

About The Manuscripts of "Arba'in"

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Abstract. *This article analyzes the editions and manuscripts of Hazrat Alisher Navoi's "Arba'in" and their history. The different editions of the work, their differences and use in scientific research, and the scientific and literary significance of the work are highlighted through the study of the editions.*

Key words: *Cultural Arba'in, Forty Hadiths, Types Of Publications, Copies, Manuscript Copies, Publication History*

1. Introduction

"Arba'in" ("ny'bra") - "Chihil Hadith" ("تيدہ" لهج) ("Forty Hadiths") is a poetic translation of 40 hadiths on human morality, created in 1481. The work begins with the traditional hymn and na't."

"The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Whoever preserves forty hadiths for my Ummah in matters of religion, Allah will raise him up on the Day of Resurrection as a jurist, and I will be his intercessor and witness on the Day of Resurrection." Imam Nawawi said in his work "Arba'in Nawawi" – "توونلا نيعبرا":

"Some of the scholars who wrote the Forty Hadiths collected hadiths related to beliefs, while others collected hadiths related to various religious issues - asceticism, etiquette, advice, and other topics. All of them were written very beautifully. May Allah be pleased with them," he emphasizes.

The great scholar Abdurrahman Jami wrote the work "Arba'in" in Persian. It translated forty short hadiths about virtuous deeds and Islamic morality into poetic quatrains. Later, his special disciple, the classical poet Mir Alisher Navoi, also followed in the footsteps of his teacher and wrote his own work "Arba'in".

Alisher Navoi's "Arba'in" was preserved in many copies at different times. In particular, the article provides information about the four most notable copies :

1. The Turkish copy of the work "Arba'in" is kept in the Topkapi Museum and was copied by Darvish Muhammad Toqi in 900–905 AH (1495/6–1500/1). This copy is written on Khorasan glossy silk paper in Nastaliq script, with four columns and 27 lines per page. The first page of each work is decorated with patterns, the page size is 23.5 × 32.5 cm, and the work consists of 802 leaves in total. The work "Arba'in" is located on pages 548–550 in the photocopy.



The first page of the "Arba'in" pamphlet, Topkopi copy

A photocopy of this copy is kept in the archives of the Alisher Navoi State Museum of the Republic of Uzbekistan. This photocopy was brought in 1972 through the efforts of Professor Hamid Sulaymon, a scientist who served in Uzbekistan. Professor Sulaymon considered this copy to be the most significant among Navoi's collections, as it was classified by Navoi himself and is considered the most reliable copy that preserves the original text of the work.

2. This copy of Arba'in is kept in the Fatih Fund of the Sultanate Library in Istanbul under the number 4056. This copy was copied in the 16th century, and it is not known exactly by whom and where it was written. The copy contains twenty-six works by Navoi. The text is written in small Nastaliq script, with four columns on each page. The book consists of 787 leaves, and the size of the pages is 24 × 6 cm.

3. The Egyptian copy of "Arba'in" is kept in the manuscript treasury of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan under the number 9762. This copy was copied in Egypt on 28 Dhu al-Hijjah, 967 AH, by Muhammad ibn Dawud. The text is written in Nasta'liq script and is included as the third work in the book. The book consists of five pages (108b–112a), each page consists of 20 lines, the size of the pages is 28 × 15.5 cm.



A page from the work "Arba'in" (stored in the manuscript treasury of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan under number 1315).

About manuscript copies of Alisher Navoi's "Arba'in". The manuscripts of the work "Arba'in" by Alisher Navoi are currently stored mainly in the manuscript fund of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan. As a result of reviewing the fund's card files, it was determined that there are a total of 10 manuscript copies of Navoi's work "Arba'in", only 4 of which are included in special catalog publications.

Previously published catalogs provided brief information about some manuscripts of Navoi's "Arba'in". In particular, the catalogs of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan "Collection of Oriental Manuscripts" (SVR) recorded manuscript copies of Navoi's "Arba'in" under numbers 1315-VI and 9762. Also, the book "Description of Manuscripts of Navoi's Works" published in 1983 provided information about manuscripts under numbers 232, 316 and 8. Later, the "Catalog of the Manuscripts Institute Fund" published in 1989 included manuscripts under numbers 316 and 8, and the "Catalog of Manuscripts of the State Museum of Literature named after Alisher Navoi" published in 2006 recorded manuscript copy number 8.

As the oldest and most scientifically important manuscript copies of Navoi's "Arba'in", manuscripts numbered 9761, 815 and 316 deserve special attention. The content of manuscript numbered 316 is especially noteworthy. In this manuscript, the entire "Khazoyin ul-maoniy" from Navoi's "Kulliyot" is compiled in one volume, and 18 "Arba'in" volumes are added to the 73 volumes belonging to the four volumes.

Navoi's "Arba'in" is also included in some term divans. For example, in the first part of the manuscript number 232, which was compiled in Kokand at the beginning of the 19th century, the work "Arba'in" is included along with the preface "Badoye' ul-bidoya". In addition, in the first volume of the catalog "Collection of Oriental Manuscripts of the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR. Literature (Divans)", published in 2017, it is noted that in the manuscript of Navoi's divan, given under number 9656, ten verses from the preface of "Arba'in" are quoted in prose form before the preface "Badoye' ul-bidoya". The information from this manuscript clearly shows that Alisher Navoi's "Arba'in" was widely distributed, repeatedly reprinted in various divans and collections, and that the work gained great popularity among a wide readership in its time.

When looking at the copies of Alisher Navoi's "Arba'in", it can be seen that the work was widely

distributed in different periods and regions. The copies kept in Topkapi, Sultania, Egypt and the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which are included in the analysis of the article, confirm that "Arba'in" was not only a manuscript, but also a work that was consistently copied and carefully preserved within the framework of the bookkeeping tradition. These copies differ from each other in terms of font type, page structure, text layout and external decoration, each of which exhibits characteristics specific to its period and environment.

The existence of these copies shows that Alisher Navoi's "Arba'in" has gained great attention among a wide readership due to its religious and educational content. The large number and diversity of copies further enhance the historical and cultural significance of the work and prove that Navoi's legacy has reached us on the basis of solid sources. Therefore, copies of "Arba'in" serve as an important source basis for studying Navoi's work.

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