

**ALEKSANDR ARKADYEVICH FAYNBERG – THE RUSSIAN
POET OF UZBEK LAND**

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Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada rus shoiri Aleksandr Arkadyevich Faynbergning hayoti va ijodi, uning o‘zbek madaniyatiga qo‘shgan hissasi, asarlarining mavzulari hamda badiiy uslubi haqida so‘z yuritiladi. Maqolada shoirning millatlararo do‘stlik, insoniylik va vatanparvarlik ruhidagi asarlari tahlil qilinadi.

Kalit so‘zlar: Faynberg, rus shoiri, O‘zbekiston xalq shoiri, tarjimon, millatlar do‘stligi, she‘riyat, Toshkent, madaniyat, vatanparvarlik, adabiyot aloqalari.

Аннотация: В данной статье рассматривается жизнь и творчество русского поэта Александра Аркадьевича Файнберга, жившего и творившего в Узбекистане. Анализируется его вклад в развитие узбекской культуры, основные темы его поэзии и художественные особенности его произведений. Отмечается роль Файнберга как моста между русской и узбекской литературными традициями.

Ключевые слова: Файнберг, поэт, Узбекистан, народный поэт, переводчик, дружба народов, поэзия, Ташкент, культура, патриотизм, литература.

Annotation: This article explores the life and creative work of Aleksandr Arkadyevich Faynberg, a Russian poet who lived and wrote in Uzbekistan. It discusses his contribution to Uzbek culture, the main themes of his poetry, and his literary style. Faynberg’s works are notable for their focus on humanism, patriotism, friendship between nations, and deep philosophical reflection.

Keywords: Faynberg, Russian poet, People’s Poet of Uzbekistan, translator, friendship, poetry, Tashkent, culture, patriotism, literature connection.



Aleksandr Faynberg – A Bridge Between Cultures and Generations

Literature has always been one of the most powerful means of connecting people, nations, and hearts. In the vast sphere of world literature, some figures stand out for their ability to transcend cultural and linguistic borders. One such name is Aleksandr Arkadyevich Faynberg, a poet, translator, and prose writer whose life and work are deeply connected with both Russian and Uzbek cultures.

Faynberg's contribution to literature is unique. He was not only a creator of beautiful verses but also a cultural mediator who brought the treasures of Uzbek poetry to the Russian-speaking world and, through his translations, to readers across the globe. His poetry blends Eastern philosophy and European lyricism, forming a harmonious dialogue between traditions.

As the renowned Uzbek poet Abdulla Oripov, the author of Uzbekistan's national anthem, once said about him:

“All the lofty words about Aleksandr Faynberg's work reflect only a fraction of the truth, because he was indeed a unique poet and translator — a writer of world-class level. No other Russian-speaking writer has sung so sincerely about our sunny land.”

This statement perfectly captures the spirit of Faynberg's creative life — a heartfelt devotion to art, language, and friendship between peoples.

Aleksandr Faynberg,

“My Tashkent” (1967)

I breathe this sunlit dust again,

Each street remembers dreams of mine.

Beneath the fig tree's shade remain

The echoes of a child's rhyme.

Biography

Aleksandr Arkadyevich Faynberg was born on November 2, 1939, in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, into a Russian-Jewish family. His parents had moved to Tashkent from Novosibirsk in 1937, escaping the turbulence of Stalin's purges and seeking peace in Central Asia.



Growing up in the multicultural environment of post-war Tashkent, Faynberg was surrounded by Uzbek, Russian, and Tajik languages — a diversity that later shaped his artistic worldview. After finishing seven years of schooling, he entered the Tashkent Topographic Technical College, where he developed a deep interest in geography and nature, both of which would later appear as recurring themes in his poetry.

After military service in Tajikistan, Faynberg continued his education at Tashkent State University, studying journalism and literature through correspondence courses. His literary career began in the 1960s, when his first poems were published in Uzbek and Russian newspapers and journals.

Faynberg spent his entire life in Uzbekistan, considering it his true homeland. He passed away on October 14, 2009, in Tashkent. In 2019, a memorial plaque was installed on the house where he had lived — a symbol of the lasting respect his readers and fellow poets hold for him.

Creative Activity

Faynberg was a versatile artist. He wrote poetry, prose, and scripts for several feature films and about twenty animated films. His creative output exceeds ten major poetry collections, published in Tashkent, Moscow, and Saint Petersburg.

Among his most significant books are:

- “Velotreki” (Velodromes, 1965)
- “Etyud” (Etude, 1967)
- “Mgnoveniye” (A Moment, 1969)
- “Dalekie Mosty” (Distant Bridges, 1978)
- “Korotkaya Volna” (Short Wave, 1983)
- “Svobodnye Sonety” (Free Sonnets, 1990)

In addition to writing his own poetry, Faynberg worked as a journalist and literary editor, frequently contributing to cultural magazines in Uzbekistan and Russia. His works explored diverse genres — from lyric miniatures to philosophical sonnets — always reflecting deep emotional sincerity and intellectual reflection.

Translation and Cultural Bridge



One of the most remarkable aspects of Faynberg's career was his translation work. He translated numerous masterpieces of Uzbek poetry into Russian, introducing the richness of Eastern poetic tradition to readers beyond Central Asia. Among the poets he translated were Alisher Navoi, the greatest representative of classical Turkic literature, and several leading modern Uzbek poets such as Abdulla Oripov, Erkin Vohidov, Khosiyat Rustamova, Omon Matjon, and Azim Suyun.

