

ALEKSANDR FAYNBERG : A BRIGHT STAR OF UZBEK AND RUSSIAN LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT: *Uzbek writers have earned a place in the hearts of many nations with their works. The world boasts numerous writers and poets, among whom Aleksandr Faynberg stands out as a prominent figure in Russian and Uzbek literature. Through his poems and translations, Faynberg has captivated the hearts of Uzbek, Russian, and other peoples. This article discusses the life and creative journey of Aleksandr Arkadyevich Faynberg, a Russian poet and People's Poet of Uzbekistan. It also provides insights into his works.*

Keywords: *poet of two nations, Russian, Uzbek, translator.*

Aleksandr Faynberg was a Russian poet, translator, screenwriter, and People's Poet of Uzbekistan. Born on November 2, 1939, in Tashkent, his parents moved there from Novosibirsk in 1937. His father, Arkadiy Lvovich Faynberg (1891-1971), and mother, Anastasia Alexandrovna (1904-?), influenced his early life spent in the former Zhukovskaya neighborhood.

After completing seven years of schooling, Aleksandr enrolled at the Tashkent Topography Technical School. During this time, he traveled across the country as a geologist, developing a deep love for nature, which inspired his first book, "Bicycle Path." After graduating, he served in the military in Tajikistan, later enrolling in Tashkent University (now Uzbekistan National University), where he studied journalism part-time. In 1961, he married Inna Glebovna Koval.

Aleksandr Faynberg is undoubtedly one of the brightest literary figures in Uzbekistan's poetic sky. He authored 13 poetry collections published in Tashkent, Moscow, and Saint Petersburg, including "Etude" (1967), "Moment" (1969), "Poems" (1977), "Response" (1982), "Short Wave" (1983), "Scattered Net" (1984), and "Free Sonnets" (1990). He translated many Uzbek poets, including Alisher Navoi, into Russian. His works appeared in magazines like "Smena," "Shift," "Youth," "New World," and internationally in countries like the USA, Canada, and Israel. From 1965 to 1969, he served as a consultant at the Union of Writers of Uzbekistan. Faynberg's translations brought the works of many Uzbek poets to Russian-speaking audiences. He contributed to publishing Erkin Vohidov's "The Revolt of Spirits" in Moscow and "The Flock of Swans" in Tashkent. In 1999, his screenplay for the film "Their Stadium in the Sky" commemorated the 20th anniversary of the tragic plane crash of the Pakhtakor football team. The film featured a song based on his 1979 poem. In 2004, Faynberg was awarded

by the President of Russia for his immense contributions to cultural development and the preservation of Russian language and culture. He wrote seven feature film scripts, including “Right in the Sky,” “House under the Hot Sun,” and “Burned under Kandahar.” Additionally, he scripted 18 animated films.

As a translator, Faynberg brought the works of Abdulla Oripov, Khosiyat Rustamova, Sirojiddin Said, and others into Russian. He translated and published ten volumes of Alisher Navoi’s works in Russian. His poem “The Companions of Rubaiyat” vividly portrays Uzbek traditions, making readers smile.

His poetry reflects the timeless connection between past and present, and the warmth and love of the Uzbek people. Uzbek poet Abdulla Oripov once remarked, “No praise could fully capture Faynberg’s genius. He was a rare poet and translator a world-class writer who sang heartfelt songs about our sunny homeland.”

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The sky guards the stars,
The deep sea guards its pearls.
A page torn from my notebook,
Guard the poems I have written.
A poem not just to read or grasp,
A poem a voice echoing in the heart:
Like a trail saving in the taiga,
Like reeds trembling in the lakes.
Each line of mine a soul, each poem a heart,
Kin to the forest, birds, and clouds.
A page torn from my notebook,
Guard my poems one by one.
Let it not be a burden to generations,
Let my poems not suffer in despair,
Like the wind, the sea, and the leaves,
Let them breathe, let them laugh, pure and fair.

Aleksandr Faynberg passed away on October 14, 2009, in Tashkent. He remains a true patriot of his homeland. His memory is eternal, with his poetry collections still cherished, songs composed from his texts, and films based on his scripts. Memorial events and poetry nights continue to celebrate his life and works. His statue stands in the Writers’ Alley, and a scholarship in his name has been established. Faynberg’s contributions as a translator, screenwriter, and poet ensure his place in our hearts forever.

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