Issues of Morality and Philosophy in the Work of the Modern Chechen Writer S.-Kh. Katsaev

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Abstract. In this article, we consider the issues of moral and philosophical morality in the work of the modern Chechen writer S.-Kh. A. Katsaeva. An analysis of several works was carried out, where questions of moral and psychological aspects are revealed. The pages of the formation of the young Chechen writer S.-Kh. A. Katsaeva. This article analyzes the works written by S.-Kh. Katsaev about the events of the 80s of the XX century, where the reader can draw certain conclusions for himself about the then existing order of representatives of law enforcement agencies. Here we have built images, heroes, and for a deeper analysis of the facts, we have carried out this work in the work. Also, on the example of another work called “In the Dark”, definitions are given that are most suitable for this article: morality, philosophy, decency and honesty, which, of course, should be interesting to the reading audience. The article provides information about the publication of the most significant works of the author. The article also highlights the pages of the life of S.-Kh. Katsaev. The guided tour of the author’s creative and life path gives the reader a broad overview in order to better convey the truth to the reader. All the works of this author are written in Chechen, and these works have been translated into Russian by Lula Zhambulayeva, Aslanbek Gaytukaev, Mukhtar Ibragimov, Said-Emin Bazurkaev, and the author himself has also translated some of his works.

1 Introduction

“Said-Khasan Katsaev started writing when he was a schoolboy. His first story published in the magazine “Stela1ad” (“Rainbow”) was called “In the Beginning of Spring”. In 1988, he began to publish regularly in the Daimokhk newspaper, the Orga almanac. His stories were also published in collective collections of prose writers of Chechnya.


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“Writer and war”. About him in his short article “War is the aggressive essence of mankind”, a scientist, doctor of philosophical sciences, publicist V. Akaev wrote:

“I believe that S.-Kh.Katsaev, for the first time in Chechen literature, turns to the anthropology of war, trying to reveal the hidden sides of human imperfection. The truth about the war: terrible, cruel, inhuman... And do people need such truth? After all, the writer should tell about how a person is mutilated, how a person kills a person, people die in massive quantities, blood flows like rivers, cities are torn down from the face of the earth, the culture created by the human mind is destroyed. The plots of writer’s creativity cannot but become the facts of human bodies scattered into small parts during rocket and bomb strikes, the living hearts of people turned into ashes. War has infinitely many nightmarish facets, and it is impossible to describe all of them, but the writer, by artistic means, is obliged to reveal the general tendencies of human madness.

2 Research Methodology

According to Kusaev A.D.: “Being a deep connoisseur of the world classics, Said-Khasan Katsaev chooses his own path. Without imitating anyone, but at the same time, paying tribute to the intellectual wealth of great writers, he often enriches his works with sayings and quotations related to the subject matter. The realistic direction of his work was clearly manifested in the book “In the Darkness”, published in 2005. The story “Mashar” highlights the tragic fate of a simple Chechen family. About how the war makes its bloody unpredictable adjustments to the peaceful life of individuals, turning them, yesterday’s caring fathers, into militants, replenishing the ranks of the irreconcilable. It tells about the lawlessness committed in the chaos of a war that is incomprehensible to the common man” [2].

In one of his works on military subjects called “Mashar” S.-Kh.A. Katsaev conveyed through the inner world of the little heroine the pain and suffering that people feel because of military incidents. The name of the short story speaks for itself – “Mashar” - which means “Peace” in Chechen. The name of the main character of this work is Machar. The very fact that the author gave this work such a telling name speaks of its moral and philosophical literary device. A young family, the beginning of the war, sincere children’s thoughts and conversations about their happy family world at the beginning of the work, and in the end, the pain, loss and observation of the little heroine over the state of mind of adults. As in all his works about the war, S-X. Katsaev at the end of the story tirelessly emphasizes that war is the most terrible manifestation of humanity, which entails mass death of people, chaos and destruction.

