

Muso Toshmukhammad o'gli

OYBEK

NAVOIY

NOVEL



MEMOIRS FROM THE LIFE OF THE KING IN
THE WORLD OF WORDS

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Oybek

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In this novel Oybek depicts Alisher Navoiy's way of life, social life and complicated political events of that time. He writes the following about creation of this novel in his autobiography: «The image of Navoiy showed itself in many classical poems of mine and, at last, I finished writing the novel "Navoiy" in 1942". This work has been published in 1944 after different kinds of discussions.

The novel is translated with the aim to provide a unique opportunity for the English speaking readers to get acquainted with the works of famous Uzbek writers and poets as well as for the students who are eager to enhance their understanding and knowledge by comprehending rare works of their ancestors. We hope that all the members of world community will have a chance to admire the cultural heritage of great statesman of Uzbek people.

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FOREWORD

Muso Toshmukhammad ogli Oybek (1905-1968) was one of the famous Uzbek poets and writers. Oybek was the most influential Uzbek writer of the XX century. His most famous works are "The Sacred Blood", "Revenge", "Navoiy", "The Great Route", "The Sun does not Darken", etc. His famous work "Navoiy" is translated directly from Uzbek into English for the first time.

It is well-known that the entire Uzbek literature was usually translated into English through Russian language.

Becoming Independent and promoting the integration of its culture into the world community, the Republic of Uzbekistan felt heavy need for more Uzbek translators with an excellent knowledge of foreign languages. Besides, nowadays great opportunities have been created for the direct translation from Uzbek into different foreign languages, particularly into English.

The development of direct translation from Uzbek into foreign languages was specified in a number of Decrees of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. We think that the book in your hands will give you a unique opportunity to get acquainted with the history, traditions and customs, lifestyle as well as the way of thinking and outlook Uzbek people



The main purpose is to introduce the precious work, pearls of Uzbek literature to the people of English speaking countries, as well as those who comprehend English as a whole.

The group of highly qualified translators from Uzbekistan State World Languages University together with the International Relations and Literary Translation Council of the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan has translated the book "Navoiy" by Oybek directly from original Uzbek into English.

The authors' group expresses its sincere gratitude to Christine Smart, English language specialist, for her invaluable assistance in reviewing the translation of this book. We look forward to the readers' comments on the quality of the translation.

We'll greatly appreciate it if you contact us and share with your opinion at: ilhom_tuhtasinov@mail.ru

CHAPTER I

The spring sun was shining in the blue sky over Gavharshod madrassah in Herat. The mosaics of the cupola were sparkling with the beams of the sun; the birds were flying and were playing around the cupola of the madrassah. There was a khanahak¹ on one side of the madrassah and the other three sides were surrounded by square hujras², and one could barely notice yesterday's rain vapor. Some of the students were sitting in the yard. They have been studying while sitting on the boyras³ on brick pavements. Some of them were studying "Qofiya"⁴, the others learning "Hoshiya"⁵ and the rest of them were engaged with "Shamsiya"⁶. Here one could also see one of them with his book on his knees learning by heart the book called "Arabiyot"⁷ with his eyes closed. In a corner, three students were sitting and arguing on some matter. One of them had a beard and was scrawny; he was trying to prove his ideas, refusing the others'. The other two who were younger than him but at the same time who were also as important as the first one were shouting at him and trying to prove their ideas. Sometimes they even forgot the main point of their argument and talked about other matters of the life, and after a while they would come back to the

¹ Interior chamber of a mosque

² Small study rooms in madrassahs

³ Cane mat or reed mat

⁴ "Rhyme", the book taught at madrassahs

⁵ The book taught at madrassahs

⁶ The book taught at madrassahs

⁷ The rules of the Arabic language

