

## ANALYSIS OF TRADITIONS IN THE NOVEL “O‘TKAN KUNLAR”

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**Abstract:** This article examines the work O‘tkan kunlar by Abdulla Qodiriy, which, through the love story of Otabek and Kumush, portrays resistance to the social values of that time and the struggle for personal happiness. It also explores relationships between different social classes and the changing status of women. The conflict between traditional values and modernization, as well as its impact on family relations, is analyzed. In addition, national customs and traditions are studied.

**Keywords:** traditional values, family, relations, national customs, modernization, personal and social consequences, conflict of ideas, Uzbek nation

The novel O‘tkan kunlar by Abdulla Qodiriy marks a new stage in Uzbek literature. It reflects the processes of national awakening and vividly represents the people’s values, traditions, and social and moral relationships. The work does not only depict artistic reality but also reflects the worldview, value system, and religious and spiritual beliefs of the people. Therefore, translating this work into other languages requires careful analysis of cultural codes and axiological relationships expressed through them. N.Fedotova considers cultural code as a form of expressing cultural content and transmitting it within society. V.Savitsky and Ye.Charkasova define cultural code as a secondary sign system reflecting symbolic images belonging to ethnoculture. Axiological relations are based on the theory of values. According to D.Yusubov, values are formed through comparison of various objects and phenomena in human consciousness. Values are not objects themselves, but rather attitudes toward them. Values are determined by the mentality of a people - the native speakers of a language, their historical development, and the system of evaluation criteria within that linguistic group. Through socialization, or more precisely culturalization, individuals adapt to their culture and internalize socially significant experiences, traditions, and values. The novel O‘tkan kunlar is one of the most significant and influential works in Uzbek literature. It not only depicts love and tragic fate but also deeply reflects the social life, customs, traditions, and values of the people. Through this novel, Abdulla Qodiriy presents a complex and contradictory picture of Turkestan society at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. Customs in the novel can be divided into two groups: positive and negative traditions. First of all, one of the most important traditions is related to marriage and family relations. In that period, marriage was not based on the personal choice of young people but on the decisions of parents. This often harmed individual freedom and happiness. The marriage between Otabek and Kumush, based on love, is portrayed positively. Their relationship is built on mutual respect and understanding. However, Otabek’s marriage to Zaynab is forced and based on traditional norms, leading to conflicts and tragedy. Through this, Qodiriy criticizes forced marriages. Polygamy is another important issue in the novel. At that time, it was socially acceptable for a man to have multiple wives. Otabek’s marriage to both Kumush and Zaynab illustrates this tradition. However, the author exposes its negative consequences - jealousy, conflict, and ultimately tragedy, as seen in Zaynab poisoning Kumush. Another significant issue is early marriage for girls. Young girls were married before gaining life experience, limiting their personal development and education. Kumush is portrayed as intelligent and kind, but social norms prevent her from fully realizing her potential. The novel also highlights the limited role of women in society. Women were dependent on men and lacked freedom of expression. Kumush and Zaynab represent different outcomes within this

system. At the same time, the novel depicts positive traditions. Hospitality is one of the most important values of the Uzbek people. Guests are treated with great respect, and the best food is served. This reflects generosity and humanity. Respect for elders is another key value. Young people obey elders and value their advice. However, excessive obedience sometimes prevents independent decision-making. Family conflicts and jealousy are also explored. In polygamous families, rivalry between wives leads to serious consequences. Zaynab’s jealousy results in tragedy, showing the destructive power of human flaws. The novel also provides detailed descriptions of everyday life, clothing, markets, and traditions, making it historically valuable. Festivals also play an important role. Navruz is depicted as a symbol of renewal and unity. People clean their homes, wear new clothes, and prepare traditional dishes. Eid al-Adha reflects religious values, including sacrifice, charity, and communal prayer, strengthening compassion and solidarity. Birth and circumcision ceremonies are important social events. Naming ceremonies celebrate new life, while circumcision marks a boy’s entry into society. Religious practices such as prayer and fasting are integral parts of daily life. Reading the Qur’an and making prayers are essential spiritual practices. Visiting sacred places provides emotional comfort. Social relationships are shaped by traditions. Respect for elders, strong neighborly ties, and community support are emphasized. People share both joy and sorrow. Trade and craftsmanship are also depicted. Markets operate under strict rules, and artisans follow the master-apprentice tradition. Clothing reflects social status. Women wear traditional garments like paranja and jewelry, while men wear chapan and traditional headwear. Just as every nation has its own stereotypical perceptions, Uzbek culture is also associated with certain positive stereotypes. One of the most prominent of these is the exceptional hospitality of the Uzbek people. Hospitality and treating a guest with royal respect can be considered among the highest values of our culture. These cultural codes that embody hospitality can be observed in several parts of the novel *O‘tkan kunlar*. For example, when Otabek meets Usta Alim in Margilan and the craftsman warmly welcomes a stranger into his home as a guest, it serves as a vivid illustration of this tradition. In Usta Alim’s words, one can clearly sense a meaningful Uzbek proverb: “Even if your guest room is small, let your kindness and heart be wide.” This idea is reflected in his expressions such as: “Get down from your horse, you are my guest,” “Come, let me show you to the veranda,” “You must be hungry, dear guest... After a long journey, you must be tired and hungry. I already have onions and meat ready; I only need to light the fire.” These examples highlight the deep-rooted tradition of hospitality, where even a stranger is welcomed with warmth, sincerity, and generosity.

In conclusion, the novel *O‘tkan kunlar* provides a deep and comprehensive depiction of national customs and traditions. Abdulla Qodiriy highlights both positive values - hospitality, respect, unity - and negative practices such as forced marriage and gender inequality. The novel encourages readers to reflect critically on society and remains relevant today. It serves not only as a literary masterpiece but also as a cultural and historical source. Aesthetic thinking plays a crucial role in shaping national identity. It awakens emotional, intellectual, and spiritual awareness. Historical memory and artistic expression complement each other, strengthening national consciousness. Thus, *O‘tkan kunlar* is not only a literary monument but also an important tool for preserving cultural heritage and educating future generations.

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