

## UZBEK SCHOLAR SHERALI TURDIEV: DISCOVERER OF THE CLOSED PAGES

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## УЗБЕКСКИЙ УЧЕНЫЙ ШЕРАЛИ ТУРДИЕВ: ЗАКРЫТЫЕ СТРАНИЦЫ

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*Abstract.* The article discusses the life and work of Sherali Turdiev, a well-known enlightener — scholar and writer. Dr. Sherali Turdiev had dedicated quite a big part of his life for studying life and fate of the erudite and well-educated personalities who had been victims of injustice in the first part of XX century. Dr. Sherali Turdiev had investigated the activities and works of the repressed intellectuals and Jadids in detail and made a significant contribution to justify them. The responsibility of today's young intellectuals to know such passionate researchers as Sherali Turdiev and to continue their work. As a granddaughter of Dr. Sherali Turdiev, I dared to write about my grandfather based on his remembrance pages.

*Аннотация.* В статье рассказывается о жизни и творчестве Шерали Турдиева, известного просветителя, ученого и писателя. Доктор Шерали Турдиев довольно большую часть своей жизни посвятил изучению жизни и судьбы эрудированных и образованных личностей, которые стали жертвами несправедливости в первой половине XX века. Доктор Шерали Турдиев подробно исследовал деятельность и работы репрессированных интеллектуалов и джадидов и внес значительный вклад в их обоснование. Обязанность современной молодой интеллигенции — знать таких увлеченных исследователей, как Шерали Турдиев и продолжать их работу. Как внучка доктора Шерали Турдиева, я осмелилась написать о дедушке на основе его дневников воспоминаний.

*Keywords:* Sherali Turdiev, archive, repression, Jadids.

*Ключевые слова:* Шерали Турдиев, архив, репрессии, джадиды.

### *Life and Research Activities of Sherali Turdiev*

Scholar Sherali Turdiev was born on December 2, 1933 in Beshbuloq village, Zamin region, Samarkand. After finishing the school N16 in Syrdarya, Tashkent region, he entered Tashkent State University (previous Central Asian State University) and graduated in 1957. Then he worked at the Institute of Literature named after Alisher Navoi of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan (formerly the Institute of Language and Literature named after A.S. Pushkin). In 1969 he defended his dissertation on “Uzbek story writing in 1920’s” under the supervision of Izzat Sultanov, corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan. Following this, Sherali Turdiev

continued his work in this field and gradually expanded his scope of research. He began studying and promoting the history of Uzbek literature in the 1920s, its relations with the literature of the fraternal Turkic people.

His books named “*Bibliography of Uzbek Literature and Criticism*” (1967, in collaboration with Bois Qoriev), “*Life-giving effects*” (1977), “*Formation of a small epic genre in Uzbek literature*” (1978), “*Effect of literary cooperation*” (1985) and other books were published.

The book “*Bibliography of Uzbek Criticism and Literature*” contained the history of literary criticism of Uzbekistan including the period over 20 years from 1920’s till the Second World War.

In his work named “*The formation of a small epic genre in Uzbek literature*” the formation of a small epic genre of Uzbek prose in the 1920s and the works of the great writers of that genre such as Abdulla Qodiri, Fitrat, Cholpon, Gafur Gulam, Abdulla Qahhor were investigated. Sherali Turdiev also researched less-studied works in his “*The formation of a small epic genre in Uzbek literature*”.

His books named “*On the dawn of our literary friendship*”, “*Life-giving effects*” provided a detailed facts and valuable ideas about the relationship of Uzbek literature with the Tatar, Azerbaijani and Ottoman Turkish literature in the 1920s.

The relations of Hamza, Sofizoda, Abdulla Qodiri, Cholpon, Gafur Gulam and others with writers and poets of neighboring and foreign Turkic nations such as Abdulhaq Homid, Tavfiq Fitrat, Jalil Muhammadqulizoda, Sabir, Abdulla Tukay, Olimjon Ibragimov were studied based on the rich factual literary materials.

