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**PORTRAITS OF INDIVIDUALS FIGHTING FOR  
THE SOVEREIGNTY OF AZERBAIJAN IN THE OEUVRE OF  
PEOPLE’S ARTIST OGTAY SADIGZADE**

*The complex processes that began in the 19th century led to fundamental changes in Azerbaijani society. Our prominent public and political figures, who emerged in this new environment, were able to respond to the challenges of the 20<sup>th</sup> century at a high level. They made invaluable contributions to the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.*

**Heydar Aliyev**

**Abstract.** Our writers, playwrights and poets, who stood at the forefront of Azerbaijani intellectuals, expressed their heartfelt words in their works. The parents of People’s Artist Ogtay Sadigzadeh sacrificed their lives for the sovereignty of our country. Because they raised their voices against Soviet colonization and did not change their opinions in prison. Their lives and work were a call to struggle. In the 2000s, Ogtay Sadigzadeh created a number of paintings for the Nizami and Huseyn Javid museums and always worked on the theme of images of fighters in his work. The magnificent portraits of the National Leader Heydar Aliyev, Mahammad agha Shahtakhtinsky, N. Narimanov, M.A. Sabir, H. Javid, M.A. Rasulzadeh, Goncha Beyim, Natavan are a clear example of this.

**Key words:** Sovereignty, Azerbaijan, art, Ogtay Sadigzadeh, portrait.

**Introduction.** Having an independent and sovereign state, building a developed society based on national and spiritual values, solidarity, humanism, justice, and the rule of law has been the greatest desire of the Azerbaijani people for centuries.

Despite external interventions and deprivations at various stages of history, our people preserved their national identity and fighting spirit, always remained loyal to their ideals, and finally restored their state independence at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**The interpretation of the main material.** There have been numerous worthy sons and daughters of Azerbaijan who brought about this great day and fought for it. For years, they served our national interests, our liberation from colonialism, and promoted patriotic education and a national cultural policy for our national mentality and thinking. Even during the Russian Empire, deputies representing the Azerbaijani governorates in the Tsarist Duma, upholding our national values and cultural priorities, spoke in the Duma.

They did not do easy work at all; they were even subjected to repressions for their activities. For example, Ismayil Khan Ziyadkhanov, a representative from the Elizavetpol Governorate, was arrested as a result of his patriotic and fiery speeches for the sake of Azerbaijani sovereignty. This is a categorical and harsh quote from his speech in the St. Petersburg Tsarist Duma: “We (Azerbaijan) were conquered a hundred years ago. We were not granted any rights. We have been reduced to a state of slavery. An encroachment has been made on our national existence. We are prohibited from entering a number of higher educational institutions. In state institutions, it is impossible to find officials of Turkic origin. We suffer from land scarcity. However, peasants are being massively resettled here from Russia. On these lands, soaked in the blood of victims of the national massacre committed directly by the state, you will build settlements intended for Russian peasants. This is nothing more than a form of governance based on the principle of ‘divide and rule,’ secretly prepared and implemented by the government. We step over corpses in our homeland, which has been drowning in a sea of blood for two years now. Our patience has already reached its limit” [1].

Members of the Second Tsarist State Duma Fatali Khan Khoyski, Khalil bey Khasmammadov, Mustafa Mahmudov, Mahammad agha Shahtakhtinski, and Zeynal Zeynalov, like their predecessors, sharply protested against the

policy of national and religious discrimination pursued by tsarism in all spheres, including state administration.

Azerbaijani statehood and sovereignty are our pride and honor. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, tectonic and geopolitical changes occurred in empires in Europe and Asia as a result of World War I. The Ottoman Empire and the Tsarist Russian Empire collapsed. Our literary figures, playwrights, and poets, who stood at the forefront of the Azerbaijani intelligentsia, expressed their heartfelt words in their works. These include Hasan bey Zardabi, Mirza Fatali Akhundzade, Huseyn Javid, Ali bey Huseynzade, A. Topchubashov, A. Aghayev, Agaoglu, Firudin bey Kocharli, Hashim bey Vezirov, Firuz bey Ordubadski, and others.

The parents of Azerbaijani People's Artists Ogtay and Toghrul Sadigzade – their father was the prominent writer Seyid Huseyn. Their mother – Umgulsum Khanim was the daughter of Mahammad Amin Rasulzade and the cousin of M.A. Rasulzade, and she was also interested in poetry and national liberation ideas. Before personally knowing his future wife, S. Huseyn often came across her signature in the press and at that time longed for the liberation of Azerbaijani women, the protection of their rights, and their active participation in public affairs. Seyid Huseyn rejoiced in the success of such a young Azerbaijani woman as Umgulsum and was interested in her personality. The parents of O. Sadigzade sacrificed their lives for the sovereignty of our country. This is undeniable. Because they raised their voices against the Soviet colonial regime and did not change their views in prison. Their lives and work were a call to be fighters [2].

In the 2000s, Ogtay Sadigzade created a series of paintings for the Nizami and Huseyn Javid museums and always worked on the theme of the images of fighters in his art. The magnificent portraits of National Leader Heydar Aliyev, Mahammad agha Shahtakhtinski, N. Narimanov, M.A. Sabir, H. Javid, M.A. Rasulzade, Goncha Beyim, and Natavan are clear examples of this.

