

## WISDOM IN “BYGONE DAYS”: A LINGVOCULTURAL ANALYSIS OF ABDULLA QADIRI’S WORK

**Kuchkorova Dilnozakhon Shukhratbekovna**, Phd doctorant of National university of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek. Mobile: +998 97 277 00 93.

Mail: [adilnoza920@gmail.com](mailto:adilnoza920@gmail.com)

**Abstract.** Abdulla Qadiri, one of the pioneering figures in Uzbek literature, holds a unique place in the cultural and intellectual history of Central Asia. His work, particularly the novel “Bygone Days” (“O‘tgan Kunlar”), offers profound insights into the complexities of human relationships, social norms, and moral dilemmas. This article explores the themes of wisdom in Bygone Days, analyzing the linguistic and cultural elements that contribute to its enduring legacy. Written in the early 20th century, Bygone Days reflects a period of transition in Uzbek society, marked by the decline of traditional feudal structures and the rise of modernist ideologies. This era witnessed the tension between old and new, with individuals grappling to reconcile deeply rooted customs with emerging societal changes. Qadiri masterfully captured this dynamic, embedding it within the personal and societal conflicts faced by his characters.

**Key words:** wisdom, linguistic elements, lingvocultural analysis, culture, proverbs.

**Introduction.** Abdulla Qadiri (1894–1938) was a prominent Uzbek writer, playwright, and one of the founders of modern Uzbek literature. His novel “Bygone Days” (O‘tgan kunlar), written in 1925, is widely regarded as the first full-fledged Uzbek novel. It is a classic of Uzbek literature, notable for its portrayal of the social and cultural life of 19th-century Uzbekistan under the rule of the khanates. The novel tells a love story set against a backdrop of political intrigue and societal norms. Through vivid characters and detailed depictions of traditional Uzbek life, Qadiri highlighted issues such as love, loyalty, and the impact of rigid social customs on personal freedom. Bygone Days remains a cornerstone of Central Asian literature, celebrated for its contribution to Uzbek identity and literary heritage.

**METHODS. Historical Context of Abdulla Qadiri’s Work.** To appreciate the wisdom conveyed in Qadiri’s writing, one must first understand the socio-historical backdrop of his work. Written in the early 20th century, Bygone Days reflects a period of transition in Uzbek society, marked by the decline of traditional feudal structures and the rise of modernist ideologies. This era witnessed the tension between old and new, with individuals grappling to reconcile deeply rooted customs

with emerging societal changes. Qadiri masterfully captured this dynamic, embedding it within the personal and societal conflicts faced by his characters.

**DISCUSSIONS. The Theme of Wisdom in Bygone Days.** Wisdom in *Bygone Days* manifests through various dimensions: personal introspection, interpersonal relationships, and societal norms. Qadiri's portrayal of wisdom is deeply intertwined with the cultural and linguistic fabric of Uzbek society, where proverbs, allegories, and poetic expressions serve as vessels of collective knowledge.

**Wisdom Through Characters.** The protagonist, Otabek, embodies the struggle to balance traditional values with modern ideals. His journey is marked by a series of moral and emotional challenges that demand careful deliberation and introspection. Otabek's decisions often reflect a deep understanding of the complexities of human nature and societal expectations, showcasing wisdom not as an innate trait but as a cultivated virtue. For instance, his relationship with Kumush highlights the importance of loyalty, empathy, and communication. Through their interactions, Qadiri underscores the value of listening and understanding as essential components of wisdom. Contrastingly, other characters, such as Yusufbek Hajji, represent the older generation's steadfast adherence to tradition, offering a counterpoint to Otabek's more nuanced perspective.

**Wisdom in Language.** Uzbek language, rich in proverbs and idiomatic expressions, plays a crucial role in conveying wisdom in *Bygone Days*. Qadiri's use of aphorisms serves as a linguistic bridge connecting the reader to the cultural heritage of Central Asia. For example, the proverb "Tilni tiygan boshni saqlaydi" ("He who restrains his tongue saves his head") encapsulates the value of discretion and foresight, themes recurrent throughout the novel. The poetic dialogues and soliloquies within the text further enrich its wisdom. Qadiri's eloquent use of metaphor and symbolism transforms mundane interactions into profound reflections on life's deeper meanings. Such linguistic artistry not only enhances the narrative's emotional depth but also reinforces the cultural identity embedded within the text.

