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ARTISTIC ANALYSIS OF ABDULLA ORIPOV'S POEM "ARSLON VA INSON"

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Annotation: This article provides a literary analysis of Abdulla Oripov's poem "Arslon va inson" ("The Lion and the Man"). The poem explores the relationship between truth and human perception through the contrasting images of a lion and a man. The lion symbolizes courage and the ability to face truth directly, while the man represents weakness and submission to life's difficulties. The study examines the poem's theme, idea, artistic devices, and poetic structure, highlighting its philosophical depth. The analysis concludes that the poem conveys a message about the necessity of bravery, resilience, and confronting the truth in life.

Keywords: Abdulla Oripov, the lion and the man, literary analysis, philosophical poetry, symbolism, truth, courage, human weakness.

Аннотация: В данной статье представлен литературный анализ стихотворения Абдуллы Орипова "Арслан и человек". В стихотворении через образы льва и человека раскрывается отношение к истине. Лев символизирует смелость и способность смотреть правде в глаза, тогда как человек олицетворяет слабость и склонность поддаваться жизненным трудностям. В статье анализируются тема, идея, художественные средства и поэтическая структура произведения, раскрывается его философская глубина. В результате исследования делается вывод, что стихотворение подчеркивает важность смелости, стойкости и умения противостоять жизненным испытаниям.

Ключевые слова: Абдулла Орипов, Арслан и человек, литературный анализ, философская поэзия, символизм, истина, смелость, слабость человека.

INTRODUCTION

The work of Abdulla Oripov is considered one of the highest peaks of Uzbek poetry. For him, words mean everything. The poet writes: "It is true that a person can live, or rather, survive without literature. However, can one truly envy such a life?" [1, 261]. It becomes clear that the creator considers the art of words to be the essence of life. In a life without literature, there is no meaning. It should be emphasized that Abdulla Oripov, in this case, is referring not only to the artist but to humanity as a whole. Since being familiar with and understanding the art of words is so essential for every member of society, it becomes a matter of life and death for the poet. In his works, the poet explores themes such as humanity's relationship with life, spirituality, and truth, with deep philosophical reflection [2, 24]. The poet's poem "*Arslon va inson*" (The Lion and the Man) holds a similar profound meaning, in which the concepts of truth and courage are reflected through



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the images of a lion and a man. In the poem, the lion is depicted as a brave and powerful creature that gazes directly at the sun. On the other hand, although man is the king of living beings, he is depicted as being unable to face the truth directly. Through this contrast, the poet calls on humanity not to bow before the truth, to withstand life's challenges, and to be courageous. This article provides a literary analysis of the poem, exploring its theme, message, poetic characteristics, and philosophical meaning.

ANALYSIS LITERATURE AND METHODOLOGY

Poetry is like the sun that illuminates the human soul. It reflects the emotions, pains, joys, and sorrows of a person. "A poem is often an expression of sorrow. It rarely comes from joy. A poem is the essence of grief, while joy is its distant relative" [3, 245]. Poets differ in their views on poetry and the art of words. Abdulla Oripov was one of the poets who could freely express the heart and feelings of a person. The range of topics in Abdulla Oripov's poetry is vast, and whatever subject you seek, you are sure to find a relevant poem. As noted by Qozokboy Yo'ldoshev: "Abdulla Oripov suddenly appeared as a shining star in the sky of Uzbek poetry, bringing new breath, space, and melancholic melodies to our national poetry, which had started to feel cramped within narrow circles" [4, 59]. This high praise highlights the significant impact of Oripov's work on Uzbek poetry. Abdulla Oripov's articles on poetry and his many poems dedicated to this theme are numerous. His poems have been evaluated by literary scholars through themes such as national spirit, spiritual maturity, and the search for truth. Researches by scholars like T. Qahhorov, N. Karimov, and A. Mamadaliyev have analyzed the symbolic thinking and philosophical layers within the poet's works [5, 352]. "Arslon va inson" (The Lion and the Man) is also part of the series of works that touch upon themes such as the essence of humanity, courage, and the state of being before truth in Oripov's poetry. When conducting an artistic analysis of this poem, studying symbolism, philosophical directions, and poetic devices is of paramount importance. Moreover, research on the analysis of symbolic images in Uzbek literature serves as the theoretical foundation for this article. This article is written using artistic and poetic analysis methods. The primary methods used are the compositional analysis method – analyzing the structure, idea, and theme of the poem; the structural method – examining the poetic elements (tone, rhyme, rhythm, syntactic structure); and semantic analysis – analyzing the ideas expressed through symbols like the lion, the sun, and man in the poem.

