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The Display Of Birds In Navoi's Poetical Works

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Birds are regarded as one of the used symbols in classical literature. Birds are also quite important in other nations' mythology, they appeared in the process of events suddenly, helped characters and played a crucial role to amend situations towards decent sides. Mostly they were expressed as a linking means between human being and divinity, highest rank and the symbol of the sky. For instance, in Alisher Navoi's "Lison ut-tayr" feathery creatures were main symbols for characters. In this literary work a great deal of bird names were distributed. Meanwhile readers look through this book, they encounter these birds and they should find out their significance in the book. Take a phoenix, for example. In dictionary of Navoi's works the phoenix is defined in the way: "The phoenix is an unknown bird, according to legend, it possessed any holes along its beak and these holes composed wonderful music". Simurg' is also a frequent bird in epic poems. It expresses the divinity and spiritually and physically perfect human being.

Another legendary bird is Humo. In Uzbek folklore, it represents happiness and royalty. In the myths, after the Head of country died, Humo soared high and chose the padishoh by landing on his shoulder. Navoi referred to the bird and paid attention to its legendary features, because not only it symbolized blessedness but also it helped to select the king or queen by its intelligence. However, none of the historical documents heralded this ritual as a real event. Navoi drew his attention to this reality logically and in "Lison ut-tayr" when

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Humo claimed itself a royal bird, he proved this wrong concept. In addition, Hudhud (character) said to Humo it was not beneficial for it.

Another common character which we see in real life is parrot. In classical literature it is a symbol of politeness. Parrot represents sweetheart's lovely utterance metaphorically. In the epic poem, it confessed it had not experienced difficulty in its life, therefore it might get in trouble on the way. By the help of this character, Navoi criticized easygoing, arrogant and self-centered people who do not care about anybody expect themselves:

Durroj- tazarv – peacock is symbol of beauty in classical literature. In this role, peacock admire its physical beauty arrogantly, consequently, it lost spiritual virtue and dignity:

As soon as his dream

fantasies come into my sight

Tears on my face line

wrinkles with affliction, rue.

("Hayrat ul – abror")

In this extract, the devious peacock told a lie instead of truth and everybody began to suspicious to him and did not trust it, even it uttered the truth.

Hamoma – a dove, a pigeon. Navoi included this feathery creature in his epic poem. The dove refers to spirit and peace in mythology. In Turkish folklore, there is a legend that monsters' heart was in the shape of the pigeon. Navoi claimed that when the dove introduced itself in the epos, it called itself "hayyu lo yomut" – immortal. In "Lison ut – tayr", the dove was represented as a materialistic ignorant bird which was obsessed with wealthy world.

Delicious fruits are unsavory for a sick person

It's unsurprising if your sweet lip will – vile curses – boo.

Soul in nonentity is longing for hand-holding,

Cause it feels this body for it is boorish, askew.

("Layli va Majnun")



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Qumri – little bird in pigeon family, it has got tiny spots on its neck. This bird was also utilized in classical literature as a nice singing bird. But, Navoi discovered hidden features of this bird literally. In his epic poem Qumri was expressed as an introvert, humble and home-lover character. It was reluctant to leave its nest and it wanted to spend its life blissfully inside its convenient home. This bird represented materialistic and easygoing people metaphorically.

Soqizg'on – crow, corves.

Tun kunni qilur binafsha sizg'on

Kofur ila mushkdin soqizg'on.

("Farxod va Shirin")

Generally speaking, displaying bird symbols has an important role in classical literature. This identifies human spirit, religious divinity and humanity's trying's to reach "holy sweetheart's presence". Therefore, meantime we investigate the importance of bird symbols in classical literature, we should pay attention to analyzing these characters deeply as well as typological and etymological features of these birds.