



## Motherland and Patriotism in the Lyrics of Tulegen Aibergenov

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### **Abstract**

The article studies patriotic ideas in the lyrics of a talented Kazakh poet Tulegen Aibergenov and draws important scientific theoretical conclusions. The poems of Tulegen Aibergenov praising the land of Karakalpakstan are analyzed.

**Keywords:** *Man; Literature; Poet; Poem; Lyric; Poetry; Homeland; Patriotism*

### **Introduction**

Every person is close to his family, relatives, and friends, and the Motherland is no less! Motherland means the most precious, the greatest, the most pleasing to the soul—the place where one was born and raised.

Only a person who cares for his country and people, where he was born and grew up, for its fate and future, who puts the best intentions and desires of humans as his highest goal, who lives for his people and his Motherland, who can sacrifice his life for his Motherland under any circumstances can leave an eternal mark in history. Children who serve the country they were born and grew up in wholeheartedly will always be in memories of the people. Tulegen Aibergenov is one of those ardent children who have received the attention and respect of the people and is a classic poet of Kazakh literature. He made a significant contribution to the development of Kazakh poetry with his works and left his name on the poetry scene. The main theme of his poetry is human feelings such as affection, love, and loyalty, as well as glorifying the endless love and respect for the motherland, which is the main factor of these feelings. The theme of the homeland dominates in many of his poems.

Tulegen Aibergenov, a classic poet of Turkish literature, was born on March 3, 1937, in the Kungirot district of Karakalpakstan. After graduating from the secondary school in this district, in 1955 he entered the department of “Kazakh language and literature” of Tashkent State Pedagogical Institute named after Nizami. He graduated from the institute in 1959 and he taught Kazakh language and

literature in the schools of Kungirat until 1962. He moved to the Republic of Kazakhstan to engage in creative activities. Until 1967, Tulegen worked as a director of an evening school in the South Kazakhstan region, and then at the Writers Union of Kazakhstan. Tulegen Aibergenov died on August 29, 1967 in Nukus, Karakalpakstan.

Tulegen Aibergenov started writing poems when he was studying at the Tashkent State Pedagogical Institute. His first poem was published in the newspaper “Alga” of the Ukurin Chirchik district of the Tashkent region. More precisely, his poems began to be published in the republican press in 1957. His poems dedicated to patriotism were published in 1961 in the collection *Jas dauren*. The poet’s poems written with love for the country and dedicated to mother and nature, lyrics glorifying love and social issues were published in the form of poetic books during his lifetime and after his death, including *Journey to Armenia* (1963), *Umirge Sayaxhat* (1965), *Towers in the Sand* (1968), *I Loved You* (1970), *Amanat* (1975), *Bir toyim bar* (1981) and the children’s picture–book *Baqshaga sayaxat* (1985). His selected works written in Russian were published under the name *Constellation world* (1987). The Kazakhstan Youth award was given to Tulegen Aibergenov, who lived only 30 years, but created his own path not only in Kazakh literature, but also in the literature of all Turkic peoples, and made a great contribution to the development of a new form and genre of literature after death.

The anthem of the land where he was born and raised is the main theme of Tolegen’s poetry. It would not be wrong to say that the burning love for the country where he was born and raised completely covered the poet’s lyrics. The subject that glorifies the artist’s career is the responsibility, honor, and filial duty to the country where he was born and raised. Especially when you start reading the works of the poet, who walked far away from his homeland, misses his native land, its people, mountains, towns and villages, and turns his longing into poetry, you will feel the endless longing for your motherland in your heart.

He poetically glorified his native Karakalpakstan with all his strength. In his poem *In the waves of Aral*, he describes the Aral Sea as “Are you sleeping, my great noble child, leaving the world stunned at your sight”. Comparing the island, which is drying up before the eyes of humanity, to his father, brother, younger brother, and friends is a characteristic of a fiery patriot who truly loves his homeland like Tulegen Aibergenov. In turn, the land of the poet’s birth and upbringing gives its child the divine strength and iron wings to conquer the highest goals. The creator, who felt this from the bottom of his heart, says, “If you give wings to a dream, even if I am a stone, I will be softened by it”, showing the great power of the land of his birth.

Indeed, the ideological power of Tulegen Aibergenov’s works on the theme of the Motherland is extremely strong, being filled with patriotic feelings. Tulegen Aibergenov, who lived as short as the tip of a whip in this mortal world, added the natural and spiritual wealth of his country to his poem and gave great hope for its future. For example, in his poem *From the notes of Kegeyli (Kegeyli dapterinen)* he says:

Kegaylim beloved of the earth,  
You stirred my young soul.  
Berdak’s beloved country,  
Are you a poem written by Ajiniyaz?  
From the other side of Amu,  
I came back, walking by many houses.  
With a warm heart,  
Welcome me, oh, Kegeyli [1, 5].

