

# Sharof Rashidov — The Bard Of Love

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## ABSTRACT

This article analyzes Sharof Rashidov's poems about love. Sharof Rashidov's poems and every line in them are born from great love and devotion to the Motherland and its people. This love was manifested in his loyalty to his parents, motherland, people, his beloved land, the warrior who fought valiantly in battles, and his motherland. This sacred feeling not only enriched the poet's heart and inspired him, but also became his lifelong dream and destiny of poetry. In his poems, Sharof Rashidov expressed love for parents, motherland, motherland, people, beloved country, warrior in various ways. The Motherland, the motherland, that Sharaf Rashidov sang in his poems, this is Uzbekistan. Parents, warriors, beautiful people are people who lived and live in this country. Reflecting these in his poems, all the people living in Uzbekistan, no matter when and in what period, with sincere love for the Motherland, live without sparing all their efforts for its prosperity, future and growth. Conclusions are given in the article about motivation to work.

**Keywords:** Word, writer, character, poet, literature, art, poetry, love, loyalty, perseverance, heart.

## INTRODUCTION

Sharof Rashidov was an outstanding statesman and public figure, as well as a well-known poet and writer and a publicist. Throughout his long, multifaceted career, he carried out many noble deeds—something everyone knows. The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, once said:

“Sharof Rashidov lived his entire life doing good for his people and for all sincere, well-intentioned individuals, uniting them on the path toward lofty goals and mobilizing them for noble deeds. This noble, wise, and broad-minded person, no matter what turbulent trials he faced, always remained faithful to high humanistic ideals and left a good name and an undying memory in the hearts of our people.”

In Sharof Rashidov's article dedicated to Alisher Navoi, the following words appear:

“Before analyzing Navoi's poetry, let us also note that he was a child of his time. While serving genuine poetry, truth, the people, and the Motherland with devotion, Navoi believed he was right and that he was defending justice; but when it came to putting these ideals into practice, he encountered the resistance of a vile environment and burned with anguish.”

These words also relate to his own life and creative work. Speaking at a ceremony in November 1992, the First President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, said:

“Sharof Rashidov is a person who sacrificed his life to glorify the Uzbek name by demonstrating its highest virtues. For this reason, he has taken a worthy place in the heart of our people and has earned their affection.” [2, p. 19]

Sharof Rashidov began his creative path, like many writers, by composing poetry in the second half of the 1930s. His published poems stood out for their closeness to the people and for his confidence in himself:

“Giving my inspiration mighty wings,  
my country will blossom and bear flowers.”

The confidence in one’s heart becomes firm only when one values time and serves the Motherland.

It would be hard to find a person who has not read Sharof Rashidov’s poetic collections “Samarkand Songs” and “My Wrath”, or his works “The Victors” (1953), “Stronger Than the Storm” (1958), “The Powerful Wave” (1964), “The Song of Kashmir” (1957), “Komde and Mudan” (1959), “The Cosmos” (1960), “The Heart’s Command”, and others. Studying the poet’s vivid and distinctive personality, his childhood and youthful character, his behaviors, his attitude toward life, nature, and people, and how all of this is reflected in his work is important and relevant not only from the standpoint of literary studies, but also as an instructive lesson in understanding our own identity. The maturity or weakness of a creative work, first and foremost, depends on the person who created it.

Sharof Rashidov’s poems—and every line within them—are born of great love and devotion to the Motherland and to his people. This love is expressed in devotion to one’s parents, to the homeland, to the people, to a beloved, to a warrior who fought bravely in battles, and to the native soil. It can be said that this sacred feeling not only enriched the poet’s heart and gave him ardent inspiration, but also became his lifelong dream and aspiration, and his poetic destiny.

A single day of life is equal to centuries,  
Its meaning vast—like our exalted happiness...  
My heart beats with love of the Motherland,  
My greatest wish is with love of the Motherland.

In Sharof Rashidov’s poems, we can see love in various forms: for parents, for the Motherland, for the native land, for his people, for a beloved, for a warrior, and more. In his poem titled “Love of the Motherland”, the poet’s devotion to the Motherland and to his people is vividly felt. His love for the homeland enchanted him throughout his life; therefore, he devoted all his affection and his entire life to the flourishing and prosperity of the Motherland, lived by doing good for it, and was ready to sacrifice his life for its sake:

My happiness gleams like light,  
O Motherland, with the joy you give us.  
My love for you is great—  
Let my soul and body be sacrificed to you.

Fiery youth surges forward  
To conquer the wide expanse.  
Love of the Motherland, without doubt, impels  
One to be swift as falcons.  
Such is our life—  
Day by day it will move ahead.

Giving my inspiration mighty wings,  
My country will blossom and bear flowers! [4, p. 30]

In the poem “I Have a Land of Flowers”, he feels pride in the Motherland and takes joy in it. Rejoicing that he was born in this land and is a child of this homeland, he reflects this feeling in his verses:

My heart is filled each moment with its love,  
I have a free land—my flowered Motherland.  
In this meadow I am fortunate,  
I have my garden—my playful, blooming glade. [4, p. 32]  
“Sharof Rashidov knows life—its deep current—thoroughly, profoundly, and portrays it in detail. Because he understands events well, his depictions are highly true

to life. His pen does not write invented, artificial incidents. The writer's eye is sharp; he sketches real-life situations with great precision and clarity. He created weighty scenes that provide a basis for philosophical and meaningful generalizations. Accordingly, his word is colorful and captivating.” [1, p. 77]

In the poem “Ode to the Motherland”, he conveys that while a person lives in this world, it is itself a счастье to live in such a beautiful homeland; and that all people, feeling pride, should live by devoting themselves to it—indeed, being ready to sacrifice their lives for it:

To live is happiness and bliss in such a homeland,

Its warmth and love surge within this very body.

