

**LESSONS OF WAR IN GAFUR GULOM'S POEMS – THE PRICELESS  
VALUE OF PEACE**

**Shodiyeva Gulnoza**

Tashkent state university of law 2<sup>nd</sup> year student.

The faculty of international law and comparative legislation

**Annotation:** This article examines the lessons of war reflected in Gafur Gulom's poetry and analyzes their relevance in today's world. It explores the deeper meanings conveyed through the poet's verses, his creative achievements, biographical background, and his contribution to both world and national literature. The paper also highlights the thematic essence of the poems that hold a significant place in the writer's life and artistic legacy.

**Keywords;** Literature, poetry, Gafur Gulom, national literature, stories, novels, People's poet of Uzbekistan, "Time", "Longing", "Remember", "Your homeland awaits you", peace.

### **1. Introduction**

When speaking about Uzbek literature, it is impossible not to mention one of its most prominent figures - People's poet of Uzbekistan and academician Gafur Gulom. He was born on May 10, 1903, in the Qo'rg'ontepa neighborhood of Tashkent. His childhood, which should have been filled with play and laughter, coincided with the years of the First World War (1914–1918).<sup>1</sup> Gafur Gulom lost his father at the age of nine and, not long after, his mother at fifteen, this becoming an orphan at an early age. Although the war was not taking place far from Uzbekistan - in distant European countries - its cold breath still reached and affected his homeland. The conflict made people's lives increasingly difficult due to rising prices and shortages of food and essential goods. Experiencing such hardships left a lasting impact on the young writer's heart. Later in life, Gafur Gulom brought these early impressions to life through his stories, novellas, and poems, transforming his childhood memories into powerful artistic reflections.

### **2. Depiction of war in Gafur Gulom's creative works**

When examining Gafur Gulom's creative legacy, it becomes evident that he achieved great success in both poetry and prose. Although his childhood began during the years of the First World War, the tragic events of the Second World War also left a deep and lasting mark on his life and literary work. During this period, he created some of his most well-known poems, including "Time", "Longing", "You are not an orphan", "There will be a celebration on our street too", and "Remember", "Your homeland awaits you". The poem "Time", written in 1945 to commemorate the victory over fascism, reflects on the transience of life through powerful

<sup>1</sup> Ahmedov S., Qo'chqorov R., Rizayev Sh. Literature: Textbook-Collection for Grade 6, Part I. Tashkent: "Ma'naviyat," 2017, p. 11.

metaphors. The poet compares the time it takes for a flower to bloom to the brief lifespan of a butterfly — which lives, at most, one day. He then extends this imagery by suggesting that for humanity to exist and live, countless stars must fade away. Through this comparison, Gafur Gulom emphasizes the priceless nature of time, its fleeting essence, and the necessity of cherishing every moment.

Here, the poet reflects on the human desire for long life, reminding readers that the value of life lies not in its length but in its meaning. Some people may live briefly yet leave behind memories that last forever. For Gafur Gulom, such individuals truly live eternally through their legacy. Thus, the poet concludes that it is not how long a person lives that matters, but how they live. He further illustrates that within a single moment, the fate of many people unfolds — births, deaths, and life's most profound experiences all occur in these fleeting instants. Finally, by comparing a moment to spring, the poet draws a symbolic link between the vitality of youth and the beauty of meaningful memories. Another notable example is Gafur Gulom's poem "Longing", written in 1942.<sup>2</sup> At first glance, the line "like a lonely camel calf left behind by a great caravan" may seem puzzling. However, its deeper meaning reveals the pain of a father left behind by his son who has gone to war. The poet portrays the father as feeling utterly alone in the world, like an abandoned calf in a vast desert. Through the words "tell me, O Sun", the poet conveys the father's desperate yearning to know whether his son is still alive. In this way, Gafur Gulom captures the delicate emotions of wartime life, enabling readers to feel the sorrow and tenderness of that era. Among his war-themed poems, "Remember, Your Homeland Awaits You" — written on May 18, 1941 — stands out for its expression of parental love and patriotic devotion. This poem embodies the timeless principle expressed in the saying, "Do not only seek to be a scholar, but strive to be a good person." Gafur Gulom emphasizes that while gaining knowledge and mastering skills are important, their true value lies in using them to serve one's country. If a person's education and abilities do not benefit their homeland, what is their worth? Through this poem, the poet underscores that love for one's country is not shown through words alone but through dedication, hard work, and noble deeds.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, a close study of the poet's life and creative legacy reveals that Gafur Gulom's works teach profound lessons from war — most importantly, the necessity of understanding the priceless value of time. Having experienced hardship, the horrors of war, and their consequences, the poet dedicated much of his career to emphasizing the importance of peace. This message can clearly be seen in the content and ideas of his poems such as "Time," "Longing," "You Are Not an Orphan," and "Remember, Your Homeland Awaits You". Studying Gafur Gulom's wartime literature is not merely a reflection on the past; it is also a means of drawing moral and spiritual lessons from human experience and instilling the ideals of patriotism in future generations. Peace allows people to live in harmony, pursue their dreams, and contribute to the progress of science and creativity. Through the study of the poet's works — which occupy an important place in his life — we can fully grasp the essential truth that time and peace are the greatest treasures for humankind.

<sup>2</sup> Olim S., Ahmedov S., Qo'chqorov R. Literature: Textbook for Grade 8. Tashkent: G'afur G'ulom Publishing and Printing Creative House, 2019, p. 110.

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