



SELECTED UZBEK POETRY



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(in the English language)

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This collection of poems contains manifold genres of Uzbek poetry; arooz, lyrics, romantic poems, songs, an epic poem, dramatic poem, aphorisms and children's poetry. Besides them there are original poems of the translator which proves her ability, talent and artistic vision not only in re-creating of source texts but inclination to creative writing in English. And important item of this collection is the description of transition to another rhythm to another poetic foot in re-creation of poems written in arooz genre.

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ORIF GULKHANIY SAMARKANDIY was born in 1879 in Khojakishlok settlement in Samarkand. At the age of five he became an orphan and was brought up by his mother Maksadmoh and uncle Makhmudjon. On finishing school with high grades firstly he studied at Ulugbek, Sherdor and Orifjonboy madrasahs then in Mir Arab madrasah in Bukhara.

Orif studied creative works of outstanding representatives of classic literature as Rudakiy, Ibn Sino, Umar Khayom, Saadiy, Hofiz, Navoiy, Fuzuliy, Bedil and others, and under their influence he himself began to write verses.

At his early ages Orif took an active part in literary activities organized under the leadership of famous poet Said Akhmad Vasiliiy. Soon Orif was recognized as poet GulKhaniy (a pen name) which means “being in flame”, “burst into flame”.

He did his best in developing education, at the same time he worked hard at writing gazels. He continued the tradition of classical literature by writing verses in two languages Tajik and Uzbek.

There are more 300 verses in archives. If you cast you glance at pages of his books you will see the image of the poet who wrote in various styles which sweeten ears of yours. His fluent, fairest gazelles and mukhamases are still being sung by our hofizers (singers).

On the occasions of celebration of the 4th year of Independence of Uzbekistan Republic according to the order of Samarkand region hokim the evening party dedicated to the poet's life and activity was held in 1995 in Samarkand city.

Lately the poet had written a true fairy tale “Volga Don story”, some dostonas as “Alisher Navoiy”, “Turkman Channal”.

He was the author of a lot of poetry booklets that are kept in the bookcases of poetry fans.

The man of art and science Orif GulKhaniy Samarakandiy died in 1955 at the age of 76.

1. 'Tis you, Navoiy, is said to be the guide of poet Orifiy,
It's by you into Majnun and Farhod was turned GulKhaniy.

2. A love to Homeland, to his fairest flowery dales comes not to an
end,

Among lots of lands a blazing torch is our dear Uzbekistan.

3. If one takes stand against peace, he's said out of his mind,
He's alike a beast in the desert who owns not a bit of mind.

Human beings are honored owing to their true deeds and nobility,
The words said by GulKhaniy are not false they're said with sincerity.

4. 'Tis not just to turn the nation of hopeful fortune into slaves,
A sound man into sick, a man of pride into a plaintive one

5. If one boasts that his name is praised so high, on a new plain
The earth warns, “No matter in my low bed he will be lain”.

6. What I could do except being in flames all day and night,
I wish I'd ever blaze, into ashes be reduced don't want I.

7. The harvest in autumn would be rich if spring does his best,
One owns wealth and honor if his self-lightning resembles spring acts.
Gulkhaniy don't be so joyous and proud, it's not proper to the point at
all,

They were so perfect as on my firm belief they've been erected all,
But they were made to stop their existence, they were made to fall.

8. Don't tell your secret to any friend of yours,
Though he's proved to be trusty, a man of his words.
Gulkhaniy says his neck by sorrows was bent,
Let it be bent, not let the others have them on their neck.

9. My love to our Land's unending, it lives in verses of mine,
The life in this land's everlasting and we live in this flowery dwelling.
10. One's said to be blind if he's illiterate, he can see but sees
scarcely,
You, friend, take a pen and make notes, learn the alphabet carefully.
11. All slanderous acts are common with rotten, heartless ones,
Expose them, their immoral tricks, don't make a fuss.
12. You, my son turn to men of wise, if to be good at talks you want,
A word by you learned is worth than a hundred pearls you earned.
- If anybody does you good show your gratitude to him,
Try a man of man to be, do him good as much as you can.
Let your flowery gardens and dales ever be in bloom,
Let them be a place of enjoyment let their flowers not fade soon.
13. If you want to be in your cups with Gulkaniy have a talk,
Don't ask grape trees for wine when under them you walk.
14. You'll gain no race if you aimed at it not from the depth of your
heart,
They are all dark dreams, your actions are found not to be right.
Property owned by wrong ways doesn't any joy impart,
A man dealing with lawless jobs can't live a happy life.
15. All that's valuable is gained by guidance of our men,
Life is valued high death is just confirmed by our men,
You, Gulkaniy, wake up, let your eyes see the light,
Where men of wise meet there a flight of wit is shown right.
16. Till I am alive, this motto will dwell in my mind,
Writing will be my slogan my verses are pledge of mine,
17. Though we'll not be able to take rank with great writers' stand,
We do write, may be our verses will remind us to our men.
Though Gulkaniy is at his age and not sound at times,
Yet, he won't give up writing he cares not of wasting time.

