

## **THE ROLE OF SCIENCE AND RELIGION IN SOLVING THE ISSUES OF HUMANITY AND CULTURE IN “HAYAT” NEWSPAPER**

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### **Abstract:**

Akhund Abu Turab’s article “What sciences do we need?” was published in the newspaper “Hayat”, published in 1905-1906 under the editorship of Alibey Huseynzade and Ahmad bey Aghaoglu. In the article, the author touched upon the role of science and religion in matters of humanity and culture. At the same time, sharp polemical opinions were formed and published in the media. Akhund Abu Turab gave priority to religious sciences and developed consistent ideas. Alibey Huseynzade in his article entitled “Akhund Abu Turab Hazratlari” showed that both religion and science play a big role in the issues of humanity and culture.

**Key Words:** Akhund Abu Turab, “Hayat” Newspaper, Alibey Huseynzade, Science and Religion, Omar Faig Nemanzade, Jan Jacques Russo.

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**Introduction:**

Hasan Bey Zardabi, the founder of the First National Press of Azerbaijan, “Akinchi” newspaper, writes: “Our time is a guarantee of science, and science is important for every nation to study. As science advances through education, every nation should pay attention to two issues, which are important factors in their approval as a nation. They are a matter of language and religion. If one of them is missed, the nation will be unhappy. If both of them are suddenly lost, that nation mixes with other nations and gradually disappears”. According to H.Zardabi, every nation can remain as a nation if it makes progress in its language and religion while studying science.

From time to time, researchers were interested in the perfect influence of science or religion on the issues of humanity and culture, various exchanges of views, polemics, pen conflicts were manifested.

In the newspaper “Hayat”, published in 1905-1906 under the editorship of Alibey Huseynzade and Ahmed Bey Aghaoglu, an article by Akhund Abu Turab entitled “What sciences do we need?” is presented, and at the beginning of the XX century there was an acute conflict in the press. The editor of “Hayat” newspaper Alibey Huseynzadeh emphasized that this topic did not correspond to the idea of the newspaper, but considered it appropriate to publish the material. The reason was that the topic addressed in the article “What sciences do we need?” was one of the important issues.

Alibey Huseynzade stressed the importance of this article at a time when Muslims should follow the roads opened before them after the 1905 revolution in Russia at the beginning of the XX century.

In his article “What sciences do we need?” Akhund Abu Turab writes: “You cannot become a human being by knowing worldly sciences, perfection in the religious sciences makes a human being”. That is, it is the secular sciences that play a more important role in the perfection of each person, in the enrichment of his culture and spirituality, or in the case of religious sciences, Akhund Abu Turab took religious sciences as a basis.

Alibey Huseynzadeh compares the article “What sciences do we need?” written by Akhund Abu Turab in the early XX century with the article “Discourse on the Arts and Sciences” by the French enlightenment philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau in the middle of the XVIII century. It is very strange that Jean-Jacques Rousseau made similar speeches, and what is interesting is that in 1750 he was awarded by the Dijon Academy for the work Jean-Jacques Rousseau “Discourse on the Arts and Sciences”.

It should be recalled that in 1749 the Dijon Academy announced a competition entitled “Did the development of science and culture play a role in the development of moral values?” To put it clearly, the progress of science and disciplines, the development of

scientific culture by mankind have a beneficial or inverse effect on human morality. In other words, did lying improve people's morals, or did it spoil and lead to various complications? Jean-Jacques Rousseau's philosophical treatise "Discourse on the Arts and Sciences" wins the competition. Rousseau begins the first sentence of the sentence as follows: "Has the revival of science and culture helped to improve morality?" According to his ideas, as science and culture develop, our souls begin to decompose. Rousseau showed that the development of science never serves to improve morality, and emphasized that science and culture have brought nothing to humanity.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau did not win because he wrote in full compliance with the terms of the competition. Because his ideas completely contradicted the standards of the competition. However, his excellent oratorical abilities and oratorical skills contributed to this. The opinion of Akhund Abu Turab was completely different in the article "What sciences do we need?" in the newspaper "Hayat", published in Azerbaijan in 1905-1906. He saw no benefit in teaching scientific and secular subjects, on the contrary, he considered it important to pay attention to religious sciences.

