



THE ROLE OF SAYFI SAROYI IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF
UZBEK LITERATURE

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ANNOTATION: *This article provides a comprehensive analysis of the life and creative activity of Sayfi Saroyi based on historical and literary sources. It scientifically examines his role in the development of Turkic literature, his mastery as a translator, and his artistic-aesthetic views.*

ABSTRACT: *This article is devoted to highlighting the life and creative activity of Sayfi Saroyi, a prominent representative of 14th-century Turkic literature. The research analyzes the poet's role as a translator and writer, the historical and cultural environment in which he lived and created, and the social factors that influenced his творчество.*

The article examines the main stages of Sayfi Saroyi's life, particularly his activities connected with Khorezm, Sarai, Egypt, and Turkey, based on historical sources. The significance of his work "Guliston bit-turkiy" in the development of Turkic literature is revealed. Furthermore, the reflection of homesickness and the tragedies of the era in the poet's works is evaluated from a scholarly perspective.

Key words: *Sayfi Saroyi, 14th-century Turkic literature, translation, "Guliston bit-turkiy," Sarai city, Golden Horde, moral-didactic ideas, literary environment.*

INTRODUCTION

The 14th century Turkic literature represents an important stage in the spiritual and cultural development of the East. The literary processes of this period developed in close connection with socio-political changes, historical transformations, and intercultural relations. Particularly after the Mongol invasion, the literary environment formed in Central Asia and adjacent regions created the foundation for a new stage in the development of Turkic written literature.



One of the writers who lived and created during such a complex and contradictory historical period was Sayfi Saroyi, who holds an important position in the history of Turkic literature as both a poet and a translator.

Sayfi Saroyi was born in 1321 in the Qamishli area of the Khorezm oasis. According to sources, he received his initial education there. His pursuit of knowledge led him to the city of Sarai, one of the major political and cultural centers of the 14th century. As the capital of the Golden Horde state, Sarai was known not only as a political center but also as a scientific and intellectual hub. Scholars, jurists, thinkers, and poets from various regions were active there, and such a multicultural environment played an important role in shaping Sayfi Saroyi's worldview and творческое развитие.

Historical sources indicate that the period in which Sayfi Saroyi lived and worked was associated with the reigns of Uzbek Khan's sons — Tini Beg and Jani Beg. During this time, political instability, social tension, and migration processes intensified. This historical situation forced many creators to leave their homeland and continue their work in other regions. The themes of exile, separation from homeland, complaint against fate, and human suffering that dominate Sayfi Saroyi's poetry can be explained by these historical and socio-economic factors. These moods reflected in his lyrics allow his works to be evaluated as important socio-psychological sources.

The most significant monument of Sayfi Saroyi's creative heritage is "Guliston bit-turkiy," which is a creative translation of the famous "Gulistan" by the great Persian-Tajik poet Sa'di Sherozi. Unlike literal translation, this work is distinguished by its free and creative interpretation. During the translation process, Sayfi Saroyi skillfully demonstrated the semantic and stylistic possibilities of the Turkic language, effectively using folk vocabulary, proverbs, and wise expressions. As a result, "Guliston bit-turkiy" gained a firm place in the history of Turkic literature not merely as a translation but as an independent artistic and aesthetic monument.

In this regard, Sayfi Saroyi's work represents an important stage in the formation of Turkic translation traditions. His literary heritage is considered to have



influenced later poets, particularly Alisher Navoiy. The moral-didactic ideas, humanistic principles, and aesthetic views expressed in his works appear as an integral continuation of Eastern literary thought.

Thus, Sayfi Saroyi lived and worked in Movarounnahr and in Sarai, the capital of the Golden Horde state. He was also active in Egypt and Turkey. His works indicate that he served one of the Egyptian rulers and, due to old age or weakness, requested permission to return to his homeland:

Ilohiy bu qari miskin qulingni,
Bag‘ishla, ko‘rguzub to‘g‘ri yo‘lingni.
Maliklar rasmidur dilshod qilmoq,
Qarisa qullarin ozod qilmoq.
Qari yorli quling Sayfi Saroyi,
Faqiru benavo lutfing gadoyi.
Ani lutfing bilan dilshod qilg‘il,
Bag‘ishlab yozuqin ozod qilg‘il.

The poet is estimated to have died around 1396. His contribution to the development of Uzbek literature is invaluable. A number of ghazals, qasidas, qit‘as, and rubaiyat, as well as the epic “Suhayl and Guldursun,” “Sinbondnoma,” and his free translations of “Guliston,” have reached us. In addition, the original poetic passages and masnavis included in the translation of Sa‘di’s “Gulistan” also belong to Sayfi Saroyi’s creative heritage.

Jahon shoirlari, ey gulshani bog‘,
Kimi bulbuldurur so‘zda, kimi zog‘.
Kimi to‘ti tegin chaynar shakarni,
Kimi lafzi bilan o‘rtar durarni.
Kimining so‘zlari mavzunu shirin,
Kimining loyiqi ta‘rifi tahsin.
Kimi o‘zganiq ash‘orin benim der,
Kimi hayvon kabi shalg‘am cho‘pin yer.



Kimi ma'ni tuzub vaznin tuzotur,
Kimi vaznin buzub san'at kuzotur.

In discussions of Sayfi Saroyi's literary heritage, "Guliston bit-turkiy" is considered his foremost work. Through this creative translation of Sa'di Sherozi's "Gulistan," the poet secured a worthy place in the history of classical literature. However, this creative translation reached scholars many years later. Although "Guliston bit-turkiy" had been written centuries earlier, the scholarly community became acquainted with it only in 1915.

In 1915, in the Turkish journal *Milliy tatabbular majmuasi*, the Hungarian scholar Tori Jozef reported that an old Turkic translation of Sa'di's "Gulistan" had been discovered in Holland. In 1950, Professor Faridun Nafiz Uzluk, who participated in an International Congress on the History of Medicine in Amsterdam, became acquainted with the manuscript at Leiden University Library and obtained a photocopy. In 1954, he published the facsimile of the manuscript in Ankara with a brief introduction.

The manuscript is well preserved but contains numerous errors. According to Faridun Nafiz Uzluk, the manuscript is in Sayfi Saroyi's own handwriting. On the first page of the manuscript, there are seven poems in Persian and Turkish written by different authors in different scripts. The first quatrain belongs to a poet named Mahmud Gulistoni and is dedicated to Prince Ahmad, who fled from Iraq after suffering defeat.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Sayfi Saroyi was an important representative of 14th-century Turkic literature who successfully continued his literary activity despite the political and social challenges of his time. Having lived and worked in Movarounnahr, the Golden Horde, Egypt, and Turkey, he made a significant contribution to the development of Uzbek literature as both a poet and a translator.

His works are distinguished by the harmony of form and content, richness of artistic expression, and creative approach to translation and adaptation. "Guliston bit-turkiy" is regarded as an important example in the history of Turkic literature,



especially in the formation of translation traditions and artistic-aesthetic development.

Moreover, the moral and didactic ideas, humanistic principles, and patriotic sentiments expressed in his ghazals, qasidas, qit'as, rubaiyat, masnavis, and original poetic passages influenced later generations of writers, particularly Alisher Navoiy. At the same time, Sayfi Saroyi's works are valuable not only as artistic heritage but also as historical, cultural, and social sources. His творчество remains one of the rich and enriching layers of Uzbek literary history.

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