



Galymkair Mutanov

*The
Shining
Light*



MUTANOV GALYMKAIR



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Translated by John Farndon with Olga Nakston

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THE SHINING LIGHT

by Mutanov Galymkair

Translated by John Farndon with Olga Nakston

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From Rollan Seysenbayev

We are witnessing that there is lot of talented and gifted people in our country. Therefore, our nation, as cultural heritage, is spiritually very rich. The spiritual heritage is closely related to nation`s wealth and prosperity of our Motherland.

We should raise our generation on the basis of this prosperity. This is a key and sacred task of every country. Since only those nations, who have not lost a gene pool of their populations, are the real nations. The rest are just pitying human beings.

Poems of Mr. Galym Mutanov, an eminent scholar, professor, academician and rector of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, started to be printed in newspapers and magazines. Meantime, the works of Mr. Mutanov have been successfully translated to Russian, Turkish and Arabic languages, published and highly evaluated in these countries.

The favorite poets of the East were at the same time mathematicians, astronomers, geographers and historians.

The famous German poet Goethe himself was fond of the Eastern poets.

Galymkayir poems are inspired by Abay`s works. At the same time Galym`s poems are impressed by

Eastern poetry and characterized by mathematical accuracy. Thanks to that, he can convey several thoughts in two words. Most importantly, his poetry is inspired by high humanity.

The works of Galym were driven by power, property, honor and dignity. Since only a great citizen and poet could inherit and spread honor and dignity into the minds of people.

– Rollan Seysenbayev

The famous kazakh writer, dramatist, translator and founder of House of Abay in London, Abay International Club and Amanat International literary magazine.

Translator's note

The figure of Abai, the visionary, the deeply spiritual poet of the steppe, looms large over Kazakh poetry. Yet polymath Galym Mutanov takes up the challenge Abai throws down – to create verse that is both steeped in the Kazakh tradition of oral verse yet rises to a new intellectual clarity and spirituality. Indeed, Mutanov often echoes Abai's sense of the pain the Kazakh people which deepened immeasurably in the century since Abai's death. "You warrior of verse." Mutanov hails him in his verse 'To the wise Abai,' which laments how Abai was betrayed at the same as celebrating him.

In the range of his poetry, Galym Mutanov truly captures the essence of the Kazakh spirit – from the tough and ageless traditions of the wild steppe to moments of tender intimacy. The measured wisdom and deep sense of morality so intrinsic to Kazakh life of old shines through in verse after verse.

Mutanov wrote all his poems originally in Kazakh, but many Kazakhs speak only Russian. So his poems were translated into Russian by leading poets Vladimir Buryazev and M. Adibaeva. It is these Russian versions that are the source for the translations in this collection.

– John Farndon



The Shining Light

(from the translation by M.Adibaeva)

Fill your life with meaning;
Let the sun come rising!
Amaze with the richness of your soul.
Give your love to people whole.
Love is the highest force, my friend.
Keep it pure in your heart and in the end
Your life's journey will be good –
For its light will shine in the darkest wood.

Allah's gift

We come to this place – Allah's gift,
A sign of his kindness unfurled.
He bestows on us our life's shift,
And brings warmth to all the world.

So then, kindness, not strife,
Is our soul's ongoing call...
And in each small moment of life
To give due honour to all.

Contents

FROM ROLLAN SEYSENBAYEV	5
TRANSLATOR'S NOTE	7
THE SHINING LIGHT	9
ALLAH'S GIFT	10
SPIRITUAL WARMTH	11
THE PATH TO HAPPINESS	12
TO ACCEPT LIFE	13
THE POWER OF REASON	14
LUST FOR LIFE	15
HAPPINESS	16
BORN TO BE HAPPY	17
BIRD OF INSPIRATION	18
DAY AND NIGHT	19
HOPE	20
A MOMENT IN ETERNITY.	21
A TIME OF YOUTH	22
NEW YEAR.	23
BALANCE RULES THE WORLD	24
TIME – THE ARK	25
COMMON GOAL	26
THE BOOK OF FATE	27
HUMAN UNIVERSE	29
A PERFECT MAN	30
A GOOD MAN	31
SHELTER FOR THE SOUL	32

