

THE POETICS OF TRAGIC VICTORY: THE PARADOXES OF THE IMAGE OF POEM “TUMARIS”, WRITTEN BY IBRAYIM YUSUPOV.

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Annotation: *This article explores the poetics of tragic victory in Ibrayim Yusupov's poem Tumaris. The Legend of the Massagetae. The study focuses on the paradoxical image of Queen Tumaris, a historical and mythological figure who embodies both heroic triumph and profound personal loss. Through the analysis of the poem, the article highlights how Yusupov intertwines epic tradition, national identity, and philosophical reflection on freedom, sacrifice, and memory. The paradox of Tumaris's victory—her historic success overshadowed by the death of her son—reveals the complex dialectic between collective triumph and individual tragedy, creating a powerful symbol of the eternal cost of freedom.*

Keywords: *Ibrayim Yusupov, Tumaris, Massagetae, tragic victory, poetics, paradox, national identity, epic poetry, maternal grief, freedom, sacrifice, historical legend.*

Ibrayim Yusupov is one of the most prominent poets and playwrights of Karakalpakstan, whose works have become part of the cultural and historical consciousness of his people. His creative work combines epic thinking, national traditions, and philosophical reflections on the fate of individuals and the nation. A special place in Yusupov's poetry is occupied by historical themes, where, through ancient legends, he explores eternal questions of freedom, sacrifice, and memory.

One of his most significant works is the poem "Tumaris. The Legend of the Massagetae", dedicated to the legendary queen of the Massagetae. Tumaris is a historical-mythological figure remembered by the peoples of Central Asia and described even by Herodotus. She is known as a female ruler who managed to defeat the Persian king Cyrus II. Her name has become a symbol of courage, freedom, and independence. For the Karakalpak people, this work is especially important: it not only returns to the roots of ancient history but also affirms ideas of national pride, resistance to enslavement, and the preservation of cultural identity.

The image of Queen Tumaris in Ibrayim Yusupov's poem "Tumaris. The Legend of the Massagetae" represents a synthesis of epic grandeur and profound tragedy. The

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poet turns to the ancient legend of the Massagetae's battle with the Persian king Cyrus's army, transforming it into a philosophical reflection on the cost of victory and the fate of a people. At the center of the narrative is a heroine who symbolizes not only military valor but also maternal suffering and the internal conflict between duty and personal grief.

Tumaris defeats Cyrus and his vast army, achieving both a historical and symbolic victory. Her name becomes the embodiment of freedom and independence for the steppe tribes. However, the poetics of the work is built on a paradox: at the moment of her greatest glory, the heroine experiences the deepest loss. Her son Spargapises dies in battle, and her personal tragedy turns the victory into a bitter triumph. This theme creates a tense dialectic between outward celebration and inner catastrophe.

In one of Tumaris's monologues, she speaks despairingly about her fallen son:

"Ұлым, сен менің жүрегім едің, сенің қанатыңмен көкке көтерілетін едім.

Енді қанатым сынып түсті, жеңісімнің дәмі ащы болды."

("Son, you were my heart, with your wings I soared to the sky.

Now my wing is broken, and the taste of victory is bitter.")

These lines vividly show how personal grief overshadows the joy of triumph. Yusupov portrays Tumaris as a figure in whom incompatible states converge. She is both warrior and mother, political leader and grieving woman. In defeating Cyrus, she asserts historical justice, but her soul is filled with the irreparable pain of losing her only son. The poetics of paradox is expressed in the idea that the victory over the mightiest enemy equals, in its emotional power, the pain of maternal loss.

The scene of revenge on Cyrus becomes the culmination of this tragic poetics. Tumaris orders a wineskin to be filled with the enemy's blood and addresses him with the words:

"Қанды қымыздай іш, Кир! Бұл – сенің тойың!

Бірақ бұл қанды сенің ұлым үшін төктім."

("Drink the blood like kumis, Cyrus! This is your feast!

But this blood I spilled for my son.")

This act is perceived simultaneously as a gesture of historical retribution and as a cry of pain from a mother who cannot bring her son back. The victory is painted in mournful tones: it is necessary for the people but devastating for the heroine herself.

At the end of the poem, the central paradox is voiced:

"Елім азат, жерім аман, бірақ жүрегімде қара түн.

Жеңістің таңы атты, ал мен үшін күн батты."

("My people are free, my land is safe, but in my heart – black night.

The dawn of victory has risen, but for me, the sun has set.")

In these lines, two dimensions merge — the historical and the personal. The people celebrate freedom, but Tumaris feels only darkness and decline. Thus, the paradox of Tumaris's image lies in the fact that her victory becomes both a pinnacle and a tragedy. Yusupov creates a character who embodies the historical necessity of resistance against invaders, while also revealing the inner drama of a woman who has lost her son. In this synthesis arises the poetics of tragic victory, where triumph is colored by sorrow, and glory is inseparable from pain. It is precisely in this contradiction that the image of Tumaris gains its power and universality. She remains a heroine who managed to protect her people, but her personal drama gives the victory a deeply human and profoundly tragic meaning. The paradox of her fate makes Yusupov's poem not only an epic work about the past but also a philosophical reflection on the eternal cost of freedom and the greatness of the human spirit.

Ibrayim Yusupov's poem *Tumaris* presents a rich, paradoxical image of its heroine, who simultaneously represents a victorious leader and a grieving mother. This duality forms the core of the poem's tragic poetics, where the glory of national liberation is inseparable from personal sorrow. The death of Tumaris's son transforms her historical victory into a complex human drama, illustrating the profound emotional and philosophical dimensions of freedom and sacrifice. Through this synthesis, Yusupov's work transcends a simple epic retelling to become a timeless reflection on the price of victory and the resilience of the human spirit, resonating deeply within the cultural consciousness of the Karakalpak people and beyond.

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