

## Versatile Pages Of Creativity

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**Abstract:** This article provides a detailed overview of Sharof Rashidov Rashidovich's new poetry collection "With Love I Win Every Moment", published in 2020. The article is written in a clear and folk-inspired style, making it accessible not only to literary critics but also to students of Uzbek language and literature, as well as the general readership.

**Keywords:** Literature, word art, artistic expression, folk style, poem, poetry collection, rhyme, epic, ballad.

**Introduction:** Sharof Rashidov is one of the prominent figures of 20th-century Uzbek literature, and studying his creative legacy remains highly relevant today. His works are valuable not only from a historical perspective but also for their spiritual, ethical, and aesthetic content. Rashidov's poetry expresses national spirit, patriotic feelings, human love, and deep devotion.

At a time when attention to literary heritage in our country is steadily growing, re-evaluating Rashidov's poetic output—especially his lesser-studied collections—has become a timely scholarly endeavor. As President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized:

"It is an important task to deeply study our spiritual values, literature, and art, and to direct their exemplary aspects toward educating our people, especially the youth."

From this perspective, this article aims to analyze the poems included in Rashidov's "With Love, I Am Victorious Every Moment," identifying the poetic tendencies, themes, and imagery within them, as well as exploring how these works relate to classical poetic traditions.

Transition to Main Body: Symbols of Homeland and Love in Rashidov's Poetry

At the core of Sharof Rashidov's creative work lie

concepts such as the individual and their inner world, love for the Motherland, and national pride. Particularly in the collection "With Love, I Am Victorious Every Moment," these ideas are expressed with increased depth and artistic maturity. The poems in this collection are free from the formal tone typical of the Soviet era and instead reflect the poet's personal emotions, sincere human feelings, and a soft lyrical voice.

"With Love, I Am Victorious Every Moment": A Literary Analysis of Sharof Rashidov's Poetics

The poetry collection "With Love, I Am Victorious Every Moment" includes a number of poems by Sharof Rashidov written at different times but previously unpublished. These poems cover a wide range of themes such as love and devotion, patriotism, labor, and human dignity. The main ideas expressed throughout are love and loyalty (seen in poems like "I Fell in Love", "The Beloved Returns"), patriotism and confidence in victory ("Sweet Dreams May Come", "The Beloved Returns"), as well as beauty and dreams—presented through the harmony of natural beauty and human emotion by the lyrical hero. These features draw attention through their poetic strength and emotional impact.

This demonstrates that the author deeply expresses love for the homeland, reflects on the value of human

labor and its place in society, and conveys human emotions in a sincere and heartfelt manner in his lyrical works. For instance, the 8-line poem "Your Beauty", which begins with the line "I trembled as I looked into your eyes, a deadly comfort." is written in a lyrical tone and resembles the classical poetic tradition in its structure, content, and style.

As is well known, in classical Uzbek literature, themes like awe of beauty, the lover's plea to the beloved, emotional torment, and wonder were frequently explored. This poem follows that same tradition, glorifying the unique beauty of the beloved and the effect she has on the lover's heart. The tone and theme are reminiscent of the works of Alisher Navoi and Babur. For example, Navoi wrote:

"In your beautiful face lies the moon's light,  
Your brows are bows, your eyes – arrows, and my heart  
is wounded."

Likewise, Babur wrote:

"In every word of that moon-faced one lies magic,  
If only I understood your pain, even that would be art."

The lines in Rashidov's poem seem to have emerged under the influence of such verses. As is often the case in classical literature, the lover constantly suffers in separation from his beloved. In Rashidov's poem, the beloved's beauty not only brings delight but also pain, as expressed in the emotionally powerful line "You are a regret in every heart."

At the same time, there are some subtle distinctions. In classical poetry, the beloved is often compared to the moonlight or the scent of flowers. However, in this young poet's verse, realistic imagery prevails. For example, the line "You are the sun to every eye, a sorrow to every heart" reflects the psychological impact of the beloved's beauty in a direct and relatable way.

The poetry lines cited below are taken from Sh. Rashidov's poem "I Fell in Love", which is included in his 2020 collection "With Love I Win Every Moment":

My heart is forever filled with passion,  
I fell in love with a loyal companion.  
Cherishing faithfulness and pure love,  
I fell for a precious beloved dove."

