



THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY IN THE WORKS OF O'LMAS UMARBKOV

Dilnura Sheraliyevna Bo'ronova
Fourth-Year Student, Faculty of Philology,
Bukhara State University, Uzbekistan
E-mail: dilnuraburonova2006@gmail.com

Abstract: this article examines the complex relationship between the individual and society in O'lmas Umarbekov's novel *It Is Difficult to Be Human* (*Odam bo'lish qiyin*). The study analyzes the psychological conflicts experienced by the protagonist and explores the social and moral problems reflected in the work. Through the depiction of human emotions, moral dilemmas, and life challenges, the novel demonstrates how social transformations influence individual destiny and spiritual development. The article also emphasizes the writer's humanistic ideas, highlighting that genuine human value is determined not by social status or career success but by moral integrity, conscience, and humanity.

Key words: individual, society, morality, human values, destiny, love, loyalty, spiritual conflict, Uzbek literature, O'lmas Umarbekov.

O'lmas Umarbekov occupies an important place in modern Uzbek literature as a writer who skillfully portrays the spiritual world of human beings and the influence of society on individual destiny. His literary works focus on moral values, social responsibility, and the psychological struggles that emerge when personal aspirations conflict with social expectations. Among his most significant works, *It Is Difficult to Be Human* presents profound reflections on human dignity, conscience, and the challenges of remaining faithful to one's moral principles. Rather than emphasizing wealth, social position, or professional success, Umarbekov argues that genuine human worth is measured by one's ethical values and humanity. For this reason, the novel encourages readers to reflect deeply on their own lives and moral choices.

Love, one of the central themes of the novel, is portrayed from different perspectives. For some characters, it symbolizes happiness, loyalty, and compassion, while for others it becomes a source of suffering, disappointment, and irreversible tragedy. Through these contrasting interpretations, the author reveals the complexity of human emotions and demonstrates how external social circumstances shape personal relationships.



At the beginning of the novel, Abdulla experiences a dramatic turning point after his father loses both his health and his official position. As a result, the attitudes of teachers and people around him change significantly. This painful experience transforms Abdulla's worldview and motivates him to pursue academic excellence in order to gain social recognition and restore his family's dignity. His determination to become an outstanding student eventually opens new opportunities for higher education and professional advancement. A significant turning point in Abdulla's life is his encounter with Professor Tursunali Qurbonov, a close friend of his father. The professor offers Abdulla the opportunity to study at a newly established institute in Moscow. This proposal places the young man in a difficult situation. On one hand stands his sincere love for Gulchehra; on the other, an exceptional opportunity for academic and professional success. This dilemma forms the central conflict of the novel and illustrates the powerful influence of society on personal decisions. The novel suggests that every individual is born as a human being, yet becoming a truly moral person depends largely on the surrounding social environment. Family, education, and public attitudes all contribute to the formation of an individual's character. Abdulla's choice demonstrates how ambition and the desire for social status can gradually overshadow genuine human values.

The reunion of Abdulla and Gulchehra in their native village is portrayed as a joyful coincidence. Gulchehra is presented as an intelligent, sincere, and modest young woman whose greatest dream is not to leave her village but to improve it. She hopes to transform Mingbuloq into a modern and prosperous community and is therefore described symbolically as "the architect of the village." Her aspirations reflect responsibility, patriotism, and devotion to society rather than personal ambition.

As their relationship develops, shared memories, sincere conversations, and common dreams strengthen their emotional bond. They imagine studying together, building a future together, and supporting one another in achieving their goals. Their love is based on mutual respect, trust, and hope. However, the novel raises a crucial question: **Can society change a person?** Umarbekov's answer is both complex and convincing. Over time, Abdulla's desire for prestige and professional success gradually replaces the ideals that once guided his life. The dreams he shared with Gulchehra eventually give way to personal ambition and social recognition.

Gulchehra, in contrast, remains faithful to her moral principles. She values dignity, honesty, and emotional loyalty above material success. Her psychological suffering after Abdulla's betrayal represents one of the most tragic aspects of the novel. Through her character, the author demonstrates how emotional wounds caused by selfish decisions may become deeper than physical pain. The tragic ending of the novel reveals the consequences of Abdulla's moral choices. His pursuit of





prestige and social advancement ultimately destroys not only his relationship with Gulchehra but also his inner peace. The suffering experienced by the main characters demonstrates that every decision has moral consequences, and that genuine happiness cannot be achieved at the expense of another person's life and dignity.

One of the central messages of *It Is Difficult to Be Human* is that becoming a successful scholar or achieving a high social position is far easier than preserving one's humanity. Umarbekov argues that true success is measured not by professional achievements but by conscience, honesty, responsibility, and compassion. Through Abdulla's life, the author illustrates how excessive ambition and social pressure may lead an individual away from moral values. The conflict between the individual and society remains the dominant theme throughout the novel. The work critically examines issues such as the decline of spiritual values, social injustice, and the conflict between personal interests and ethical responsibility. These themes continue to be relevant in contemporary society, where material success often receives greater attention than moral integrity.

In conclusion, O'Imas Umarbekov's *It Is Difficult to Be Human* is not only an outstanding literary work but also an important moral and educational text. Its humanistic ideas encourage readers to reflect on justice, responsibility, love, loyalty, and the meaning of true humanity. The novel reminds us that external achievements are temporary, whereas moral character and conscience determine the real value of a human being. Therefore, the work continues to maintain its literary and social significance for modern readers and serves as an important contribution to contemporary Uzbek literature.

Sources:

1. Umarbekov, O. (2023). *It Is Difficult to Be Human*. Tashkent: Yoshlar Matbuoti.
2. Umarbekov, O. (2002). *Selected Works* (Vol. 1). Tashkent: Sharq.
3. Jo'rayev, H. (2001). *The Uzbek Novel and Modernity*. Tashkent: O'qituvchi.
4. G'aniyeva, M. (2016). *Social Issues in Contemporary Uzbek Literature*. Tashkent: Ilm Ziyo.
5. Xoliqova, N. (2024). "On O'Imas Umarbekov's *It Is Difficult to Be Human*." *Science and Innovative Research in Modern Education Journal*.
6. Karimov, N. (1999). *History of Twentieth-Century Uzbek Literature*. Tashkent: O'qituvchi.

