



## A DISASTER - A THOUSAND IMPACTS: THE LIFE AND WORK OF GAFUR GHULAM

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**Abstract:** this article explores the life and work of G'afur G'ulom, a prominent figure in Uzbek literature who left an indelible mark on readers' hearts with his satirical and humorous stories. It delves into the hardships he faced, his journey to "light" after severe trials, and generally recounts events related to his life.

**Keywords:** writer, work, autobiographical, disaster, household, endless oppression, reader.

**Gafur Ghulam** Born on May 10, 1903 in the Korgontepa neighborhood of [Tashkent](#), into a peasant family. Orphaned at the age of nine and at the age of fifteen, Gafur Ghulam first studied at an old school, then at a Russian-style school. In the fall of 1916, Gafur entered school. After the death of his mother (his father had died earlier), he was forced to work. After trying himself in many professions, he finally got a job as a typesetter in a printing house, and then studied at pedagogical courses. He graduated from the Tashkent Pedagogical Institute. From 1919 to 1927, he worked as a teacher, school principal, chairman of the workers of the Spiritual Association, and took an active part in organizing an orphanage. The autobiographical story "[Shum Bola](#)" (1936) vividly describes the author's childhood and life in Tashkent at the beginning of the century. In 1943, he became a full member of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan. Gafur Ghulam is also known for his skillful translations of the works of Pushkin, Lermontov, Griboyedov, Mayakovsky, Nozim Hikmet, Rustaveli, Nizami, [Shakespeare](#), Dante, Beaumarchais, and others into Uzbek, as well as his literary and journalistic articles. [The works of Vladimir Mayakovsky](#) had a great influence on the formation of Gafur Gulam's worldview and artistic taste. Gafur Gulam writes in one of his articles: "I... know and love Russian classical writers and have translated many of their works into my native language. But I would like to say that I am a student of Mayakovsky, who "opened up for me the most diverse and limitless possibilities in the areas of meter, vocabulary, imagery, and the melodic structure of poetry." In addition to the bitterness, critical irony, and immense emotional power of Mayakovsky's satire, I tried to concentrate in myself... the bold eloquence of his methods, the courage of metaphors, and the expressiveness of exaggerations. I even had to use the methodical, melodic, and expressiveness of meaning-enhancing [poetic](#) construction in the structure of Uzbek poetry." These are reflected in many of Gafur Ghulam's poems, for example: "On the Paths of Turksib", "Motherland", "Long Live Peace!" Ghulam died on June 10, 1966. He was buried in the Chigatay cemetery. You've probably heard our people's proverb, "If the wind blows away a camel, you'll see a goat in the sky." This means that "even if a disaster befalls many, it affects everyone differently." One such disaster struck the writer G'afur G'ulom. He lost his father at the age of 9 and his beloved mother at 15. Despite his young age, the burden of supporting the household fell upon him. There was no door he didn't knock on, no job he didn't do. He documented his experiences in his autobiography, and his struggles and hardships are embodied in his work "Shum Bola" (The Mischievous Boy). He and his siblings were left complete orphans, and what's more, it



was during the most difficult time, when the cold breath of war was sweeping through. Just imagine the lives, the livelihoods, the clothing and shelter of children left without parents during such a period...

Due to the burden of household responsibilities, the young artist initially couldn't attend a higher educational institution. For a while, he studied at an old school, then at a Russian-native school, and after attending teacher training courses, he began teaching in new schools. Later, he managed to study at Tashkent State Pedagogical University. Turning to his works, he created a number of poetry collections. In particular, his theme of the homeland's defender began to emerge when the breath of war was starting to subside, and the people were rebuilding their lives. He started creating even more to inspire, bring joy, and give hope to them. His poems like "You Are Not an Orphan" and "Longing" reflect parental love, care for orphaned children, and the image of a kind homeland. The writer dedicated many of his poems to children and teenagers. From this, it is evident that the writer had a special affection for children.

As mentioned above, the writer pursued every possible profession to support his family. Inspired by his experiences and adventures, he created his autobiographical work, "Shum Bola." Dear reader, if you have read this work even once, you'll remember that the protagonist also lost his father during such difficult times; he was a boy of about 14. His mother worked tirelessly to feed a handful of children. Shum Bola, on the other hand, was a boy who would join his peers and play on the streets from early morning until late evening. Generally, he was the kind of restless child who, if thrown to the ground, would spring back up, and if he stayed in one place for too long, his heart would feel stifled. One day, he upset his mother and, feeling ashamed, left home with the hope of earning money to help her. He experienced the adventures you and I have read about, spending half a year living on the streets. Wherever Shum Bola went, whoever he encountered, he faced contemptuous gazes and rude treatment from adults. Various unscrupulous individuals, who pretended to be compassionate people patting an orphan's head, tried to exploit his youthful energy for free. Not only that, he even encountered beggars who led him astray and incited the boy to steal. Although, as mentioned above, most of the people the protagonist encountered worked for greedy, stingy individuals, our Shum Bola immediately understood who they were and what kind of people they were, finding ways to escape them. In these scenes, we witness how resourceful, sharp, and intelligent he is. It's true that we sometimes see his habit of lying, but he uses this to put those people in their place, particularly in the scene where he works in Sariboy's apple orchard. Qoravoy comes up with several things to say to aptly respond to Sariboy's "innaykeyin" (what's next) and silence him. However, what's important is that G'afur G'ulom portrays this joyless environment, full of depravity and ignorance, through the eyes of a young boy, making it rich and colorful. As you read the story, the interesting events and the vivid characteristics of the protagonists are sure to captivate you.

Ghulam died on June 10, 1966. He was buried in the Chigatay cemetery.

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