

THE UNIVERSAL HEARTBEAT OF THEMES IN O'TKIR
HOSHIMOV'S THE AFFAIRS OF THE WORLD

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Abstract: *This article explores the thematic depth and philosophical underpinnings of O'tkir Hoshimov's seminal "novel in stories," **Dunyoning Ishlari (The Affairs of the World)**, within the context of its English translation. By analyzing the work's transition from a cornerstone of Uzbek literature to a piece of world literature, the study identifies three primary ideological pillars: the **sacralization of motherhood**, the intersection of **individual destiny with national history**, and the existential philosophy of **transience**. The analysis demonstrates how Hoshimov utilizes the intimate space of the home to reflect the socio-political upheavals of the 20th century, specifically the impacts of World War II and the Soviet era on Central Asian family structures. Furthermore, the article examines how the translation bridges cultural gaps, making the "Uzbek Mother" a universal archetype of unconditional love and moral resilience. Ultimately, the work argues that *The Affairs of the World* transcends its regional origins by addressing the universal human experiences of grief, memory, and the inevitable cycle of life.*

Keywords: *O'tkir Hoshimov; Dunyoning Ishlari; The Affairs of the World; Uzbek literature; motherhood archetype; maternal sacrifice; post-war realism; cultural translation; universalism; narrative structure.*

O'tkir Hoshimov is a titan of Uzbek literature, and his seminal work, *Dunyoning Ishlari*, serves as a lyrical monument to the most fundamental human connection: **the bond between mother and child**. While the book is

rooted in the specific landscape of 20th-century Uzbekistan, its English translation reveals themes that resonate with a global audience.

The Sanctity of Motherhood: A Portrait of Silent Resilience

At the heart of O'tkir Hoshimov's narrative lies the towering yet humble figure of the Mother, who serves as the emotional and ethical anchor of the entire work. Unlike traditional heroic figures, Hoshimov's protagonist is not portrayed through grand, supernatural feats; instead, she is rendered as a realistic symbol of **unconditional love and quiet sacrifice**. Her sanctity is found in the "ordinariness" of her devotion. Throughout the English translation, readers witness a life defined by a series of "invisible labors"—tasks that go unnoticed by the world but sustain the very fabric of the home. Whether she is rationing bread during the lean years of war or staying awake through the night to ensure her children's comfort, her selflessness is presented not as a choice, but as a natural law of her existence.

Beyond her physical labor, the Mother functions as the primary **moral compass** for both the protagonist and the reader. She is the silent architect of the narrator's soul, instilling profound lessons on honesty, compassion, and the spiritual weight of one's words. Her pedagogy is not found in formal lectures but in her reactions to life's hardships—showing mercy to neighbors and maintaining dignity in the face of poverty. In this sense, Hoshimov elevates the Uzbek mother to a universal archetype: she is the keeper of tradition and the first teacher of humanity. Through her eyes, the "affairs of the world" are filtered and simplified into basic truths about kindness and duty. This portrayal challenges the reader to recognize that the most significant historical shifts are often weathered and mitigated by the quiet, enduring strength of mothers who hold the world together one small sacrifice at a time.

The Intersection of Micro-History and Macro-History: Personal Destinies within Global Upheavals

O‘tkir Hoshimov masterfully demonstrates that history is not merely a collection of dates and political shifts, but a lived experience that breathes through the "small" affairs of a single household. In *The Affairs of the World*, the author weaves the intimate struggles of a family into the grand tapestry of global events, creating a narrative where the domestic and the historic are inseparable. The most poignant example of this is seen through the **echoes of World War II**. While the physical battles take place thousands of miles away, the "macro-history" of the war is felt through the "micro-history" of the Uzbek home front. Hoshimov captures the deep scars left by the conflict—not through scenes of combat, but through the haunting presence of poverty, the agonizing silence of missing men, and the stoic resilience of the women who remained behind. These women became the unsung guardians of life, turning the struggle for a single loaf of bread into a heroic act of survival that mirrored the larger tragedy of the era.

