



## The Common History And Significance Of Uzbek, Korean, And Russian Epic Heroes

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**Abstract:** This study presents a comparative analysis of the epic heroes of three nations: Alpomish from Uzbekistan, Jumong from Korea, and Ilya Muromets from Russia. The research explores their common historical and mythological roots, highlighting how these heroic figures embody the moral and national ideals of their respective cultures. Each character symbolizes courage, justice, patriotism, and perseverance through trials — serving as carriers of cultural memory and identity. By examining these epics, the study reveals shared narrative patterns and mythic archetypes that transcend national boundaries. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the universal values embedded in epic literature and the cultural connections between different peoples. Such comparative analyses reveal the transnational nature of folklore and highlight universal human values. Through the figures of epic heroes, both cultural and spiritual similarities and differences among nations can be identified. This fosters intercultural dialogue and promotes a deeper understanding of the shared historical and moral roots of different peoples. At the same time, this approach helps preserve the uniqueness of national folklore and establishes its role within the context of world culture. By emphasizing universal values, folkloric works gain renewed relevance in today's society, becoming not only national treasures but also valuable sources for all of humanity.

**Keywords:** Alpomish, Jumong, Ilya Muromets, epic heroes, mythology, national values, comparative analysis, oral folk art, historical memory, cultural similarities.

**Introduction.** Epic heroes are among the most important symbols that embody the cultural, moral, and historical values of every nation. Through such images formed in oral folk creativity, peoples transmit their past, pride, and hopes to future generations. Although epic heroes shaped in different cultures—such as Alpamysh among the Uzbeks, Jumong among the Koreans, and Ilya Muromets among the Russians—emerged in distinct cultural environments, they are united by universal human values. Through these heroes, the spiritual worldview of peoples, their ideals of heroism, and their attitudes toward universal human values are revealed. In the collective consciousness, they appear as symbols of love for the homeland, justice, courage, and loyalty. The story of each hero is connected with historical events, and their trials represent not only personal transformation but also the spiritual and cultural development of the entire people. At the same time, these epic heroes reveal both similarities and differences among nations, thereby strengthening intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding. Thus, they constitute an important cultural heritage that reflects not only national but also universal human values [2].

**Research Methodology.** This study employs the method of comparative analysis. The sources include folk epics, historical literature, and folklore studies. The origin, function, social role, and



# The Peerian Journal

Open Access | Peer Reviewed

Volume 49, December 2025

Website: [www.peerianjournal.com](http://www.peerianjournal.com)

ISSN (E): 2788-0303

Email: [editor@peerianjournal.com](mailto:editor@peerianjournal.com)

influence of the main epic hero of each people on spiritual and moral values are compared. For example, Alpamysh, as a national hero of the Uzbek people, promotes patriotism, courage, and justice; Jumong, in the Korean epic tradition, symbolizes state-building and the unification of the people; and Ilya Muromets represents spiritual strength and patriotism within the framework of Russian Orthodox traditions. The history and mission of each hero determine their role in society, while their images occupy an important place in national spirituality and culture. As a result of the comparison, both common features and distinctive characteristics are identified, allowing for a deeper understanding of cultural and spiritual connections among peoples [3].

**Results.** Alpamysh is one of the most famous heroes of Uzbek folk epics and is portrayed as a symbol of justice, loyalty, and bravery. He fights not only for his personal love but also to defend the honor of his people [4].

Jumong appears in Korean mythology as the founder of the Goguryeo state. He is depicted as an archer born of the gods of heaven and earth. Jumong's role in state-building, his efforts to unite the people, and his divine origin are regarded as symbols of Korean national pride [5].

In Russian folk epics, Ilya Muromets is a symbol of strength, devotion to the people, and loyalty to the homeland. Although he is weak in childhood, he later acquires miraculous strength and defends the Russian lands from enemies.

**Discussion.** Although these three heroes—Alpamysh, Jumong, and Ilya Muromets—were formed in different cultural environments, they share several common features:

*Freedom and defense of the homeland:* All three heroes appear as defenders of their people and land.

*Bravery and justice:* They oppose oppression and fight for justice.

*Spiritual power and divinity:* The heroes are often depicted as possessing divine or supernatural powers.

*Symbol of national identity:* These heroes serve as important cultural instruments for preserving national identity and transmitting it to future generations [6].

However, there are also notable differences. For instance, Alpamysh is a purely human hero, centered on earthly struggles; Jumong has a divine origin and is recognized as a founder of statehood; while Ilya Muromets, shaped under the influence of Russian Orthodox traditions, embodies the harmony of religion and patriotism [7].

Hero	Cultural Environment	Distinctive Features
Alpamysh	Turkic (Uzbek)	Loyalty, heroism, love for family and homeland
Jumong	Korean	State founder, divine birth
Ilya Muromets	Russian	Miraculous strength, religious sanctity, Orthodox influence

**Conclusion:** Uzbek, Korean, and Russian epic heroes play an invaluable role in the cultural identification, historical memory, and moral education of their peoples. Their images serve as a



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ISSN (E): 2788-0303

Email: [editor@peerianjournal.com](mailto:editor@peerianjournal.com)

source of inspiration not only for past generations but also for contemporary society [8]. Through epic narratives, peoples preserve their history, values, and national pride.

Epic heroes such as Alpamysh, Jumong, and Ilya Muromets represent elevated examples of national spirit. They reflect each nation's values, historical memory, and moral foundations. This study analyzes the national ideals, historical memory, and spiritual values formed in the consciousness of peoples through heroic figures in Uzbek, Korean, and Russian epic literature—namely Alpamysh, Jumong, and Ilya Muromets. Such heroes remain highly significant not only in the past but also today in moral education, patriotism, and the promotion of universal human ideals [9].

The research demonstrates the sources of origin of these epic images, their connection with historical events, and their deep relationship with mythological and cultural transformations. Heroes such as Alpamysh, Jumong, and Ilya Muromets are not merely products of imagination or artistic fantasy; rather, they are symbols grounded in specific historical, social, and spiritual realities. They were formed in close connection with the peoples' past struggles, concepts of statehood, religious views, and cultural traditions. For example, the image of Alpamysh emerged from the nomadic lifestyle of Turkic peoples and their family- and clan-based structures; Jumong was nourished by ideas of Korean statehood and legendary dynasties; and Ilya Muromets appears as a symbol uniting sanctity, religion, and heroism amid internal and socio-economic conflicts in Russian history. Through the origin and development of such heroes, it becomes possible to gain a deeper understanding of the spiritual and moral evolution, cultural transformations, and epic heritage of nations [10].

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