◎ «Kara Sozder» [Book of Words] (prose) created by the great thinker constitute an ethnic philosophical work. This creation of his is an exploration of Kazakh national life in the second half of the 19th century. He influenced social affairs in the country where he lived. He also participated in the governing of the country and played a certain role in trying to solve complicated problems justly.

- The name of Abai is known worldwide just as Shakespeare, Goethe, and Pushkin are well-known in many countries, because his great words became a spiritual patrimony of not only one nation, but of the entire humankind. Abai The leaders of the Alash Ordamovement saw him as their inspiration and spiritual predecessor. Contemporary Kazakh images of Abai generally depict him in full traditional dress holding the dombra (the Kazakh national instrument). Today, Kazakhs revere Abai as one of the first folk heroes to enter into the national consciousness of his people. Almaty State University is named after Abai, so is one of the main avenues in the city of Almaty. There are also public schools with his name.

○ As is well known Abai`s dream was to become a son of his homeland rather than that of his father. Today we may well maintain that his dream has come true for he seems to proudly sit in the most honorable place at our festival as a truly world-famous, wise and sagacious Teacher, Poet and Genius for all mankind. Sheer evidence thereto is the fact that the celebration started its triumphant march not in Almaty or Semey, not in Karaul or Zhidebai - birth places of the poet, but in the developed countries of East and West, in well recognized states of Europe and Asia, in such major centers of the world as Moscow and Istanbul, Paris and Beijing.

- Genuine fraternity is in spiritual unity of people united in joy and grief. Kazaks would say, «an ambassador joins peoples while the one who breeds strife separates them». We do not conceal utter satisfaction to the effect that Abai being one of the brightest advocates of the honest and open soul of our people has become in our day a brilliant Ambassador of spiritual unity calling all nations of the Globe for peace and accord. The true son of the country, he did all to glorify it and now the grateful land brings glory to its illustrious son. Nowadays, when Kazakhstan experiences a truly historic period, our nascent state has already managed to present itself to world community as a reliable partner, a well-wishing ally and a devoted companion on the way to civilization. Time and again we thank our stars that in Abai`s personality we have obtained such a worthy, proud spiritual support. Just as much we are grief ill to our Creator for the chance given to our nation to demonstrate to the entire world the ability to honor and worship its sacred legacy. In fact, we are happy to live in such an epoch and to loyally serve to such nation and such society. We regard it as a gift of our lucky stars. Awareness of this rare benefit strengthens our spirit adding new enthusiasm and confidence.

- The great philosopher in way appealed to shedding tears of sympathy over the poor. He saw genuine love to people in awakening its honor and dignity, its civil activity and ambition, for if to be able to manage its own fate. Abai was pressed for this by both humiliating policy of tsariam and by ever growing plebeian ways. But Abai also saw that it was futile to combat it openly.

◉ More than that: through Russian Abai got acquainted with immortal creations of Byron, Goethe, Schiller, Lesage, Dumas, Mickiewicz and he even «sound-scared» them in Kazakh. Abai`s inquisitive mind made its way to the intellectual treasure of ancient Greece and Rome: he closely studied works of outstanding thinkers from Aristotle and Socrates to Spinoza and Spenser. Just as powerfully he was attracted by Darwin`s research, by the work written by John William Draper, a New York University professor. He tried hard to get the insight into the history of development of social thought in Europe so as to comprehend the interconnection between Catholicism and science. Small wonder that he admitted once: «My Kaaba moved to the West».

- ◉ May your words come true, our Great Ancestor! And I do believe that all difficulties of today are not forever and that in a while we`ll be living in time will fill the hearts of people with joy, happiness and new hopes.
- ◉ Only on this very way we will obtain everlasting harmony, unity with Abai. May us be worthy of Abai`s never to be forgotten memory! May his genius never be dwindled!

