

Representations of women and feminism in stories by Abdulla Kahhar

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Abstract: Prominent Uzbek writer, translator and playwright Abdulla Kahhar paid great attention to create women's character in his stories. He describes gender qualities and roles from realistic points of view. A.Kahhar expressed his concerns about ill-treatment to them, stereotypes in families and in the whole society and support ideas like women's rights and freedom. In this article stories by this author which are dedicated to feminism ideas, the characters of them and personal opinions of the author are analysed.

Annotatsiya: Atoqli o'zbek yozuvchi, dramaturg va tarjimoni Abdulla Qahhor o'z ijodida ayollar mavzusiga alohida ahamiyat qaratgan adib sanaladi. U gender xususiyatlari va ahamiyatini reallik bilan yoritib bergan. U asarlarida ayollarga nisbatan oilada va butun jamiyatda namoyon bo'ladigan noxush munosabatlarni va ayrim stereotiplarni qoralaydi va ayollarning erkinligi va boshqa huquqlarini qo'llab quvvatlaydi. Mazkur maqolada adibning shu mavzuga bag'ishlangan hikoyalari va undagi obrazlar va muallifning feminismga oid shaxsiy qarashlari tahlil etilgan.

Key words: character, gender aspect, women, stereotype, polygamy, family, human rights.

Kalit so'zlar: obraz, gender aspekt, ayol, stereotip, ko'p nikohlilik, oila, inson huquqlari.

Introduction: It is obvious that women's rights are still under the question throughout the world. Severe cases related to females' safety often warn us that there are still unsolved issues on this matter in Uzbekistan. The concerns which were always focused on by Abdulla Kahhar, the prominent uzbek writer, remains crucial in our society at present. In most of his stories the author advocates freedom and care for women. Stories like "Horror", "Maston", "Bright Hills", "Women" are dedicated to opposing inhumane attitudes towards women, some misleading stereotypes among people and support ideas of feminism.

Main body: The story “Horror” became the most iconic story of feminism in Uzbek literature ever in which the author tries to prove that women have more strength and power than many of us think. Moreover expressing his controversy to polygamy, he masterly combines cowardice of a man with courage of a woman to make the reader to reassess our values of women. The antihero of the story Olim dodhoh represents not only maltreatment to women but also the persona confutes wrong ideas about men. The plot follows the bravery of a young women Unsin, who fights for her freedom from abusive husband who has eight wife's and constantly abuse them. At the end of the story she gained her freedom at a cost of her life. In the story the author strongly rejects the following stereotypes that many people believe in Uzbek society:

Men are brave and We usually consider men to be fearless which is not suitable for all men. The story starts with the description of cowardice of Olim Dodhoh. He has such a strong fear of death that he even can not stand hearing anything about cemetery. The author proves that the feeling of fear is not only unique to females as we all assume. Any person can feel it regardless their gender. Most people tend to idolise men with the qualities that not all of them have. However, we often see that they might fail to represent the qualities in difficult situations. At the end of the story Dodhoh knows that he is losing and tries to stop Unsin by sending a servant with a monkey to scare her. This is the most despicable act that any human being can ever do let alone a man.

Women are weak and coward. In spite of the fact that there are a lot of historical evidences for women's bravery, there are still stereotypes that underestimate women's strengths. With the help of Unsin's heroic deed the story reinforces the truth behind them. The bravery of Unsin is not mentioned with her going to the cemetery at night alone. The bravest thing she does is fighting against the whole system of the society in which she lives without any defense or support by anyone. It is enough to verify that how much a woman can be fearless and daredevil.

A women can never be friend to another woman. Women rivalry is considered to be common in many cultures. Even it can be seen in our literature. But Abdulla Kahhar described the compassion, kindness and loyalty between two women Unsin and Nodirmohbegim, another wife of Dodhoh. The two who are supposed to rival each other, become bosom friends like sisters in the story. They represent women's friendship.

Woman are and should be tolerant to any worst thing. This stereotype is even seen in our proverb that " Women has 40 lives". It often leads to ignorance to suffers of them. The author confirms that women are sometimes fragile physically and emotionally like all other creatures on earth. They are not made of stone or iron. The death of Unsin helps the reader to understand that women need to be cared, protected and loved. Cruelty and humiliation might cause even their demise in severe cases.

One more story by the author on this theme is “Maston”. Even though the story has every short plot, it represents the spirit of that epoch with all difficulties that women went through because of their gender. The piece from the story shows how much it is difficult for women to live without freedom: “A very young girl is forced to an old man by her parents and she did not want to live with him. She had heard that eating a lizard causes an unpleasant skin disease. The woman ate a lizard hoping that it would disgust her husband and let her go.” In the society where women have no value as a human and rights to decide for their own life their life become full of unhappiness and agony. Also, by adding this event to his story the author sends a message that restricting women’s freedom education make them become obedient and dull at a time. By comparing two characters Maston and Tursunoy, Kahhar symbolize timid and primitive attitudes towards gender issues. The character Tursunoy reflects obedience and slavish women in society who endure and accept any kind of treatment as a norm from their husbands. And the character Maston represents unyielding, strong-willed women who fights for their rights.

Abdulla Kahhar illustrates women and their qualities with reality and personal care for them. and he supports their freedom and rights. He expresses strong disagreement towards underestimating them because of their gender.

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