

THE CREATIVE LEGACY AND ACTIVITIES OF ABDULLA AVLONIY***Sheraliyev Sanjarbek Karimberdiyevich****Lecturer at Tashkent State Pedagogical University named after Nizami*ssh19902310@gmail.com***Yunusova Samia Xasan kizi****2nd-year student at Tashkent State Pedagogical University named after Nizami*samiayunusova@gmail.com

Abstract: This article is prepared to introduce the life and work of the great figure of Uzbek literature, Abdulla Avloniy, as well as to highlight his contributions to the development of his homeland.

Keywords: creativity, poet, school, enlightener, lesson, education, upbringing.

Abdulla Avloniy (July 12, 1878, Tashkent – August 25, 1934, Tashkent) was one of the prominent representatives of Uzbek national culture in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He was an enlightened poet, playwright, journalist, scholar, statesman, and public figure.

The prominent enlightener, talented poet, and educator Abdulla Avloniy was born on July 12, 1878, in Tashkent into a craftsman's family and received his early education at a traditional school. In his autobiography, he wrote:

"At the age of 12, I began studying at a madrasa in the O'qchi neighborhood. From the age of 13, I worked as a laborer during the summers to support my family and studied during the winters. By the age of 14, I had started writing various poems in accordance with the literary norms of the time. During this period, I began reading the newspaper 'Tarjimon' and became aware of the world around me."

After completing his studies at the madrasa, Avloniy became a schoolteacher. He reformed teaching and learning methods and established a new type of school. His educational work focused on providing modern knowledge to young teachers and students, and he emphasized the teaching of both Eastern and Western languages.

Avloniy authored several groundbreaking textbooks for schoolchildren, including "The First Teacher," "The Second Teacher" (1912), "History", and "Turkiy Guliston or Ethics" (1913). His creative activity began in 1895, and he wrote poems, stories, feuilletons, and short plays under various pen names such as Qobil, Shuhrat, Hijron, Avloniy, Surayyo, Abulfayz, and Indamas. In his works, the poet criticized the ignorance and backwardness of his time and called upon people to pursue knowledge and enlightenment.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Avloniy joined the Jadidism movement and became known as one of the active participants among the Jadids in Tashkent. He began publishing his poems in the press in 1906. Avloniy studied Arabic, Persian, and Russian, and read the works of thinkers who wrote in those languages. He also translated some of them into Uzbek, including the works of Leo Tolstoy and Konstantin Ushinsky.

In 1906, he published the newspaper "Taraqqiy" (Progress), and in 1907, he started publishing "Shuhrat" (Glory) from his own home. After both newspapers were shut down by the authorities, he launched a secret newspaper titled "Osiyo" (Asia) in 1908. However, this newspaper was also banned by the government after the sixth issue.

Avloniy was among the first to propose teaching subjects such as chemistry, geography, physics, and astronomy in schools. He sought to spread progressive ideas to the people through education. In 1908, he opened a new-method school in the Mirobod neighborhood of Tashkent for local children, where he personally taught Uzbek language and literature.

In 1909, he founded the “Charity Society” (Jamiyati xayriya) and organized education for orphaned children. That same year, he published the first part of his four-volume poetry collection titled “Literature or National Poems” (Adabiyot yoxud milliy she’rlar). In 1912, Avloniy opened a two-grade secular school in the Degrez neighborhood of Tashkent, which differed from traditional religious schools by offering instruction in modern sciences.

Avloniy authored and published various textbooks and reading materials for the new-method schools. Among his most notable works are “The First Teacher” (1911), “The Second Teacher” (1912), “Turkiy Guliston or Ethics” (1913), the four-volume poetry collection “Literature or National Poems” (1909–1915), “The School Garden” (1915), “The Song of the Laborers” (1917), and others.

Together with other progressive intellectuals such as Munavvarqori, Muhammadjon Podshokhojaye, Tavallo, Rustambek Yusufbekov, Nizomiddin Khojaye, and Shokirjon Rahimiy, he established publishing and educational companies like “Nashriyot” (1914) and “Maktab” (1916).

Avloniy also used theatre as a means to raise public consciousness. In 1913, he actively participated in the creation and activities of the “Turkiston” theatrical troupe. Between 1910 and 1916, he translated and staged several plays. His theatrical works were performed in cities such as Tashkent, Fergana, Andijan, Kokand, and Khujand, reflecting vivid portrayals of life in Turkestan at the beginning of the 20th century.

The renowned Uzbek actor Mannon Uyghur was trained in Avloniy's troupe. The troupe also collaborated with Hamza Hakimzoda Niyoziy and Azerbaijani playwrights such as Uzeyir Hajibeyov and Ruhulla.

After the October Revolution, the freedoms promised to the people were not granted in practice. This unfulfilled promise led to disillusionment in Avloniy's creative spirit, as reflected in his 1919 poem “In the Hour of Sadness” (Xafalik soatda).