Faynberg's translations were not mere linguistic conversions — they were acts of artistic re-creation. He sought to preserve the spirit, rhythm, and musicality of the originals, maintaining the essence of Eastern metaphors while making them accessible to Russian-speaking readers.

Through his work, Faynberg built a cultural bridge between the Uzbek and Russian peoples, promoting mutual understanding and respect. Thanks to him, many Russian readers discovered the beauty and depth of Uzbek literature.

Aleksandr Faynberg,

“The Steppe Wind” (1975)

Through endless steppe the wind will cry,

Recalling faces, dreams, and sighs.

I walk alone beneath the sky,

Where every cloud is a passing lie.

Thematic Analysis of His Poetry

Faynberg's poetry is distinguished by its philosophical depth, musicality, and emotional clarity. His verses combine the wisdom of the East with the aesthetic sophistication of the West.

The recurring themes in his poetry include:

- Human emotions: love, sorrow, joy, hope, and moral struggle.
- Nature and harmony: mountains, rivers, the steppe, and the sun are symbols of freedom and eternity.
- Patriotism and humanity: love for the homeland and compassion toward others.



- Time and transience: reflection on the fleeting nature of life.

He often used poetic devices such as metaphor, simile, personification, and contrast, creating images that feel alive and timeless.

His style is clear and lyrical, but behind its simplicity lies profound philosophical thought — an awareness of life's fragility and the poet's role in preserving spiritual beauty.

Analysis of the Poem "Question"

Faynberg's poem "Question" ("Savol") is one of his most reflective and symbolically rich works. The poem consists of a series of rhetorical questions, each stanza asking and answering in silence.

Perhaps beauty lies
In tears and pain of verse?
Perhaps the wound within the heart
Is from a serpent's curse?
Perhaps from bitter smoke
These lines burn, pure and whole?
Perhaps from icy days
The wind pierces the soul?

The poet wonders about the origin of art — is beauty born from pain? Is the creative spirit a form of suffering? Each question suggests that art is inseparable from the poet's inner struggles.

The structure of the poem — built entirely on rhetorical questions — makes it feel introspective and universal. It invites readers to reflect on their own emotions, turning poetry into a dialogue between soul and word.

By the end, Faynberg implies that even in doubt and pain, the artist finds strength and meaning. His hope for light and destiny, even amid suffering, becomes a metaphor for the human condition itself.

The poem has been translated into Arabic, English, French, and Spanish — each version preserving its emotional rhythm and musical tone.

Literary Style and Influences



Faynberg's artistic worldview was shaped by a variety of influences:

- The classical Uzbek poetry of Navoi and Bobur;
- The Russian Silver Age poets such as Anna Akhmatova and Osip Mandelstam;
- And the Western European lyrical tradition, especially Rilke and Baudelaire.

This diverse background allowed him to develop a unique voice — gentle, thoughtful, and cosmopolitan. His poems are neither entirely Russian nor entirely Uzbek; they exist at the intersection of both cultures.

He used free verse in many of his later works, experimenting with rhythm and sound. His language was musical yet precise, emotional yet disciplined — qualities that made him stand out among his contemporaries.

Recognition and Awards

Faynberg's achievements earned him widespread recognition both in Uzbekistan and abroad.

- In 2004, he was awarded the honorary title of "People's Poet of Uzbekistan."
- He also received the Pushkin Medal from the Russian Federation for his contribution to literature and cultural dialogue.
- His works were featured in literary journals across Central Asia and Russia, and his poems were included in anthologies of Soviet and post-Soviet poetry.
- In 2019, the city of Tashkent honored his memory with a commemorative plaque on his home.

These honors reflect not only his literary mastery but also his moral and cultural influence as a bridge between nations.

Aleksandr Faynberg,

"To My Reader" (1988)

If one day I am silent — read my lines,

They'll whisper what my voice could never say.

Each poem is a bridge across our minds,



Each heart another word along the way. Legacy

Aleksandr Faynberg's legacy continues to inspire readers, poets, and translators today. His works are studied in universities across Uzbekistan and Russia as examples of bilingual creativity and cultural integration.

Through his poems and translations, he showed that art knows no boundaries — it speaks the language of the human heart. His ability to merge Eastern spirituality with Western form gave his poetry a timeless character.

Modern Uzbek and Russian poets alike regard him as a symbol of friendship between cultures, a poet who dedicated his life to unity, mutual respect, and beauty.

As young readers and writers, we inherit his mission — to translate, share, and keep alive the spirit of his work for future generations.

In conclusion, Aleksandr Faynberg was far more than a poet; he was a voice of harmony between nations. His poetry is an exploration of human emotion, truth, and the eternal search for beauty.

Through his creative work, translation, and dedication, he strengthened the cultural bond between the Uzbek and Russian peoples. His verses — lyrical, philosophical, and sincere — continue to resonate with readers worldwide.

Faynberg's art reminds us that literature is not confined by geography or language. It is a living force that unites souls across time and space. Translating his poetry into different languages and spreading it throughout the world is not only an act of admiration — it is our responsibility as the new generation of readers.

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