The portraits of the artist's parents, who sacrificed their lives, our great literary figures Seyid Huseyn and Ummugulsum Khanim, are displayed in our Nizami Museum of Literature.

The artist has depicted the National Leader Heydar Aliyev very skillfully and pompously. His great leadership qualities, intelligent eyes, and overall pose express a unique, powerful philosophical image.

With great heartache, Ogtay Sadigzade created several paintings for the Huseyn Javid Museum at the request of Turan Khanim. The painting «Kara Yazı» (Black Fate) should be especially emphasized. Here, the faces of many talented Azerbaijani fighters who sacrificed their lives are shown soaring in the dark sky, manifested under real barbed wire. These are Seyid Huseyn, Huseyn Javid, Ahmad Javad, Mikayil Mushfig, Yusuf Bey Chamanzaminli, Abbas Mirza Sharifzadeh, Panah Gasimov, Idris Akhundzade [2]. Under their faces are numbers, which are the numbers of the execution orders given to them in the archives.

This symbolic installation-style painting has a strong emotional energy and leaves no viewer indifferent.

The artist, a great painter and portraitist, worked with high passion and skill on the faces of those who fought for freedom and were indomitable. In his work, Ogtay Sadigzade remained true to the values of his surname.

In 1941, he was exiled to the Altai Krai as the “son of an enemy of the people.” He was only 20 years old at the time [3]. These years of life and death became a great life school for him. He would only be able to return to Baku in 1946. There was still no news of his father’s fate, and he heard the news that his mother, after 7 years of severe imprisonment in the cold climate of the Mordovian region, returned to Baku disabled at the age of 40 and suddenly died in Shamakhi 4 months later, away from her home and children. In 1947, two more members of the family – his aunt who had taken care of them and his younger brother Jighatay – died in exile.

**Conclusion.** Only 30 years later, in 1977, they visited their father’s unknown grave on Nargin Island. They threw a wreath made of golden roses into the waters of the Caspian Sea and bid farewell to their father in this way.

Also, when the grave of their mother, Umgulsum Khanim, was found in Shamakhi decades later, long after her death, her children calmly placed a headstone [2].

Will my sun never rise again?  
Will it not stifle the wild darkness?  
Will not the dawn chase away the shadows?  
I asked – do not break your hope!

These lines were written in the Bail Prison by Umgulsum Khanim Rasulzade-Sadigzade Bayil, the beautiful, delicate, noble, and romantic

poetess of the ADR of the 20<sup>th</sup> century [4]. These expressions still radiate from Umgulsum Khanim's eyes in the portrait. Her book of poems was published only in independent Azerbaijan.

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#### **Gülrəna Mirzə (Azərbaycan)**

#### **OQTAY SADIQZADƏNİN YARADICILIĞINDA AZƏRBAYCANIN SUVERENLİYİ UĞRUNDA MÜBARİZƏ APARAN ŞƏXSLƏRİN PORTRETLƏRİ**

Azərbaycan ziyalı insanların ön sıralarında dayanan ədəbiyyatçılarımız, dramaturq və şairlərimiz öz ürək sözlərini yaradıcılıqlarında deyirdilər. Xalq rəssamı Oqtay Sadıqzadənin valideynləri ölkəmizin suverenliyi uğrunda həyatlarını qurban vermişlər. Çünki onlar sovet müstəmləkəsinə qarşı səslərini ucaltmış və fikirlərini həbsxanada dəyişməmişdilər. Onların həyatları və yaradıcılığı mübariz olmağa çağırış idi. 2000-ci illərdə Oqtay Sadıqzadə, Nizami və Hüseyn Cavid muzeyləri üçün bir sıra tablo yaratmışdır və öz yaradıcılığında həmişə mübarizlərin obrazları mövzusunı işləyirdi. Ümummilli Lider Heydər Əliyev, Məhəmməd ağa Şahxatinski, N.Nərimanov, M.Ə.Sabir, H.Cavid, M.Ə.Rəsulzadə, Qonça Bəyim, Natavanın əzəmətli portretləri buna bariz nümunədir .

**Açar sözlər:** Suverenlik, Azərbaycan, incəsənət, Oqtay Sadıqzadə, portret.

#### **Гюльрена Мирза (Азербайджан)**

#### **ПОРТРЕТЫ БОРЦОВ ЗА СУВЕРЕНИТЕТ АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНА В ТВОРЧЕСТВЕ ОКТАЯ САДЫХЗАДЕ**

Наши писатели, драматурги и поэты, стоящие в авангарде азербайджанской интеллигенции, боролись в своих произведениях за суверенитет Азербайджана. Родители народного художника Октая Садыхзаде писатель Сеид Гусейн и поэтесса Умгюльсум ханум отдали

свою жизнь за суверенитет нашей страны, потому что они подняли голос против советской системы и не изменили своего мнения в тюрьме. Их жизнь и деятельность были призывом к борьбе. В 2000-е годы Октай Садыкзаде создал ряд картин для музеев Низами и Гусейна Джавида. В своем творчестве он часто работал над тематикой образов борцов. Яркими примерами этому являются великолепные портреты общенационального лидера Гейдара Алиева, Мохаммада-аги Шахтагинского, Н.Нариманова, М.А.Сабира, Х.Джавида, М.А.Расулзаде, Гонча-бейим, Натаван.

**Ключевые слова:** суверенитет, Азербайджан, искусство, Октай Садыкзаде, портрет.