

SURVIVAL AND INSTINCT IN EXTREME CONDITIONS: A LITERARY ANALYSIS OF ALEXANDER FAYNBERG'S STORY

Mirag'zamova Oysha Mirsherzod qizi

Faculty of 2nd English foreign language
and literature, Uzbekistan State World Languages

University, Tashkent, Uzbekistan,

oishamiragzamova@gmail.com

Annotatsiya: Ushbu ilmiy maqola Aleksandr Faynbergning qisqa hikoyasini tahlil qiladi. Hikoya yosh topograf va uning jamoasining shafqatsiz Pomir tog'laridagi sayohatini tasvirlaydi. Asarda omon qolish, inson chidamliligi, instinkt va intizom o'rtasidagi qarama-qarshilik hamda odamlar va hayvonlar o'rtasidagi o'zaro bog'liqlik kabi mavzular ilgari suriladi. Birinchi shaxs nomidan hikoya qilish, boy tasvirlar va ramziy elementlar yordamida Faynberg o'quvchini chuqur hayajonga soladigan voqelik yaratadi, bu esa jismoniy va psixologik omon qolish jihatlarini o'rganishga imkon beradi. Ushbu maqola hikoyaning batafsil sharhini va uning tematik hamda adabiy jihatlarining chuqur tahlilini taqdim etadi hamda uning omon qolish adabiyotidagi ahamiyatini yoritadi.

Kalit so'zlar: instinkt, intizom, topografiya, ekspeditsiya, sovet adabiyoti, inson-hayvon munosabatlari.

Аннотация: Данная научная работа исследует рассказ Александра Файнберга, в котором повествуется о путешествии молодого топографа и его команды по суровым территориям Памирских гор. В рассказе поднимаются темы выживания, человеческой выносливости, противостояния инстинкта и дисциплины, а также симбиотической связи между людьми и животными.

Используя повествование от первого лица, богатые описания и символические элементы, Файнберг создает захватывающий опыт, исследующий как физические, так и психологические аспекты выживания. В данной работе представлено подробное изложение сюжета и глубокий анализ его тематических и литературных компонентов, подчеркивающий его значимость в литературе о выживании.

Ключевые слова: инстинкт, дисциплина, топография, экспедиция, советская литература, взаимоотношения человека и животных.

Abstract: This research paper examines Alexander Faynberg's short story, which narrates the journey of a young topographer and his team in the unforgiving terrain of the Pamir Mountains. The story highlights themes such as survival, human endurance, instinct versus discipline, and the symbiotic relationship between humans and animals. Through first-person narration, rich descriptions, and symbolic elements, Faynberg creates an immersive experience that explores both the physical and psychological aspects of survival. This paper provides a detailed summary of the story and an in-depth analysis of its thematic and literary components, demonstrating its significance within survival literature.

Keywords: instinct, discipline, topography, expedition, Soviet literature, human-animal relationship

Introduction:

Survival literature captures the confrontation between human resilience and nature's indifference. Alexander Faynberg's story, set in the rugged Pamir Mountains, presents an intense depiction of a scientific expedition challenged by thirst, exhaustion, and unpredictable animal behavior. The protagonist, a young topographer, struggles with the tension between his training and his instincts, providing a compelling narrative about discipline, survival, and the limits of human control. This paper explores the

story's key themes, symbolism, and narrative techniques, situating it within the broader context of survival and adventure literature.

Background: Alexander Faynberg and Soviet Adventure Literature: Alexander Faynberg was a writer known for his realistic portrayals of Soviet-era expeditions and scientific missions in remote regions. His works often focused on young specialists facing extreme environmental conditions, emphasizing the values of perseverance, teamwork, and responsibility. Soviet adventure literature often served as a medium to promote these ideals, portraying individuals who endured hardship for the sake of knowledge and progress. This story aligns with that tradition by illustrating the challenges of topographic surveying in a harsh natural setting.

Summary of the Story

The protagonist, a young topographer, embarks on a challenging expedition through the Pamir Mountains with his companions, Anvar and Borya. Their mission requires them to measure the land using special surveying equipment. They travel on horseback, carrying provisions for ten days, including supplies for both themselves and the horses. As they navigate the steep mountain paths, thirst becomes their greatest challenge. The dry, high-altitude environment depletes their energy, and when they finally find a water source, they recklessly drink without considering proper hydration protocols. Their horses, similarly overwhelmed by thirst, rush to a trough and drink excessively, leading to a dangerous moment when the two stallions—Vorobey and Festival—begin fighting. The protagonist recalls the immense responsibility placed upon him to care for the horses and fears disciplinary consequences from his superiors. However, with the help of his companions, the situation is brought under control.

After ten days in the mountains, the team returns to their base, where they throw themselves into the river, drinking with desperate relief. In the final moment, the protagonist notices the horses watching them with what he interprets as grateful

expressions, symbolizing a shared struggle between humans and animals in extreme conditions.

