

## THE IMAGE OF BIRDS IN THE WORKS OF ABDULLA ORIPOV

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**Abstract.** This article analyzes the artistic and symbolic interpretation of bird imagery in the poetry of the People's Poet of Uzbekistan, Abdulla Oripov. It examines the ideological-aesthetic meaning, human emotions, aspirations, and spiritual values expressed through various bird symbols found in the poet's works. The harmony between the image of birds in his poetry and their place in folk oral creativity and national thinking is also explored.

**Keywords:** Abdulla Oripov, bird imagery, symbolic meaning, artistic depiction, aspiration, homeland, freedom, folk oral creativity.

Abdulla Oripov, one of the leading figures of Uzbek literature, has left a significant mark on the development of national literature with his meaningful creativity, profound artistic thinking, and unique style. His poetry vividly expresses life truths, human emotions, spiritual values, and scenes from nature and society with a distinctive poetic spirit. Among his frequently used and deeply symbolic motifs is the image of birds.

Birds symbolize aspiration, freedom, and longing. Since ancient times, they have been interpreted in literature as representations of dreams, liberty, suffering, and spiritual experience. For instance, one of Abdulla Oripov's earliest poems is titled "The Little Bird" (1958). In this concise eight-line poem, the poet urges the bird to stay in the homeland forever and live together, describing himself as the "pampered son of this flowery land":

Sometimes it lands on branches,  
sometimes on the ground,  
Restless and singing, the little bird.  
Why does spring enchant you so?  
Where were you before spring arrived?  
Let's live together forever,  
We have spring, and flowers abound.  
Know that I, too, am the lively son  
Of this blooming land.

Abdulla Oripov skillfully uses bird imagery. In his poem "Birds" he writes:

The birds have flown away again,  
Like the cry of a falcon,  
Forgive me, oh heart,  
For grieving your being left behind...

In these lines, the departure of birds is associated with fleeting moments in life, unattainable dreams, and inner turmoil. Birds appear as symbols of heights humans cannot reach and sorrows etched in the poet's heart.

For Abdulla Oripov, birds also represent the idea of homeland. In several poems, the longing for the homeland is conveyed through birds flying to distant lands. Their flight symbolizes separation from the homeland and the pain it causes the heart.

Birds in Oripov's poetry are not only natural images but also carry symbolic and philosophical meanings. At times, they represent freedom, and at others, captivity. This dual symbolism reflects the complexity of the poet's worldview and his deep perception of life. For example:

I want to fly, to become a bird,  
Break the chains and fly away...

Here, the bird is a metaphor for the yearning for freedom and escape from spiritual confinement.

One of the most frequently used birds in Oripov's poetry is the nightingale. It symbolizes beauty, love, inspiration, poetry, and art. In some lines, the nightingale represents inspiration, which is rooted in pain and lament. In his poem "My Mother Tongue," Oripov uses the image of the nightingale to express the charm and grace of the Uzbek language, placing it above the parrot, which lives by imitation:

For a thousand years, the nightingale's speech  
Has remained unchanged, always whole.  
But the poor parrot's fate  
Is forever imitation of others.  
My mother tongue, as long as you live,  
I shall sing like a nightingale.  
If you disappear one day,  
Surely, I will turn into a parrot...

In Oripov's "Homeland" poem, written in the form of mukhammas and consisting of six stanzas, each ends with the following couplet, in which the image of the "caged nightingale" serves as a metaphor for a heart separated from its homeland:

A heart far from homeland cannot rejoice,  
Like a caged nightingale, it cannot sing without a garden.

Another bird found in his poetry is the crow, often portrayed negatively — as a symbol of ingratitude, ugliness, disaster, or evil. The poet sometimes uses the crow to represent dark intentions or foreign powers.

He also uses the image of the swallow, a symbol of spring, renewal, hope, and good news. He writes: “Like the swallow that comes with spring...”

In Abdulla Oripov’s poetry, birds serve as aesthetic devices, symbols, and reflections of national consciousness. Each bird carries a specific philosophical or emotional meaning:

- Nightingale – love with suffering, art.
- Swallow – hope, spring.
- Hawk / Crow – threat, oppression.
- Falcon – pride, courage.
- Lark – tranquility, awakening of nature.

The bird imagery in Abdulla Oripov’s work is revealed through various artistic and symbolic interpretations. These images convey human emotions, dreams, homesickness, and the desire for freedom. Such deep and symbolic depictions highlight the poet’s philosophical vision, literary mastery, and spiritual depth. Through birds, Oripov enriches his poetry with existential, emotional, and national meaning.

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