

The role of Abdullah Qadiri in Uzbek novels

Melikuziyev Mumtozbek Zarifjon o'g'li

3rd year student of the Military Education Faculty of the Tashkent State Pedagogical University named after Nizami.

Mail: mumtozbekk@bk.ru
+998 90 3625363

Annotation: This article deals with the life and work of Abdullah Qadiri, his thoughts on the Jadid movement, and the novels he wrote as the founder of Uzbek romance.

Keywords: Uzbek novel, Mushtum, "Young married woman", *O'tgan kunlar (Days Gone By)*.

Abdulla Qodiriy (April 10, 1894 – October 4, 1938), also spelt **Abdullah Qadiri** and **Abdullah Kadiri** in English, was an Uzbek and Soviet playwright, poet, writer, and literary translator. Qodiriy was one of the most influential Uzbek writers of the 20th century.^{[1][2]} He introduced realism into Uzbek literature through his historical novels and influenced many other Central Asian novelists,^[3] including the Kazakh writer Mukhtar Auezov.^[4]

Qodiriy wrote under various pen names, the most renowned being Julqunboy. His early works were influenced by the Jadid movement. Qodiriy was executed during the Great Purge under the leadership of Joseph Stalin.^[4]

Abdulla Qodiriy was born on April 10, 1894, in Tashkent, then Russian Turkestan. His father, Qodirbobo, was 74 years old when Qodiriy was born. Qodiriy did a variety of menial jobs before a merchant hired him as a book copier. He became interested in writing in the middle of the 1910s.

"In any case, I was born in the family which was a poor and occupied with gardening work... I think ..." he says in his autobiography. I was sent to school when I was nine or ten years old. After studying at school for about two or three years in the old way, and then at the age of twelve, I was hired as a servant by a rich man because of the extreme poverty of our family. My master was a merchant himself and needed someone who could write in Russian. Probably that was the taste, he sent me to a Russian school ... In 1912, I became a clerk for 50 soums a year for a man who trades in manufactories ...

From these mediums, I read the newspapers published by the Tatars through the market and came to believe that there was a newspaper in the world. In 1913, when the Uzbek newspapers "Sadoi Turkiston", "Samarkand", and "Oina" began to appear, I had an idea to write rumors for them. Little did I realize that I had written a theatrical book in 1995, "Baxtsiz kuyov" (The unhappy groom), under the influence of "Padarkush", published in 1913. In the same year, I wrote a short story "Juvonboz" based on the stories and novels that appeared in theaters, but I could not find a publisher, so I published it myself. After Nicholas fell off the throne, I volunteered for the ordinary people's police ...

In early 1918, the old city food committee was taken from the hands of the rich, and comrade Sultankhodja Kasimkhodjaev was appointed chairman of the committee, and I joined the Uzbek sarcophagus of this committee. In early 1919, I was appointed editor of the newspaper "Oziq ishlari" (Jobs of food), which was to be removed from the name of the food committee .

It will take me a long time to list all the services I have rendered in the Soviet offices, and from now on I will only mention the names of the institutions: I was a correspondent for the "Rusto" poster newspaper, a correspondent for the "Ishtirokiyun" and "Qizil Bayroq"(a red flag) newspapers. as a member, and until 1924 I worked impartially in the interests of the workers. In the last seven years, I had not received a single reprimand from the Soviet government and the party. The conclusion was that if the services of others were fixed with a notebook, my services were clear to the press ... The workers and peasants read my writings with delight and put me in the ranks of writers, and they still read and remember me ... "

The first work of the writer began in 1913-1914, when he first wrote as a poet. His poems "Ahvolimiz"(Our condition), "Millatimga"(To my nation), "Toy"(A wedding) (1914-1915) were published in "Oina" magazine. He calls his nation to enlightenment, and emerges as an enlightened poet and writer.

His tragedy “Baxtsiz kuyov” (The Unhappy Groom)(1915), "Juvonboz"(Young married woman) (1915), and”Uloqda” (The Capricorn)(1916) stories also show a desire to see his people as literate, educated, cultured and free.

