



MODERN PROBLEMS IN EDUCATION AND THEIR SCIENTIFIC SOLUTIONS

DRIFTING BETWEEN LOVE AND FATE IN FAINBERG'S POEM:
AN ANALYSIS OF SEPARATION AND INNER SURRENDER

Makhmudova Sarvinoz

The student of UzSWLU

The faculty of Oriental philology

Annotation. *This article examines the symbolic imagery of the poem, focusing on the motifs of the river, boat, and celestial elements. It explores how separation is portrayed as both emotional loss and submission to fate. The analysis highlights the tension between human will and destiny expressed through natural metaphors.*

Keywords: *Love, Separation, Fate, Symbolism, River Motif, Cosmic Imagery, Emotional Surrender, Existential Reflection, Regret, Destiny.*

Аннотация. *В статье рассматривается символика стихотворения с акцентом на образы реки, лодки и небесных светил. Разлука представлена как эмоциональная утрата и проявление власти судьбы. Анализ раскрывает противоречие между человеческой волей и предопределением через природные метафоры.*

Ключевые слова: *Любовь, Разлука, Судьба, Символизм, Образ реки, Космическая символика, Смирение, Экзистенциальное осмысление, Раскаяние, Предопределение.*

Introduction. The poem presents a deeply symbolic meditation on love, separation, and the inevitability of fate. Through the recurring imagery of a river, a fragile boat, stars, storm, and clouds, the speaker constructs an emotional landscape in which personal loss is transformed into a natural and cosmic event. The central theme of the poem is not merely farewell, but the tension between human will and uncontrollable destiny. The lyrical voice gradually moves from attachment to painful awareness, revealing both vulnerability and philosophical reflection.

Love, farewell now, I have drifted away,

Along the river, my little boat stayed.

It was not my lips you kissed, but the stars,

No chance remains for me to stay by your side.

➤ **The River as Fate and the Boat as the Self**

The dominant metaphor of the poem is the river. The river symbolizes time, destiny, and the unstoppable movement of life. It carries everything forward, regardless of individual desire. The speaker does not navigate the boat; instead, he drifts. This passivity suggests surrender.

The “little boat” represents the speaker’s inner world — his heart, identity, and emotional stability. Its fragility reflects the delicacy of human attachment. When the “rope of longing snaps,” the image signifies the breaking of emotional connection. A rope





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normally binds and secures; its rupture makes return impossible. The separation is therefore not temporary but irreversible.

The speaker openly admits, “I have flowed.” This confession reveals self-awareness. He recognizes that he did not resist the current of fate. Thus, the tragedy is not only external circumstances but also internal surrender.

Cosmic Imagery and the Illusion of Love

The beloved is associated with celestial imagery — stars and the moon. When the speaker says that it was “not my lips you kissed, but the stars,” love becomes elevated, distant, and perhaps unattainable. The stars symbolize idealization. The beloved is admired as something luminous yet unreachable.

Later, the statement that no stars will settle upon her lips indicates the collapse of illusion. Love loses its transcendental glow and becomes grounded in reality. Similarly, when clouds hide the moon-like beauty of the beloved, it signifies emotional obscurity and separation. The cosmos, once radiant, becomes veiled.

The Storm of Separation and Existential Reflection

The storm metaphor intensifies the emotional experience. Separation is not calm; it is violent and disturbing. The storm represents psychological turmoil — grief, regret, and despair. The creaking planks of the boat create a sense of instability, suggesting that the speaker’s inner world is fragile and threatened.

Moreover, the poem introduces a philosophical dimension: “The world separates trust from will.” This line reflects on the human condition. Those who overcome the current rise above it; those who surrender are carried away. The speaker places himself among the latter. His farewell becomes both personal and existential.

Conclusion. The poem portrays separation not only as a romantic loss but as a confrontation with destiny. Through the extended metaphor of water and celestial imagery, the lyrical hero reveals his vulnerability and his recognition of personal surrender. The farewell is gentle yet irreversible. The final cry of “Forgive me” suggests unresolved regret and the human desire to be understood even in departure. Ultimately, the poem presents love as both beautiful and fragile, shaped by forces stronger than individual will.

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