



RIDING THE YELLOW GIANT BY KHUDOYBERDI TO'XTABOYEV

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Annotation: This article analyzes Khudoyberdi To'xtaboyev's famous children's novel "Riding the Yellow Giant", one of the cornerstones of modern Uzbek children's literature. The novel combines elements of fantasy and realism to reflect the moral, cultural, and emotional world of children. Through the character of Hoshimjon and his encounters with the symbolic figure of the Yellow Giant, To'xtaboyev explores themes of good versus evil, truth versus falsehood, and courage versus fear. The story not only entertains but also conveys important moral lessons rooted in Uzbek culture, such as honesty, kindness, and respect for elders.

Keywords: Khudoyberdi To'xtaboyev, Riding the Yellow Giant, Uzbek literature, children's fiction, morality, imagination, symbolism, cultural values, courage, honesty.

Аннотация: В статье анализируется знаменитый детский роман Худойберди Тохтабоева «Верхом на Жёлтом Великане», один из краеугольных камней современной узбекской детской литературы. Роман сочетает в себе элементы фэнтези и реализма, отражая нравственный, культурный и эмоциональный мир детей. Через образ Хошимжона и его встречи с символической фигурой Жёлтого Великана Тохтабоев исследует темы добра и зла, правды и лжи, мужества и страха. История не только развлекает, но и преподносит важные моральные уроки, укоренённые в узбекской культуре, такие как честность, доброта и уважение к старшим.

Ключевые слова: Худойберди Тохтабоев, «Верхом на Жёлтом Великане», узбекская литература, детская проза, мораль, воображение, символизм, культурные ценности, мужество, честность.

Khudoyberdi To‘xtaboyev (1932–2021) is widely regarded as one of the most influential figures in Uzbek children’s literature. His works have shaped generations of young readers by teaching them moral values through humor, fantasy, and realism. Among his numerous works, “Riding the Yellow Giant” (Sariq Devni Minib) stands as a masterpiece that captures both the simplicity and depth of childhood imagination.

The novel skillfully intertwines the ordinary and the magical, offering a world where dreams, moral choices, and inner struggles become a source of personal growth. To‘xtaboyev not only entertains children but also guides them toward understanding the difference between good and evil, courage and fear, and truth and deceit.

Plot Overview

The main character, Hoshimjon, is a kind, honest, and imaginative boy who lives in a typical Uzbek family. One night, he dreams of a yellow giant (Sariq Dev) — a fantastical being that becomes his mentor and friend. Together, they experience numerous adventures that test Hoshimjon’s courage, honesty, and sense of responsibility.

Through these adventures, the Yellow Giant serves as a symbol of imagination, conscience, and moral guidance. He represents the inner voice that encourages every person, especially children, to make the right choices and stay true to their values.

Themes and Symbolism

1. The Power of Imagination:

Imagination is central to To‘xtaboyev’s storytelling. Hoshimjon’s dream world represents a child’s limitless creativity and the ability to see moral truth through fantasy. The Yellow Giant is not merely a mythical creature; he embodies the inner strength and goodness that lie within every child.

2. Moral and Ethical Values:

The novel emphasizes moral education as an integral part of growing up. It encourages readers to value honesty, bravery, kindness, and respect. The contrast between good and evil is presented in a way that children can easily understand, allowing them to reflect on their own actions and choices.

3. Reflection of Uzbek Culture:

To‘xtaboyev’s work reflects the essence of Uzbek family life and cultural traditions during the second half of the 20th century. The author portrays family unity, respect for elders, and the importance of education as key social values. Through simple yet heartfelt storytelling, he presents an authentic picture of everyday Uzbek life infused with moral warmth and humor.

Style and Literary Techniques

To‘xtaboyev’s style is simple, vivid, and humorous, perfectly suited for young readers. His dialogues are natural, often reflecting the speech patterns of real Uzbek children. The author effectively uses humor, emotional language, and moral symbolism to make the narrative both engaging and meaningful.

Despite being a children’s story, “Riding the Yellow Giant” appeals to adults as well. It evokes nostalgia for childhood innocence and reminds readers of universal truths — that kindness and honesty remain the most powerful human values.

Cultural and Educational Impact

Since its first publication, “Riding the Yellow Giant” has become one of the most beloved works in Uzbek literature. It has been reprinted many times, translated into several languages, and included in school reading programs. Generations of Uzbek children have grown up learning about courage, imagination, and morality through To‘xtaboyev’s books.

The novel continues to play an important role in moral education and cultural preservation, serving as a bridge between traditional values and modern thought.

Khudoyberdi To‘xtaboyev’s “Riding the Yellow Giant” is far more than a children’s fantasy story. It is a philosophical and moral allegory that teaches readers

the importance of goodness, honesty, and courage. The novel's blend of humor, imagination, and ethical depth makes it timeless.

Through the symbolic journey of Hoshimjon and his Yellow Giant, To'xtaboyev reminds us that every person carries an inner strength — a “yellow giant” — capable of guiding them through life's challenges. His work continues to inspire readers to believe in the power of dreams and the triumph of goodness.

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