18. Our soil is fertile and our men make it perfectly be used,
Therefore we are rich, everything we have is said to be good.
19. Those beauteous bodies of silver, curls that sweeten the air,
Will pass one by one in front of me, who hoped by them beheld.
But you'll not beheld, not cared for by them, Gulkhaniy, be aware.
Yet, let you be at age or young being beloved has been ever man's
desire.
20. Where there's water there the earth gives a birth to life,
Where there's water there caravan stops to have a rest at night,
Where there's no water there's nor any profit nor any fun,
Where there's no water there flourishing cities turn into slums.
21. A poet gains his point by depicting his people's ways of life,
If he keeps not to the point, let him not even a word to write.
22. Promising on oath, promises keeping are appreciated here,
The word friendship is valued high and respected here.
23. My dear, you've been worshipped owing to your noble deeds,
And you live a happy life you've become owner of flowery fields.

You've joined the festivities of beauties as fair as you are,
Having been blessed by God you've found your virgin love there ...
24. I tell you, minstrel, let your tanbur play in tune,
Let me enjoy these sweetest melodies now and soon.
Fling those notes over Gulkhaniy's ear, by singing songs.
I'll give you my heart, only tell me where wine is poured,
I ask you my merely for wine, to be in my cups I want.
25. Fans and devoted ones are in love with your gracious behavior,
They spread all they have under your feet when you come near.
Let my eyelids be used as a ground you ever land,
Only I'm afraid, your tiny feet make my fair eyelashes be flat.
26. If it depends on your part never force one's soul to moan,
Remember, owing to your good nature you'll come into your own.

27. Let Gulkhaniy's name be spoken, my mistress, I tell you they are wrong,
Those flowerbeds care not of the flower that has got a thorn.
28. My dear, I'm going to tell your about collaboration, high praised,
When you're given a chance use it for getting mastership, being well trained.
29. I don't put great price upon me, though I'm a man of pride,
I'm the most modest of modest ones, I set little price upon my flight.
30. If you have a remedy for a troubled soul, give him it right away,
Play the part of engineer let that dwelling be full of ray.
31. The web of life is as thin as the webs by spiders weaved,
Don't care of that man and his words which out of their right place used.
32. Sometimes to church, sometimes for other praying place I leave,
And nobody takes care of my spiritual life I live.
33. Mind your tongue, don't speak with your tongue in your cheek,
Be a man of endearment, to everybody fair speak.
34. As soon as I left that unknown dwelling for real world.
Thanks to my deeds, I've found my land, there now I dwell.
35. If even a brick on the foundation is put in the wrong way,
The building will not stand firm long it'll be doomed to decay.
36. Let your heart not be nursed by vanity and pride so high
Otherwise such training will set you at troubles all your life.
- Keep your promise, the word you said before don't deny,
The author who breaks his faith is good for nothing guy.
37. Noble intentions can't be valued by evil, heartless ones,
Vanity, a lie, out of place fights can live, but live their shortest life.
38. Choose the right road as straight and graceful as maiden's pose,

Making friends with trusty ones must be a motto of yours.

39. Disputes of opponents held once might be forgotten,
Deeds performed by our friends might be forgotten too,

Till you breathe do your best in your creative activity,
Then your words of wisdom will be remembered by humanity.

40. "There's no use to cry over split milk" Gulkhaniy says.
You'll have to bear your fault, shift not the blame on anyone else.

41. You have to think it over and over Gulkhaniy,
As you're have to care of your generation, as you say.

42. Be a man of your word, poet Gulkhaniy, make not a fuss.
"As you sow you will mow; they say, make these words just".

43. Though bold, well-natured, a man of dignity you are,
Avoid the talks made by men of vice wherever you are.

44. If one's considered not to be owner of any knowledge,
He sees not clearly which road to prosperity, which road to poverty
leads.

