

ANALYSIS OF ABDULLA AVLONI'S "LITERATURE OR NATION" - THE CONTENT OF THIS WORK AND HIS VIEWS ON LITERATURE

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Abstract: Abdulla Avloni, a prominent Uzbek educator, poet, and social reformer, made significant contributions to the development of Uzbek literature and national consciousness. His work "Literature or Nation" explores the interdependence of literature and national identity, emphasizing the role of literature in shaping and preserving cultural values. Avloni argues that literature serves as both a mirror and a guiding force for society, helping to cultivate national pride and intellectual development. This paper examines the main themes of "Literature or Nation" and Avloni's perspective on the essential role of literature in nation-building, highlighting his advocacy for an educational and progressive literary movement.

Key words: Abdulla Avloni, Uzbek literature, national identity, cultural development, educational reform, literature and society, modernism.

The role of literature in shaping national identity has long been a subject of discussion among scholars and writers. Abdulla Avloni, a key figure in early 20th-century Uzbek literature and social thought, was deeply concerned with the connection between literary production and the development of a national consciousness. His work "Literature or Nation" addresses the crucial function of literature in fostering national unity, education, and moral progress. He believed that literature is not merely an artistic expression but a means of preserving historical memory, strengthening cultural identity, and guiding people toward enlightenment. In his view, a nation's progress is intrinsically linked to the intellectual and moral values promoted through its literature. His call for literary modernization was part of a broader movement aimed at resisting cultural stagnation and ensuring the development of an educated and self-aware society.

This paper aims to analyze Avloni's perspectives on the relationship between literature and nation-building, demonstrating how his ideas contributed to modern Uzbek literary and cultural thought. By examining his arguments, this study highlights the ways in which Avloni's work helped shape the course of Uzbek literature and contributed to a broader discourse on national identity, education, and reform in Central Asia.

Avloni views literature as a foundational pillar in the formation of national identity. He emphasizes the responsibility of writers to educate and inspire the masses while preserving language, culture, and historical consciousness. According to Avloni, literature is not merely an artistic endeavor but a means of social and intellectual transformation. Through his works, he advocates for a literature that fosters educational and moral progress, arguing that a stagnant

literary tradition hinders national development. He calls for modern, progressive literary works that address contemporary issues and promote enlightenment among the people. He believed that a nation without literature is like a body without a soul, emphasizing that literature breathes life into the moral and intellectual fabric of society.

One of Avloni's key arguments is that literature serves as both a reflection of and a force for societal change. He encourages writers to engage with real-life issues such as education, inequality, and colonialism, making literature a tool for social justice. In this sense, literature should not only mirror society's struggles and aspirations but also guide it toward a more enlightened and equitable future. Avloni's ideas align with broader movements of national awakening in Central Asia, as he believes that a strong literary tradition is crucial for the survival and advancement of a nation. He strongly criticized those who viewed literature merely as a means of entertainment, asserting that its primary function should be to educate and instill a sense of responsibility in its readers.

Avloni's contributions to Uzbek literature extend beyond his writings; he also played a crucial role in shaping modern Uzbek literary thought and education. His advocacy for literature that serves the people influenced later generations of writers and reformers, who continued to develop and expand upon his ideas. His efforts to modernize Uzbek literature were closely linked to the Jadid movement, which sought to reform education and cultural life in Turkestan. He introduced new literary forms and themes, incorporating elements of European literary traditions while maintaining the essence of Uzbek culture. His works often carried didactic messages aimed at raising awareness about social issues, urging people to embrace progress and national consciousness. Today, his work remains a significant part of Uzbek literary and cultural discourse, demonstrating the enduring relevance of his call for a socially conscious and progressive literary tradition.

Conclusion

Abdulla Avloni's "Literature or Nation" provides a compelling argument for the role of literature in national and cultural development. His belief in literature as both a reflection of and a catalyst for societal change underscores its importance in shaping national identity. Avloni's call for literature that educates, enlightens, and inspires remains as relevant today as it was in his time. His contributions to the Uzbek literary canon demonstrate that literature is more than just a form of artistic expression—it is a powerful force for national progress, intellectual awakening, and cultural preservation.

Moreover, his work continues to influence contemporary discussions on literature's role in shaping public consciousness, particularly in the context of national identity and social reform. The ideas he presented continue to influence debates about the role of literature in education and national development, ensuring his legacy as one of the pioneers of Uzbek literary modernism. Avloni's vision for literature as a medium of progress and enlightenment stands as a testament to the enduring power of words in shaping society and guiding nations toward a brighter future.

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