Alibey Huseynzade says that the question of which sciences are important for the improvement of humanity and culture goes back to ancient times. Alibey Huseynzade writes: "This topic began with the times of Plato, Aristotle and Lucretius and continues to the present day. Geniuses such as Abu Ali Sina, Farabi and Ibn Rushd joined this debate. Nowadays there are quite a few people who deal with this issue. Among the Russian, European and American scientists can be called such as Tolstoy, Renan, Draper".

Even the American Draper called this type of debate "The Debate between Science and Religion" and wrote an important book with this title. The book was translated into Turkish by the famous Ottoman writer Ahmet Midhad and published in Istanbul. "The Debate between Science and Religion". "Contradiction in religious themes". Do not be afraid of these words, because in reality there is no scandal and conflict between science and religion!.. Because neither true and outspoken religion is afraid of science, nor science is the enemy of religion and business. There is a contradiction between people of science and education who do not know religious sciences.

Akhund Abu Turab's article "What sciences do we need?" caused serious controversy and pen conflict in the media. The satirical magazine "Molla Nasreddin", which laid the foundation of Azerbaijani satirical journalism of the early twentieth century, did not bypass this topic either. In the 1906 magazine No. 8 "What sciences do we need?" the title material is printed, and here the editor of the satirical magazine J.Mammadguluzade expresses his opinion.

Akhund Abu Turab wrote in his work "What Sciences do we need?" that if a person becomes a scholar of Islam without knowing worldly sciences, it will not cause any harm to humanity. He puts forward another interesting idea that if a person devotes his whole life to

mathematical sciences and natural sciences, he will not enter the city of humanity and culture.

One of the creators and employees of the satirical magazine “Molla Nasreddin” Omer Faig Nemanzade took part in the debate on this topic and expressed his opinion. According to the author, if a person spends his life in Sharia practices, but does not know the interpretation of many verses of the Koran, then he will not be able to enter the city of culture.

Omar Faig Nemanzadeh says about culture, education and morality that “To acquire morality through education and customs, and then to do away with the science of education, just in the conduct of well-educated, informed mothers and in the conduct of schools and madrassas in education. Therefore, the more mothers among Muslims remain uneducated, who have not seen schools and madrassas, the more culture will remain away from us”.

Akhund Abu Turab in his article “What sciences do we need?” shows once again about the issues of humanity and culture that if someone is educated in the world of sciences, but does not know Islamic science, then he will not rise to the level of humanity and culture. Omar Faig Nemanzadeh responds to this thought: “A person who has reached the highest perfection follows many sections of Islamic science”.

Ali bey Huseynzade has completely different views on the controversy that arose in the Azerbaijani press at the beginning of the twentieth century about the role of science and religion in solving issues of humanity and culture. In the 106th issue of the newspaper “Hayat” in 1906, he presented a polemical article entitled “Akhund Abu Turab Hazratlari”. Ali bey Huseynzade, unlike other authors, should treat all sciences equally. Both religious sciences and secular sciences play an important role in the improvement of humanity and culture.

Omar Faig Nemanzadeh’s article “What Sciences do we need?” supports Akhund Abu Turab’s views on the question of religion or science. The publicist writes: “The ideas expressed by Akhund Abu Turab have become so profound with us that the more we write about science and religion, the more true discoveries will be revealed. Yes, the more this question is written among enlightened people, the more conflicts, the closer it is to the truth. Since many obstacles have been removed on this path, if we move forward without fear, many confusing issues and dark moments will be clarified”.

Considering the above, it can be concluded that both religion and science have a great importance and role in solving issues of humanity and culture

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