

THE IMAGE OF THE ENLIGHTENED TEACHER IN KYRGYZ AND UZBEK STORIES

(Through the Works of C. Aitmatov and L. Burihon)

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ABSTRACT

Among literary works that embody timeless universal values, two notable stories stand out: Chingiz Aitmatov's "The First Teacher" and Luqmon Burihon's "The Mysterious Teacher." Both authors, through their narratives, illuminate the customs, values, and everyday lives of ordinary people, particularly the role of teachers in shaping lives. Aitmatov, who lived and wrote during the last century, experienced the complexities and hardships of his time.

Key words: lived and wrote during the last century, remained dedicated to education

INTRODUCTION

Despite the challenges he faced, he remained dedicated to education and enlightenment, always striving to guide society towards knowledge. His journey from social commentary to personal reflection saw him deeply appreciate the people around him. His literary values are intertwined with his personal journey. The loss of his father at a young age likely shaped his portrayal of orphans, stepchildren, abandoned individuals, and those who stand alone. His work, infused with historical and axiological perspectives, offers a profound understanding of his literary vision. Some literary works hold value for a specific era but lose their significance over time. Great works, however, are like diamonds, gaining value as time passes. Aitmatov's works are enduring masterpieces, captivating readers around the world in his time and resonating with 21st-century audiences. His personal experiences and views are reflected in his literary creations, encompassing both the positive and negative aspects of human nature. His overarching goal is to present the ideal of a noble and virtuous individual. In "The First Teacher," Aitmatov paints a picture of a teacher who embodies all positive qualities, introducing readers to a character who

welcomes the new, possesses a pure heart, displays unwavering determination, combats ignorance with knowledge, and embodies courage and valor. The character of Duyshen has left a deep mark on the hearts of readers, not just in Turkic cultures, but in Uzbek literature as well, representing the compassionate and dedicated teacher. "The First Teacher" captures the essence of Kyrgyz culture, customs, social life, and beliefs, highlighting important national values such as the respect between teacher and student. Aitmatov masterfully structures the story around a young girl's letter, weaving together Duyshen's life, the old school, and the narrative of Oltiboy, his student, to create the story's core. Lifelike storylines contribute to the authenticity of the characters' journeys, captivating the reader. The story emphasizes the immense value of a selfless individual like Duyshen, spreading knowledge and enlightenment in a remote village. It powerfully illustrates the responsibility of teachers towards future generations. "The First Teacher" is narrated from the perspective of a young artist, a man who strives to express his dreams through visual art but ultimately finds his voice in the power of language. He recounts the tale of Oltiboy, a 14-year-old orphan left in the care of her uncle, whose journey to academic achievement in the city is made possible by Duyshen's dedication. Oltiboy, a victim of ignorance, yearns for light, and it is Duyshen who guides her toward it. "The First Teacher" stands as a testament to the enduring power of teachers to shape lives and societies. It is a story that continues to resonate with readers today, reminding us of the importance of education, compassion, and the indomitable spirit of those who seek to enlighten others. It is well-known that in the past, education for women was not easily accessible. The story portrays this difficult journey. Duyshen's plan to turn the stable into a school causes discontent among the people of that era. His first meeting with the villagers, aimed at opening a school and educating young people, was met with disapproval. The illiteracy in the village hindered their understanding and support for Duyshen's plans. The meaning of the words "school" and "reading" was understood by very few people at that time. Duyshen was among those few. He stood firm in his conviction and even leveraged the political context to achieve the opening of the school. The disapproval of the illiterate, like Satymkul Tajanglar, did not deter Duyshen. He was able to overcome traditional barriers in

society. "The First Teacher" stands as a literary document of the impact of change on the worldview and way of life of people. The character of Duyshen has universal significance, and his work can be perceived as a struggle to change society's focus on education. The deep aesthetic layer of Chingiz Aitmatov's "The First Teacher" ensures the enduring nature of the work. The story highlights timeless universal values like "teacher and student," "education and upbringing," "knowledge and ignorance," "love and compassion," "love and hatred," "good and evil," and "oppression and justice," all depicted with great artistry. In the history of the Uzbek nation, the role of the teacher is also highly respected and revered. The value of showing great respect for teachers, like that of a father, remains strong and is reflected in the pages of national literature. In Uzbek literature, the image of the teacher has emerged throughout periods of major social change and cultural development. In every era, the teacher has been portrayed as a figure who guides the people toward knowledge, promoting science, education, and culture as they overcome challenges. The character of the teacher embodies enlightenment, dedication, sincerity, and patience, reflecting the values cherished by the people. Uzbek authors like Sadriddin Ainiy, A. Qodiriy, Pardah Tursun, and A. Qahhor have all artistically depicted the image of the teacher in their works. For instance, the scenes of the khanate in Abdulla Qodiriy's novel "The Scorpion from the Mihrab" encapsulate internal and external conflicts within society, the relationship between school and family, and issues surrounding teachers, educators, and morality. Pardah Tursun's novel "The Teacher" portrays the life and struggles of the Uzbek intellectual - the teacher, through the character of Elmurod. The novel highlights the educational role of the teacher and their importance in instilling knowledge and moral values in their students, all presented with great artistic expression. The teacher is not merely a dispenser of knowledge but also a figure who shares life experience and spiritual values with their students. These depictions continue to resonate with readers today. Pardah Tursun's novel "The Teacher" portrays the life and struggle of an Uzbek intellectual, a teacher, through the character of Elmurod, serving as a literary document of their journey. The novel highlights the educational role of teachers and their significant impact on instilling knowledge and moral values

in their students, all presented with great artistic expression. The teacher is not merely a dispenser of knowledge but also a figure who shares life experience and spiritual values with their students. These depictions continue to resonate with readers today. Modern Uzbek literature continues this tradition with authors like Shukhrat Holmirzaev, Erkin Azam, Shoyim Botaev, and Luqmon Burihon, who skillfully portray the image of the teacher in works like "Olabooji," "Excuse Me, Comrade Teacher," "People Left Over from the Soviet Era," and "The Mysterious Teacher." Luqmon Burihon, in "The Mysterious Teacher," uses his unique satirical style to vividly depict the educational process in schools in his region. He emphasizes the value of the teaching profession and its importance to society, crafting the image of the teacher based on his personal observations. The protagonist of the story, Najot Gaybulla, views teaching as his life's mission. He embodies the image of a teacher who seeks to find his place in society. Najot urges students to live in harmony with the times and believes that school life should be innovative, adapting to societal changes. The story prompts reflection on the teaching profession, its role and value in society, and the changes in student development. The author, as is traditional in many of his works, begins the story with an epigraph from the works of Abdulla Oripov. Indeed, a teacher is an important means of leading towards perfection; they are like a candle that illuminates the path of students. In this story, many of the heroes from Luqmon Burihon's works come together, they are archetypal figures that move from one of his works to another.