



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHESS IN FINE LITERATURE

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Annotation: *This article analyzes various expressions of the artistic significance of the game of chess in literature. The main theme of literature, depicting the human and his spirit, aims to reveal the unexplored intellectual reflections of a person, along with the expressions of feelings and heartaches in today's literature. Literature plays a leading role in highlighting the psychological changes that can occur in the human psyche, both on the surface and in the depths of the soul.*

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The main theme of literature, depicting human nature and spirit, serves as a means to highlight the emotional experiences and heartaches in contemporary literature, all in an effort to showcase the unexplored intellectual reflections of an individual. The primary task of today's literature is to strive towards revealing the psychological changes that can occur in the human psyche, both on the surface and in the depths of the soul, by delving into the uncharted realms of intellectual contemplation. In the diverse literature of various nations, a psychological element drawn by various writers around the world has been put to paper – the depiction of the game of chess in literary works. In the explanatory dictionary of the Uzbek language, the word "chess" is defined as "SHAXMAT r.shaxmatu<f. – chess: a sport game played on a board of 64 squares, with 16 white and 16 black pieces" [1, 28]. Works reflecting the game of chess have indeed been compiled in literary literature, and we have undertaken the task of evaluating and presenting them collectively.

The Australian author Stefan Zweig, in his short story "The Chess Game" vividly depicts the boundless possibilities of human intellectual imagination through the game of chess, especially when faced with intense mental struggles. Additionally, he portrays the miraculous emergence of spiritual strength when the nerves are severely strained. Furthermore, the heinous crimes committed by the fascists to spiritually subjugate individuals are exposed. The lives of two extraordinary chess players in the story also reveal their mutual struggle of strength and psychological depth. "In the narrow, cramped brain of this unlucky man, who could not write three words without making a mistake in any language, there is only one thing. He knows that for several months he has not lost a single chess game, let alone sent one. He does not imagine that there are values and pleasures other than chess and money on Earth".

In the story 'The Enchanted Chess' by the English writer Agatha Christie, we observe the commission of a crime during a chess game, where a single black bishop – a chess piece – is used to perpetrate the offense. In this story, like in the author's other works, Hercule Poirot serves to unravel the mystery of the enchanted chess, unlike other works, the main



focus is not on the chess game itself but rather on the ingenious solution devised through the chess piece during a chess game. [VI, 47]

In the novel 'The Other Side of Midnight' by the English author Sidney Sheldon, the plot unfolds with the cunning and clever tactics of a girl who is not well-versed in playing chess but, through her wit and deceit, manages to defeat two world champions in chess. Achieving remarkable success and gaining a significant amount of money, the story emphasizes the idea that not only is the intellectual thinking of an individual important, but also the cunning and craftiness play a crucial role as an additional asset. [V, 198]

The tradition of playing chess has a long history in our country, especially during the time of Amir Timur when the game was widely popular in palaces and high circles. Amir Timur himself played chess skillfully, and he invited his learned subjects to play in the palace. The historian Ibn Arabshah writes about this: "(Amir Timur) played chess regularly as a means of expressing his thoughts. His interest was not limited to ordinary chess; he played a large-scale version. The chessboard had a width of eleven, and a length of ten (squares)" [IX, 336].

The game of chess is also portrayed prominently in Abdullah Oripov's drama "Sohibqiron". In this work, Amir Timur, compared to a wise commander, is depicted sitting in front of a chessboard, controlling the pace of the external battle. With this, in the clever and skillful hands of the ruler, new tactics and cunning strategies are introduced to his subordinates. He skillfully manages and manipulates the chess pieces, creating a spectacle akin to a masterfully played chess game. In the eyes of his enemies, he appears to effortlessly outmaneuver them and place them in a strategic checkmate, achieving victory as in a well-played chess game.

Regarding Amir Timur's interest in the game of chess, historian Ibn Arabshah provides the following information in his work on Sohibqiron: "In the presence of Sohibqiron, Amir Timur said to Alauddin: Just as I am unparalleled as the sole ruler in the world, you are unmatched in the game of chess. One of his characteristics during the game was that he never made a move until he had deeply considered it, and after his opponent had made a move, he would confidently respond. At times, he played against two opponents simultaneously, not only knowing the positions of pieces on his side but also on the side of his opponents. Amir Timur was a skilled chess player". [IX, 340] In the narrative, Amir Timur plays a word game using the homophones "rux" and "ruh": "This is the art of rux. Awake, souls, become my helpers". The author skillfully juxtaposes the intensity of external battles with the swiftness of the internal game, creating a compelling depiction of the chess game. Soqchi: Olampanoh, the Sultan of Rome has been captured.

Alovuddin: Olampanoh, excellent news! Wonderful news!

In conclusion, the ancient, medieval, and modern chess games serve as rich and intriguing subjects that contribute to valuable and interesting themes for literature in the present and future.



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