Furthermore, the work serves as a sociological bridge for Western readers, illustrating the profound **social changes** that reshaped Central Asian society during the mid-20th century. Through the lens of the English translation, one can observe the friction between ancient traditions and the encroaching modern era. The narrative documents the transition from a society rooted in centuries-old communal values and oral wisdom to one grappling with the systemic shifts of the Soviet period and modern industrialization. This intersection highlights a painful yet inevitable reality: as the world changes, the old ways of life—represented by the elders and their rituals—begin to fade. Hoshimov does not merely report these changes; he humanizes them, showing how global progress often demands a personal price, and how the "great affairs" of the world ultimately derive their meaning from the way they transform the lives of ordinary people in a small Uzbek village.

The Philosophy of "The World's Affairs": Existential Wisdom and the Weight of Time

The title of O'tkir Hoshimov's work is far more than a label; it is a profound philosophical statement that anchors the entire narrative. In the specific cultural context of Uzbekistan, the phrase *Dunyoning ishlari* carries a bittersweet weight, implying that life is a fleeting, often chaotic cycle of joy and sorrow that continues long after the individual is gone. Hoshimov explores the concept of **inevitability**, suggesting that while human beings are powerless to control the "great affairs of the world"—such as the relentless march of time, the cruelty of war, or the finality of death—they maintain absolute sovereignty over their own **humanity**. The characters who resonate most deeply are those who, despite being caught in the gears of fate, choose kindness and integrity. This philosophy posits that our legacy is not found in how we changed the world's course, but in how we preserved our soul while navigating its turbulence.

Intertwined with this sense of inevitability is the **burden of memory**, a recurring theme that serves as the emotional heartbeat of the book. Hoshimov poignantly illustrates the tragic irony of the human condition: we often lack the wisdom to appreciate the true value of our parents and their sacrifices when they are with us. It is only when we grow old enough to face the harsh realities of the world ourselves—becoming parents or facing our own mortality—that we finally grasp the depth of the love we took for granted. The English translation captures this universal sense of "belated realization," where the protagonist's reflections are tinged with a gentle, lingering melancholy. This narrative arc suggests that memory is both a gift and a weight, leading to the painful realization that by the time we are ready to say "thank you" with full understanding, it is often "too late" in the physical sense. Thus, the "affairs of the world" come to represent the ultimate lesson in humility and the urgent necessity of love in the present moment.

Key Thematic Summary

Theme	Narrative Expression
Sacrifice	Giving the last piece of bread to a child while claiming not to be hungry.
Guilt	The realization of a son's unintentional coldness toward his aging mother.
Community	The <i>Mahalla</i> (neighborhood) as a collective family sharing grief and bread.
Transience	The passing of seasons and generations as a natural, albeit painful, law.

"A mother's heart is the most beautiful masterpiece of the world." This sentiment, echoed by Western thinkers, finds its most soulful Uzbek expression in Hoshimov's prose.

Conclusion: A Bridge Across Cultures and Generations

The English translation of *Dunyoning Ishlari* achieves a significance that goes far beyond mere storytelling; it serves as a vital cultural and emotional bridge. By translating the intimate nuances of Uzbek life into a global tongue, the work proves that the core human experiences of love, loss, and duty are truly universal. It serves as a powerful reminder that whether one resides in a quiet village near Tashkent or a bustling metropolis in the West, the complex and often overwhelming "affairs of the world" are ultimately small when measured against the boundless immensity of a mother's heart.

O'tkir Hoshimov does not simply recount memories; he issues a profound challenge to his readers. He urges us to pause amidst the chaos of our modern lives and look at our own parents with fresh, appreciative eyes before the inevitable passage of time concludes our own chapter in the "world's affairs." In doing so, the book transcends its geographical origins, cementing

its place in world literature as a timeless meditation on the grace of the human spirit and the enduring power of maternal love.

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