

THE PORTRAIT OF YUSUF IN ULUGBEK KHAMDAM'S NOVEL "BALANCE"

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Abstract: This article reveals the social situation of society through the life of Yusuf, the main character of Ulugbek Khamdam's novel "Balance", the hero's thoughts, and his efforts to survive.

Keywords: Ulugbek Khamdam, new century literature, society, balance, internal struggle, interest, norm, materiality, spirituality.

When Ulugbek Khamdam wrote the novel "Balance", Uzbekistan had just gained independence and was still trying to consolidate its position in the world. Not every writer is able to present the events of the work without any embellishments, as they really are. The writer's high skill illuminates the place and situation in society of different destinies living at the same time in this work. It is not by chance that Ulugbek Khamdam chose the main character from among the intelligentsia, and his age was around 35 years old. "Balance" is a work that encourages living in balance [2. 1.]. everyone who reads the book will try to establish balance in their lives.

In the novel, the fate of the character of Yusuf describes the state of the entire society. It was as if the entire nation could not achieve the material and spiritual standard that Yusuf could not achieve. With our independence, the need for material things increased and attention to spirituality decreased. The intellectuals who cared most about the independence of the homeland lost their place in life. Yusuf was one of them.

"Repentance, when people fight with each other, I always fight with myself. I have neither the opportunity nor the motivation to fight with others. ..." [1. 2.].

Yusuf was always struggling with himself. Although he realized that independence was a great blessing and that he could not exchange anything for his current peaceful days, no matter how

much material needs increased, Yusuf was able to maintain both in harmony, not forgetting his spirituality.

“Yusuf’s dream is to build a society where everyone living in it feels, first of all, as a human being, and where the interests of citizens are protected in every way. Birth is not a misfortune, but happiness, life, not just making a living, but a blessing, and finally, on the other side, there is that spiritual balance - peace of mind!” This is the dream of every intellectual who has passed since the creation of the world” [1. 4].

Professor Dilmurod Kuronov, sharing his thoughts on this novel, emphasizes that the work is like a mirror of the psyche of our generation. While earlier works talk about the dark days of the past, the tragedies of war, the literature of the new century describes the misfortunes left by war, the struggle for the future.

When Yusuf was little, while talking about history with his uncle Mukhammadjon aka, he set himself the goal of becoming a historian, of writing a new history. The events that happened in Yusuf’s childhood lay in the foundation of his future. For example, one day he would proudly say to himself that he had left his footprints in the snow, and that the rest would now assume his role. The same situation is also connected with his attempt to write a new history. Before him, no one had thought of rewriting history, clarifying the false events in it.

Yusuf was one of the first to try his hand at this. His financial limitations prevented him from doing so, and this dream has now become the task of all historians. Just as Yusuf was in a state after the bus drove through the snow and cut him into pieces, so too was the situation when the number of people studying history increased: enthusiasm waned, self-confidence diminished.

Yusuf had memories associated with Great Mountain. When he was young, he would go on family trips and dream of climbing the mountain and conquering it. When he thought he had finally achieved his dream, he would see a tulip field and wonder which one to go to. The young girls, with their adult opinions, would stay with him, and conquering Great Mountain would remain a dream for him. If the Great Mountain is considered the highest peak, that is, a person’s realization of himself, finding his true “I” and achieving balance in life, then unfortunately Yusuf had not yet reached that status. Years later, having patiently overcome all difficulties, Yusuf achieved his dream, it seems.

In addition to Yusuf in the novel, the characters Said, Mirazim, Amir, and Zakhro also lived under the influence of internal struggles. Each of them had something wrong with them. One was driven by wealth and possessions, while the other was driven by the needs of his soul. As the writer himself said, the human psyche, which is aimed at maintaining a certain state of affairs in life, cannot maintain balance and breaks. No matter how intelligent, thoughtful, and talented Yusuf is, he also falls into the same situation.

While Yusuf is talking with his friend Sadik in the village about whether the past will return or not, he remembers the wide-open eyes of his uncle Mukhammadjon, and his voice involuntarily rises. “...Even if our situation becomes five times worse than it is now, and we do not have a single morsel of bread to eat, even if my short arm causes my son to die because I cannot buy a single pill, even if my livelihood burns to ashes, no!!! I do not want the past to return, do you understand, Sadik, I do not want the empire you miss and yearn for!...” [1. 98.]. It was as if fate had answered these words of Yusuf with a “slap”. Not long after, his son Mukhammadjon died due to the selfishness, negligence, and indifference of the doctors. He became so depressed that he became angry and resentful towards those around him. Although Yusuf began to feel disgusted not only with those around him, but also with himself, remembering what he had said, he would never regret these words, and if necessary, he would sacrifice the lives of all his children, and even if his own life were to end, he would not want the ancient past to return. Ulugbek Khamdam says this in his article “Song about the Homeland”:

“...Yesterday I spoke to several young people on the train. And I have to admit that a completely new generation is coming of age. Despite the fact that I noticed flaws in their upbringing, such as an excessive critical spirit towards the past and an excessive idealization of the present, I finally rejoiced after thinking about it. Because they do not suffer from longing for the past, do not strive for something else when the going gets tough, and do not complicate an already difficult situation. Unlike older generations, each person is not divided in two, but rather devotes himself to building a new future, one in this area, and the other in that. As long as they exist, in the new state being built tomorrow, the values, laws, rules, and discipline that are trampled underfoot today will inevitably be restored.” [3. 55.].

It is probably enough to remember these when we complain about the problems around us. We must learn to be grateful for our present and live in it with pleasure.

Yusuf's conversation with his brother Amir is of particular importance in revealing his religious views. At the time the novel was written, there was no complete and reliable information about religion. Everyone interpreted religion in their own way and practiced it differently. What Yusuf said in this regard makes us all think.

“...Our prophet did not say for nothing, “Live for this world as if you will never die, and for the Hereafter as if you will die tomorrow”. In my opinion, this same wisdom embodies both the happiness of a person as an individual and the happiness of the majority and of the majority. However, we often cannot go beyond judging things and events by looking only at their appearance. We do not see their essence, their essence. It does not even make sense to us....” [1. 179.].

The main character did not give up on his dreams, his hope for the future helped him overcome all the trials. He achieved a balance of spirit and body in his life. Together with Oygul, his

family life improved, he began to teach at the university, he was able to restore balance in life. In conclusion, we can say that each of us, like Yusuf, should be determined, intelligent, able to see both sides of certain things, patiently overcome the difficulties we encounter and learn to establish balance in our lives. Yusuf's desire to write a new history, the obstacles he encounters on this path, the death of his son, the deterioration of his family situation - all this serves as a means to his perfection and ensures that the hero reaches the highest peak that he once dreamed of reaching.

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