The Kyrgyz Poet Toktagul Satylganov Thoughts about Kazakh Country

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ABSTRACT

Toktagul Satylganov is one of the most popular Kazakh and Kyrgyz poets. The intellectuals of these two countries, who respect poetry, have followed the works of the great poet Toktagul as an example of unity and peace. In general, there are two Toktaguls in the history of Kyrgyz literature. The first was Toktagul Saidalievich, who lived in the 14th century. The years of his birth and death are unknown. Proponents of the literary history of the neighboring country consider that he had lived approximately during the period of Zhanibek Khan (Khan-King) in the Golden Horde. This Toktagul has a significant legacy in Kyrgyz literature.

Keywords: Critical poetry, Kazakh literature, Kyrgyz poetry, Toktagul Satylganov.

1. Introduction

The song of the poet, which is an equivalent of the Kyrgyz spirit, is as follow:

I am Toktagul, known throughout the Turkic world,
I am Toktagul who is a close relative of Tolybay,
I am Toktagul, who is a winner and leader hero (translated by Dr.A.Zhundibayeva).


Toktagul Satylganov (Satylganov: 2015, p.178), who is the main character of our article, has a significant role not only in Kyrgyz literature but also in the spiritual world of all Turkic people. In 2014, the poet's 150th anniversary was celebrated in several Turkic-speaking countries on the initiative of the "International Organization of Turkic Culture" (TURKSOI) and International Turkic Academy. This was an important step on the way to glorifying the heritage of the famous poet and making him known to the whole fraternity.

In fact, our poetic anthology “Poets of Kazakhstan,” which was published in Leningrad in 1978 in 25,000 copies with the help of Mukhtar Magaunin, started with ancient poet Kzutugan (Poets of Kazakhstan:1978, p.608). While, the book “Poets of Kyrgyzstan,” which was published by Kambaraly Bobulev, started with Toktagul. For a variety of reasons, the poems of the poet, who lived during their prehistoric times, were not included in this collection (Tssetkova et al.: 2019, pp.598-612).
2. Methods

Toktagul Satylyganov was born in the fall in Sazji wintering place near the Kuchchu-Suu village in the Ketmontobe region in 1864 (Satylyganov: 2015, p.178). The poet's love for poetry seems to be inherited from his mother, Burma. Toktagul began his journey by winning in the aitys (song-poetic contest of improvisational poets) with Arzymat, who was palace poet and friend of Dikanbai Ryskulbekov, near Ketmontobe in 1882 (Bayzakov & Vatagin:1980, p.672).

In 1898, after the famous Andijon uprising, the poet was accused of organizing rebellion and sent to Siberia. He returned home after 12 years. According to the memories of Bulat Zhirakov, who was convicted with the poet, they left the Andijon prison and went to Krasnovodsk, Moscow, and Irkutsk. Therefore, many of his poems reflect the mood of the imprisoned person.

Before I die -
I dream of being in Ketmontobe,
Before I die -
I dream of taking revenge on Kerimbay,
Before I die -
I dream of seeing my relatives and my country (translated by Dr. A. Zhundibayeva) - said Toktagul.

The fifth volume of the book “History of Kyrgyz literature” (2012), which was later given a state prize by Kyrgyz literary scientists, gave further details. R. Kdyrbayeva (Kdyrbayeva: 2012, p.764), the author of the monograph on Toktagul, recounted that the poet was among the Kazakhs returning from prison and gladly stayed in their country. The researchers claimed that “In his poem “On the Kazakh Land,” a Kyrgyz poet mentioned the names of the Kazakhs such as Suleyman, Ahmet, and Abitay” (Barbera et al.: 2020, pp.661–673).

3. Results

Toktagul Satylyganov (Satylyganov: 2015, p.178) was named Toktagul (which means 'stop') because all previous children had not been staying for a long.

