

THE DAYS GONE BY AS A STRIKING ILLUSTRATION OF JADIDISM IN UZBEK LITERATURE

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Annotation:

This article demonstrates influences of Jadidism in Uzbek literature and provides essential insights about representatives. It also examines various aspects of “The days gone by” and which of them are connected to Jadidism and showcases the urge for that novel in present era.

Keywords: Jadidism, society, novel, education, methods, socio-political problems.

Jadidism was a social, cultural, and educational reform action among Muslims in the Russian Legacy in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The theory originates from the Arabic word “jadid”, meaning “new”. The movement was proposed by numerous representatives, ensuring young people to study abroad for potential gain and promoting new teaching methods throughout Central Asia.

There are significant amount of representatives who made the most of their life into imposing new style education system for young generation. For instance, the first exemplification was Ismail Gaspirali (1851-1914) who was prominent Crimean Tatar intellectual, educator, journalist and reformer. He was a key figure in reintroducing new teaching method to enhance education and society among Turkic and Muslim communities of Russian Empire. He also opened school followed by “Usul-I Jadid” in Orenburg city which was considered a new beginning with having an importance in term of cultural and intellectual center for Russian Muslims at the time. It is worth-noting that his modern schools which also had been gained a greater acceptance were based on phonetic teaching, secular subjects, and bilingual education, replacing outdated methods.

The leader of the local Jadids, M.Behbudi, pointed out: “We have an obligation to deviate from conventional schools reforming them based on modern culture”. He reckoned that dramatically changing way of life or levying newfangled strategies, as far as education goes, could be bound to lead “normal” development. After a while Jadids set up publishing newspapers, magazines through political and moral concepts which concentrated on pacifying science with religious norms of mortality.

“The days gone by” was the famous work of one of the most influential Jadids, Abdulla Kadiri. Initially, its various parts were published in 1923-1924 years on magazine so-called “Revolution” and it was formed as a whole book in 1926. This novel expresses the crucial role

of freedom for Uzbek nation at that time when the novel was created and author would urge to foster awareness and perspective of society not emphasizing only love between two people who confronted with conflicts from their parents. In his view, this novel would manifest “The darkest days in our history” if one tries its precise meaning through meticulously reading. Given that, “The days gone by” focused on integration of nation during harsh conditions with providing with par examples of Otabek and his leader and father Yusufbek hajji. There is an unquestioned principle that Abdulla Kadiri heavily relied on exact dates and clearly engineered historians’ works to explain circumstances which were going on Tashkent and Margilan precisely to potential audience.

Abdulla Kadiri’s “The days gone by” is deeply influenced by jadidism and there are various aspects of it which reflect to jadidism. It is undeniable fact that he used main character Otabek as a representative which ensures people to understand. For example, Otabek, the protagonist, is depicted as an educated and ambiguous individual, indicating the ideal Jadidist intellectual. Furthermore, in one part, named “Directive” (Hukmnoma) he was not afraid of being murdered, in particular, although most of Jadids were in the near of gasp, they continued their actions seeking autonomy, even in front of governor of Margilan governors. To put it differently, Otabek was always on the side of individuals trying to teach their rights to them or protecting themselves from villain governors.

In 2020 year, according to the translator Mark Reese who translated “The days gone by” in English: “Otabek is jadid”. He also pointed out that Abdulla Kadiri warned “future generation about upcoming threats” by his work in that period.

The question is whether this work could be integrated into present matter, as some would like, without losing much of its power. The answer is definitely- yes. As Abdulla Kadiri’s “The days gone by” reflects to the past and showcases problems that are still not tackled with or remain within society, it teaches us many valuable lessons and already became dispensable part of our lives. Namely, Otabek’s mother O’zbekoyim tried to persuade him to marry another girl whom he did not love due to prevalent and dominant stereotypes such as “inequality between families” or “son is expected to choose the girl his mother prefers”. Secondly, this novel emphasizes the dangers of blind obedience and the need to think critically about equality and the value of authority as progression of events that took place in Margilan and Tashkent was revolved around independence. As far as the role of women goes, the novel sheds light on the limited rights of women in the past, encouraging discussions about gender equality and progress while women role is being prioritized in the present. The deep connection between “The days gone by” and Jadidism lies in the novel’s themes such as promotion of education and modern literacy which were an ultimate goal of Jadids and criticism of Russian

Colonialism, although, novel does not precisely political, but subtly criticizes the sharp decrease of local leadership under Russian rule.

To sum up, “The days gone by” serves as a mirror to demonstrate centrality of education, and is a blueprint for progress, requiring society to maintain tradition with modernization, justice with reform, and culture with change. All in all, this novel continues to seduce young generation to fight for acceptable future.

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