

THE ACTIVITIES OF HOJI MUIN IN PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

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Annotation: This article provides information about Hoji Muin's publishing activities and his reflections on the most pressing issues of his time and society in his articles.

Keywords: Jadid, Jadidism, Publishing, Jadid Ideas, Drama, Nation, Progressive, Education, Journalist, Enlightenment Advocate.

Jadidism emerged in Turkestan at the end of the 19th century and fully developed in the early 20th century. It arose from deep foundations, nourished by historical roots, and became a movement with a strong social, political, and practical essence. At the same time, it is acknowledged that it has a broad meaning, including concepts such as "new thinking," "new human," and "new generation." [1,61]

The introduction of the term "Jadid" is known to be associated with the name of the new school opened by Ismailbek Gaspirali (Gasprinskiy). This innovation, initiated by Ismailbek Gaspirali, began to be implemented in Turkestan schools by progressive educators such as Avloniy, Hamza, and Shakuriy, who created a number of textbooks for schools. Mahmudhoja Behbudi, Munavvar Qori Abdurashidxonov, Abdurauf Fitrat, Hoji Muin, Sadridin Ayni, Abdulla Avloniy, Ismoil Obidiy, and others paid great attention to publishing and journalism in spreading Jadid ideas. Regardless of how Jadids conveyed their ideas and thoughts, a sense of commonality was always evident. Whether in creative or socio-political activities, mutual understanding was apparent.

All the enlightenment advocates who were burning with concern for the future of the nation sought ways to escape ignorance and attempted to eliminate such deficiencies. Ibrahim Tohiriy sharply criticized the linguistic characteristics of Mahmudhoja Behbudi's "Padarkush" and the drama "To'y," co-authored by Nusratulla Qudratulla and Hoji Muin. He even pointed out issues in the essays and writings of schoolchildren. "...Look at the pamphlets 'Padarkush' and 'To'y,'" the author writes. "In the works published in their own dialects by the people of Turkestan, there is no correctness and purity in terms of language..." [2,178] Indeed, these works were widely discussed in their time. Even Hoji Muin, one of the authors of "To'y," acknowledged these shortcomings and wrote an article in the form of a confession titled "Thank You for the Warning." [3,157]

By the end of 1913, Hoji Muin published his article on literary criticism. From that time on, not a single article written in Persian by him was noticed in the 'Oyna' journal. However, during the spring and summer of 1914, when Mahmudhoja Behbudi was not in Samarkand, the fate of 'Oyna' was entrusted to Hoji Muin as its editor. Due to Hoji Muin's entrepreneurial spirit, the technical and editorial aspects of the journal improved significantly within two weeks. Hoji Muin, slightly deviating from Mahmudhoja Behbudi's wishes, transformed 'Oyna' into a purely Turkish journal. However, he did not change the phrase 'Turkish-Persian Muslim journal' on the journal's cover. [4,186]

In Turkestan, the number of contributors to journals such as 'Tarjimon', 'Mulla Nasridin', 'Iqbol', 'Turk yurdu', and 'Sho'ro' increased. In particular, the pages of the 'Sho'ro' journal (1908-1918), published in Orenburg, served as a platform for the exchange of ideas and communication among Turkestani and Tatar intellectuals. The regular participation of progressives such as Behbudi, Cho'lpon, Sofizoda, Hoji Muin, Mirmuhsin Shermuhamedov, Sadridin Ayniy, Lutfullo Olimiy, Ajziy, Mo'minjon Muhammadjonov, and Rojiy Xolmuhammad Oxundi in this journal can serve as evidence of this. [5, 56]

Hoji Muin, who was determined to spread enlightenment and open the eyes of his compatriots, simultaneously engaged in teaching and publishing articles in the 'Turkistan Province Newspaper' and 'Sadoyi Turkiston'. In the years 1911-1912, he published articles such as 'The Benefits of Reading Newspapers', 'The Causes of Immorality and Its Remedies', and 'The Importance of Theater' in the 'Turkistan Province Newspaper', addressing the most pressing issues of the time and society.[6]

Hoji Muin worked for the newspapers "Hurriyat," "Mehnatkashlar o'qi," "Mehnatkashlar tovushi," "Zarafshon," and "Ovozi tojik," as well as the journals "Tayoq," "Mashrab," and "Mushfiqiy." From 1918 to 1921, he served as the editor of the newspaper "Mehnatkashlar tovushi" (now known as "Zarafshon"). [7]

Hoji Muin made significant contributions to the formation and development of Uzbek national press. Initially, he was the organizer and editor of the newspaper "Mehnatkashlar tovushi," and later of the journals "Tayoq" and "Mashrab." Hoji Muin gained his initial experience in editing—managing a newspaper and journal—while working at the "Oyina" journal and the "Hurriyat" newspaper. Seeing his responsible approach to work, Behbudi entrusted the editorship of the "Oyina" journal to Hoji Muin when he set off on a journey in 1914. It is also documented that Abdurauf Fitrat, while leading the "Hurriyat" newspaper, handed over editorial management to Hoji Muin ibn Shukrullo during his travels. [8]

In his article "The Benefits of Reading Newspapers," Hoji Muin reflects on the virtues of being acquainted with newspapers, stating, "In our Turkestan, there is not even a single national newspaper; our lack of awareness and complete ignorance of modern education and industry is perhaps evidenced by our lack of a single national newspaper." [9,41]

His articles titled "The Sorrow of the Homeland," "Islamic Council and Elections," and "About Demonstrations" express a sense of dissatisfaction with the social policies of the Soviet government. The article titled "Bolsheviks and Us," which openly exposes the political deception of the Bolsheviks, was published in "Hurriyat" (January 9, 1918), while the article "Ways to Become Rich" appeared in "Zarafshon" (November 3, 1922).

Hoji Muin's manuscript "My Creative Biography," written during the peak of the repression against his son Mehri, provides important insights into his life, diverse creative path, worldview, pedagogical activities, and published as well as unpublished works that were specifically lost during his lifetime. According to this unique manuscript, by 1937, ten of his books had been published, and nearly twenty collections were on the verge of publication. Throughout his thirty years of creative activity, Hoji Muin published approximately 200 articles on literary, scientific, and social topics in 23 different newspapers and journals, along with around 400 various reports and nearly 1500 poems in Uzbek and TajikSure! Here's the translation of the provided text into English. [10]

Hoji Muin's fearless and courageous activities as a journalist have reached us through the content of the publications he led, as well as his journalistic works. After the proclamation of the Turkestan autonomy, amidst the paralysis of the people's spirit, which was alarmed by the conspiracies and murders of colonial invaders, Hoji Muin expressed his concerns.

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