There is more complete and accurate information about it in "Kazakh-Kyrgyz Literature Communication" of 1974. According to the Kazakh scientist, Toktagul, returning from Siberia, stopped in Karkanalsk and went to the house of a man named Uzakbay and met locals of Karkanalsk such as Suleyman, Sabilyan, Sarsenbay, and Jaketbai (Zhaketai). Then, Sarsenbay took Toktagul home, and Toktagul stayed there for a month. Afterward, the poet went to his homeland. It is said that during that trip, Toktagul was constantly singing. At the same time, he released his long poem "In the Kazakh Land." It seems that the original version of this poem appeared about 1200 years ago. Unfortunately, only a small fraction has been reached until today. In Toktagul's poem, which starts in the Kyrgyz version with "My greetings to all Kazakh people," the poet's personality is fully reflected: As for me, I am a strong person as a metal, who plays komuz. I am a young person as a sapling. I am the orator of the group. I am the leader of the group (translated by Dr. A. Zhundibayeva).

The last version of this work was published in the Kazakh language in 2015 in Toktagul Satylyganov's book under the title "In the Kazakh land" (Satylyganov: 2015, p.178). It reflects the poet's humiliation during his imprisonment, the sadness he experienced, and his gratitude for the Kazakhs who welcomed him when he was released (Zhyrtakov:1964, pp.12-18).

"My greetings to all Kazakh people!
I'm a wayfarer,
who can not reach his missed Kyrgyz people" (translated by Dr. A. Zhundibayeva).

In this long poem, the author describes the moment in which he spent his twelve years in prison.

The poet also describes how he got out of jail in this poem "I am escaping from the King of Hell, I am running away from his prison cell", fondly recalls his past life "I was like the singing swallow in my rich country", he expressed his poignant tone before reaching his destination "I am a beggar on my way right now", sympathetic to the people "To my Kazakh brothers whom I share my complaints and my dreams" (all poems translated by Dr. A. Zhundibayeva).

The poem "In the Kazakh land" is not only artistic but also very documentary. This poem reveals the unknown sides of Toktagul's life. We can know from his poem that he escaped prison with the help of his friends Hariton, Semen, and Husain. Moreover, we can know that since Hariton could not find the keys, Semen broke the latch, gave him kobyz, and let him go away. Also, we can reveal for how many years the poet was sentenced "I am the pitiful person who was cut off for twenty-five years" (translated by Dr. A. Zhundibayeva), how much time he spent in prison "In ten years in prison
I let to bedbugs (Heteroptera) and fleas (Siphonaptera) to suck all my blood", where he was in captivity
"I went to the Urals forest and mountain,
I was in the cell near Baikal lake", which way he fled "I walk from Omsk and crossed Russian territory," where he went through:
"I passed many different mountains in Baikal" when he arrived in Kazakh land, "I escaped through the wilderness for nine months."

Toktagul's poem "During the Captivity" describes how other country representatives also suffered along with Kazakh and Kyrgyz on Russian country:

"Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Uzbek, Russian, and Nogai,
There are a lot of people,
Grieved like me, in this captive country" (translated by Dr. A. Zhundibayeva) (Satylganov: 2015, p.178).

Ahmet Mussinov represented another fact about Toktagul as well (Cazes et al.: 2012).

Toktagul Satylganov had been living in Omsk prison for two years with a Kazakh man named Ospan. Ospan could speak Russian fluently. He translated some of Toktagul's poems into Russian. However, later Ospan was killed in prison. In this regard, Toktagul had written a poem called "My Friend Ospan". Both Kyrgyz and Russian versions of this poem, which was translated by one of the best translators of the Soviet era, Ruvim Moran, have been preserved until these days. Toktagul's poem tells that Ospan was from Oral; he was killed by a jail chief, and the poet buried his friend by himself. Here is a poetic version of this story:

"They persuaded us as the harnessed horse, A jail chief killed Ospan from Oral for speaking Russian" (Satylganov: 2015, p.178).