The collection was published as a symbolic tribute marking two important anniversaries: the 75th anniversary of victory in World War II and the 100th anniversary of the birth of Rashidov's wife, Khursanoy Rashidova, who had shared forty years of life with him. Although Rashidov did not claim to be a professional poet, he successfully composed works in both syllabic

and classical aruz meters. The collection contains 44 poems, the joint epic "Water and Light" (co-authored with Asqad Mukhtar), and the ballad "The Young Bride." For the convenience of readers, all texts are presented in both Cyrillic and Latin scripts. A distinctive feature of the collection is the prominent focus on human love and loyalty.

Rashidov, who wrote numerous powerful poems on wartime themes and was twice awarded the Order of the Red Star, also dedicated part of this collection to his wife Khursanoy Rashidova. Alongside his famous works — many of which were adapted into songs performed by well-known singers such as Shahzoda, Shohjahon Jo'rayev, and Saodat Qobulova ("The Beloved Returns," "The Gardener's Daughter," "Are You There, Friends") — the collection also features unpublished works from his personal archive, which adds further value.

Reflecting on Rashidov's steadfast love, tested during the hardships of war, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted:

"We have all read Rashidov's 'Epic of Two Hearts' with admiration. In my opinion, this work embodies true love and loyalty, and reflects the exemplary life of Sharof aka and his wise, devoted wife Khursanoy. This noble woman lived her entire life faithfully by his side, enduring all trials and remaining loyal even in the most difficult times. With such priceless qualities, she became a true symbol of faithfulness and devotion among our people."

The saying "Behind every great man stands a strong woman" holds true for Rashidov. He often highlighted in his poetry how his wife's love accompanied him through every stage of life.

Just as Rashidov viewed Hamid Olimjon — one of the giants of Uzbek poetry — as both a mentor in life and a guide in creativity, their works display striking harmony. Olimjon's "Closeness" and Rashidov's wartime poetry share common themes: the sacrifice of soldiers, the loyal waiting of beloved women, and the resilience of people during the hardships of war.

The outbreak of war in 1941 changed the life of Rashidov, then a young student. While he rarely spoke about those years, his poems reveal his raw emotions. For example:

"Fight with my thought, be my strength!  
I'll become the weapon sharpened for you.  
In the blood, I'll be your comrade,  
Fight, my strength, fight — my beloved too!"

This shows Rashidov's mastery of poetic techniques, such as threatening imagery (ta'did) and repetition (takrir), both used effectively to strengthen the

emotional tone. His works encouraged patriotism, courage, and loyalty to one's homeland. Similar features can be found in Hamid Olimjon's poem "Song of Victory," where the passion for defeating fascism mirrors Rashidov's patriotic fervor. Even decades later, during challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, such poetry could serve as a source of strength and hope.

Critic Vitaliy Ozerov (1981) remarked: "Rashidov began writing poetry with sharpened perception and inspired feelings. Influences of folk song traditions and Hamid Olimjon's lyricism were evident in his works. In them, he glorified life, the beauty of his native land, and the results of human labor, envisioning himself as a creator alongside those who cultivated the orchards of his beloved homeland."

Indeed, one could take Rashidov's own lines as the epigraph to his life and creativity:

"For the sake of our ancestors we'll turn deserts into orchards,

By digging canals we'll make barren lands into gardens.

Invoking Lenin's name, we'll shine in our work,

Life will blossom in the thirsty steppe — my land will be paradise."

Today, in our independent and peaceful homeland, with increasing opportunities for youth, such visions have come true. It is therefore unsurprising that questions sometimes arise in public discourse such as: "Is President Mirziyoyev the successor to Rashidov's legacy?"

As in Rashidov's time, young talents today also find support and recognition. Poet Omon Matjon, recalling the encouragement he received from Rashidov in his early career, wrote lines of deep gratitude in 1982:

"They call you the Father of Uzbekistan,

You have millions of children.

Like a star chart, your daily worries are countless,

Yet your shining figure, like Alpomish, lights our path."

In conclusion, Sharof Rashidov — who tirelessly served his nation, glorified the name of his homeland, and devoted his life to the people — is remembered with profound respect today. His new poetry collection, "With Love I Win Every Moment," is not only a valuable gift for readers but also a lasting testament to his versatile creativity. The name of this honored son of Jizzakh will forever remain in the hearts of his people, along with the sacrifices he made and the legacy he left behind.

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