

IN WHICH REGIONS ARE LEGENDS MORE COMMON?

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Abstract: *This article analyzes the regional distribution of legends and examines the areas where they are most common. Using England and Uzbekistan as case studies, the research explores how historical events, religious centers, sacred sites, and natural landscapes influence the formation and preservation of legends. The study highlights the connection between legends and cultural memory, national identity, and oral storytelling traditions. Regions such as Sherwood Forest, Cornwall, Yorkshire, as well as Bukhara, Samarkand, and Khorezm are examined as examples of legend-rich areas.*

Keywords: *legend, folklore, regional distribution, cultural memory, oral tradition, cultural heritage, Sherwood Forest, Bukhara, Samarkand, Khorezm, religious centers.*

Аннотация: *В данной статье анализируется территориальное распространение легенд и рассматривается вопрос о том, в каких регионах они наиболее распространены. На примере Англии и Узбекистана исследуется влияние исторических событий, религиозных центров, священных мест и природных ландшафтов на формирование легенд. Особое внимание уделяется взаимосвязи легенд с культурной памятью, национальной идентичностью и традициями устного народного творчества. В качестве примеров рассматриваются такие регионы, как Шервудский лес, Корнуолл, Йоркшир, а также Бухара, Самарканд и Хорезм.*

Ключевые слова: *легенда, фольклор, региональное распространение, историческая память, устное творчество, культурное наследие, Шервудский лес, Бухара, Самарканд, Хорезм, религиозные центры.*

Annotatsiya: *Ushbu maqolada afsonalarning hududiy tarqalishi tahlil qilinib, ular qaysi mintaqalarda ko‘proq uchrashi qiyosiy jihatdan o‘rganiladi. Tadqiqotda Angliya va O‘zbekiston misolida tarixiy voqealar, diniy markazlar, muqaddas qadamjolar hamda tabiiy landshaftlarning afsonalar shakllanishiga ta’siri ko‘rsatib beriladi. Shuningdek, har ikki hududda afsonalarning madaniy xotira, milliy o‘zlik va og‘zaki ijod an‘analari bilan uzviy bog‘liqligi yoritiladi. Maqolada Sherwood o‘rmoni, Kornuoll, Yorkshir hamda Buxoro, Samarqand, Xorazm kabi afsonalarga boy hududlar misol tariqasida tahlil qilinadi.*

Kalit so‘zlar: *afsona, rivoyat, hududiy tarqalish, tarixiy xotira, og‘zaki ijod, madaniy meros, Sherwood o‘rmoni, Buxoro, Samarqand, Xorazm, diniy markazlar.*

Introduction

Legends have always been an essential part of cultural heritage and collective memory. They reflect a society’s historical experiences, spiritual beliefs, moral values, and imagination. Unlike simple stories, legends are usually connected with specific places, historical figures, or remarkable events. For this reason, they are not distributed evenly across all regions. Some geographical areas

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become centers of legendary narratives due to their historical importance, religious significance, or unique natural landscapes.

Throughout history, both England and Uzbekistan have developed rich traditions of oral storytelling. Castles, forests, sacred shrines, and ancient cities have inspired generations to create and preserve legendary tales. In England, medieval history, feudal traditions, and Christian heritage have shaped numerous heroic and supernatural legends. In Uzbekistan, Silk Road cities, Islamic culture, and Central Asian traditions have given rise to spiritual and historical narratives that remain alive in popular memory.

This article aims to explore the regional concentration of legends in England and Uzbekistan and to identify the main factors influencing their development and preservation. By comparing selected regions from both countries, the study highlights how history, religion, geography, and cultural identity contribute to the richness of legendary traditions.

Regions Rich in Legends in England:

Nottinghamshire and Sherwood Forest

Famous as the setting of Robin Hood legends.

The dense forest and medieval history of the region make it the perfect environment for tales of outlaws, freedom, and justice.

Cornwall and the South-West

Associated with Arthurian legends: King Arthur's birthplace, Tintagel Castle, and the quest for the Holy Grail.

The dramatic coastlines and ancient Celtic heritage contributed to mystical storytelling.

Yorkshire and Northern England

Rich in ghost stories and supernatural legends.

Ancient castles, abbeys, and battlefields provide a backdrop for haunted tales.

London and Surroundings

Legends about the Tower of London, ravens, and royal figures.

Many stories mix history with myth, such as executions, betrayals, and prophecies.

Scottish Highlands (though not England, part of the UK)

Legends of warriors, clans, and mythical creatures like the Loch Ness monster.

These stories reflect the Celtic and Gaelic heritage.

Regions Rich in Legends in Uzbekistan

Bukhara

A spiritual and cultural center with countless legends about Sufi saints like Bahauddin Nagshband and sacred shrines. Many rivoyatlar explain the holiness of places and the miracles of saints.

Samarkand

Legends about Amir Temur, Registan, and ancient monuments. Stories mix history with imagination, glorifying the city's past as a center of culture and science.

Khorezm

Birthplace of many epic and heroic legends like those of Gorogly, Known for tales of bravery, justice, and resistance.

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Fergana Valley

Rich in oral tradition, including romantic and moral legends. Often connected to family honor, loyalty, and spiritual lessons.

Surkhandarya and Kashkadarya

Legends are tied to ancient sites and natural landmarks, such as sacred mountains and caves. Also home to stories of saints and travelers along the Silk Road.

Factors Influencing the Regional Richness of Legends:

Historical Importance: Regions with battles, rulers, or famous events produce historical legends.

Religious Centers: Places with mosques, churches, shrines, or monasteries generate spiritual legends.

Natural Landscapes: Forests, mountains, rivers, and lakes often become the setting for geographical or supernatural legends.

Cultural Identity: Regions with strong traditions of oral storytelling preserve legends better than others.

Comparative Aspect:

In England, legends often cluster around castles, forests, and medieval ruins, reflecting feudal history and Christian traditions.

In Uzbekistan, legends are concentrated around shrines, sacred sites, and historic Silk Road cities, reflecting Islamic, Turkic, and Central Asian cultural roots.

Legends live most strongly where history, spirituality, and nature come together. In England, Sherwood Forest, Cornwall, and Yorkshire are legendary centers, while in Uzbekistan, Bukhara, Samarkand, and Khorezm hold the richest collections of stories. These regions serve as cultural treasure houses, keeping alive the voices of heroes, saints, and ancestors for future generations.

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