

VOLUME 40

JULY 2025

CLASSICO OPINE

JULY
2025

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The Special Power of Global Experiences

I have a confession to make: I missed Arrival Day this Season.

It's always notable because of what it represents: new faces, new hope, a new start.

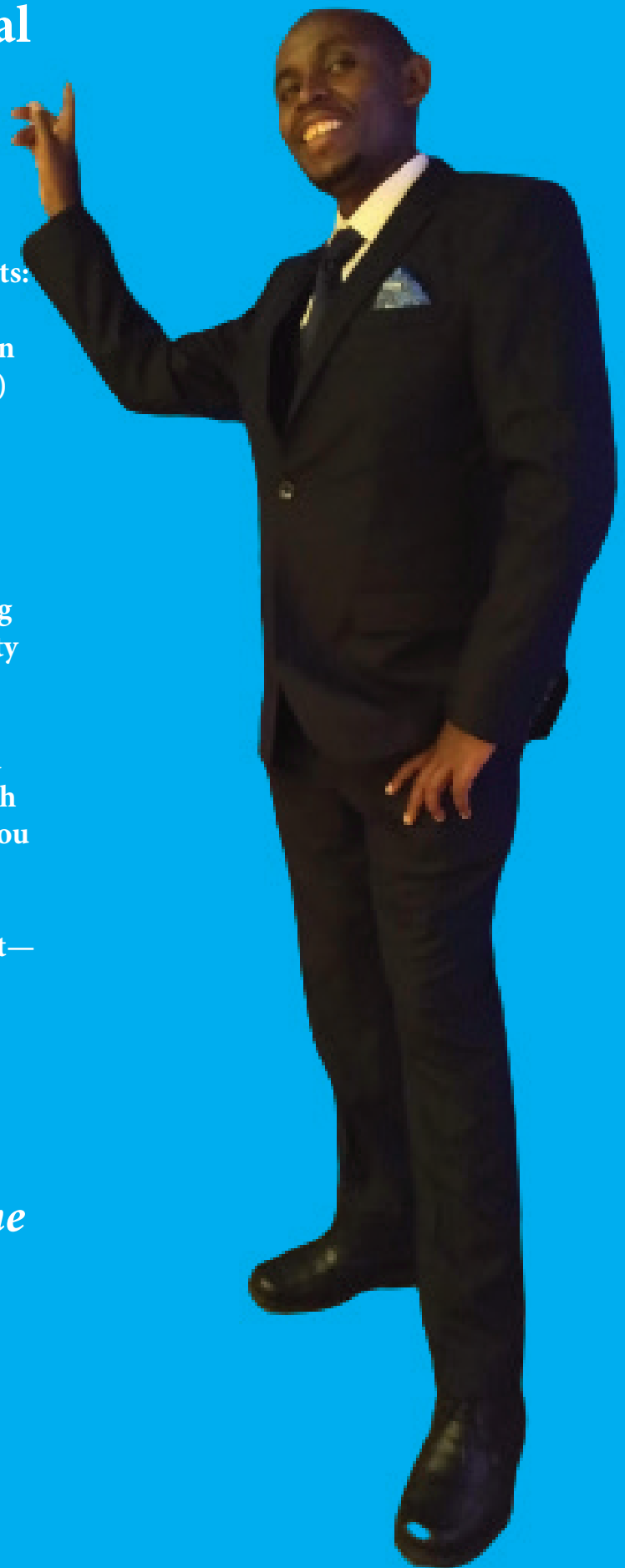
This edition, however, was more poignant than ever, as it wasn't just fresh-faced (and masked) new first-entrants from Uzbekistan and their peers stepping foot on Classico Opine for the first time.

I JULY have missed this edition's New Experience, but with the campus full and the energy and excitement of the students buoying us up, it's clear that every day is an opportunity to celebrate the start of something new.

I hope that as you read this issue, you're inspired by our poetry magazine's efforts, and reminded of your own confidence and strength to make a positive difference. And wherever you are in the world, we hope you'll come back on board to our magazine sometime soon—be it for contributing, Reunion, or just to comment—and teach us, in turn, about all the world has taught you.

Dan Mwangi

Executive Editor, Classico Opine Magazine



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STEPHEN AUSTIN



Bio -

Stephen Austin is a young ambitious man. A writer, poet, graphic designer, cinematographer, videographer, script writer. Incubently undertaking comprehensive studies in Journalism and Media Studies at NIBS College.

He has written several poems that has been published by Mt. Kenyan Times (why her, society is cruel) and also some of his poetic work has been published in his previous Highschool Magazine.