My blessed days, my prosperous life—

My Motherland itself gave me my name.

By its light I grew, I opened my eyes,

From its eyes I took light into mine and spread it.

As my heart beats with love of the Motherland,

I rejoice—I will live in a golden palace. [4, p. 35]

In the poem “I Came for You”, speaking in the voice of a warrior, he says he has come to the battlefield to sacrifice his life for the Motherland, declaring that he is ready to die for it:

I loved you, Motherland—my love is sacred,

Every pure-hearted person loves you.

You are my soul, my honor; you are dear to me.

Here is the front, here is the battle—I came for you. [4, p. 61]

In the poem “Fight”, he expresses his love for the warrior, his trust, and his wishes as follows:

I want you to be the day's bright sun,

The night's unextinguished star.

Be the eye of justice—

Fight, my life, my all. [4, p. 56]

In “Bravo”, he reflects on the warrior's courage, valor, and fierce drive, expressing his sincere love in these lines:

Your fame spread across the land, brave youth—bravo!

From your courage a storm poured down upon the foe—bravo!

Your sword is sharpened on the stone of vengeance and justice,

You have a fury that is disaster to the enemy, laid them low—bravo!

To turn the foe to ash and scatter it to the sky is a lofty duty,

For your people you cut down the enemy—valiant champion—bravo! [4, p. 53]

In the poem “Warrior”, addressing those who fought bravely, he emphasizes that one day all people will remember them, and that for this, one must defend the Motherland with one's whole heart and soul. In doing so, the poet has in mind not only the soldier on the battlefield, but also those who, in life, struggled for the homeland and for its flourishing:

We are warriors—warriors of the people,

This name is the Motherland's gift to us;

“Those who bring slaughter to the enemy”—

Such is the warrior's name today.

Years will pass, centuries will pass,

Yet the warrior's name will always be remembered.

In the lands where this brave warrior once lived,

A radiant life will be built. [4, p. 65]

In the poem “Father”, he speaks of the fathers living in this homeland, conveys his boundless love for them, and urges people to value them and take pride in them:

Your waist is full of strength, your eyes are full of light,

In you, thought has risen as high as my era.

Blood glows in your face like that of a young man,

From the passion of cotton you take delight.

My land has said to you a thousand times “bravo,”

The glory of old age is drowned in praise.

As a memento of victorious years,

On your chest the emblem of honor shines with light. [4, p. 69]

In “I Fell in Love”, he describes being enamored of a beautiful beloved and how this love gives him joy; he portrays the beloved’s charm and allure, her beauty, through the language of love:

I gave my heart to my beloved and made her traces my kohl;

Placing her love within my soul, I fell in love with her drowsy eyes.

My delight grows from the beauty of the beloved; in my heart love is a mine—

I fell in love with her pomegranate-like face, the ornament of my life.

I entered the garden of youth—if I am loved and if I love, it is worth it;

And in my heart my dream grows—I fell in love with that wondrous rose. [4, p. 80]

“Sharof Rashidov is such a wide-ranging creator that he continually gives his assessment of the important events taking place in every inch of a rising Uzbekistan.” [1, p. 67] For instance, in the poem “Water and Light”, he reflects on the native land and everything within it:

Water! The saffron leaf longs for it,

The parched soil longs for it.

Neither flower blooms nor nightingale sings—

Gardens and orchards are dry, yearning...

Water is the people’s tenderness and blessing,

Water is the people’s adornment and beauty.

If water flows full in the irrigation canals,

That is the ornamented art of this land. [4, p. 49]

The homeland, the native soil that Sharof Rashidov sang of in his poems is Uzbekistan. The parents, the warrior, and the beautiful beloved are the people who lived and live in this homeland. By depicting them in his poetry, he encourages all those living in Uzbekistan—no matter when or in what era—to love the Motherland sincerely and to live, work, and, if necessary, sacrifice themselves without sparing any strength or effort for its prosperity, future, and advancement. He himself lived by this principle.

Sharof Rashidov wrote: “The novella created in 1951, called ‘Toliblar’, emerged as an organic continuation of the poems and essays I wrote during my фронт days and in the first years after the war. In them I strove to express my attitude toward what the people and the country were living by, and to convey those things that stirred my peers and inspired my compatriots to heroism—both in battles and in the labor fronts behind the lines.” [3, p. 7]

The well-known Russian writer and General Secretary of the Writers’ Union, Aleksandr Fadeyev, said: “Sharof Rashidovich, you have a remarkable talent—never put down your pen. My only просьба is: write.” Similar acknowledgments were expressed by other famous writers as well. In turn, “Sharof Rashidov also respected writers of other nations and was close friends with some of them. He would travel to Makhachkala to meet and talk with the renowned Avar poet Rasul Gamzatov. He officially received prominent writers who visited our republic. At the same time, he supported young talented creators. Sharof Rashidov’s services were great in helping such poets as Erkin Vohidov, Abdulla Oripov, and Halima Khudoyberdieva take bold steps in the literary arena.” [1, p. 77]

“The fact that Sharof Rashidov—whose life and творческий path became inseparably intertwined with the fate of our people—continues to live in the hearts of our compatriots and lovers of literature is testified by the unparalleled literary legacy he left us.” [1, p. 88]

One may say that he also acknowledged this about himself

in his article dedicated to Navoi: “The history of humanity and its многоотысячелетняя cultural heritage shows that those who closely link their судьба and creativity with the fate of the people live for centuries in the hearts of generations.” Sharof Rashidov’s works imbued with national spirit and humanism—his poetry, his boundless love, affection, and devotion to the Motherland and to the people living in it, and the noble deeds he performed—are important in educating selfless and well-rounded individuals in our country.

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