

Berdak's Maturity as a Poet

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ABSTRACT

Berdak is the artist's nickname, and his real name is Berdimurod Kargaboy oglu. He is not only a poet, but also the founder of Karakalpak literature. Little is known about the thinker. Information about his biography and work can be found mainly in his works.

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Berdak was born in 1827 in Aqqala, Moynak district, south of the Aral Sea. When Berdak was ten years old, his father Karg'aboy Boronboy lost his son and mother, and he was raised by his uncle Kochkorboy. From the age of ten, Berdak went to the village school, and after graduating from high school, he studied at the Karakum Eshan Madrasa, then a major educational institution, in order to deepen his knowledge. From an early age, he began to practice writing poetry. Getting acquainted with folk songs, various legends, fairy tales, proverbs and epics, and enjoying the poems of famous poets played an important role in the development of the thinker's artistic creativity. Thus, Berdakh gradually became a famous poet and a well-known bakhsh. Most importantly, he began to sing his own poems.

Berdak traveled to many cities. He visited major cities in Central Asia. He visited Urgench and Bukhara and got acquainted with ancient monuments. Alisher Navoi, Fuzuli, Makhtumkuli and the Karakalpak poet Kunkhoja read and studied his works in depth. He knew history and folklore very well. He interviewed contemporary poets. Many of Berdakh's poems are about the miserable lives of the poor, the widows, their hard work, and the cruelty, violence, and injustice done to them by the rich. His poems reflect universal and national values such as humanity, equality, generosity, justice, patriotism, compassion, heroism and bravery, independence, the struggle for national liberation and truth, and love. Berdakh's poems and epics are characterized by an objective and truthful description of the life of the people.

In his poems "Tax" and "This Year", Berdakh condemned the policies of the khans and beys, describing their cruelty to the working people. Berdakh exalts man, emphasizing that the people are a great power, and calls on the ruling class to respect and help the working people. The poet sees himself as an integral part of the nation.

Berdakh criticizes the system in which he lives. According to the poet, the current political system cannot protect the rights and interests of the working people. In such a system, only injustice, greed, arbitrariness, and other inhuman vices prevail.

In his socio-political writings, Berdakh, like other thinkers in the East, argued that society should be ruled by a just and enlightened king. He considered the unjust and tyrannical khan of his time unfit to rule the state. Berdakh writes that man is free in his actions, in his behavior, in the attainment of his goals. For example; In the Epic of the Foolish King, he says that after the oppression of some rich people and

officials has reached its climax, the impatient people will voluntarily revolt against them.

The talented poet, the famous bakhshi, was persecuted by the rich and other officials of the time. Because his ancestors and he were poor, they wanted to destroy the poet. The poet writes that he was born into a poor family in his work "You Know".

Despite the fact that Berdakh was an intellectual and an educated man of his people, no one at that time respected him, honored him, or even respected him. In short, the fate of the great poet was in conflict with the rich, the axons, the mullahs. In the first part of the poet's epic "Stupid Pasha" he tells about his destiny. He also wrote about his enemies in this epic. Thus, in many of his works, Berdakh expressed his thoughts and difficulties. In the last days of his life, Berdak lost a daughter. Despite his old age, the poet continues to write. His best works were "The Foolish King," "Not," "Help Us," and others. The poet focused on historical problems, wrote about his sad life, about the heroes of the people and the poverty of his country. The works written during these years were mainly about the people's struggle for independence. In this work, the poet tells us to keep in mind every word we say and to walk carefully in this time, because there are those who follow your every step.

Berdakh tries to be brave and intelligent, he knows where and to whom to say what. But those who persecuted him were able to disrupt his work. Against him, the leadership declared his writings meaningless and included the poet himself among the Muslims who had turned away from the path of Allah. Therefore, many of Berdakh's works have not survived to this day, but he nevertheless created his poems in written form. The poet mentions this in each of his works, and even states in what year he wrote it. For example, in *The Stupid Pasha*, he says that he spent his free time for a year and twelve months. In "Me", the poet wrote about his unhappy life. *My Life* is about the poet's past and the year in which it was written. Another piece of information acknowledges the creation of a compiled form of Berdak's poems, as his work "Kulen bois" has survived to the present day. It is known that Berdakh's works were not completely destroyed, but some of them were modified and preserved. During Berdakh's life, many events took place in the history of Karakalpakstan, which had a great impact on the future and destiny of the people. It was about the struggle of the Karakalpak people for freedom under the leadership of the Ernazarbi in 1855-1856 for the Karakalpak, Uzbek, Turkmen and Kazakh workers. Berdakh was summoned to Petro-Alexandrovsk in 1900 to be the head of the Amudarya branch, and the poet accepted the offer and set out voluntarily. But the poet falls ill halfway and is forced to return home. Shortly afterwards, the poet died. That was the end of his difficult, painful, unhappy life. But his life was spent in the struggle against suffering, against the tyranny of the feudal lords and the rich. He was moving forward with a great dream, thinking of a happy future for the people. Berdakh's death had a profound effect on the people, especially on the working people living in the poet's country. The great and boundless love of many peoples for Berdakh can be seen in the poem of the 19th century Karakalpak poet Otesh Aminbey oglu. These poems are dedicated to Berdak's death. Otesh's poem "Death of Berdakh" is similar to M.Yu. Lermontov's poem "Death of a Poet", in which Lermontov wrote about the poet of Russian literature AS Pushkin. According to the Karakalpak poet Otesh, when Berdakh died, not only Karakalpaks but also Uzbeks, Kazakhs, Tatars and Russians accompanied him on his last journey. Prior to Berdakh, Karakalpak poetry had 11 thematic-four-line, 9-verse-four-line, and 6-verse-four-line types. Berdakh used all three of these three types.

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