He is looking forward to hopefully bringing his first ever book to life . Aside from that he is active in philanthropic activities. He is an actor featured in a short film called borrowed pen and his own short film in silence.

Content -

PSEUDO UNITY

life is a jungle
The United trees sway left to right
Idyllic view from a far
Scattered at a close proximity
Banana faces everywhere
Yet lies a green snake in the grass
What a united generation

Congratulations messages
Still inferno brimming inside us
I'm happy for you in public
Masked face with jealousy in private
What a united generation

Virtues called ancient
Vices are the the modern way
That's a tale to tell

Kissing affectionately during the day
Yet plotting their downfall at the dark hours
What a united generation

No want to help
Without hidden intentions
Suddenly we're mother Teresa at charities
Jezebel at home cursing the less fortune
Encouraging each other
Hoping to get something in return
What a united generation

Poet: Austeen

MUGO ROMEO WACHIRA

Bio -

Malenga Mugo Romeo Wachira, popularly known as LANGU JICHO (MORIO), was born into the family of Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Catherine as the second child among five siblings. His education began at Tinderet Primary School in Nandi County. It was here that his foundation in poetry and Kiswahili was laid, as it was a tradition in their home to listen to Kiswahili radio programs every Saturday — especially on Radio Maisha. Missing it meant you were in for a scolding!

Later, he transferred to Kahuhu Primary School in Gilgil Constituency, Nakuru County, where he completed his primary education. In 2020, Romeo joined St. John's Tachasis High School as a passionate Kiswahili enthusiast and language lover. He met dedicated teachers who greatly nurtured his love for the language — Mr. Mulama, Asiema, Barasa, and Ms. Tormoi.

Although at first, he never imagined he could compose or perform poetry, he continued listening keenly. One day, while in Form Three, he attended a Kiswahili symposium at a national school. There, he heard a student reciting a beautiful and vibrant poem that deeply inspired him. It was at that moment that his eyes opened — he began composing and performing poetry himself.

From then on, he became a renowned poet in school. Every time there was an event or celebration, teachers would always give him the opportunity to entertain guests with his poems — a great source of encouragement for him. He completed high school in 2023 and achieved the grades required to join university. One major challenge he faced was when he expressed his de-

sire to study Education, specializing in Kiswahili and History. This was a blow to his parents and the community, who preferred he pursue Mathematics. This disheartened him as he felt his dreams were being crushed.

After lengthy discussions, his close friend Benjamin Ndirangu managed to convince his parents and family that Romeo had clear goals and dreams — to become a renowned and talented writer. Where there's no choice, choice must be made.

In 2024, Romeo joined Murang'a University and wasted no time becoming a member of CHAKIMUT — a Kiswahili club. There, he met many writers including Raphael Tuju and Nzomo, who mentored and helped sharpen his poetic skills.

He continued to grow his craft with excellence and was embraced and offered major opportunities to grow. He began submitting his poems to the Taifa Leo platform, and fortunately, several of his works have already been published there — a major source of motivation for him.

He still dreams of writing storybooks and poetry collections, and he has already laid out several plans that he believes will come true one day.

He wishes to encourage others with similar dreams not to give up — to work hard and most importantly, to avoid laziness, which has killed many dreams. Wake up, the dawn is here!

Also, never stop learning. Read books, dictionaries, and a wide range of materials, and you will witness your growth. Most importantly, always put God first in everything you do.

Content -

Brotherhood is Not About Being Identical



My ink sharpens – please listen keenly,
Brotherhood means sacrifice – remember this sincerely,
To cleanse the stains, to clothe one another in green,
Brotherhood is about helping – not being seen as the same!

Excessive self-love – that's not brotherhood,
Selfish ambition – I reject it as brotherhood,
Betraying deliberately – I oppose that as brotherhood,
Brotherhood is about helping – not looking the same!

Correcting each other when one falls,
Teaching culture when one strays,
When thoughts fall asleep – you butter my bread,
Brotherhood is about helping – not being the same!

Competing? No, that's not it –

Better we hold hands, and in the end, we'll all win,
Brotherhood is not denial – it's deep knowing,
Brotherhood is about helping – not being the same!

Brotherhood is about supporting – the driver and the passenger,
All of us trusting each other, giving Caesar his due,
In the end, praying for one another – not out of choice,
Brotherhood is about helping – not being the same!

Love is the essence – true brotherhood is love,
Meeting regularly – learning from one another,
Brotherhood has meaning – when its structure is honored,
Brotherhood is about helping – not being the same!

