

TA'LIM, TARBIYA VA INNOVATSIYALAR

IV son, Mart

MAQSUD SHAYKHZODA – A CREATOR CONNECTED TO ETERNITY.

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Annotation. *The outstanding writer of the Uzbek and Azerbaijani peoples, Maqsd Shaykhzoda, wrote works in the classical genres of Eastern poetry. Shaykhzoda's works have been translated into fraternal languages and foreign languages. During the translation process, the poet drew inspiration from the schools of mastery of classical writers of fraternal and world literature, incorporating advanced traditions into his poetry. His contributions to literature were recognized by the Soviet government. This article discusses these aspects.*

Keywords: *writer, poetry, translation, literary fiction, poet, publicist, people.*

Maksud Masum oglu Sheikhzadeh, one of the great representatives of Uzbek literature in the 20th century and a son of both the Uzbek and Azerbaijani peoples, was born in 1908 in the city of Agdash (Oqtosh), Azerbaijan, into an intellectual family. His father, Masumbek, was a physician who had a deep love for poetry and instilled in his children a passion for literature. His mother, Fotimakhonim, was also an educated woman.

In 1928, he was accused of free-thinking, particularly for advocating Azerbaijan's independence, and was exiled to Tashkent as part of the persecution of national intellectuals. From that time until the end of his life, Sheikhzadeh's fate remained closely tied to Uzbekistan. Between 1935 and 1938, he worked as a researcher at the Institute of Language and Literature. From 1938 until his death, he taught at the Tashkent State Pedagogical Institute named after Nizami, in the Department of Uzbek Classical Literature. He also served as the dean of the institute and the head of the Uzbek Literature Department. His works were regularly published in periodicals, and his activities as a translator, literary scholar, and educator earned him recognition in Uzbekistan's academic circles.

Sheikhzadeh began writing poetry during his school years and often recited his poems at school events. His first poem was published in 1921 in the *Communist* newspaper in Baku. Many of his early poems, written in Azerbaijani, were preserved in manuscript form in *Shaykhzoda's Notebook*. His first works in Uzbek literature were published in 1929.

During the 1930s, the poet published collections such as *Ten Poems*, *My Comrades*, *The Third Book*, and *Republic*. These collections established Sheikhzadeh as a distinctive and recognized poet in Uzbek literature. As he rightfully wrote in *Tashkentnama*:

**Nizami's homeland, the land of Ganja,
Filled my lungs with the air of poetry...
But the delicate fate of a poet
Smiled upon the banks of the Syr Darya...**

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The poet's creative work reached its peak in the 1940s, during the years of World War II. The main themes of his poetry collections published during this period, such as "What is the Struggle for?", "War and Song", "Captain Gastello", and "The Heart Says", revolved around the destruction of fascism, the preservation of life, honor, and peace, and the call for resilience and courage. In 1944, Maksud Sheikhzadeh created another masterpiece of his literary career, the historical drama "Jalaluddin Manguberdi." The play depicts the 13th-century struggle of Jalaluddin Manguberdi, one of the valiant sons of the Uzbek people, against the invading armies of Genghis Khan, fighting bravely for the independence of his homeland. The artistic authenticity of this historical figure and the glorious past ensured the success of "Jalaluddin Manguberdi." During the author's lifetime, the work was not published in its entirety. It was only in 1988, 21 years after Sheikhzadeh's death, that the full version was printed in Uzbek. The play was staged at the Hamza Uzbek State Academic Drama Theater (now the Uzbek National Academic Drama Theater), with the legendary actor Shukur Burhanov portraying the fearless commander Jalaluddin.

In the post-war years, Sheikhzadeh published poetry collections celebrating peaceful life and creative enthusiasm, including "Fifteen Years' Notebook", "My Praises", "Strings of Time", "Flame", and "A Quarter-Century's Divan." In 1957, he wrote "Tashkentnama," an epic poem filled with deep philosophical and emotional reflections on Tashkent.