Literary Analysis:

1. Themes in the Story

Survival and Human Endurance: The story's central theme is survival in extreme conditions. The characters' exhaustion, dehydration, and struggle to maintain control over their animals depict the immense physical and mental toll of their expedition. Their reckless drinking highlights how survival instincts can override rational decision-making, demonstrating how human endurance is tested in life-threatening situations.

Instinct vs. Discipline: The tension between survival instinct and professional discipline is a key element in the narrative. The protagonist and his team are trained to follow proper procedures, but thirst leads them to act impulsively. The horses, driven purely by instinct, serve as a contrast to the men, yet their actions mirror the humans' own loss of control. This moment suggests that even the most disciplined individuals can succumb to basic survival needs.

The Relationship Between Humans and Animals: The horses in the story are not mere tools for transportation; they are integral to the journey and face the same hardships as their riders. Their fight at the watering trough reflects the raw, untamed energy of survival, while their final gaze at the humans drinking from the river suggests a deeper, almost spiritual connection. This relationship emphasizes the shared struggle between species when faced with nature's challenges.

Nature's Power and Indifference: The Pamir Mountains are portrayed as vast, majestic, and indifferent to human suffering. The rapid sunset and the unpredictable availability of water emphasize how nature operates on its own terms, forcing humans and animals alike to adapt or suffer. The contrast between the dangerous trough and the life-giving river at the end reinforces the dual nature of the environment—both a source of relief and a potential threat.

2. Narrative Techniques and Literary Devices

First-Person Perspective: The use of first-person narration immerses the reader in the protagonist's experience, allowing for a direct and personal engagement with his thoughts and emotions. His internal conflict—balancing responsibility with survival—adds psychological depth to the narrative.

Detailed Descriptions and Vivid Imagery: Faynberg employs rich, sensory descriptions to bring the setting to life. The scene where the horses plunge their muzzles into the trough, the feeling of parched lips cracking from thirst, and the final relief of drinking from the river all create a cinematic, almost tangible experience for the reader.

Symbolism: Water - Water serves as both a life-giving force and a potential danger. The initial reckless drinking nearly leads to disaster, while the final moment by the river symbolizes renewal and relief.

The Horses' Fight - The stallions' aggression after drinking mirrors the uncontrolled instincts that emerge under extreme stress. It serves as a warning about the fine line between survival and chaos.

The Mountains - The vast and imposing landscape represents both the beauty and the harshness of nature. It serves as an indifferent observer to human and animal struggles, reinforcing the idea that survival is a constant negotiation with the environment.

3. Psychological and Philosophical Reflections

The story subtly explores the mental state of individuals in survival situations. The protagonist's anxiety about responsibility, his fleeting thoughts of disciplinary consequences, and his ultimate surrender to thirst all reveal the psychological toll of extreme conditions. The final moment—where humans and horses alike drink with desperate relief—suggests a philosophical reflection on the fundamental equality of all living beings in the face of nature's forces.

Discussion:

The Story's Broader Implications: Faynberg's story extends beyond a simple expedition narrative; it provides insight into the psychology of survival, the limits of discipline, and the deep connection between humans and animals. The story also aligns with Soviet-era adventure literature, which often emphasized perseverance and scientific exploration. However, its focus on instinct over discipline challenges the traditional Soviet ideal of absolute control over nature, making it a unique and thought-provoking work.

Additionally, the story serves as a reminder of the importance of environmental awareness and respect for natural forces. The characters' near-disastrous mistake highlights the dangers of underestimating nature and the need for caution and preparation in extreme environments.

Conclusion:

Alexander Faynberg's story is a powerful exploration of survival, human endurance, and the instinctive bond between humans and animals. Through vivid descriptions, first-person narration, and symbolic storytelling, the narrative captures the essence of the struggle against nature's indifference. The story's themes remain relevant beyond its historical and cultural context, offering universal insights into resilience, adaptation, and the delicate balance between control and instinct.

REFERENCE:

1. Karimov, B. (2015). Bilingualism and Cultural Bridges in Central Asian Poetry. Moscow: Central Asian Studies Press.2(4),342-346
2. Oripov, A. (2005). Poetic Identity and Cultural Memory. Tashkent: Uzbekistan Public Press.(6), 25-32
3. Yo'ldosh Q&M. (2016).Badiiy tahlil asoslari.Tashkent.175-180.

4. Quronov D, Mamajonov Z, Sheraliyeva M.(2010). Adabiyotshunoslik lug'ati. Akademnashr, 152.
5. Faynberg A. (2005).About the poet Feinberg. Khreshchatyk (4),11-16
6. Faynberg A. (1986). Ruboiy tori. Tashkent.(p.13).
7. Meliqo'ziyeva Z.(2023). O'zbek va rus yozuvchisi Aleksandr Faynberg hayoti, ijodining bugungi kundagi ahamiyati, Scientific Impulse, 1(9), 770-772
8. <https://n.ziyouz.com>