



The Image of Rain in Modern Uzbek Lyrics (Based on The Poetry of Shodmonqul Salom)

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Abstract: This article explores the poetic representation of the rain motif in modern Uzbek lyrical poetry, with a specific focus on the works of Shodmonqul Salom. Rain is not merely a natural occurrence in his poetry but symbolizes emotional depth, inner purification, and spiritual awakening. It serves as a metaphor for joy, longing, hope, regret, responsibility, and dreams. Particularly in Salom's verse, rain becomes a lyrical tool to express inner transformation and emotional catharsis.

Keywords: Lyrical poetry, rain motif, emotional state, symbolic expression, nature and humanity, poetic thinking, philosophy, metaphor.

Introduction: In poetic expression, rain transcends its meteorological function and emerges as a symbol of human emotions, hidden experiences, memories, and spiritual intensity. This study analyzes how rain is represented through spatial (sky), temporal (seasons, moments), and psychological (emotional states) perspectives. Through poetic techniques such as metaphor, symbolism, synesthesia, and lyrical philosophy, the rain motif becomes a central key to existential truths and meditative insights. In essence, rain is the truth that falls from nature into the soul.

In modern Uzbek lyrical poetry, the image of rain is often interpreted not solely as a natural element but also as a metaphor for spiritual purification, divine mercy, and emotional resonance. This image reflects not only outer beauty but also the internal fullness of the soul — its pain, longing, hope, and prayers. Especially in the poetry of Shodmonqul Salom, who approaches inner experiences with emotional depth,

rain becomes a symbol of inner vigilance and renewal. The following excerpt from his poem “May 5th” illustrates this idea vividly:

“I walk with joy amid the rain,
You greeted me with rain — I feel it, my Lord!
For the sake of my soul and longing, in Your vast realm,
I want to live — I truly want to live...” [28]

Here, rain is depicted as more than weather — it becomes a divine blessing, a sign of internal purification. The poet receives it as a greeting, an elevated form of spiritual connection — a sincere, direct emotional dialogue between human and Creator. Walking in the rain is not merely physical movement; it is a metaphorical rebirth, a return to life.

In another poem simply titled “Rain”, Salom delves into its deeper philosophical layers:

“Every single drop, they say,
Is brought down from the sky by an angel!
My heart gasps — oh Almighty God,
You sent us mercy from the heavens.” [30]

The raindrops here are not just water — they represent blessings and purity, each drop embodying a prayer or a divine response. Through these lines, the poet expresses a sacred reverence for rain, transforming it into a lyrical symbol of divine faith. The heart's gasp is an echo of spiritual tremor, induced by celestial grace.

In the following stanza, the theme of supplication continues:

“In this luminous moment, all prayers are answered!
A heart washed by tears speaks softly:
Every angel who brought down the rain
Will carry back a heartfelt wish.”

In these lines, rain marks a sacred moment — a divine interval when prayers are most likely to be answered. The poet describes the heart as “washed by tears,” suggesting purity, sincerity, and a deep emotional need. Each drop embodies a hopeful intention, full of heavenly compassion. This expresses not just poetic imagination but profound spiritual trust and solace.

In Shodmonqul Salom's poetry, rain is not simply a weather event but a symbol of inner awakening, closeness to prayer, purification, and divine grace. In 21st-century Uzbek poetry, rain is often portrayed as a mirror of the human condition — cleansing sorrow, refreshing the spirit, and planting seeds of hope. Salom uses this image not only as a poet but also as a spiritual guide, offering poetic reflections of human emotion and inner evolution.

When natural phenomena rise to the level of imagery

in literature, they often become mirrors for human feelings. Especially in the lyrical genre, the image of rain is rich in emotional, psychological, and semantic layers. In Uzbek literature, this symbol is inherited from classical Eastern poetics, but today it also embodies modernity and individual suffering, taking on new layers of meaning. Within this context, the image of rain in Shodmonqul Salom's poetry is particularly significant.

Rain in his poetry primarily represents spiritual states, inner turmoil, and deep, resonant sorrow. It is the depth within simplicity, the cry within silence. For the poet, rain is not merely tears — it is the heavy silence that precedes them.

As the French philosopher Paul Valéry wrote:

“Rain is the silent speech of the sky's inner pain falling to cleanse the earth.” [12; p. 24]

Similarly, Shodmonqul Salom treats rain not as external reality but as the artistic core of inner experience.

In some of his poems, rain represents both pain and renewal. After rain falls, the earth is cleansed, and the air is refreshed — not only in the physical world but in the poet's imagination, in the human soul. According to Jung, “When a person washes their inner self with consciousness, purity like rain enters their life.” [6; p. 85] Salom's lyrical persona seeks peace beneath the rain, yearning to be washed in its stillness after worldly unrest.

In other poems, rain is linked to memory, loss, and the passage of time. Rain evokes solitude, silence, and the resurfacing of unspoken sorrows from the past. For Salom, rain falls not only outside but within the heart.

Here, the words of Octavio Paz resonate deeply: “The rain in poetry is the bridge of solitude between yesterday and today.” [13; p. 57]

Poetic Functions of the Rain Motif in Shodmonqul Salom's Poetry:

Semantic Function: Rain expresses the emotional state of the lyrical protagonist.

Aesthetic Function: It enriches the rhythm and musicality of the poem, with rain sounds mirroring the tonal qualities of the verse.

Philosophical Function: Rain reminds readers of life's transience, the passage of time, and the necessity of constant renewal.

Symbolic Function: Rain becomes a purifier, a metaphor for tears, remembrance, or spiritual oblivion.

Each depiction of rain in Salom's poetry carries a deep philosophical-metaphorical layer. Rain becomes a synthesis of inner life, external phenomena, and artistic metaphor.

CONCLUSION

In contemporary Uzbek poetry, the image of rain often breaks away from classical depictions and is interpreted as a symbol of personal struggle, inner conflict, memory, and spiritual cleansing. In Salom's work, rain is the silent cry of the heart — not a force to be dismissed, but one to be embraced. Through this image, the poet conveys personal and collective spiritual experiences in a refined lyrical language.

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