

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHESS IN THE DRAMA “NATHAN THE WISE” OF G.E.LESSING

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Abstract

Chess game is based on a chattering game, which is presented in historical sources. This game was invented in India in the V-VI centuries, and it was called in China, and Japan. In Iran and Arab countries, it has been further improved with the name of “shatranj”. In Spain in the ninth century it was widely known as “chess”. In the X-XI centuries this game began to be popular in Europe and Scandinavian countries. The fixed rules of chess were not developed until the XVIII century.

Keywords:chattering, tolerance, chess, king, queen, rooks, bishops, knights, pawns, mat;

Introduction

Chess game is based on a chattering game, which is presented in historical sources. This game was invented in India in the V-VI centuries, and it was called in China, and Japan. In Iran and Arab countries, it has been further improved with the name of “shatranj”. In Spain in the ninth century it was widely known as “chess”. In the X-XI centuries this game began to be popular in Europe and Scandinavian countries. The fixed rules of chess were not developed until the XVIII century.

The writer of the German literature of the XVIII century, Gotthold Ephraim Lessing (1729-1781), was familiar with the works about chess when he was working at the Wolfenbüttel library. At first he met with German novelist Klopstock (1724-1802) as an experienced chess player. Lessing had much experience in chess during his close relationship with the German philosopher Mendelssohn (1729-1786).

Since G.E.Lessing was always among the actor, he created several dramas. Lessing called the dramaturgy “the main pillar of ideas”, thus he wrote plays like „Miss Sara Sampson“ (1755), „Philotas“ (1759), "Emilia Galotti" (1772) and "Nathan the Wise" (1779).

In his drama “Nathan the Wise“, he widely covered the ideas of freedom of expression, humanism and inter-religious tolerance. The main content of the drama is "The Three Rings Release", which reflects the ideas of religious tolerance among the three religions - Christian, Jewish, and Islamic religious. In the second part of the drama was depicted the chess match and talks between the hero of the work, Sultan Saladin and his sister Sittah. In this article Oriental words and expressions of chess were attempted to analyze.

As the chess game between Saladin and Sittah is reflected in the second scene of the drama, which is not a sign of anything. The author is not commenting on the chess game organized

in the palace of Sultan Saladin. In the game, Sittah's first focus was on Saladin's chess piles, first of all, to knight, and then to the „queen“

Sittah Don't you see the knight? Becomes? In this section, the word “exposed” is used to mean “exposed, defenseless”. There expressed a major mistake when a commander was threatened with the enemy power and was in danger.

Sittah No, indeed;I did not think you tired of your queen.

Saladin No, no, take off the queen! That is a piece which never thrives with me.

Sittah Only that piece?. How civilly We should behave to queens, my brother's lessons Have taught me but too well. (He puts the finger on the board.)

Instead of winning the „knight“ Sittah also leaves the „queen“ on the board, this was a sign of her respect to his brother Saladin.

When a single piece makes a direct attack to two pieces simultaneously, it is called a „forking“. This situation is described in the following paragraph:

SittahI take the pawn. And so If a king is attacked by knight or at any chess piece, it is called a "check". "Check" is the most important and precious piece. The term "checkmate" at the end of the word “check” meaning the final process, is expressed in the following terms:

Sittah Why should I take her? Check!

Saladin. And check – mate? If "check" cannot walk, it will be "mate". "Mate" - this is a limited situation when the king cannot move. So the game ends. It is impossible to hit the king.

The situation in which the king and the queen were threatened is called of the double king-check" and the knight's movements opening the way by threatening. The opponent king was described as follows:

Sittah I move--so--now then--check! And check again!

Saladin talked with his sister Sittah on plans to play chess in order to advance their political and military career. While playing chess primarily teaches them to value realism and helps them to realize the essence of their mistakes in life.

Saladin It is so. You are the winner, and Al-Hafi pays.Let him be called. Sittah, you were not wrong;I seem to recollect I was unmindful –A little absent. One isn't always willing To dwell upon some shapeless bits of wood Coupled with no idea. Yet the Imam,When I play with him, bends with such abstraction –The loser seeks excuses.

The concept of "Imam" in the work has been read by Lessing in the "Koran" and in the history of Muslims. In the Koran, this concept is given in many ways. In verse 124 of Surat al-Baqara, Allah tells His Apostle Abraham:"Surely I am going to make you an Imam for men."

The Europeans did not have any information about the "Koran" before George Sale introduced it to the world. Lessing recited from this source all games were banned by Koran

except chess: "The Muslims played chess during the pre-Islamic era, which was later banned by the Koran with other games"

Sale says: "Playing is forbidden by the Koran [...] like dice, cards and board games us. [...] Chess is almost the only game legally allowed by Muslim scholars [...] because it depends entirely on the skills and the exercises and not on coincidences. But chess is permitted only under certain restrictions: that it does not hinder regular piety exercises and that neither money nor other things are played or wagered. The latter respect the Turks and Sunnis, the Persians and Mughals were against it".

"But in chess, it is a win-win, with no end to a constant struggle, and no money or anything. In recent times, the Turks and all the Sunnahs have seriously looked at it, and the Persians and the Mongols opposed it."

He also added: "However, Muhammad wasn't keen on playing chess, Arabs played chess with carved pieces or chess figures. There were not imaging five figures of bishops, knights and others [...]. Therefore, the Muslim scholars declared that the game is rejected only because of the images".

Lessing can be concluded that, having studied the Oriental culture, chess game, tradition in the sources of European orient lists, commented: "For this reason, the [Arabs] always play with smooth stones made of wood or ivory, while the Persians and Indians continue to make use of carved figures."

Lessing, however, had shown that the chess game originally originated in the East, and that Europeans gained new and new styles: "To be serious, you have to play chess, be serious to play chess".

So, Lessing argues that chess game originally originated in the East, and that Europeans gained new style and new style: "I have seen from Egenolff's instructions that our current way of playing chess is not the old one; but a newer one."

When Lessing carried out the idea of a chess game in the drama "Nathan the Wise", we see the superiority of the poetic charm in the drama:

1. The game of chess enhances the meaning and content of the scene, and dramatic events have been translated into artistic language.
2. Some of the characters in the drama can be compared to their characters and their characteristics by chess players. Saladin – king, Sittah – queen, Athanasius – rook, Nathan – bishop, Templar – knight, bonafides – pawn are described as Christian, Jewish, and Islamic religious figures.
3. Match and life, harmony of life and play, the second one to fill and match each other is reflected in all the drama.

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5. Махмудов А. Выражение шахматной игры в творчестве Г.Э.Лессинга. В этой статье освещается выражение шахматной игры в творчестве немецкого писателя и драматурга Г.Э.Лессинга. Анализируется использование восточных слов и высказываний в процессе шахматной игры. В статье оригинальные примеры приводятся автором подстрочным переводом.
6. Makhmudov A. The description of game of chess in the works by G.E.Lessing. In this article the description of game of chess in the works of German writer and dramatist G.E.Lessing is illustrated. In the process of the game of chess, Oriental words and phrases used in his works are analyzed. The author translated original examples words for words.