

THE LIFE AND WORK OF ABDULLA QODIRIY

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In the history of Uzbek national literature, the great writer Abdulla Qodiriy (1894–1938) occupies a special and honoured place. His literary legacy played an invaluable role in the spiritual awakening of the Uzbek people, the recognition of national identity, and the shaping of social thought. Qodiriy is remembered not only as a novelist but also as a publicist, playwright, translator, literary critic, and active public figure. His heritage is of tremendous importance for national self-awareness, the restoration of historical memory, and the cultivation of enlightenment in society. Both his life and creative work deserve thorough analysis from literary as well as socio-spiritual perspectives.

Abdulla Qodiriy was born in 1894 in Tashkent. He received his primary education in local traditional schools and madrasas, and later attended Jadid schools that imbued him with reformist ideas. From an early age, he developed a passion for literature and began writing while still very young.

The February Revolution and the October Revolution of 1917 profoundly influenced Qodiriy's work. In his writings he addressed issues such as social reform, human freedom, and equality. During the political repressions of 1937–1938, however, he was branded an “enemy of the people,” persecuted, and executed in 1938. Although his works were banned for decades, they were revived and re-evaluated after Uzbekistan gained independence.

Qodiriy's style is distinguished by realism, psychological depth, and a powerful national spirit. He masterfully brought the vernacular into literature, using his characters to reflect the inner fabric of society. By portraying the emotional lives of individuals in depth, he created works that resonate even within world literature.

With his novels “O'tgan kunlar” (Days Gone By, 1926) and “Mehrobdan chayon” (Scorpion from the Altar, 1934), Qodiriy laid the groundwork for the historical novel in Uzbek literature. Writing in a realistic key, he vividly depicted the intricacies of social life, national values, and tradition, while giving particular attention to psychological nuance and dialogue.

“O'tgan kunlar” is recognised as the first historical novel in Uzbek literature; it embraces nineteenth-century Tashkent society, feudal relations, and Enlightenment ideas. “Mehrobdan chayon,” by contrast, dramatises the conflict between modernist Jadids and conservative forces.

Qodiriy's articles, essays, and satirical pieces, published under pseudonyms such as Mulla Qudrat and Jinnibek, urged the public toward enlightenment and fostered individuals capable of independent thought and strength of will.

Throughout his oeuvre the writer exposed social shortcomings and portrayed life's realities with sincerity, affirming his stance as a champion of justice and freedom.

Abdulla Qodiriy created a turning point in Uzbek letters, laying the foundations of national realistic prose. His works continue to transmit ideas of national identity, spirituality, and freedom to new generations. His legacy is both a literary treasure and an enduring historical lesson.

LIST OF REFERENCES:

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