CONCLUSION

The poem is structurally divided into two parts: the first part is dedicated to the image of the lion, while the second part portrays the image of the man. Through these contrasting images, the poet philosophically analyzes human thinking, as well as the courage and weakness of humanity in the face of truth:

Jami jonzotlardan yolg'iz bir arslon
(A lone lion among all the creatures)
Quyoshga ko'z yummay qarar emish tik



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(He stares at the sun without blinking) [6, 282].

Here, the image of the lion is presented as a metaphor, symbolizing courage and standing tall in the face of justice. The phrase “not closing his eyes to the sun” emphasizes the lion’s strong, fearless nature.

Inson! Sening uchun haqiqat – Quyosh,

(Human! For you, truth is the Sun,)

O‘zingni tiriklik shohi sanaysan.

(You consider yourself the king of life) [6, 282].

In these verses, the comparison “truth is the sun” is used, meaning the sun is presented as a symbol of truth. Although man considers himself the ruler of life, it is revealed throughout the poem that he is helpless in the face of truth. Structurally, the poem is built through the contrast of two different images – an animal and a human. Each stanza of the poem carries its own clear ideological load. In terms of tone and rhythm, the description of the lion's image conveys determination and courage, while the human image evokes weakness, regret, and sorrow. The rhyme scheme stands out for its simplicity, which enhances the poem's clarity and makes it more understandable.

Afsuski, boshing ham, ko‘zlarinda yosh,

(Unfortunately, you have tears in your eyes,)

Qachon quyoshingga sen tik qaraysan?

(When will you look straight at your sun?) [6, 282]

The line “Boshing ham, ko‘zlarinda yosh” reflects the weakness of the human being. The rhetorical question “When will you ever face the sun?” implies that man lacks the ability to reach the truth.

Semantically, the poem unveils issues related to human thinking, truth, and courage. The lion symbolizes bravery and strength, the sun represents truth and divine light, while the human is portrayed as a weak, helpless being in relation to truth. The lion is dominant not just because of its strength, but also because it stands boldly before the truth. The phrase “Sohib o‘rmon” (Master of the forest) refers to the lion's sovereignty and dominance:

Balki shu sababdan u sohibi o‘rmon,

(Maybe that's why he owns the forest,)

Jonzotlar ichida yashar behadik

(The benevolent one who lives among creatures) [6, 282].

DISCUSSION

In “Arslon va inson” (The Lion and the Man), Abdulla Oripov depicts the strength and weakness of humans in the face of truth. Through the compositional-analysis method, the poem can be divided into two main parts: the lion’s bravery and the human’s weakness. For example, the line “Quyoshga ko‘z yummay qarar emish tik” (“He stares at the sun without blinking”) expresses the lion's courage, while “Qachon quyoshingga sen tik



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qaraysan?” (“When will you look straight at the sun?”) reflects the human’s weakness in relation to truth.

The structural method helps analyze the poem’s tone, rhyme, and rhythm. The determined tone strengthens the image of the lion, while the sorrowful tone emphasizes the image of the human. The semantic method, on the other hand, reveals the symbolic meanings of the key images – lion, sun and human. Through these symbols, the poet expresses the need for humans to strive toward truth and stand up against it. These approaches integrate the poem’s philosophical and artistic layers, further clarifying and expressing its meaning.

CONCLUSION

Abdulla Oripov’s poem “*Arslon va inson*” (The Lion and the Man) reflects the internal conflicts of humanity and the struggle against life’s trials. The poet portrays the lion as a symbol of justice, demonstrating how, despite humans considering themselves the rulers of life, they are ultimately powerless in the face of truth. The poem, with its profound philosophical meaning and unique expression, encourages the reader to reflect on the fundamental values of life – such as courage, integrity, and resilience. Thus, “*Arslon va inson*” is valued not only as a literary work but also as an important creative legacy that reflects the complexity of the human psyche and the unique relationship individuals have with life.

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