

**NATIONAL HEROES IN THE WORKS OF ABDULLA QODIRIY: A REFLECTION OF
UZBEK IDENTITY AND NATIONALISM***Saibnazarova Maxliyo Asatulloyevna**ISFT, English teacher.
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Annotation: Abdulla Qodiriy (1894–1938) is one of the most influential figures in early 20th-century Uzbek literature. His works, which focus on the social, cultural, and political issues of his time, have contributed significantly to the formation of modern Uzbek national identity. Central to Qodiriy's narratives is the concept of national heroes—figures who embody the struggles and aspirations of the people. This article explores the portrayal of national heroes in Qodiriy's major works, such as "O'tkan Kunlar" (Days Gone By) and "Mehrobdan Chayon" (Scorpion from the Mihrab), examining how these characters represent the tension between tradition and modernity, the complexities of national identity, and the longing for social justice.

Аннотация: Абдулла Кадыри (1894–1938) — одна из самых влиятельных фигур в узбекской литературе начала XX века. Его произведения, посвященные социальным, культурным и политическим проблемам своего времени, внесли значительный вклад в формирование современной узбекской национальной идентичности. Центральное место в повествованиях Кадыри занимает концепция национальных героев — фигур, олицетворяющих борьбу и чаяния народа. В этой статье исследуется изображение национальных героев в основных произведениях Кодиря, таких как «Откан Кунлар» («Дни минувшие») и «Мехробдан Чайон» (Скорпион из Михраба), исследуется, как эти персонажи представляют напряжение между традицией и современностью. сложности национальной идентичности и стремление к социальной справедливости.

Annatsiya: Abdulla Qodiriy (1894–1938) 20-asr boshlari o'zbek adabiyotining eng nufuzli namoyandalaridan biridir. Uning o'z davrining ijtimoiy, madaniy va siyosiy masalalariga bag'ishlangan asarlari zamonaviy o'zbek milliy o'zligini shakllantirishga katta hissa qo'shgan. Qodiriy rivoyatlarida markaziy o'rinni xalq qahramonlari – xalq kurashi va intilishlarini o'zida mujassam etgan siymolar tashkil etadi. Ushbu maqola Qodiriyning "O'tkan kunlar" va "Mehrobdan chayon" kabi yirik asarlaridagi xalq qahramonlari obrazini o'rganib, bu personajlarning an'ana va zamonaviylik o'rtasidagi ziddiyatni qanday ifodalashini o'rganadi, milliy o'zlikni anglashning murakkabliklari, ijtimoiy adolatga intilish.

Key Words: literary, character, personif, tradition, complexities, modernity, value.

Ключевые слова: литературный, персонаж, персона, традиция, сложности, современность, ценность

Kalit so'zlar: adabiy, xarakter, shaxs, an'ana, murakkabliklar, zamonaviylik, qadriyat.

Abdulla Qodiriy's literary works are situated in a period of great social upheaval in Central Asia, particularly in Uzbekistan. As a writer, he navigated the delicate terrain between Soviet political pressures, the Persianate literary traditions, and the emerging national consciousness of the Uzbek people. In this context, national heroes—characters who personify the cultural, moral,

and political aspirations of the Uzbek nation—take on significant symbolic weight in his works. These heroes, whether historical or fictional, reflect the struggles of the Uzbek people as they attempt to define their identity in the face of colonialism, social stratification, and the tension between traditional values and modernity.

Qodiriy's most celebrated novel, *O'tkan Kunlar*, is a historical narrative set in the late 19th century during the Russian imperial conquest of Central Asia. The novel's protagonist, Alisher, is a young man caught between the fading traditions of his society and the disruptive forces of modernity. While Alisher himself does not fully qualify as a traditional "national hero" in the epic sense, his character reflects the aspirations and dilemmas of a generation trying to balance respect for tradition with the demands of social change. His internal struggles embody the tension between loyalty to his family and society, and the desire to embrace a broader national identity. One of the most significant aspects of Alisher's character is his relationship with the national legacy. Throughout the novel, his actions reflect the dilemmas facing the modern Uzbek intellectual: Should he uphold the conservative norms of his society or embrace the new ideas brought by the colonial administration? The novel's portrayal of national identity is complex, as Qodiriy illustrates that national heroes are not merely figures of romanticized virtue but are often shaped by the social and political forces of their time. Alisher's inner conflict mirrors the national disillusionment experienced by many Uzbeks who felt torn between their traditional way of life and the oppressive forces of colonial rule.