Maksud Sheikhzadeh, a talented poet and translator, made significant contributions to Uzbek literature by translating the works of over fifty authors and producing numerous original poetic works. He was an erudite, multifaceted, and dedicated artist. Sheikhzadeh's translations embraced both Eastern (Rabindranath Tagore, Volatthöl, Mehmet Akif, Nâzım Hikmet) and Western classics (Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, George Gordon Byron, Nâzım Hikmet). He also paid attention to the works of Alexander Pushkin, Mikhail Lermontov, Nikolay Nekrasov, Vladimir Mayakovsky, Eduard Bagritsky, Boris Pasternak, and Aleksei Surkov, as well as those of Taras Shevchenko, Samad Vurgun, and Eghishe Charents. However, his most remarkable achievement was translating the works of William Shakespeare, whom he considered a "theater genius." Sheikhzadeh devoted his best years to translating and promoting Shakespeare's literary legacy in his native language.

In Shakespeare's works, Sheikhzadeh was inspired by their humanistic ideas; in Byron's poetry, he admired the revolutionary spirit of Romanticism; in Pushkin's works, he appreciated the vast artistic development and the richness of folk lyrical creativity. He was also influenced by Mayakovsky's ability to "speak in full voice" and his militant spirit. Sheikhzadeh left behind a truly invaluable literary heritage in Uzbek literature through his translation endeavors. One of his greatest contributions was his translation of Shakespeare's "Hamlet," which he revised in the 1930s and approached with deep poetic and philosophical insight. He worked on this project in the 1940s, when he felt mature enough to tackle such a highly responsible task. Thus, in 1948, after 12 years of work, his first translation of "Hamlet" was published. He later revised it in 1960, further demonstrating his serious approach to Shakespeare's timeless work.

Sheikhzadeh's deep understanding of Shakespeare's originality and poetic richness became evident in his translation of "Hamlet." His analysis of the tragedy was based on a careful interpretation of the protagonist's image and its evolution. Understanding and depicting Hamlet's character was a complex task due to the presence of mythological imagery, the philosophical depth of the hero's character, and the historical-social distance between the tragedy's setting and modern times. These challenges required additional clarifications and interpretations from the translator. Sheikhzadeh's attitude toward archaic expressions in the Uzbek language was also shaped by these considerations. Sheikhzadeh was a true master of translation, creating a school of thought that influenced many young translators who followed in his footsteps.

Sheikhzadeh was also the author of the immortal tragedy "Mirzo Ulugbek." Written under the influence of Shakespeare's "Hamlet," "King Lear," and "Romeo and Juliet," this work was a significant milestone in the development of Uzbek dramaturgy. The play vividly and grandly portrays Mirzo Ulugbek, a great scholar-astronomer and the descendant of the Timurid dynasty, who played a crucial role in promoting science after Amir Timur. The legendary actor Shukur Burhanov masterfully portrayed this historical figure on stage. In 1964, Sheikhzadeh adapted the play into the screenplay for the film "Ulugbek's Star." The play explored the unique realities of Ulugbek's rule and showcased how Sheikhzadeh creatively incorporated some of Shakespeare's techniques. However, Sheikhzadeh did not merely imitate Shakespeare—he introduced original innovations in developing the plot and characters, highlighting his independence as a playwright.

It is worth noting that Sheikhzadeh did not speak English, yet his translations of Shakespeare's works were highly esteemed by Uzbek readers. His translations retained the essence of the original texts and demonstrated his remarkable talent. Sheikhzadeh adhered to a set of principles that ensured the high quality of his translations: preserving the original characters and imagery, finding linguistic equivalents, maintaining fidelity to historical and contextual details, and ensuring the structural and semantic coherence of the text. He successfully conveyed the poetic devices and social atmosphere of Shakespeare's tragedies, bringing the spirit of their respective eras to life in the Uzbek language.

Sheikhzadeh was particularly drawn to progressive, humanistic, and peace-loving authors. These values were deeply embedded in his own character. He despised evil, exploitation, inequality, colonial oppression, and senseless wars.

Thus, Maksud Sheikhzadeh translated works that resonated with his worldview and artistic identity. His monumental contributions to poetic art and translation have enriched Uzbek literature. His efforts revived and gave full voice to the masterpieces of both Eastern and Western literature, solidifying their place in the treasury of national literature. As a poet, playwright, translator, publicist, scholar, and educator, Maksud Sheikhzadeh has left an indelible mark on Uzbek culture, ensuring his eternal legacy.

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