3 Results and Discussions

All works of art by this author contain truthfulness and sincerity. That is why the reader is so familiar with them. Stories - Winter Evening (1985); In the Shade of the Trees (1985); Illusion (1987); Seminar (1987); Teacher (1988); About Proud Zakri (1989); Surprise (1989) and others are known to the general reader as essays. Writer and War (1995); Philosophy of Religion (1996); Kavka (2000); Diaries (2002). It should be noted that some of his stories have been translated into Russian by the author himself.

The stories were translated into Russian by: Lula Zhumalaeva, Iya Nikolanko, Aslanbek Gaytukaev, Mukhtar Ibragimov, Said-Emi Bazurkaev. The latter, by the way, writes: “Said-Khasan Katsaev published his first two books of stories, parables and essays between the two Chechen wars “Winter Evening” (1997), “School of the Writer” (1998), and the second

Katsaev’s talent is difficult to compare with the talent of other writers. The peculiar specificity of the author has long been familiar to the reader. It is easy to see that Katsaev’s composition and style depend entirely on the content. He is witty in his works, humorous and truthful... There is one peculiarity of the author, to give the exact dates and scene of the action described in his works. Very accurately describes the portrait of the psychological state of the literary image.

“Not all Katsaev’s stories are equal, not all of them have that inner depth that is sometimes hidden behind an outwardly entertaining story. Katsaev writes with the obsession of a man who has a lot to say, and I hope he will say a lot more. It shows with great force the superiority of a simple human feeling of love over the artificial and therefore illusory power of money. He puts so much poetic color and sincerity into the description of love. Love transforms a person, elevates him above others, makes him beautiful, opens up new possibilities in him, introduces him to nature, beauty and harmony” [4, p. 3].

Let’s carry out a small analysis of the product C-X. Katsaev, the events in which take place in the 80s of the XX century in this short story we are talking about a simple Chechen woman Markhi. Who came to the market for the purpose of trading to feed her family. Two policemen in civilian clothes approached her in the market, introducing themselves as buyers, and after Marha showed them a downy scarf and named the price, the policemen presented the documents and began to draw up a protocol. The poor woman, in confusion, keeping calm, negotiates with representatives of the order, paying them a decent amount, she goes back to trade in the market. Now, without fear. In this story, we see the lack of humanity on the part of the police, i.e. taking money from a woman, they forgot about order and law. Here, a scene undoubtedly develops where the reader begins to reflect on this situation and at the same time empathize with the heroine.

“The essay “War and the Writer” is the quintessence of his work, his civic position, as a creative person and as a citizen. He does not just express his attitude to the fratricidal war, the author tries to look into the soul of those who start wars, throwing into the attack completely innocent people who have nothing to do with their political ambitions and adventures...

High appreciation of the essay and the late work of C-X. Katsaev was given by the People’s Writer of the CHIASSR Abuzar Aidamirov, Doctor of Philosophy, Academician of the Academy of Sciences of the Chechen Republic Vakhit Akaev and other figures of science, culture and literature.

None of the emperors and commanders has ever succeeded and will never succeed in conquering the whole world. But the world was conquered by Dickens, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Byron, Lorca and many other great masters of the word” [1, p. 8].

In his works, he quotes and sayings of great writers related to a common theme with great respect.

Unlike writers of the older generation, Katsaev does not raise too big questions in his works...

The author pays the greatest attention to human relations, especially he follows these relations during periods of difficult atmosphere ... Morality, kindness, compassion for one’s neighbor, this is the main thing in the work of this writer [9].

All works by S.-Kh. Katsaev are distinguished by brevity, morality, sincerity and topicality ...

Many writers and journalists distinguish in their scientific and journalistic works that S.-Kh. From his youth, Katsaev was fascinated by the work of such classics of world literature as: Maupassant, Hemingway, Babel Merime, Chekhov, Gorky, Bunin. Undoubtedly, they influenced the moral and psychological development of the future writer [10].
Katsaev is well versed in the small genre, therefore, in his works we see both lyricism and publicism...

