

PAPER

THE INTERPRETATION OF UNIVERSAL HUMAN VALUES IN THE LYRICS OF ERKIN VOHIDOV

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Abstract

This article analyzes the artistic and aesthetic features of the works of Erkin Vohidov, one of the prominent representatives of modern Uzbek literature. Selected poems of the poet that embody universal human values are analyzed, and the spiritual and moral ideas advanced therein, their artistic interpretation, as well as the poetic expressive means employed, are comprehensively examined. Special attention is given to the depiction of universal human qualities such as the awareness of national identity, devotion to folk values, sincerity, friendship, and humanity, all of which are explored through a scholarly approach.

Key words: Erkin Vohidov, poetry, poetics, national spirit, values, analysis.

INTRODUCTION

Poetry is the jewel of a creator's heart — an artistic expression shaped by profound emotional and spiritual experiences. A true creator is a genuine master of words, endowed with the gift of talent. Literary art is distinguished by its ability to explore the human soul and to portray it in a way that resonates with others. Since human emotions are complex and delicate, their truthful and expressive depiction is inherently challenging. While inner experiences are limitless, the means of expressing them remain limited. Thus, the degree of a writer's talent is measured by their ability to explore the climates of the human soul comprehensively.

In this regard, Erkin Vohidov can be considered a poet who carved out his own distinctive path [3:207]. A People's Poet of Uzbekistan, publicist, and scholar, Vohidov made a significant contribution to the development of twentieth-century Uzbek literature. His works are distinguished by their sincerity, philosophical depth, and devotion to national and universal values.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The lyrical mastery of Erkin Vohidov can be observed in poetry collections such as *Tong nafasi* ("Breath of Dawn"), *Qo'shiqlarim sizga* ("My Songs to You"), *Yurak va aql* ("Heart and Mind"), *Mening yulduzim*

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("My Star"), Ishq savdosi ("The Trade of Love"), and Yoshlik devoni ("The Book of Youth").

This article analyzes selected poems from the collection *Ishq savdosi*, focusing on their artistic qualities, thematic content, and stylistic features. The research draws upon important scholarly works, including Ibromim Haqqulov's "Kamol et kasbkim", Qozoqboy Yo'ldoshev's "Yoniq so'z", Abdulla Oripov's article "The Magic of the Word", and other relevant sources.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study analyzes universal human values in the lyrics of Erkin Vohidov. In interpreting the themes and ideas expressed in the selected poems, both scholarly and sacred sources play an important role. The research methodology is based on an analytical approach, focusing on close textual reading and literary interpretation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In Erkin Vohidov's poetry, such elevated concepts as homeland, nature, friendship, and love are glorified. For instance, the poet reflects on humility through the following lines:

Though raised aloft in stately height,

The teapot bows before the cup.

If even it inclines in grace,

Why then this arrogance and pride?

Step not beyond humility— Not one small pace past modest bounds.

It is for this the waiting cup

Is lifted high and kissed with reverence.

Humility is one of the most beautiful virtues of spiritual maturity. Folk wisdom affirms: "Perfection belongs to the humble." Using a vivid image of a teapot bending toward a cup, the poet creates an elegant metaphor encouraging the reader to overcome arrogance. Through artistic comparison, the necessity of modesty is emphasized. Sacred sources likewise exalt humility. In the Qur'an (Surah Al-Isra 17:37), it is stated: "Do not walk upon the earth exultantly. Indeed, you will never tear the earth apart, nor reach the mountains in height." [6:283].

Similarly, in a quatrain by Alisher Navoi, pride, greed, and vanity are described as furnishings of the "palace of the self," and only by destroying

this palace can the soul attain eternal freedom. These spiritual and philosophical ideas resonate with Vohidov's poetic worldview.

Whoever demolishes the edifice of the self

Receives the reward of annihilation (fana).

Without destroying that structure,

The spiritual seeker cannot attain this state.

The poetry of Erkin Vohidov is likewise a fruit of wisdom. As expressed in a folk proverb, "The fuller the ear of grain, the lower it bends." The poet embeds the essence of such meanings into the heart of his verse through carefully arranged words. Indeed, as Rumi metaphorically stated, the word is a garment, and meaning is the secret concealed beneath that garment.

Erkin Vohidov is a poet of remarkably broad and lucid poetic thinking. A profound observation of life's events, an aspiration to comprehend their inner essence, and the desire to distinguish what is genuine from what is false accompany every line he writes. It is evident that Vohidov's творчество rose rapidly to the heights of artistic maturity. As the distinguished literary scholar Umarali Normatov aptly noted, every word and every line belonging to the poet's pen truly "became poetry that migrated into hearts" [1:15].

In his poems, devotion to the homeland, native soil, the people, and national values is expressed in a distinctive tone. For this reason, the writer's unique творчество, characterized by its vitality and closeness to the people, is regarded as one of the rare jewels in the treasury of our national heritage. In the poem "Sadoqat" ("Devotion"), sincere feelings such as love and loyalty toward the native land are portrayed through the image of the "aged elm tree."

They exposed the old elm's roots,

Fastened ropes around its waist.

Yet it clung to the soil, Refusing to leave its place...

At last, it fell with a crash.

They cut and carried it away,

But in its roots it bore along

A handful of its native earth.

In literary symbolism, the elm traditionally represents loyalty and faithfulness. The poet masterfully personifies the tree, illustrating unwavering devotion to one's homeland.

In the poem "Do'st bilan obod uying" ("A House Flourishes with a Friend"), included in *Yoshlik devoni*, the transformative power of friendship is

expressed:

*A home is blessed when graced by a friend,
Though its walls lie broken and bare;
Without a friend to cross its threshold,
Even a palace stands forlorn. (translation by the author)*

This melodious couplet highlights the moral significance of friendship. As the poet Abdulla Oripov once noted, Erkin Vohidov was a master capable of skillfully guiding the spirited horse of poetry across the noble field of Eastern verse. Indeed, Vohidov developed a unique artistic style and achieved remarkable mastery in poetic expression.

CONCLUSION

In general, Erkin Vohidov's poetry is distinguished by its sincerity, profound meaning, and a system of images rooted in national and universal values. The analyzed poems serve as significant examples of his творчество that exalt human virtues and contribute to moral and spiritual education. His lyrical works continue to occupy an important place in the treasury of Uzbek literary heritage and remain relevant within the broader context of world literature.

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