



BEKJON RAHMON IS A MATURE REPRESENTATIVE OF KHOREZM JADIDISM

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ABSTRACT

Mulla Bekjon Rahmon ugli, a prominent figure among the "Young Khivans" community and a member of the Jadid movement, made significant contributions to the cultural and intellectual life of Khorezm. Born in 1887 in Khiva, he was educated at both a Jadid school and the Allakulikhan Madrasa, and later studied in Istanbul. Bekjon Rahmon played a vital role in the development of journalism, education, and literature in Khorezm. He was the first editor of "Inkilob Kuyoshi", authored several important works, compiled proverbs, and co-wrote a significant treatise on Khorezm's musical history. Despite his contributions, he faced severe repression and was ultimately killed by Soviet authorities. His legacy as a progressive thinker and patriot remains a crucial part of Khorezm's Jadid history.

KEY WORDS: *Mulla Bekjon Rahmon ugli, Young Khivans, Jadid movement, Khorezm, journalism, education, literature, proverbs, musical history, repression, Soviet authorities, progressive thinker, patriot, Khiva, Islomkhoja, Abdurauf Fitrat.*

Mulla Bekjon Rahmon ugli, a prominent figure among the members of the "Young Khivans" community, which emerged as part of the Jadid movement, was born in 1887 in the city of Khiva. His father, Rahmonbergan, served as the chief administrator to Islomkhoja, the prime minister of the Khiva Khanate. According to the renowned literary scholar, academician Naim Karimov, a poet from Khorezm and one of the victims of repression, Kurbon Beregin, authored a 15-chapter historical work in the 1920s. This book vividly depicted events in Khorezm, including the lives of intellectuals like Mulla Bekjon Rahmon ugli. Unfortunately, the manuscript was destroyed when Kurbon Beregin was arrested [1].

Bekjon Rahmon ugli received his education first at a Jadid school and later graduated from the Allakulikhan Madrasa. Thanks to the efforts of Islomkhoja, who advocated for young people to study abroad, Bekjon was sent to Istanbul, Turkey, in 1912. At that time, the Jadid leader Abdurauf Fitrat was returning from his studies in Istanbul. Indeed, due to this support, Bekjon Rahmon grew up to be a dedicated son of his homeland. According to the scholar who devoted his life to studying Fitrat, Professor H.Boltaboyev, the play "Begijon" (1916), which was esteemed in its time and criticized the regime and life of the Bukhara Emirate, was dedicated to Bekjon Rahmon. Unfortunately, this work has also not survived to the present day.

Bekjon Rahmon ugli played a significant role in the development of journalism in Khorezm. He became the chief editor of "Inkilob Kuyoshi", the first newspaper published in the region, which began circulation on March 8, 1920. Unfortunately, journalism among Khorezm's Jadids lagged behind other parts of Turkestan. For example, the first national newspaper in Turkestan, "Tarakkiy", was established in 1906,

while Khorezm's publications began only in 1920. From 1920 to 1924, several newspapers were launched in Khorezm, such as "Kizil Khorezm", "Maorif", "Khorezm khabarlari", "Yordam", "Yoshlar ovozi", "Ishchilar tovushi", "Kapkan". Bekjon Rahmon played a key role in initiating many of these publications.

Although Khorezm's Jadids wrote relatively few articles, Bekjon Rahmon authored several important works. These included "Latinization movement in Uzbekistan", "About the letter of the new alphabet", "Bagdan dialect", which tackled linguistic and other scholarly issues. In "Latinization movement in Uzbekistan", he discussed the early stages of the Latinization movement. The article begins as follows:

"During the Jadid period, while innovations were being introduced, addressing issues like script reform and replacing the traditional Arabic script, which was deeply rooted in religion, was nearly impossible. In those dark times, the Latinization movement was neither visible nor expected in Uzbekistan".

In another article, "About the letter of the new alphabet", published in "Alanga" journal (1928, issue 12), Bekjon analyzed the characteristics of the new alphabet, highlighting its compatibility with Uzbek phonetics and its superiority over the Arabic script. He also delved into the historical use of the abjad numerical system in the Arabic script, which had been used for over 1,300 years, and compared it to the numerical representation of letters in the Latin alphabet.

Bekjon Rahmon was also a literary scholar. In 1923, he compiled 580 proverbs from Khorezm and published them under the title "Words of the Ancestors". These proverbs



reflected the people's philosophy, observations, and wisdom. For example, the book includes sayings like:

•“Tek yurgan toq yurar” (who walks straight lives well),

•“Davlat — ogizburchilik” (“State — Unity”),

•“Ishlasang, tishlarsan, ishlamasang, nimani tishlarsan?” (If you work, you'll eat; if you don't, what will you eat?),

• “Dost yuzga, dushman izga” (A friend speaks to your face, an enemy behind your back).

Bekjon Rahmon also wrote analytical articles about contemporary poets and fellow Jadids.

On April 26, 1920, Bekjon Rahmon founded the present-day Ichan-Qala Museum Reserve and became its first director. From April 27–30 of the same year, at the first congress of the Khorezm People's Republic, he was appointed Minister of Public Education and led efforts to establish modern schools in Uzbek and Turkmen languages throughout the region.

He co-authored textbooks, including “Oqish Kitobi” and “Alifbe”, with Babokhon Salimov. These textbooks incorporated examples of Eastern wisdom and included works by Khorezmian writers, aiming to provide comprehensive education.

Bekjon Rahmon also contributed to higher education by founding Khiva's People's University in 1921, becoming its first rector. Additionally, he worked on the “Yangi Alifbo” committee, conducting research on script reform that remains relevant today.

Together with Muhammad Yusuf Devonzoda, Bekjon Rahmon authored “Musical history of Khorezm”, a significant treatise on musicology, published in Moscow in 1925 and later reprinted in 1998. This work provided biographical details about prominent Khorezmian musicians and described musical instruments used in the region, such as the dutar, tanbur, gijjak, bulomon, and surnay.

Despite his many contributions, Bekjon Rahmon faced severe repression. According to the Soviet Encyclopedia of Uzbekistan, he was tragically killed by Soviet authorities in 1929. Zaki Validiy, in his memoirs, noted that Bekjon Rahmon was sentenced to long-term imprisonment in 1937 and died in exile. His legacy as a progressive thinker, educator, and patriot remains an integral part of Khorezm's Jadid history.

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