



The Role of Folk Oral Traditions in Sa'dulla Hakim's Poetry (On the Example of Proverbs and Aphorisms)

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Abstract: This article examines the role and function of folk oral tradition in the poetry of Sa'dulla Hakim, with a particular focus on the use of proverbs and aphorisms. The study explores how the poet integrates traditional wisdom and culturally embedded expressions into his poetic language, thereby enriching the semantic layers of his work and reinforcing national identity. By analyzing selected verses, the article illustrates how Hakim employs folkloric elements not merely as decorative language but as a means to convey philosophical depth, ethical values, and social commentary. The research underscores the poet's ability to modernize traditional forms without losing their cultural authenticity, thus contributing to the preservation and evolution of Uzbek literary heritage.

Keywords: Sadulla Hakim, folk oral tradition, proverbs, aphorisms, Uzbek poetry, cultural heritage, national identity, poetic expression.

Introduction: It is well known that the Uzbek people possess a rich cultural heritage, both oral and written, accumulated over many centuries. Proverbs and aphorisms form an integral part of this heritage. These expressions not only enhance the emotional and aesthetic appeal of speech but also imbue it with figurative depth. Due to their brevity and profundity, proverbs and aphorisms serve to more vividly convey the author's intended message.

Moreover, the use of such expressions is indicative of

the folk-oriented nature of a work. The renowned poet Sa'dulla Hakim made extensive use of these devices in his poetry, earning his works a place among the most popular and accessible to the general public. In expressing the physical appearance and inner emotional experiences of his lyrical persona, the poet skillfully employed numerous aphorisms and proverbs. His collections, such as Hamal Tonglari (The Dawns of Aries), Sen Kutgan Bahor (The Spring You Awaited), Yoz Oqshomi (Summer Evening), Ona So'z (Mother's Word), and Ko'ngil Yuzi (The Face of the Soul), contain over one hundred proverbs, wise sayings, and aphorisms.

Sa'dulla Hakim effectively used folk proverbs in his poetry to express sentiments of patriotism, humanity, justice, harmony, and friendship:

May success accompany knowledge and labor,
Thus spoke the people, wishing each other well.

Those who cling to knowledge's hem
Will never be humiliated, the people said.

The poet often includes multiple proverbs or aphorisms within a single stanza, which enhances the clarity of his message and reflects traditional Uzbek customs and values:

Remember this saying well:

Wise words serve the wise.

The one riding a horse has sound legs,

While the one walking has a sound mind.

In some instances, the poet uses proverbs metaphorically, adapting them to the context of the narrative:

As the moon fades and sets

Within the summer twilight,

A woman kindles a flame of silk

At the very tips of her feet.

In the above lines, the incorporated proverbs and aphorisms convey nuanced meanings, helping to clarify and amplify the poet's ideas.

If you walk, you'll hear wisdom everywhere:

Whether from this side or that.

With a good wife, this world is paradise;

With a bad one — the next world becomes hell.

Occasionally, proverbs are seamlessly woven into the poetic structure in accordance with stylistic or poetic requirements:

"Truth bends, but never breaks" —

Who first uttered these words is clear.

But I say: "A broken string never bends again;

To bend is worse than to break."

Here, the proverb "Truth bends, but does not break" is subtly embedded in the meaning of the verse. Similarly:

This I found while roaming the land —

A phrase native to my people.

Like pearls strung on a thread, I gathered them:

One who hasn't seen a horse races with the rider,

One who hasn't seen an enemy fights with a foe.

Such lines serve as further examples. The poet always strives for simplicity in expression and frequently uses proverbs as supporting evidence to enhance the meaning of his poetry:

In my view, our ancestors

Were both simple and great.

Truly, they were geniuses:

"A woman's cunning could burden forty camels."

Sa'dulla Hakim also creates new variations of existing proverbs and aphorisms, replacing certain words to refresh their meaning:

If you win a mother's heart,

Your desires will surely be fulfilled.

They say: that is your pilgrimage to Mecca,

And you are deemed a true pilgrim.

In these lines, the poet skillfully transforms the traditional saying "To win a mother's heart is like a pilgrimage to Mecca" into a new artistic form, preserving its essence while renewing its imagery.

In short, through such verses, Sa'dulla Hakim not only makes effective use of traditional proverbs and wise sayings but also reinterprets and expands their meanings, creating new aphorisms. This enriches the language of his works, makes them more expressive and folk-oriented, and contributes significantly to the development of the Uzbek literary language and the culture of speech.

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