If we look at the genre, it is a mourning song. It is a reflection of the brotherhood of Kazakh and Kyrgyz and the loyalty of two close friends, who have been imprisoned since ancient times. It is a striking example of the reconciliation of two nations with peace and kinship, which is tried by challenges. This song, as the Makhambet's poem about the death of Isatay, illustrates the life of an unknown Kazakh hero in the Toktagul's era. If deeper information about Ospan was revealed, it would add significant information to the Kazakh historiography and Kyrgyz poetry. This short poem is a part of the long poem mentioned above, of the "In the Kazakh land" (Musa: 2011, p.304).

However, according to A. Musinov (Musinov: 1974, p.160), who studied the Kazakh-Kyrgyz literature relations, it may have been published as a separate poem as well. We want to highlight that this poem expresses the sincere respect and warmth of the Kyrgyz poet to his Kazakh friend:

"Ospan was like a lion, he was Kazakh's open-minded, critical thinker, who argued with the governor and was trapped here, he was intelligent who could speak Russian, but he died, and I had to bury him".

Ruvim Moran, who specialized mostly in translating Tatar poetry, translated "In the Kazakh Land" into Russian by himself. The passage about Ospan in the Russian version is not different from the original; it reflects the mood, consciousness, and intentions of the poet at that moment. The image of a Kazakh man who spent two years in prison with Toktagul, who was disliked by the prison administration for his unobtrusive behavior and eventually was killed by them, is presented to the readers in Russian as follow:

[Drug u menia byl, Ospan]
[Rodom s Urala, kazah]
[Byl on po-ruskii uchen,]
[U Menia na glazah]
[Tolko za Eto ego]
[Belly Nachalkin Ubil,]
[Sam ia-do sveta-ego].

4. Discussion

In the poem "In the Kazakh land" the author mentioned names such as Zharkantai (Jake), Uzakbay, Sarsenbay, Suleimen, Essential, Abitay, Akhmet, and Abdilda, and showed help they have done for him. "Toktagul, who saw the hell, run away as a racer" as he said about himself, he exemplified every case of Karkaralinsk Kazakh's help "Abythai's wife sewed my shapan (traditional robe)", he did not hide any small help as well "Akhmet brother took care of me", he did not forget about offered food "They offered me some meat, and gave me a horse for riding") (translated by Dr. A. Zhundibayeva), he did not forget the companions who guided him "Abitay took and walked me across the bridge" (Nguyen & Vu: 2019, pp.89-97).

At the same time, Toktagul criticized some Kazakhs, who treated him in an unrespectable way. For example, about Burlysha, a rich old woman, who did not provide a place to sleep and food, the author said: "Burlysha did not invite me saying I am thief, even though she was rich, she was so mean" (translated by Dr. A. Zhundibayeva). In this regard, Suleimen, whom Toktagul was grateful, replied to Toktagul:

She is the grandmother of Doban Governor, and she is not able to help people in need.

Akhmet Mussinov was the first person who provided documentary material on Toktagul Satylganov's "In the Kazakh Land" (Satylganov: 2015, p.178; Borodina et al., 2019; Lehman and Welch, 2020). According to his research, a teacher Turdymambet Abdrukhanov drafted this poem from Uzakbay, a grandfather of Karkaralinsk's Kazakh the Keldybek Karkybek, who came to Novosibirsk in 1941 as a soldier. The record shows: "One day, Keldibek invited his
Kyrgyz friend. When Turdymambet came home, there was a Kazakh older man. It was Keldybek's grandfather, Uzakbay. At this time he was 79 years old. Uzakbay was happy to know that Turdymambet was Kyrgyz and told him about Toktagul!.

He then told that his brother, Suleyman, took care of the poet and that the Sarsenbay took Toktagul to the feast to sing. A month later, Sarsenbay gave him clothes and money and send him to Semey (Musinov: 1974, p.160).

Toktagul in his poem:
"I need to go to my homeland after one night. I will pass through Ayagoz, Arka, Semey, Sarkol, I wish to reach my homeland safely. I am grateful to the Kazakh people!".

Uzakbay, who gave insights and added valuable details about the poet, was greatly saddened by hearing about Toktagul's death (Orazbekova: 2017, pp. 60-65).