In his “*Effect of literary cooperation*” Sherali Turdiev studied the effective influence of famous democratic and enlightened Tatar writers, playwrights — Abdulla Tukay, Olimjon Ibragimov, Galiaskar Kamol, Fatih Amirkhan and others in the development of Uzbek poetry, prose and drama in the 1920s. In writing this work, Sherali Turdiev widely used the rare sources, various archival materials and memoirs of Uzbek, Tatar press and literature of that time.

The matters on literary cooperation of Uzbekistan with Tatar, Azerbaijan and the scholars of Central Asia was highlighted in his books “*Literature influence*” (with the cooperation professor M. Yunusov), “*Literary relations of Uzbek and fraternal people in the early twentieth century*”, “*Uzbek literature relations*” (1984) (in the 5<sup>th</sup> volume of the book “*Uzbek literature*”), “*Uzbek and Azerbaijani relations*” (1985), “*Typological study of novel genre in Central Asia and Kazakhstan*” (1991).

Sherali Turdiev actively participated in collecting, publishing, arranging and promoting the heritage works of Mahmudkhodja Behbudiy, Abdulla Kadiri, Ziya Said — Uzbek literature representatives of the beginning of XX century.

In 1981 Dr. Zigird Kleinmichel, a senior researcher at the Institute of Literary History of the German Academy of Sciences and a well-known Turkic scholar, mentioned Sherali Turdiev’s book “*Life-Giving Effects*” and “*The Formation of a Small Epic Genre in Uzbek Literature*” in Abstract Journal of the Institute of Literary History of the German Academy of Sciences with sincere comments.

Sherali Turdiev enlightened the facts about more than 70 students of Bukhara and Turkestan been sent to Germany for education in the beginning of 20’s of XX century. He revealed all history, life and tragic fate of those students in his book “*They studied in Germany*”.

Dr. Sherali Turdiev translated the book “*Memories*” (sections about the history and culture of Uzbekistan) written by Ahmad Zaki Validi Togan, Professor of Istanbul University — one of the active participants of the national independence and ideological movement of Bashkortostan and Turkestan. Original book was published in Istanbul, in 1969. Sherali Turdiev’s translation into

Uzbek with the title “*Bulinganni buri yer*” (“*The lone wolf finds trouble*”) was published in 1997.

He participated at the international conference on the “Study of the economic, political and cultural life of Central Asia and the Middle East” held in Vienna (Austria) 2000, September 27 – October 3 with his speech named “*Jadid movements in Turkestan in 1905–1917 and a secret surveillance of tsarism.*”

From 2002 he started working at the Republican Museum of Repression Victims. By investigating various archives, he studied the tragic fate of the devotees of our independence, who dreamed and struggled heroically for national independence of Uzbekistan. Based on his findings, Sherali Turdiev wrote many articles and published in the press.

In 2006, under the auspices of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Tashkent, the book “*They studied in Germany*” was reprinted and republished with new archival materials.

Sherali Turdiev’s contributed enormously to Uzbek literature by studying and promoting the literary heritage and literary relations with foreign nations. His findings were appreciated and Writers’ Union of Uzbekistan, Fiction Promotion Center awarded him with the International Cholpon Prize. He became member of Writers’ Union of Uzbekistan in 1993.

A documentary film “*Devoted Scholar*” (Fidoiy olim) was dedicated to Sherali Turdiev.

His work was deservedly rewarded by our government, and in 1999 he was awarded the *Order of Labor Glory*.

Inspired by this, they did a lot of scientific work in order to study the undiscovered pages of our history.

The hard-working scholar — Sherali Turdiev passed away on April 18, 2011.