BEAUTY	33
INNOCENCE	34
A MAIDEN'S WAY	35
WITH YOU	36
I AM WITH YOU	37
COMPARISON	38
SORROW	39
DO YOU EVER THINK OF ME?	40
A FRIEND	41
SPLIT	42
OTHERS LIVE...	43
WHEN HONOUR IS INJURED	44
ENSLAVEMENT OF THE SOUL	45
SHADOW ACROSS THE SUN	46
LESSONS OF NATURE	47
AFTER THE THUNDERSTORM	48
LEAVES	49
DAWN	50
DUSK	51
THE DOG BARKS.	52
A SOUL AND GOD'S CREATURE	54
WORK!	55
MOTHER AND CHILD	56
GRANDDAUGHTER	57
NOBILITY	59
CHARACTER IN CONGRUENCE	61
THE GREY LEADER	62
TO THE WISE ABAI	63
COMPARED TO DESIRE.	65
FORMULA FOR A NATION'S SUCCESS	66

NATIVE LAND . . . . .	.68
ATATÜRK . . . . .	.69
DIDN'T WAIT UNTIL MORNING . . . . .	.70
TO MACH . . . . .	.72
GOD'S PLAN . . . . .	.73
AN OLD MAN. . . . .	.74
NEW POSSIBILITIES . . . . .	.75
MOTHER-KHANUM . . . . .	.76
DEBTS AND DUTIES . . . . .	.77
DESTINY . . . . .	.78
LETTERS OF FATE . . . . .	.79
HORIZONS . . . . .	.80
A MAN IS CREATED LIKE THIS . . . . .	.81
BODY AND SOUL . . . . .	.82
THE SEA OF LIFE . . . . .	.83
YOUR SOUL WILL BE FREED. . . . .	.84
THE MEMORIAL DINNER . . . . .	.85
A LEAF TORN OFF. . . . .	.86
CLOUD-DRIVEN BY THE WIND . . . . .	.87
THE CARAVAN OF ETERNAL LIFE . . . . .	.88
TRUE VALUE . . . . .	.89
UNDER THE SHADOW OF LIFE . . . . .	.90
TIME IS LIFE . . . . .	.91
GOING . . . . .	.92
LIFE PATH . . . . .	.94
FOOTPRINT IN THE SAND95
FEELING96
ANSWER TO A QUESTION97
REGULARITY.98
WHAT IS NEEDED?99

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A Kazakh poet Galymkair Mutanov is not only an interesting and gifted creative personality, but also a very original, distinctive philosopher. His poems are heartfelt, extraordinary and modest. The poems are memories, reflections and advices of a truly wise and outstanding person. They are not trivial and vain, but really bright, with deep philosophical associations. Therefore, his poems are readily translated and published abroad. Wonderful collections of poems of the famous Kazakh poet were successfully published in Turkey (two books for which were awarded with the prestigious Medal of Makhtumkuli), Azerbaijan and Russia. The successful translations of his poems in Persian language (Farsi) were published in the popular magazine "XUDAFƏRIN". There were also resonant publications in such Ukrainian magazines as "Vsesvit" ("Всесвіт"), "Boristen" ("Бористен") and "Literaturniy Chernigiv" ("Літературний Чернігів"); in the Canadian magazine "Port Folio". Galymkair Mutanov was recently awarded the Nikolai Gogol "Triumph" ("Триумф") International Literary Prize in Ukraine. A number of songs had been written on his poems; under his subordination a social project "Ainalandy nurlandyr" ("Айналанды нұрландыр!") is run in Al-Farabi Kazakh National University. The main goal of the project is to promote moral values, peace, good and humanism.

Now, thanks to his book which was translated into English by John Farndon, admirers of the high poetry of the English-speaking countries can get acquainted with the works of Galymkair Mutanov and discover a really interesting and unusual Poet!

Sergey Dzuba,
*President of the International Academy of
Literature and Art of Ukraine, writer, translator*