**Cultural Dimensions of Wisdom.** Culturally, *Bygone Days* serves as a repository of Uzbek traditions, ethics, and societal norms. The novel's depiction of mahalla (community) life, family structures, and rites of passage provides a vivid snapshot of the cultural context in which wisdom is cultivated and transmitted. Qadiri portrays wisdom as a communal attribute, emerging through shared experiences and collective memory. One notable aspect is the role of elders as custodians of wisdom. Characters like Yusufbek Hajji and other senior figures are depicted as moral guides, whose advice and admonitions reflect centuries of

accumulated knowledge. However, Qadiri also critiques the rigidity of traditional authority, suggesting that wisdom must evolve to remain relevant in changing times.

**ANALYSIS. Lingvocultural Analysis.** A lingvocultural analysis of *Bygone Days* reveals how language serves as both a medium and a marker of cultural identity. Qadiri's meticulous attention to linguistic detail reflects his deep respect for Uzbek heritage while also addressing universal themes of love, honor, and resilience.

**Symbolism and Allegory.** Symbolism is a cornerstone of Qadiri's narrative technique. For instance, the recurring motif of the mulberry tree symbolizes endurance and continuity, mirroring the resilience of Uzbek culture amid external pressures. Similarly, the imagery of water, often associated with purification and renewal, underscores the transformative power of wisdom.

**The Interplay of Tradition and Modernity.** Qadiri's language captures the tension between tradition and modernity, employing both archaic expressions and contemporary idioms. This linguistic duality mirrors the novel's thematic exploration of generational conflicts and societal evolution. The juxtaposition of formal, poetic language with colloquial speech highlights the fluidity of wisdom as it adapts to new contexts.

**Gendered Perspectives on Wisdom.** The portrayal of female characters in *Bygone Days* offers a nuanced perspective on wisdom. Characters like Kumush and Zaynab exemplify strength, resilience, and emotional intelligence, challenging patriarchal norms and expanding the traditional understanding of wisdom. Through their voices, Qadiri underscores the importance of empathy and intuition as vital components of wise decision-making.

**Enduring Legacy.** *Bygone Days* remains a cornerstone of Uzbek literature, celebrated for its timeless exploration of human nature and societal values. Its portrayal of wisdom transcends cultural and temporal boundaries, resonating with readers across generations. Qadiri's work continues to inspire discussions on the interplay of tradition and progress, individual and community, and the enduring quest for moral clarity.

**RESULTS.** Here are more examples of notable quotations from *Bygone Days* (O'tgan Kunlar) that reflect the wisdom, cultural values, and social dynamics explored in Abdulla Qadiri's novel:

### 1. Wisdom in Silence and Discretion

A prevalent theme in the novel is the importance of restraint, especially in the context of interpersonal relationships and societal conduct.

“Tilni tiygan boshni saqlaydi”

“He who restrains his tongue saves his head.”)

This proverb encapsulates the wisdom of knowing when to remain silent. It is often invoked in situations where characters are tempted to speak impulsively but are reminded that discretion is a virtue that prevents conflict and maintains one’s reputation. In the novel, this concept often guides the actions of characters like Otabek, who learns the value of patience in his relationships.

## **2. Wisdom in Personal Growth and Reflection**

Otabek’s character development throughout the novel is marked by his growing self-awareness and his reflections on his actions.

“Insonga do‘stlik, mehr, va samimiyluk kerak, lekin eng muhimi, o‘zini anglashdir.”

(“A person needs friendship, love, and sincerity, but most importantly, self-awareness.”)

Otabek’s internal journey centers around learning the wisdom of understanding oneself – without which true connections with others cannot be formed. This quote highlights the central theme of emotional intelligence in the narrative, as Otabek strives to balance his desires with his moral obligations.

## **3. The Importance of Patience**

In *Bygone Days*, many characters emphasize the need for patience as a key component of wisdom, particularly in the face of adversity.

“Vaqt o‘zining ishini qiladi, sabr qilgan inson hech qachon zarar ko‘rmaydi.”  
(“Time does its work; a patient person will never suffer harm.”)

This reflection captures the novel’s belief in the power of time and patience to heal wounds and resolve conflicts. Characters who are able to wait and endure hardships, such as Kumush and Yusufbek Hajji, often find peace and resolution in the end.

## **4. Generational Wisdom and Advice**

The wisdom of elders is a recurring theme in *Bygone Days*. The older generation, represented by characters like Yusufbek Hajji, often provides guidance to younger characters who are still navigating the complexities of life.

“Yoshlar hamisha o‘zlarini bilmasdan to‘g‘ri yo‘lni tanlashga harakat qilishadi. Ammo faqat vaqt o‘tgach, ular o‘z xatolarini anglashadi.”  
(“Young people always try to choose the right path without truly understanding it. But only after time passes do they realize their mistakes.”)

This quote, attributed to Yusufbek Hajji, reflects his belief that youth must make mistakes to learn, but wisdom comes with age and experience. It also emphasizes the generational divide in *Bygone Days*, with the older generation

offering wisdom that is often misunderstood or resisted by the younger generation at first.