The poet remembers Berdak and Ajiniyaz, the children of the Karakalpak people, and describes his native land and its nature in a special way through Kegeyli. As we mentioned above, the poet chose

the land of Karakalpakstan, its beautiful nature, riches, and diligent and kind people as the main theme of his poetry.

A close walk to summer,  
Flashing lights.  
Unearthed riches,  
Unwritten histories [1, 6].

With close attention to the educational value of this poem, it can be noted that, first of all, it awakens in the heart of the reader a feeling of love for his country and pride for his people. Also, by including Berdaq and Ajiniyaz in the poem, he expresses his infinite respect for the Karakalpak people and encourages the reader to treat representatives of other nations with respect.

In his poems, Tulegen Aibergenov praises his native land – Karakalpakstan, its diligent, kind-hearted and tolerant people, beautiful nature, and riches of lakes and rivers.

In his poem *People*, he writes:  
Hey people, I'm with you,  
Your kindness I appreciate.  
You are the source of my happiness,  
And you are the sharpener of my pen.  
He also says:  
The baldness that turned into Gulistan,  
Steel hands, smart heads.  
I love, I love you all,  
Until my last breath leaves my chest [1, 7].

Following the saying of our people, “He who does not know the value of the Motherland does not know his own value”, the poet states that he is ready to burn as fire and turn into ashes for the Motherland:

I walk the way of virtue,  
And bestow beauty on the lakes.  
I will take the roaring sea,  
And pour it into the barren land [4, 117].

The close attention to the lines of the poem reveals that the main goal of the poet is to prepare his listeners to work honestly and diligently for the development of the Motherland. This noble goal is fully reflected in another of his works – the poem *Land of Birth*:

To let you warm under the sun,  
I broke the mountain glaciers.  
To let there be an eternal shadow,  
I did not let an ax strike your garden [1, 28].

The line “I did not let an ax strike your garden” contains a great feeling of patriotism. With this phrase, the poet expresses with great pathos the need to protect every inch of the land he was born in like the apple of an eye. Tulegen Aibergenov never forgot his homeland – the Karakalpak region. On the contrary, in his works, he puts the honor of his birthplace above his own reputation. For this reason, he says:

I will always be your happiness,  
But, never will I be your shame [1, – p. 28].

These lines of the poem reveal Tulegen Aibergenov not only as a great poet of Kazakh poetry but also as a favorite child of the Karakalpak region and a highly valued poet. As the poet said in his works, he has become an eternal garden and pride of his country.

Love for Motherland begins with the family. It is worth noting that his feelings of patriotism were formed primarily by the upbringing given by his parents. The feeling of love for the land of birth develops with the human feelings of the father and the love of the mother.

My father on the back of a horse,  
Trotted your steppe, Kegeyli.  
Protecting my father's footsteps,  
I reached the destination, Kegeyli [1, 5].

For the poet, the Motherland is a miracle of the father's heritage. Homeland is an unconditional area in a person's life that he gets from the previous generation without choice. It encourages us to conclude that only genuine children will preserve and cherish this heritage.

A deep-thinking, sensitive lyrical poet considers every region of Karakalpak land to be his homeland. The name "Borsa kelmas" (Place from where there is no return) is scary, and the reason why it is called in such a way is still not revealed. About "Borsa kelmas" the poet writes:

I loved you as my motherland,  
As my sweet land with "salt".

He calls the scary land, whose name makes his heart flutter, his motherland, and compares the salty soil to sweet sugar. Although this land is called "Borsa kelmas", it reminds us that there are patriotic children who never leave the country. Poet Tulegen Aibergenov shows his readers an example of love for the Motherland with the magic of words.

### ***Conclusion***

In summary, in each of Tulegen Aibergenov's poems, the song of thirst for life, deep thinking, and sincere feelings can be observed. Especially in his poems on the theme of the homeland, the poet does not simply describe it when he writes about the homeland but creates lines with strong warmth, boundless love, and most importantly, originality that penetrates the heart of every reader. It should not be forgotten that the poet's poetry is not just a set of beautiful words. The secret that makes his poetry attractive is his sincere heart, which was mentioned at the beginning of the article, and this heart is overflowing with feelings such as patriotism and the love of people. When he wrote poems on the topic of his homeland, he would openly reflect on all the experiences in his heart. A talented poet is a nation itself. His songs are closely connected with the native people's unique way of life and the natural qualities in their blood. His poems resonate with the national spirit in any language. Therefore, the poems of this talented poet reveal the vastness of the steppe, the purity of a child, and the wisdom and individuality of the nation.

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