In 1924, Abdullah Qadiri went to Moscow to study at the Institute of Journalism. After returning from Moscow, he began working as a freelance correspondent for “Mushtum” magazine. His “Toshpo’lat tajang nima deydir?”(What does irritated Toshpulat say?) and satirical stories from the series “Kalvak Mahzumning xotira daftaridan”(From the Memory Notebook of Kalvak Mahzum) were first published in this magazine.

From 1917 to 1918, Abdulla Kadiri began collecting material for the novel” O’tkan kunlar” (Past Days). In 1922, the first chapters of the first Uzbek novel began to be published in the magazine "Inkilob". In 1925-1926, "Last Days" was published as a three-part book.

Qodiriy was briefly arrested in 1926 for his article "Yig’indi gaplar" ("A Collection of Rumors") that was published in *Mushtum*. In 1928, the author's second historical novel “Mehrobdan chayon”(Scorpion from the Altar) was published. In 1934, Abdulla Kadiri created the story "Obid Ketmon" on the theme of agriculture. He also translated into Uzbek the satirical stories of Gogol's “Uylanish”(Marriage), Chekhov's "Olchazor," and other Western writers.

Abdulla Kadiri attends the first All-Union Writers' Congress in Moscow in 1934.

It is also known that he dreamed of creating novels such as “Amir umarxonning kanizi” (Amir Umarmarkhan's maid), “Namoz o’g’ri” (Namoz thief), “Daxshat” (Horror). But premature death did not allow dreams to come true.

Abdulla Kadiri was arrested on December 31, 1937. He said in prison that “I categorically deny the charges against me. I am not afraid of any punishment or torture in the way of truth. "If they try to shoot me, I'll cut my chest ..."

Later, he enjoyed the protection and patronage of the Uzbek communist party leader, Akmal Ikramov, but was left exposed by Ikramov's arrest in 1937. He was arrested again on December 31, 1937, as "enemy of the people". He was executed on October 4, 1938, in Tashkent. His works were republished in 1956 after the XX Congress., by the decree of the President of the Republic, the Republican State Prize named after Abdulla Kadiri was established in 1990. Abdulla Kadiri was awarded the Alisher Navoi State Prize in 1991.

Work

Qodiriy's most famous works are the historical novels *O’tgan kunlar (Days Gone By)* (1922) and *Mehrobdan chayon (Scorpion in the Pulpit)* (1929).^[1] *O’tgan kunlar* is the first full-length novel by an Uzbek author.^[2] Qodiriy's stories *Kalvak Mahzumning xotira daftaridan (From Mahzum the Simpleton's Diary)* and *Toshpo’lat tajang nima deydir? (What Does Irritated Toshpo’lat Say?)* are considered to be one of the best satirical stories in Uzbek.^[3]

Qodiriy also wrote many plays and numerous newspaper articles. He was fluent in Arabic, Persian, and Russian. Qodiriy translated into the Uzbek language the works of many famous Russian writers such as Nikolai Gogol and Anton Chekhov. In particular, he translated Gogol's *Marriage* (1842) into Uzbek. He is rumoured to have written another novel, *Emir Umar's Slave Girl* set in the early nineteenth century during the reigns of Emir Umar, khan of Kokand, and his son, Matali. This novel (if it existed) is assumed to have been destroyed by the NKVD after Qodiriy's arrest.

In literature

Qodiriy is the central character in the novel *Jinlar basmi yoxud katta o'yin (The Devils' Dance)* by Hamid Ismailov, published in Tashkent in 2016, and translated into English in 2018.^[5] This is a fictionalised account of Qodiriy's arrest, interrogation and execution, containing within it Ismailov's version of Qodiriy's last, lost novel, which the author imagines him composing in his head while he is in prison.

Legacy

The Tashkent State Institute of Culture in Tashkent was named after Qoiriry (spelt Kadiri); in 2002 this institute merged with the Uzbekistan Institute of Arts to become the Uzbekistan State Institute of Arts and Culture.^{[6][7]}

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