In 1917, Avloniy began publishing the newspaper “Turon”, which covered political and social events of the time. In 1918, he participated in the establishment of the “Ishtirokiyun” newspaper and served as its editor.

Between 1919 and 1920, Avloniy served as the political representative and consul of the Soviet government in Afghanistan, where he was also appointed as Minister of Public Education. In 1921, he became the editor-in-chief of the journal “Kasabachilik Harakati” (The Workers' Movement).

From 1921 onward, he devoted himself to opening schools, promoting literacy among the population, educating Uzbek women, and training teachers and intellectual personnel. In 1923–1924, he served as the director of the men's and women's educational institutions (known as “inpros”) in the Old City of Tashkent. Between 1924 and 1929, he worked as a teacher at the Tashkent Military School, and from 1930 to 1934, he was the head of the Department of Language and Literature and a professor at the Central Asian State University (now the National University of Uzbekistan).

During this period, he also compiled and published a Literature Reader for the 7th grade of Uzbek schools in 1933.

From as early as 1895, Avloniy wrote under numerous pen names such as Hijron, Nabil, Indamas, Shuhrat, Tangriquli, Surayyo, Shapaloq, Chol, Ab, Chig'aboy, and Abdulhaq. He authored more than 4,000 lines of poetry, along with many critical and scholarly articles.

One of his major educational contributions, "The First Teacher" (Birinch muallim), was an alphabet book (alifbe). It introduced 32 letters in isolated forms, arranged alphabetically on a single page. On that same page, he also showed how each letter appeared at the beginning, middle, and end of words. Then, he demonstrated how to combine the letter alif with other "initial letters" to form syllables.

"The Second Teacher" – Reading Books

In "The Second Teacher" (Ikkinchi muallim), Avloniy compiled a wide range of poems, stories, fables, and fairy tales focused on themes of morality, honesty, and purity. He skillfully employed varied allegorical characters to communicate ethical lessons.

The book opens with a poem titled "School" (Maktab), which praises the virtues of education. It conveys the idea that whoever attends school, gains literacy, and studies diligently will attain great success. The poem states:

"The school scatters pearls and gems,
The school opens paradise for you,
The school drives away ignorance —
Strive and study, young man!"

Before 1917, Abdulla Avloniy emerged as a prominent publisher and journalist from among the local Uzbek population in Tashkent. He founded newspapers such as "Shuhrat" and "Osiyo". As a playwright, he authored dramatic works like "Is Advocacy Easy?", "Two Loves", "The Wedding", "The Congress", "Layli and Majnun", and "The Dead", which exposed the tragic consequences of ignorance, superstition, and backward customs.

As a poet, Avloniy composed numerous poems. Whether addressing outdated traditions, love, or educational reform, his poetry consistently celebrated human dignity, moral beauty, and spiritual richness. In his poem "In Our Own Country", he criticizes misers who lavishly spend on entertainment yet refuse to allocate a single coin for their children's education, saying:

"They cannot bear to spend for knowledge."

One of his most notable contributions in this regard is his 1915 publication titled "Literature" (Adabiyot), which stands out for its emphasis on moral and educational values.

In 1913, Abdulla Avloniy founded the "Turon" theater troupe, creating original plays for the troupe and also translating works by fellow dramatists into Uzbek.

In the 1920s, Avloniy not only contributed to the development of the education and culture of the Uzbek people, but also played a significant role in the social and political life of the neighboring Afghan people. He served as the Minister of Education in Afghanistan for a time, and later as the Consul and Ambassador of the Soviet Union to Afghanistan.

In 1927, Abdulla Avloniy was awarded the title of Labor Hero. In 2020, he was posthumously honored with the Order of Great Services.

In the final years of his life, Avloniy continued to teach at the Central Asian Communist University, while also creating a number of textbooks on Uzbek literature. He passed away on August 24, 1934, at the age of 56.

Abdullah Avloni and was not persecuted, nor was he labeled an enemy of the people, but his works remained largely unstudied until 1966. After his death, his works were not published. His literary legacy was studied by Begali Qosimov, who wrote the book "Abdulla

Avloniy”. In 1968, a memorial house-museum was established in his honor. In Tashkent, there are streets, two neighborhoods, a cultural center, and a research institute named after Avloniy. In 2019, the premiere of the film “Avloniy”, which tells the story of his missions in Afghanistan, took place. Poet Muhammad Ali depicted Avloniy as one of the protagonists in his poetic novel “Boqiy Dunyo” (1979). A statue of Avloniy has been erected in the Writers’ Alley in Tashkent.

In conclusion, it can be said that Abdulla Avloniy, a prominent representative of the Uzbek national culture passed down through generations, continues to inspire young people to contribute to education, upbringing, and the prosperity of our homeland. His work and practical activities serve as a model for the youth of today.

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