Poet: Wachira Romeo Mugo Nyandarua - Shalom

Grace Kanyiri

Bio -

Grace Kanyiri is a 4th-year undergraduate student pursuing Criminology and Security Studies at Murang'a University of Technology. With a passion for scholarship, Grace is a multifaceted individual - an avid reader, writer, actress, and advocate for children's and women's rights. As a charismatic public speaker and leader, she crafts compelling narratives that inspire and educate. Driven by a commitment to positive change, Grace leverages her skills to foster justice, equality, and community development, embodying the power of determination and creativity.

Content -

Breaking The Chains – Governance Renewed

In halls of power, a silent thief,
Corruption creeps, with subtle relief.
A bribe here, a favor there,
The system rots, with no one to care.
Greed and deceit, a deadly pair,
Eroding trust, beyond repair.
The innocent suffer, the guilty thrive.

As corruption's grip, the nation strives.
A shadow falls, with a governance divide.
Promises broken, hopes dashed low,
Citizens suffer as leaders grow,
Subversion stirs, a nation's blight,
Inequality spreads, without a fight.
Justice delayed, or denied outright

In Kenya's land, where leaders roam,
A solution's sought, to end the bad tone.
The people cry, with voices loud,
"Change we need, before we all go proud."
"Enough is enough, we want change this year!"
They demand reform, with passion and fire,
And leaders who serve, with hearts that aspire.

The solution's found in unity and might,
Kenya's people rise, to shine with new light.
With accountability, and justice in sight,
The nation's path will be guided by what's right.
A nation built, on integrity's might,
Where all Kenyans, can live with dignity and light.



Bad governance fades, and hope takes flight!

This is a Nation's cry for change.
Kenyans rise, with voices loud and clear,
Demanding change and an end to fear,
Transparency and justice, we implore,

Accountability, forever more,
No more impunity, no more shame,
We demand good governance, it's our claim!

Poet: Ms Kanyiri

ALFRED LOBAWOI

Bio -

Alfred Lobawoi is a journalist who has specialized in Health, Education, and Social issues. He has been actively involved in hosting Kiswahili programs on NIBS FM, where he presented shows such as Msingi wa Kiswahili, Mbwembwe za Jioni, and Miale ya Spoti.

In addition, he hosted the Msasa wa Magazeti show on NIBS TV, Shina la Habari and served as the Chief Editor of NIBS Television. Beyond journalism, Alfred is a columnist for the Mt. Kenya Times newspaper, where he highlights community stories, raises awareness on social matters and writes literary critiques.

He has also participated in the creation of several Swahili poetry anthologies, including Dagua na Mashairi Mengine, Utando wa Ushairi, Lulu za Ushairi, Tasnia ya Ushairi, Malenga wa Kenya (Grades 1, 2, 3), Mtoto wa Dhahabu na Hadithi Nyingine, and Glasi Iliyovunjika na Hadithi Nyingine, among other works.

Recently, he contributed to the development of the poetry anthology by the name Mashairi Pendwa, which was approved by the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) for use by Grade 9 students and lovers of Swahili literature.

Content -

AN ARMED FOR JUSTICE

Today we are gathering here together
For the Justice of our own



Not only him but also another
Who we have been fighting, in
every weather
May justice prevail!

We are an armed,
An armed for Justice
We only have our flag up
Singing our national anthem
We have our posters written
boldly, Justice! Justice!
May the justice prevail!

Voice to the voiceless
We want our voice to be
heard
Our life is priceless
So why should our dream be-
ing shattered?
Ooh my mother land Kenya!
May the Justice prevail!

Using force when crying for
peace

Will lead to loose of blood
Others will be left deceased
And the country already will
sound pissed
Things will be no longer at
ease as it is
May Justice prevail!

Poet: Alfred Lobawoi
Pen Name: Mr Trial

Wanjohi P. Mugambi

Bio -

Dkt. Wanjohi P. Mugambi ni mwalimu, mshauri nasa-ha na mtaalamu wa tiba ya kisaikolojia aliyejitolea kwa dhati. Ni mhadhiri mshiriki katika Idara ya Kiswahili katika Chuo Kikuu cha Mount Kenya. Kwa sasa anafanya kazi na Wizara ya Elimu katika Kaunti ya Murang'a na pia ni mwandishi wa safu katika Jarida la Mt. Kenya Times.