Almost all the works of this author make the reader empathize and analyze this situation.

A great place in the author’s work is occupied by the love theme. Through the image of his heroes, the author conveys his worldview of high human moral qualities of people.

The author describes pure and disinterested feelings between a man and a woman as the highest level of morality.

Let’s conduct a small analysis of one story “In the Darkness”.

The work is very small, but contains a great moral-ethical and moral-aesthetic coloring.

A meeting of young people in the park, at night after work, girls who went to the bus stop and a young student who came out from a friend who did not manage to persuade him to stay the night. The young man’s first attempt to talk to the girls is unsuccessful...

The girls are modestly silent and waiting for the tram, the young man tries to speak again [11] ... In the end, one of the girls asks the young man for his name, and said that they are afraid to leave their girlfriend alone because they need to go the other way. Having explained that they were coming home from work and having lost hope of waiting for the tram, the girls asked to take their friend home.

... They asked the young man if he could be trusted?

The girl, in turn, does not want to go with the guy and says that the tram will be waiting.

The two girls go home together.

But the guy is afraid to leave one girl at the tram stop at night...

Like a real man, he escorts the girl to the gate of her house without uttering a single superfluous word.

It is in this small scene that we observe a moral and psychological fragment of worthy human behavior.

An interesting dialogue that takes place between young people after the departure of two girls ...

“...They, chuckling, leave, pleased with the joke. We are left alone.

After a while, I ask the hidden girl:

- Well what are we going to do?
- You go, - she answers. – I’ll wait.

But there’s no point in waiting.

Not a soul around. In which case, there is no one to come to the rescue, and therefore she is afraid of me.

- If you want, we can sit here until dawn. In the morning I have to be in class, but I can’t leave like that, - I try to explain myself. - After all, your girlfriends think that you are with me. And no one knows who will come after me.

I’m not trying to scare her or force her to do anything. But you need to soberly assess the situation. Her distrust hurts me. I can, of course, with mutual sympathy, take care of a girl (in the first minutes when we met, maybe, as a romantic, I thought about it!), But I will never abuse the situation and the defenselessness of the girl. We may never see each other again, but I want her to trust me. I am ready to give her brotherly help. She sits silently, cowering like a small bird. I wouldn’t sleep well if I left her here alone.

- You have a brother? I ask.

“No,” she replies.

“I have a sister,” I say.

She, without saying a word, gets up from her seat and follows me…” [5].

4 Conclusions
The work of S.-Kh. Katsaeva are very truthful; they capture the reader by the fact that they are without falsehood. Many of his works are difficult to read without tears and emotions, especially those that cover military events. S.-H. Katsaev, together with his heroes, is experiencing the pain and tragedy of his people. War always carries the death of suffering and destruction, and S.-Kh. Katsaev is always against all this ugly chaos ... His work is a call to everything good, kind, bright ... Created images in the works of S.-Kh. Katsaev remain in the memory of readers for life. The cheerful, positive, good-natured behavior of his characters instills hope in people, and we find all these qualities in the images created by Katsaev in his works. All bright personalities, of course, play great roles of founders, reformers of a certain genre, direction. One of such talented people in Chechen literature of the late 20th and early 21st centuries is S.-Kh. Katsaev, whose work is a direct proof of the symbol of everyday consciousness and the national tragic history of the Chechen people.

No writer can get around the problem of morality, otherwise the reader will not be interested in this or that work. The modern stage of Chechen literature follows the norms of morality, incorporating the traditions and customs of the Chechen people into this meaningful word.

S.-Kh. did not bypass this rule either. Katsaev, strictly following the Chechen mentality, clearly expressing his thoughts, he presents the reader with the most beautiful examples of the images of heroes in his works. In the future, like all readers, we will hope for the release of new works by S.-Kh. Katsaev, where one can also discover the high qualities of human morality.

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