#### *Sherali Turdiev’s Memoir Pages*

Sherali Turdiev was keen of getting knowledge from his early age. He studied at the faculty of “Philology” of Uzbekistan National University (previous Central Asian State University) in 50<sup>th</sup> of the past century. As he wrote in his remembrance pages, talented students came from various regions of Uzbekistan studied together with him such as Umarali Normatov, Azimjon Rahimov, Olim Qochqorboyev, Komiljon Abdullayev (who became well-known writers in Republic of Uzbekistan later). Although they finished the high school a bit late because of the troubles of the World War 2, they were very hardworking in gaining knowledge in various spheres of the educational subjects. He often mentioned his lecturers in his speeches, friendly conversations and lectures. The devoted and noble lecturers such as Gulom Karimov (History of Literature), Fozila Sulaymonova (Western Literature), Homil Yoqubov, Laziz Qayumov, Ozod Sharafiddinov (The theory of Uzbek Literature), Olim Usmon, Tesha Salimov, Shavkat Rahmatullayev (Linguistics). While studying, Sherali Turdiev spent a lot of time at the libraries looking up more information related to his major and interests. The articles where Abdulla Qodiriy, Chulpon, Fitrat, Elbek — poets and writers were accused of being nationalists among the old newspapers and journals caught his attention. But as he admitted in his papers, it was impossible to ask teachers about those poets and writers at that time. In that period of time scholars and poets such as Maqsd Shayhzoda, Hamid Sulaymonov, Shuhrat were arrested and sent to far jails.

He lived in students’ dormitory of the University situated in Qoratut mahallah of the city. This dormitory used to be one rich person’s house. The old journals and newspapers were brought to the warehouse of this building according to the command of Stolyarov, vice rector. Sherali Turdiev noted: “A Russian woman worked at our dormitory as a commandant. I convinced her to permit me for checking those archives in the warehouse. At weekends I spent my time in basement of the

house, reading the work of “prohibited writers”. When I stayed longer, a commandant woman called me saying “Hey, please come out. If the vice-rector knows that you are here, he will expel both of us”. Despite her warnings, I begged her to allow me to stay there a bit more. And I investigated archive materials as well as gained some of them as my personal archive”.

In 1956 it was heard that politician Fayzulla Khodjaev, writer Abdulla Kadiri and others had been justified after the first congress of Uzbekistan scholars. Sherali Turdiev had love in his heart towards Abdulla Kadiri, Chulpan, Fitrat’s works and poems despite the fact that these writers and poets were always disapproved and blamed as “nationalist” (in negative meaning) by the teachers and lecturers at educational establishments. After their being justified Sherali Turdiev started to make a doctoral research on the topic “Bygone days” of Abdulla Kadiri is as a historical novel” under the supervision Dr. Subutoy Dolimov. He went to the archive which was kept in the warehouse and asked the commandant woman to permit for using the materials there. But commandant informed him bad news: “My son, you are late, Vice rector had all the archive eradicated”. Hearing this, he did everything to find the copy of the novel “The Passed days” which had been published in 1933. He brought some citations from that novel which were very touching and connected with the political, spiritual and social problems of that period. Conversation of Yusufbek Khoji and Otabek: It is unthinkable to be humanity if we don’t remove the vainglorious and despicable swindlers who never know what the alliance was like.

While researching on his Graduate dissertation, besides Abdulla Kadiri, he got interested in other writers’ and poets’ life and works such as Fitrat, Chulpon, and other enlightening scholars.

Sherali Turdiev was a great scholar, dedicated teacher, gracious supervisor for many researchers, supervisees, namely he educated the people who knew the value of science and who appreciated the sophisticated attempts to define the true facts related to Uzbek and other Turkic literature as well as life and works of writers, poets, and philosophers since the beginning of XX century.

In his memoirs, he wrote that many of his works were he enlightened and analyzed Chulpon and other scholars’ works; he faced censorship by the government Soviet Union. His works were rejected as he reminded sensitive points of the nation such as dream for independence, efforts for developing the skills and knowledge taking mode from Europe, and factual revelation of Soviet elites’ faults. Most of his works were published after its independence in 1991.

### *Conclusion*

Dr. Sherali Turdiev conducted plenty of research works to discover and analyze the repressed intellectuals and their works in detail. He was able to prove and expose Jadid’s great contribution to the culture, educational system, and outlook of the nation with his factual studies. He explored literature relations among Turkic scholars carefully and analyses done by him were applied in literature studies. Today young intellectuals have a responsibility to know such passionate researchers as Sherali Turdiev and to continue their work.

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