

MILITARY HONOR AND ITS CRITERIA

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Annotation: *the article discusses the education of a well-rounded generation, the honor of officers, ethical values and the standards of military honor.*

Currently, attention to ethical issues is increasing day by day. One of the essential conditions for human existence is the formation and development of a set of specific moral and ethical qualities that constitute a person's moral character. In the process of building a New Uzbekistan, one of our urgent tasks has become the upbringing of a harmonious generation characterized by good conduct, integrity, loyalty to family and homeland, broad worldview, strategic thinking, and high professional skills, all under the main idea of “From national revival to national ascendancy”. The great thinker Alisher Navoi emphasized in his wisdom that the qualities that honor a person are those that are based on virtue, “For the people, wealth and status are not as valuable as a life lived with decency”[1,78], this implies that for a person, it is not rank or wealth that brings honor, but rather a life of morality and dignity. Indeed, respect and dignity are manifested not in titles or fame but in humility and integrity.

The striving to preserve one's pure name and authority is expressed through the concept of dignity. This quality has always been highly valued among our people. Our ancestors understood deeply that moral values such as honor, conscience, loyalty, and duty should be cherished, as losing them leads to a person's degradation, resulting in life losing its meaning. Uzbek proverbs and sayings place special emphasis on the values of honor and dignity: “Protect your honor from youth”, “Reputation can warm, but shame can burn”, “A person does

not die from hunger, but from loss of honor”, “Do not safeguard wealth, but safeguard your honor”, “Honor is stronger than death” and so on.

The concept of honor is manifested in the process of an individual's interaction with society. Dignity encompasses a person's inner moral values, courage, honesty, purity of heart, and sound conscience; it embodies loyalty, resilience, indifference to danger, integrity, and readiness to sacrifice one's life for the motherland. The notion of value is rooted in the principle of equality among all people in moral relationships, whereas dignity reflects how individuals' moral qualities align with their specific actions. As the great thinker Yusuf Khos Hajib noted, “a leader of an army must first and foremost possess honor and integrity. A man will act out of honor to avenge himself; it is honor that scatters the enemy's ranks”[2,55]. Indeed, the attitude towards honor is one of the important virtues of a commander, elevating their status within the army. It is well known that in the Battle of Parwan near Ghazni, Jalal ad-Din Manguberdi achieved a remarkable victory over the mongols. Before the battle, he addressed his commanders, saying, “In this battle, our honor and the dignity of manhood are at stake! If we retreat with our heads bowed, no one will forgive us!”[3,212]. The intensity and bravery of the sultan's forces created chaos among the mongols, disrupting their ranks. The defeat of the mongols in this battle forced Genghis khan to take command of military operations himself.

The combat readiness and capabilities of armed forces are manifested through a combination of material and moral factors that are closely interconnected. Regardless of the significance of material aspects, the primary focus is on the human factor, particularly their professional and moral-ethical qualities. It is important to note that the sense of dignity motivates military personnel to diligently fulfill their duties. In combat operations, this feeling primarily manifests as bravery, courage, determination, self-discipline, and a readiness for self-sacrifice. The success of a battle often hinges on commanders overcoming insurmountable obstacles through their personal examples, achieving victory

against the odds. For instance, Amir Temur, despite being wounded in his left leg during the battle for Tashkent, did not abandon the battlefield. Even in a complex situation, he demonstrated unwavering resolve: “Even though the pain was intense, I did not make a sound or show any sign of distress. Because of this, my warriors did not know I was injured. A true leader's bravery is reflected not only in facing death and fighting valiantly against enemies but also in remaining silent about his wounds”[4,68-69]. Indeed, when physical strength is combined with high moral-ethical qualities, it transforms into unmatched power. A military service member, whether on the battlefield or in daily duties, must always remain honest and just, ensuring that their dignity is never tarnished.

True honor is manifested in selfless and sincere service to the interests and well-being of the people and the state. In the story “Shiroq”, the shepherd Shiroq rejects the offer of the Persian commander, stating, “I would rather cut off my hand than extend it to help the enemies of my own people”[5,17-20]. He obeys the command of his conscience and is willing to sacrifice his life to save his homeland from slavery, ultimately ensnaring the wicked enemy in a cunning trap.

The sense of honor reflects the high moral character of an officer. An officer must carry out their duties, orders, and assignments from higher command with great responsibility. This is not an easy task! However, one must remember that fulfilling these assignments is a matter of honor. This expectation is tied to the officer's special status (as the face of the state), which does not allow for refusal, avoidance, or hiding behind others. An officer recognizes that they hold a noble profession and views honor as a sacred value. Even unresolved issues do not grant an officer the right to compromise their conscience or engage in disreputable actions that would tarnish their dignity. Not everyone can meet such stringent demands.

The honor of an officer, as one of the most important moral values, is demonstrated through their sincere fulfillment of military duty, nobility of actions, and commitment to justice. According to article 13, clause 1 of the Internal Service

Regulations of the armed forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan, “*A military service member is obliged to serve their people selflessly, to protect the independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Uzbekistan with courage and skill, sacrificing their last drop of blood and even their life, and to fulfill their military duty*”[6,20]. It is clear that true dignity is the highest moral treasure of the army. An army driven by the sense of dignity becomes an invincible force and serves as a guarantee of state stability.

The concept of an officer's dignity is multifaceted and can be understood in both narrow and broad terms. In a narrow sense, it relates to the official uniform and distinguishing insignia, while in a broader sense, it encompasses not only personal reputation but also the dignity of the unit, the army, and the moral obligation to uphold the honor of the state. Every officer wearing a military uniform must not forget this responsibility, as military attire carries immense accountability. Upholding the dignity of an officer means taking pride in their profession and affiliation with the armed forces, valuing them with integrity and martial honor. This includes honoring their own dignity and that of their military community. Military dignity embodies all positive qualities inherent in a person in uniform. It represents bravery and courage, combativeness and nobility, discipline, an understanding of duty to one's homeland, selflessness, confidence in one's strength, and resilience in the face of difficulties.

The criteria of military honor:

1. The Dignity of an officer – an officer must have self-respect, be aware of their rights, and demonstrate behavior aligned with those rights. Honor is a sacred feeling that an officer preserves in its purest form, calling them to pursue noble actions and the highest ideals.

2. Nobility of an officer – this refers to a high degree of politeness, humanity, and magnanimity, as well as the ability to sacrifice personal interests for the benefit of others.

3. Integrity and honesty – an officer must exemplify these virtues. This includes keeping promises, aligning words with actions, maintaining reputation, adhering to moral standards, speaking the truth, and accurately assessing the dignity of oneself and others.

4. Loyalty to military brotherhood - this encompasses mutual trust, assistance, and a high degree of responsibility based on conscientiousness and fairness.

5. Loyalty to military duty – an officer's dedication and commitment are demonstrated through resolute fulfillment of their duties.

The motherland has entrusted officers with a highly responsible and challenging duty. They must earn this trust by improving the combat readiness of their military unit and the entire armed forces, becoming experts in their military profession, acting as the combat leaders of their subordinates, commanding the hearts of soldiers, and striving to be sensitive psychologists and effective propagators of ideas. Officers must preserve and defend their honor, their title, and the honor of the army and the state. By doing so, they will prove to be worthy successors of their great ancestors through conscientious fulfillment of their duties.

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