### **5. Wisdom in Facing Hardships**

Many characters in *Bygone Days* experience personal loss, societal pressure, and other forms of hardship. Their ability to endure these challenges is often framed as a form of wisdom.

“Insonning yuragi yengil bo‘lsa, u to‘g‘ri yo‘lni topadi, lekin yuragi og‘ir bo‘lsa, hech qanday yo‘lni topolmaydi.”

(“If a person’s heart is light, they will find the right path; but if their heart is heavy, they will not find any path.”)

This quotation highlights the importance of inner peace and clarity in guiding one’s actions. It suggests that wisdom is not only about intellect or knowledge but also about emotional balance. Characters who are burdened by anger, jealousy, or regret often find themselves lost or unable to make wise decisions.

### **6. Wisdom in the Role of Women**

Female characters in *Bygone Days*, such as Kumush and Zaynab, demonstrate a different kind of wisdom—one rooted in emotional resilience, intuition, and understanding of human nature.

"Ayolning kuchi, uning sabrida va mehrida. Bir ayolning yuragi butun dunyodan kuchliroqdir."

(“A woman’s strength is in her patience and love. A woman’s heart is stronger than the whole world.”)

This quote highlights the often unrecognized but deeply powerful wisdom embodied by women in the novel. It reflects the emotional intelligence and depth of understanding that women like Kumush display, often guiding the men around them through their empathy and nurturing care.

### **7. Wisdom in Observing the Past**

Abdulla Qadiri often uses the theme of history and reflection to impart wisdom. The older generation in the novel frequently encourages the younger generation to learn from the past in order to avoid making the same mistakes.

“O‘tgan kunlar ko‘p narsani o‘rgatdi, ammo yoshlar doimo yangi yo‘llar izlashadi.”

(“The past has taught us many things, but the youth are always searching for new paths.”)

This quotation speaks to the tension between tradition and innovation. While the older generation believes that wisdom comes from learning from the past, the

younger generation seeks to forge new ways of thinking and living, sometimes disregarding the wisdom passed down to them. This dynamic is a key theme throughout *Bygone Days*.

### **8. Wisdom in the Value of Family**

Family is a central theme in the novel, and many of the decisions made by the characters are influenced by their sense of duty to family and tradition.

"Oilaviy rishtalar eng muhimdir, chunki ular insonga kuch beradi." ("Family ties are the most important because they give strength to a person.") This quote reflects the wisdom of familial bonds, emphasizing how strong family connections provide individuals with the emotional and moral support needed to face life's challenges. In *Bygone Days*, the characters often turn to their families for guidance, protection, and strength.

### **9. The Wisdom of Accepting Fate**

Acceptance of fate is another form of wisdom explored in the novel. Some characters, particularly those who are older or more experienced, come to accept the forces beyond their control.

"Hayotda hamma narsani o'zgartirib bo'lmaydi, ba'zan faqat kutish va qabul qilish kerak." ("In life, not everything can be changed; sometimes one must just wait and accept.")

This piece of wisdom suggests that there are moments in life when resisting change or fighting against fate is futile. Instead, one must learn to accept what cannot be altered, a key lesson in patience and resilience.

### **10. Wisdom in Understanding One's Role**

Throughout the novel, the characters grapple with their roles in society and family. Wisdom is often associated with an understanding of one's position and the responsibility that comes with it.

"Har kim o'zining joyini bilishi kerak, va faqat o'sha joyda u haqiqatan ham baxtli bo'la oladi."

("Everyone must know their place, and only in that place can they truly be happy.")

This quote reflects the wisdom of understanding one's role in life. It emphasizes the idea that fulfillment and happiness come from accepting one's responsibilities and contributing to the greater whole, whether within the family or the community.

**CONCLUSION.** The wisdom found in *Bygone Days* is deeply embedded in the characters' reflections, dialogues, and decisions. Abdulla Qadiri uses both direct quotations and subtle nuances to explore timeless themes of moral and emotional intelligence, generational conflict, the balance between tradition and change, and the

importance of family and community. These quotes reveal how wisdom in the novel is not just about knowledge but about emotional maturity, understanding one's place in the world, and learning from the past. Abdulla Qadiri's *Bygone Days* is more than a literary masterpiece; it is a testament to the enduring power of wisdom as a guiding principle in human life. Through its rich linguistic texture and cultural depth, the novel invites readers to reflect on the complexities of morality, the importance of empathy, and the value of tradition in shaping a just and harmonious society. By analyzing its lingvocultural elements, we gain a deeper appreciation of the intricate tapestry of wisdom that Qadiri wove into his timeless narrative.

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