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## THE IMAGE OF BUKHARA AND ITS ARTISTIC–PHILOSOPHICAL INTERPRETATION IN UZBEK POETRY

Rahmatova Saodat Shavkatovna

Master's student at the Asia International University

**Abstract.** This article explores the artistic and philosophical interpretation of the image of Bukhara in Uzbek poetry. Bukhara is not merely represented as a geographical or historical city, but as a complex symbolic space embodying spiritual memory, cultural continuity, and philosophical reflection. Through poetic imagery, metaphors, and symbols, Uzbek poets have transformed Bukhara into a timeless artistic concept that reflects national identity, moral values, and existential thought. The study highlights how Bukhara functions simultaneously as a historical city, a sacred cultural center, and a philosophical symbol within Uzbek poetic discourse.

**Keywords:** Bukhara, Uzbek poetry, artistic image, philosophical interpretation, cultural memory, symbolism.

The image of Bukhara occupies a distinctive and profound place in Uzbek poetry, serving as a multifaceted symbol that transcends its physical and historical boundaries. In poetic discourse, Bukhara is not simply a city with ancient monuments and rich history, but a living embodiment of spiritual heritage, intellectual tradition, and philosophical depth. Uzbek poets often approach Bukhara as a sacred space where history, faith, and human destiny intersect, allowing the city to function as a bridge between past and present, material and spiritual existence.

In many poetic works, Bukhara appears as a symbol of continuity and permanence. Its ancient madrasas, mosques, and narrow streets are portrayed as silent witnesses to centuries of human thought, belief, and struggle. Through this imagery, poets emphasize the idea of historical memory, presenting Bukhara as a repository of collective consciousness. The city becomes a metaphor for the endurance of cultural values despite political change, social transformation, and the passage of time. This philosophical dimension reflects the poets' concern with questions of identity and belonging in a rapidly changing world.

The artistic interpretation of Bukhara in Uzbek poetry is closely linked to spiritual symbolism. The city is frequently depicted as a center of enlightenment, knowledge, and moral purity. References to scholars, saints, and spiritual teachers associated with Bukhara reinforce its image as a place of wisdom and inner refinement. In this sense, Bukhara functions not only as a physical location but also as a moral ideal. Poets use the city's image to explore themes of faith, conscience, and the search for truth, presenting Bukhara as a guiding light in the moral and philosophical journey of humanity.

Philosophically, the image of Bukhara often embodies the tension between temporality and eternity. While the city bears visible marks of time—ruins, worn stones, and fading walls—it simultaneously symbolizes timeless values and enduring truths. Uzbek



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poets frequently contrast the transient nature of human life with the apparent permanence of Bukhara's spiritual legacy. This contrast allows poets to reflect on existential themes such as mortality, meaning, and the human desire for transcendence. Bukhara thus becomes a poetic space where the finite and the infinite coexist.

Another important aspect of Bukhara's image in Uzbek poetry is its emotional and aesthetic resonance. Poets often express deep personal attachment to the city, portraying it as a source of inspiration, nostalgia, and inner peace. Through lyrical language and rich imagery, Bukhara is depicted as a beloved homeland and a symbol of cultural pride. This emotional dimension strengthens the philosophical significance of the city, as personal experience merges with collective memory and national identity.

In modern Uzbek poetry, the image of Bukhara continues to evolve while retaining its symbolic core. Contemporary poets reinterpret the city's image in light of modern realities, social challenges, and global influences. Yet, even in these new interpretations, Bukhara remains a powerful symbol of continuity, spirituality, and cultural depth. Its artistic and philosophical representation demonstrates the enduring relevance of historical memory in shaping modern poetic consciousness.

In conclusion, the image of Bukhara in Uzbek poetry represents a rich artistic and philosophical construct that goes far beyond geographical description. Through symbolic imagery, spiritual associations, and existential reflection, Uzbek poets have transformed Bukhara into a timeless poetic concept. It embodies historical memory, moral values, and philosophical inquiry, serving as a vital element of national identity and artistic expression. The enduring presence of Bukhara in Uzbek poetry testifies to its role as a cultural and spiritual symbol that continues to inspire poetic thought and philosophical reflection.

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