45. Don't be rude, don't force anyone to moan, lose his nerve,
Confidence, respect and adornment of your people you deserve.

46. Gulkhaniy be in your time as in web of life you are.
Pray for men of good will till safe and sound you are.

47. Though dressed in your best, it won't be a reason for taking pride.
They might bend the knee to you, but it might be tricks of a man of
vice.

48. I am ever in flames let it be night or day,
Taking fire, being born again is my peculiar way.

49. The world looks like a cup that's golden,
His waters sometimes sweet, sometimes tastes as poison,

Don't be boaster don't be sure that you'll live a long life,
Death ever makes his horse be ready towards men to ride.

50. The light of my eyes, I always tell you to be aware.
A foe is used doing harm, behold, and come not to him near.

51. Do take care of your parents, be worthy of them ever,
Preserve their good names under the same purest cover.

52. Do your best, revive memories of men passed away,
Noble men, noble deeds must not be forgotten in any way.

53. Dear mothers and you the fairest sisters take care of your kids,
Put them on your bosom, give suck to them they need.
Let them be witty, be wise and be just too,
Make them be dressed in clothes of nobility too.

54. All you have told above is true, Gulkhaniy, as I see.
As the slogan of poets is telling the truth must be.

55. Gulkhaniy give your ear to wise words let no one feel sorrow and
grief
Don't follow men of false, get used promises to keep.
56. Let you in the seventh heaven be, take a view of the man whose
neck's bent,
Show your pity to that man, by your men you'll be blessed then.
Be awaken wide, get aware of everything is held,
Choose the road along which men of wise used to walk.

57. Having witty mind guess the secrets of the earth
Describe your findings with your true words.
They say, true words must be used in their own place,
Tell everyone the truth let him be a friend or a foe of yours.

58. Come into the room where wine's poured, take a seat you want.
And I'll pour the wine into a cup or a glass you hold,
Have the wine more and more till you face as the sunset gets red.
If you prefer to be in wine though you're becoming old,
You'll feel as if that wine gives you power to go ahead.

Don't aim at having too much of all,
Remember, "Grasp all, and lose all"

59. If once you pass by one's grave so low, and poor,
Make a pause, bend the knee to him, my friend dear
Take a seat at the bed foot of the grave to give him honor,
It's likely your forefathers lie in their deathbeds there,
They ask you for nothing, only say some words below your breath,
You're wanted to pray for those who paid the debt to nature,
My friend, till you draw breath, for praying open your hands.

60. Gulkhaniy I am, I've been ever fond of a flame,
The words "love" and "beloved" always matched my name.
Thanks to my deeds I've been honored by my men.
My pen name's Gulkhaniy, which means burst into flame.

OLIMJON ORIFIY (1913-1988)

Olimjon is the son and follower of poet Orif Gulkhaniy. Having been a teacher of biology and chemistry he did well in creative writing. He wrote as his father in Tajik and Uzbek languages. His verses and gazels were published in the books "Mehrnama" and "Shukrona". He wrote about friendship among peoples, about true love that should be shown to men and Homeland.

Olimjon Orify's words of wisdom

1. Orify says, "Our motherland as dear as our mother is",
And being at their service our honorable duty is."
2. Our dreams burst into blossom thanks to the fairest time we live,
The dreams soaked with fragrance sweeten the air we breathe in.
3. Come to Samarkand if you want to enjoy its gardens in bloom,
To the city that's ever been a precious mirror under the moon.
4. If one aims at working hard, he'll become a owner of wealth.
If he aims at dealing with trade, it means that he's in his true place.
If one has the habit of boasting he'll not come to good,

If he not used promises to keep he can't do anything good.

5. Don't praise yourself try by your people to be praised first,
Nobody by no one's praised, if he's idle, keen on having a rest

6. He won't be a man in deed and in name if he not used to carry out
his plan.

If he cares not to be at his people's service, he won't be respected by his
men,

If you tenderly look after each bud, it'll burst into a bloom,

If you don't give it water, source of life, it will fade soon.

7. The great men are usually called masters, the most merited name,
I've written about them much, but still I look for words to peal their
fame.