Turdymambet Abdtrakmanov handed this record to the manuscript fund of Kyrgyz SSR Academy of Sciences in the 1940s. Above we have shown the story about how the names Uzakbay, Suleimen, and Sarsenbay appeared in "In the Kazakh land". It should be noted that in this work of Toktagul the lines:
"Kazakh-my relatives and my wings. listen about my sadness" or
"Kazakh and Kyrgyz are close brothers, which became enemies because of other evil countries" have not lost value till now. These examples demonstrate the pattern and process of old literary ties between the two nations (Nguyen: 2018, pp.117-127; Mashakova: 2017, pp. 393-401).

In the book "One Hundred Years of Singing Heart", Myrzatai Zholdasbekov gave information about the meeting of Zhambyl and Toktagul, which he heard from a popular poet Umbetali Karibayev. In about 1912, Zhambyl, Kenen, and Umbetali were in a memorial dinner dedicated to the famous Shabden mayor in Kyrgyzstan. In this dinner, Zhambyl, who saw Toktagul returning from Siberia, said,
"Did you come from a far place, did you go through the difficult pathway, As it is said that gold would not lie on the bottom, King finds you as a treasure anywhere?"

Moreover, Zhambyl grudged to Kyrgyz brothers who did not respect Toktagul:
« Tulpari tulpar tanidi,
Ertenen shalsa talmaitin,
Sunkardi sunkar tanidi
Kanati TalmaiSamgaitin
Akindi akin Tanidi
Soz Kadirin Andaitin» ("A good horse can recognize a good one; A good poet can recognize a good one as well" (translated by Dr.A.Zhundibayeva).

Then Toktagul responded. "You are a great poet, Zhambyl, among Kazakhs, I am Toktagul, Am I inferior to other Kyrgyzs? " According to Umbetali Karibayev, Zhambyl gave a jeweled robe to Toktagul, whereas the Kyrgyz poet gave 500 soum to Zhambyl. Zhambyl took only a small portion of the money and returned it to the poet (Zholdasbekov: 1992, p.320). Indeed, "the Kazakh Zhambyl and Kyrgyz Toktagul were reflections of the real visions about Kazakh endless steppe and Kyrgyz high mountains" by the immortal songs, the incomparable tone, and their crease of the dignity honor of their nations (Orazbekova: 2017, pp. 60-65).

Our great-grandfather singer and poet Kenen, who was born in Alatau, always praised the neighboring country's literature genius by saying "Kyrgyz Toktagul and Kalmurza seduced my heart by their songs".

Toktagul's famous elegy poem " Zamana " and elegy poems of our authors of that time have a quite similar pattern. The Kyrgyz poet clearly described the plight of people of his epoch in this way:"It is a time when the cunning rules the people, it is a time when the eagle hunts the people". The collection of Toktagul's works was published in Moscow in 1940 and 1958.

Toktagul's poems such as "Nasylkhan", "Bakhty Girl", "Kulpa", "Erke Sary", "Dunue", "Akkan Sari", "Nasyyat", "Sanat", "Ugluuu YIrlar", "Oí, Bulbul", "Kedeykhan", "Five Boats", "Almikhan", and others were very famous in Soviet time and have become the spiritual treasures of the whole Kyrgyz nation today (Magsumov, 2018; Ishchenko and Magsumov, 2020).

5. Conclusion
The name of the poet frequently appeared in M. Kalinin and A. Fadeev's reports and articles. The districts, villages, schools, and other facilities were named after him. There was shot a movie about him, and his image appeared in Kyrgyz national currency. There is the only hydroelectric power station in the world named after the poet. It is the famous Toktagul HPP. This indicates that Toktagul had already moved beyond the poetic dimension to the human dimension. Kyrgyz people called him “Aktandy” and respect Ketmentobe as much as the Mecca and Sasshide as much as Jidebai.

It is true that the common legacy of Toktagul, a young and famous poet of Alatau, will last for ages for Kazakh and Kyrgyz people.
References


