

"CHORRAHA" AS A SYMBOL OF MODERN SOCIETY

(Based on Shuhrat Matkarim's story "Stupid Man at the Crossroads")

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Abstract: The socio-philosophical content of the intersection symbol is analyzed in the article. In Shuhrat Matkarim's story "The 'Stupid' Man at the Crossroads", the image of the crossroads is interpreted as a model of modern society. In the work, the problem of mass psychology, conflict between the individual and society, indifference and conscience is revealed in a symbolic and artistic way.

Key words: crossroads, symbol, social model, personality crisis, mass psychology, satire, irony.

In modern society, the relationship between a person and the social environment is becoming more complicated. As a result of globalization, technological progress, and the increase in the speed of life, the spiritual and spiritual condition of a person is also undergoing changes. In such conditions, fiction serves as an important tool for illuminating human thinking, social psychology, and social values. In modern Uzbek prose, there is a tendency to express socio-philosophical content through symbolic images. In this respect, Shuhrat Matkarim's story "Stupid Man at the Crossroads" is one of the works that artistically summarizes the relationship between society and individual. In the story, the image of the intersection is interpreted not as a simple geographical space, but as a complex model of social life. A crossroads is a symbolic space where choice, conflict, mass pressure and the speed of time intersect.

The image of the "fool" depicted in the work can be seen not as an insult, but as a symbol of a person who has been wrongly evaluated by society, but who strives to preserve human values. In the story, the problems of mass psychology, indifference and irresponsibility are revealed through satire and irony.

In literary studies, a symbolic image is considered as a means of summarizing artistic thinking. Through a symbol, the author can express not only an individual event, but also a broad social phenomenon [2, p. 34]. Shuhrat Matkarim's story "The "Stupid" Man at the Crossroads" is one of the works with such a socio-philosophical direction. In the story, the image of the intersection is interpreted as a place where the choice stage of a person's life, the center of social pressure and mass psychology intersect. In the story, the intersection is not depicted as a geographical location, but as a symbol of a social system. A crossroads is a place where different ideas, interests and directions of action intersect. In the life of society, a person is always faced with a choice. The choice requires a balance between individual freedom and social pressure. The character at the crossroads in the story represents this problem. Literary critic Erich Fromm emphasizes that a person is afraid of freedom and sometimes tends to submit to external forces

[4, p. 89]. This psychological state is artistically expressed in the image of the hero in the story.

In the story, the word "fool" is not used in a literal sense, but as a social symbol. Society often misjudges a person who does not fit in with the masses. The story shows the crowd's reaction to a pedestrian crossing the road. The text criticizes the stereotypical thinking of mass psychology through assessments such as: "It seems that his head is not in place" [1]. This situation is called conformism in sociology. Conformism is a person's refusal to conform to the pressure of the community [3, p. 71].

The movement of cars in the story represents the speed of modern civilization. The noise of machines means the noise of man-made society, and the spiritual voice of man is decreasing. A pedestrian is a symbol of a person who strives to preserve spiritual values. And cars symbolize the pressure of technological progress and mass culture. The fact that the society does not help the hero in the story shows the phenomenon of social indifference. In modern society, collective attention to human problems is often decreasing. The author criticizes this problem artistically.

In modern literature, the problem of personality crisis is analyzed with sociological and psychological approaches. Especially in the process of formation of public consciousness, the individual's independent position is weakened. In the story, the image of the intersection appears as an artistic model of such a social mechanism.

In literature, the image of space is often interpreted as a metaphor for the social system [2, p. 58]. An intersection is a place where actions cross, and it represents a complex social space not only geographically, but also semantically.

In the story, the pedestrian standing at the crossroads also shows his marginalized position in society. A marginal person is an individual who is not at the center of the social system, but at the edge. Through this image, the author revealed the process of spiritual isolation of a person in the conditions of modern civilization. According to Erich Fromm's theory, while striving for freedom, man is also afraid of the burden of responsibility [4, p. 89]. The hero in the story standing motionless at the crossroads represents the passivity caused by psychological hesitation and social pressure. Elements of satire serve to criticize the stereotypical thinking system of society. The term "stupid" does not refer to an intellectual level in the story, but to a label imposed by society.

In short, the story "The "Stupid" Man at the Crossroads" is one of the important works that illuminates the socio-philosophical problems of modern society in a symbolic and artistic way. In the work, the image of the intersection is interpreted as a place where choices in personal life, social pressure and mass psychology intersect. Through the story, the spiritual crisis of modern man, the phenomenon of indifference and the problem of conformist thinking are brought under artistic criticism.

The author showed the conflict between personal freedom and social pressure by means of a symbolic image. In the story, the image of "stupid" is not meant as an insult, but rather represents a type of person who is wrongly evaluated by society, but who strives to preserve human values. The movement of cars and the image of an intersection summarize the problem of

the decline of human spirituality in the conditions of man-made civilization. This story can be evaluated as a work that sheds light on the relationship between an individual and society in a philosophical and psychological direction in modern literature.

In the story "Stupid Man at the Crossroads", the image of the crossroads is interpreted as a symbolic model of modern society. The conflict between the individual and society, mass psychology, indifference, and the problem of conscience are artistically expressed in the work. A crossroads is a place where choice, pressure and social relations intersect, and the story illuminates the modern human tragedy in a symbolic way.

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