Moreover, the characters surrounding Alisher, such as his mentor Mahmudbek and the noble Beklar, also embody the complexities of Uzbek heroism. While Mahmudbek represents an ideal of Uzbek nobility rooted in traditional values, Beklar symbolizes the corrupting influence of Russian imperialism. These characters reflect the different factions within Uzbek society and the way these factions vie for influence during a period of cultural and political transition.

In Mehrobdan Chayon, Qodiriy's exploration of national heroes takes a more direct form. Set in the early 20th century, the novel centers on the moral dilemmas of its protagonist Mahmud, a man whose sense of duty to his country and his community is at odds with the conventional moralities of his time. Mahmud, like the national heroes in many historical narratives, strives to protect the values of his culture while grappling with the moral ambiguities of his actions.

The novel's title, which translates as *Scorpion from the Mihrab*, symbolizes the struggle between the forces of spiritual purity and the destructive elements within society. Mahmud's journey mirrors that of a nation undergoing political, cultural, and social upheaval, as he seeks to uphold the sanctity of his heritage in a world that is increasingly dominated by foreign influences. His characterization, which combines elements of the traditional hero with the complexities of a modern intellectual, represents a nuanced view of what it means to be a national hero in times of crisis. In Mehrobdan Chayon, Qodiriy also critiques the narrow view of heroism that often excludes the complexities of human behavior. The characters in this novel, particularly Mahmud, are portrayed not as perfect individuals but as flawed men struggling with their own desires and moral conflicts. This approach humanizes the national hero and makes the process of nation-building more accessible to readers by presenting the hero not as a distant, unachievable ideal but as a figure who faces real challenges in the quest for justice.

One of the central themes in Qodiriy's works is the idea that the creation of a national identity is a complex and often painful process. In both O'tkan Kunlar and Mehrobdan Chayon, Qodiriy presents national heroes as figures who must navigate conflicting loyalties: to their family, their class, their religious community, and their nation. These competing allegiances reflect the larger political and cultural struggles of the time, as Uzbekistan moved from being a part of the Russian Empire to becoming a constituent republic within the Soviet Union.

Qodiriy's national heroes often embody the hopes and fears of an entire society at a time of profound transition. The figure of the national hero is not static but evolves in response to changing historical circumstances. While in O'tkan Kunlar the hero is caught between the old and the new, in Mehrobdan Chayon, the hero is presented as a more active participant in shaping his destiny and the future of his nation.

The portrayal of national heroes in Qodiriy's works serves as a form of cultural self-reflection. Through these characters, the reader is invited to consider not only the individual's role in the national struggle but also the broader social, political, and cultural forces that shape the collective identity of the nation. In doing so, Qodiriy contributes to the formation of a modern Uzbek national consciousness, wherein the hero is both a product of history and a participant in its making.

Conclusion

In the works of Abdulla Qodiriy, national heroes are more than just symbols of virtue or righteousness; they are complex figures who embody the challenges and contradictions of the national struggle. Through characters like Alisher and Mahmud, Qodiriy explores the difficult process of nation-building, where personal desires and moral compromises intertwine with broader political and cultural forces. These heroes reflect the deep-seated tensions in Uzbek society during a time of colonialism, social change, and the emergence of national identity. Ultimately, Qodiriy's portrayal of national heroes challenges the reader to understand that heroism is not simply about achieving glory, but about navigating the complex landscape of national identity in a world shaped by both tradition and modernity.

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