8. The apple of my eyes is my land, she's dearer than my life, so
dear,

By making plans, carrying them out I've done good in my sphere.

9. Listen to me now and then, don't make friend with faithless ones,
Have talks with your true friend, ignore those false ones.

10. Show your love to those at age, that makes good influence on
youth.

It'll make you be raised in rank by your sire you'll be blest.

11. The most fairest trait of a man is being modest and frank,
Having been modest those well known persons came to rank.

12. Don't torture one's heart, pray for his conscience sake,
As heart is as frail as glass into peaces it can break.

13. If he greets you making a bow, be polite in greeting him too,
Humaneness of men is proved with their behavior too.

14. Don't depart from your will of being close to your nation,
If you don't care of your men, your name won't be mentioned.

15. Among all traits of men being good natured is said to be best,

The man of good nature is worshipped by his nation and the rest.

16. Do you best in trade, try to choose a useful trend,
Thanks to your abilities you'll earn your food and bread

17. One usually uses a candle to cast a light upon his talk,
Otherwise his speech will sound gloomy, the words keep dark.

18. Try to be a man of wisdom show a flight of wit, be polite.
The words of wisdom into your people's heart you import.

19. If you wish no harm to you would be done.
Be blessed by your parents, at their service be, my son.

20. Be good at work take care of the job you start.
Then you'll make the grade, you'll ever be in your men's sight.

21. If you intend to give a grade to anyone think of measures of valuation,
Consult the friends of yours, and then draw conclusion.

22. There's a saying, "Handsome is as handsome does"
And I meet such handsome ones by every dwelling I pass.

23. Fund of knowledge is unending as books are its source,
Turn your mind to each letter, to each mark you've come across.

24. If anybody's blamed for doing something wrong, say it to his face.
A true friend tells the truth, though it sounds bitter, but it's better than sweet lies.

25. If he not knows what love is, endearment of his maid seems to him unfair,
Let me cast a glance at her, but not at my mistress, I'll have my fault to bear.

26. A men of good will of prosperity and happiness thinks
A man of evil mind looks on the vicious side of things.

27. Man of courage is honored owing to his deeds and activity.
When he makes a desert be a flowery land to enjoy the sight of liberty.

28. Friendships, modesty, sweetness of tongue are reward of beauty.
Those beauteous traits are seen in the deeds of a man of nobility.
29. True lover shows love to his sweetheart, of her he takes care.
False love forces his beloved to suffer, webs of love to tear.
30. Be leader, but don't put high price upon you
At your people's service be; let your people bless you.
31. Books give a birth to knowledge, gardens bear fruit so sweet,
They are books that bid you work, where there's sweat there's sweet.
32. I live my happiest life owing to my attempts I've made.
May you live long, my friend thanks to your trade you owned your fame.
33. My Land, lot of tulips makes your flowery dales look so nice.
Beauteous sunlit faces go far a walk there not only once,
Orify as a nightingale sings in his highest notes there,
The roses that sweeten the air of gardens are also there.
34. With flowers cover the graves as human beings lie there.
For your bliss they gave their lives so dear,
Call their names to your mind bend the knee to them.
As our friends, the rarest men of miracles and science lie there.
35. Orify expose lawless acts of those who are keen on doing harm,
Turn to them with bitter words bend their neck with your arm.
36. Chose the right points of departure, avoid the roads vicious, curve,
Otherwise you'll be damned, hatred of your people you'll deserve.
37. Orify unmark the tricks of self – interested men.
It's your duty as you are an observer of the time you live in.
38. Identify the meaning of the words by Orify used,
Remind those greedy ones, "All covet, all lose"

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I am Dina Sultanova but my people call me Dinara. I was born in Russia and raised in Uzbekistan in Samarkand region which has become my homeland. After graduating from high school I have been teaching English and its aspects and theory and practice of translation, more than 45 years, firstly, at the University, later at Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages. I had ever known I would teach and do something in me new. So I spent my mature years translating works of English, American, Scotch, and Uzbek poets, did with poetry writing. I have published my re-created poems, wrote a manual on poetry translation.

I have chosen poetry translation not as a hobby but as fond profession because I enjoy making contribution to broadening intercultural literary communication. Poetry is considered to be enormous power in making influences on young generation's beliefs and behavior. Translations enlarge the readers' understanding of a work of literature namely poetry, a miracle of mother tongue.

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