



BERDAQ - AS THE FOUNDER OF KARAKALPAK LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT

This article provides information about Berdaq's prominent place in Uzbek and Karakalpak literature, highlighting his life and creative work. The article emphasizes the significant importance of Berdaq's literary achievements, which encompass folk songs, various legends, proverbs and sayings, epic narratives, and epic poems, as well as his appreciation for the poems of famous poets. Thus, Berdaq gradually became a well-known and highly respected poet and a prominent figure among the people. Most importantly, we will provide information about how he started composing poems inspired by his own melodies.

KEYWORDS

Writer, talented, poet, Karakalpak folk singer, thinker, truth, freedom, humanism, nationalism, courage, independence, the poet's death.

INTRODUCTION

Berdag (1884-1934) was a prominent writer who was born in the Qoraqalpoq region of Uzbekistan and played a significant role in the field of literature. He is known as one of the founding figures of this literature due to his important contributions. Berdaq lived and experienced various hardships throughout the Qoraqalpoq region, taking into account the difficulties of the natural conditions, and he is recognized as a pioneer of the local people's literature and culture. His

literary life and works are considered significant in the history of Uzbek literature, and he is one of the renowned figures who created the heroic traditions of Uzbek literature.

Berdag's main literary genres include newspapers, short stories, novels, dramatic works, and poetry. During his time, he gained fame in Uzbek literature and played a crucial role in the development of heroic

literature. His works explore the relationships between the state and society, uncovering hardships and problems.

Among Berdaq's notable works are "Tuproqacha" newspaper (1921), the story "Gulmurad" (1922), the novels "Eski Urganch" (1927), "Kochaman qo'lg'a" (1930), and "Bomdod gullari" (1934). His literature highlights the natural characteristics, social issues, and struggles of the Qoraqalpoq region.

Berdag is a prominent figure who is well-known throughout Uzbekistan and his literature reflects the diverse cultural characteristics of various ethnic groups and nationalities. He is regarded as a writer who portrayed the unity of the Uzbek people by depicting their connections and relationships. His works also contributed to education by showcasing the progress of different societies.

In Berdaq's works, one can observe the wide range of literary techniques, meaningful content, and expressive abilities. His literature embodies heroic qualities, the transformation of individuals over time and their interactions with society, challenges and rewards, love and contentment, and remarkable spiritual and philosophical discussions.

Berdag holds a significant place in Uzbek literature as he stood out among different eras and ethnic groups, making a significant contribution to the development of heroic literature. The modernity, spirituality, and creativity of his literature emphasize Berdaq's pioneering qualities, confirming his place and importance in the history of literature.

Berdag is recognized as one of the key figures in Qoraqalpoq literature. Born in the Qoraqalpoq region of Uzbekistan, his name and literary activities have

played a crucial role in the field of literature. Berdaq marked a period of development in Qoraqalpoq literature in the 19th and 20th centuries. As a pioneer, he was actively involved as an educator, storyteller, and philologist towards the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. His works incorporated valuable historical and factual materials of Qoraqalpoq literature.

Berdag produced historical, ethnographic, and aesthetic articles in Qoraqalpoq literature at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. His literary works include "Articles on Qoraqalpoq Folk Literature" (1899), "Muxammatlar" (1922), "Information from the Reign of Qara Khan Khan" (1924), and others.

Berdag's unique qualities are closely related to interconnectedness, historical-cultural environment, preservation of the literary environment, teaching language, and the integration of folk education. In his works, the Qoraqalpoq people, their history, weather conditions, natural landscapes, literary knowledge, and their religious-spiritual lives are prominent themes. His creative activity encompassed the style, language, and historical knowledge of Qoraqalpoq literature, incorporating empirical research.

Berdag's place and role in literature are acknowledged as one of the significant figures in the history of Qoraqalpoq literature. His creative achievements constitute an essential volume of our literary heritage and contribute to the independent development of Qoraqalpoq literature.

Berdag's literary legacy emphasizes ethics, manners, refinement, and beauty. His poetry reflects national and universal values, patriotism, friendship between

peoples, and the principles of ordinary moral conduct. According to the poet's words, some mullahs and wise men appeared to be righteous and just in front of the people, while in reality, they demonstrated their hypocrisy. Berdaq carried on the best traditions of the East in his ethical views. In his poems such as "Izladim" (I Seek), "Xalq uchun" (For the People), "Yaxshiroq" (Brightness), "Menga kerak" (I Need), he extols the righteous efforts of individuals. According to him, the main duty of every person is to serve the people and contribute to their prosperity. Another important aspect of Berdaq's ethical views is to treat individuals with respect, especially women, weak and poor individuals, disabled and abandoned people, by providing them with necessary assistance. Berdaq, like Navoi, evaluates individuals based on their ethics and manners, dividing them into two categories: good and evil. A good person, in his eyes, is a source of all human virtues, intelligent, knowledgeable, supporting others, and appreciating the beauty of character. An evil person, in Berdaq's perspective, lacks the dignity of the people, and their value is not recognized. In general, the center of the poet's ethical views lies in humanity. In many of his poems, Berdaq emphasizes the upbringing of children, respect for elders, patriotism towards the younger generation, love for one's own people, and the ideals of friendship and brotherhood among nations. Through his lyrical poems and epics, Berdaq portrays the social life of the Qoraqalpoq people in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Berdag is known for his thoughts on bringing happiness to the people. He seeks help from Allah ("Yordam ber") and contemplates on the concept of happiness ("Izladim"). He envisions a society where the humble can thrive ("Kerak") and believes in the

establishment of a prosperous community ("Baxtiyor yashaydigan jamiyat").

Berdag's literary works closely adhere to the oral traditions of the people. His poetry holds a prominent place in the history of Karakalpak literature due to its lyrical and artistic excellence. Many of his works have been translated into Uzbek and other languages. The 170th anniversary of Berdaq's birth was widely celebrated in Uzbekistan and Karakalpakstan in 1998. One of the streets in Tashkent was named after Berdaq, and a monument was erected there. In his birthplace, Bozatov, a monument was also installed in his honor (1998). In Nukus, a statue of Berdaq was erected, and a music drama theater, street, and school were named after him. Berdaq is considered the renowned poet and true representative of the Karakalpak people. Numerous schools, streets, cinemas, and libraries in Karakalpakstan bear his name. Additionally, the State Award of Karakalpakstan was established in the name of Berdaq. This award is presented for outstanding achievements in the field of literature, art, and craftsmanship.

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