Wanjohi P. Mugambi amewavutia wengi kupitia kazi zake za fasihi. Yeye ni mwandishi mashuhuri na amechapisha kazi mbalimbali zikiwemo: Kilele cha Mambo, Mapenzi ya Mwanaharamu, Siri ya Mapambazuko, Barua kwa Moyo Wangu, Kitumbua cha Mau-ti, Kaa la Moto, Korija, Sauti Redioni, Jehanamu Yangu, Whispers of Shadows, Blind Journey, Haidhuru, Ufunguo wa Uhuru, Malenga wa Afrika, Sheshe ya Ushairi, na Mazoezi Sufufu ya Insha. Amepokea tuzo mbalimbali, zikiwemo Tuzo ya Huduma kwa Jamii na Tuzo ya Mwandishi Bora wa Riwaya. Yeye ni Mkurugenzi Mkuu wa Maisha Mema Foundation na Mkurugenzi Mtendaji wa Spirit of Giving Organization.

Aidha, ni mtumishi mwa-minifu katika huduma ya vijana na ameteuliwa kuwa Balozi wa Kimataifa wa Mabadiliko ya Vijana Duni-ani kwa mwaka 2025/2026.

Content -

NI KENYA TU

Napanga virago vyangu, na-

ondoka nchi Kenya,
Taifa lenye machungu, alikoza-
liwa nyanya,
Nitalii ulimwengu, nipate
kusikosinya,
Kenya naipa kwaheri, kwaheri
ya kuonana.

Ni Kenya kwenye vituko, vya
kula usikopanda,
Vinavyoleta sumbuko, na ma-
baya kuyatenda,
Nchi ya masikitiko, inayojuu
kuponda,
Kenya naipa kwaheri, kwaheri
ya kuonana.

Ni Kenya wa uongozi, huongo-
za masikini,
Wao wakila viazi, wa chini
wapo ta'bani,
Hawakioni kizazi, cha kesho
kina uhuni,
Kenya naipa kwaheri, kwaheri
ya kuonana.

Ni Kenya nao polisi, wana-
tumia binduki,
Kuu kinyama pasi, sababu au
ashiki,
Hawa si myongoni, kweli ha-
watambuliki,
Kenya naipa kwaheri, kwaheri
ya kuonana.

Ni Kenya nao wazazi, walisa-
hau ulezi,
Kulea sasa si kazi, waachia
wajakazi,
Ni riziki na ujuzi, wasijue ni up-
uzi,
Kenya naipa kwaheri, kwaheri
ya kuonana.

Ni Kenya nao vijana, wam-
eipenda anasa,
Wamekimbilia sana, wasijue
hunasa,
Wakushauri hakuna, wasema
ndio usasa,
Kenya naipa kwaheri, kwaheri
ya kuonana.

Ni Kenya nao watoto, vichwa
vyao vimevimba,



Ndio watoao moto, amri wa-
napoamba,
Hawana heshima kito, mtima
kinachopamba,
Kenya naipa kwaheri, kwaheri
ya kuonana.

Ni Kenya ninamaliza, twasalia
masikini,
Na matajiri kujaza, wajijazie
jamani,
Wa chini kutowawaza, uchumi
umekuani,
Kenya naipa kwaheri, kwaheri
ya kuonana.

Mtunzi: Dkt Wanjohi P Mugam-
bi
Lakini: Malenga Kitunguu Ma-
choni
Nairobi Kenya

PAUL NDETEI MUTAVA

Bio -

Paul Ndetei Mutava almaarufu Mshairi Msi Shari ni mwalimu wa Kiswahili na malenga ambaye amefanikiwa kushiriki katika utunzi wa hadithi fupi na diwani nyingi za mashairi ikiwemo Halua ya ushairi, Dunia ya tatu, Duni-ani Nitagura na nyinginezo.

Content -

Mnyama Mia Watu

Udhaniye mtu vitu, wizi umeuchunuka,
Moyo wako wenye kutu, uozowe waanika,
Kwa virungu na mitutu, wasokufwata wa-
teka,
U mnyama mlawatu.

Ni ndoto ruwaza zetu, wengi tumetamau-
ka,
Uwalavyo wana wetu, ndivyo tunahasiri-
ka,
Una akili fugutu, dude lenye mamalaka,
U mnyama mlawatu.

Twafia taifa letu, kwa kuwa lavurugika,
Kaumeze mrututu, mikakati tushaweka,
Risasi na zana butu, kwazo hatutatishika,
U mnyama mlawatu.

Kenya ni kipenzi chetu, katupa bure Ra-
buka,
Nduli hututoi kwetu, kungawa kwaharibi-
ka,
Kwa kondo kwenye misitu, uhuru tuliunya-
ka,
U mnyama mlawatu.

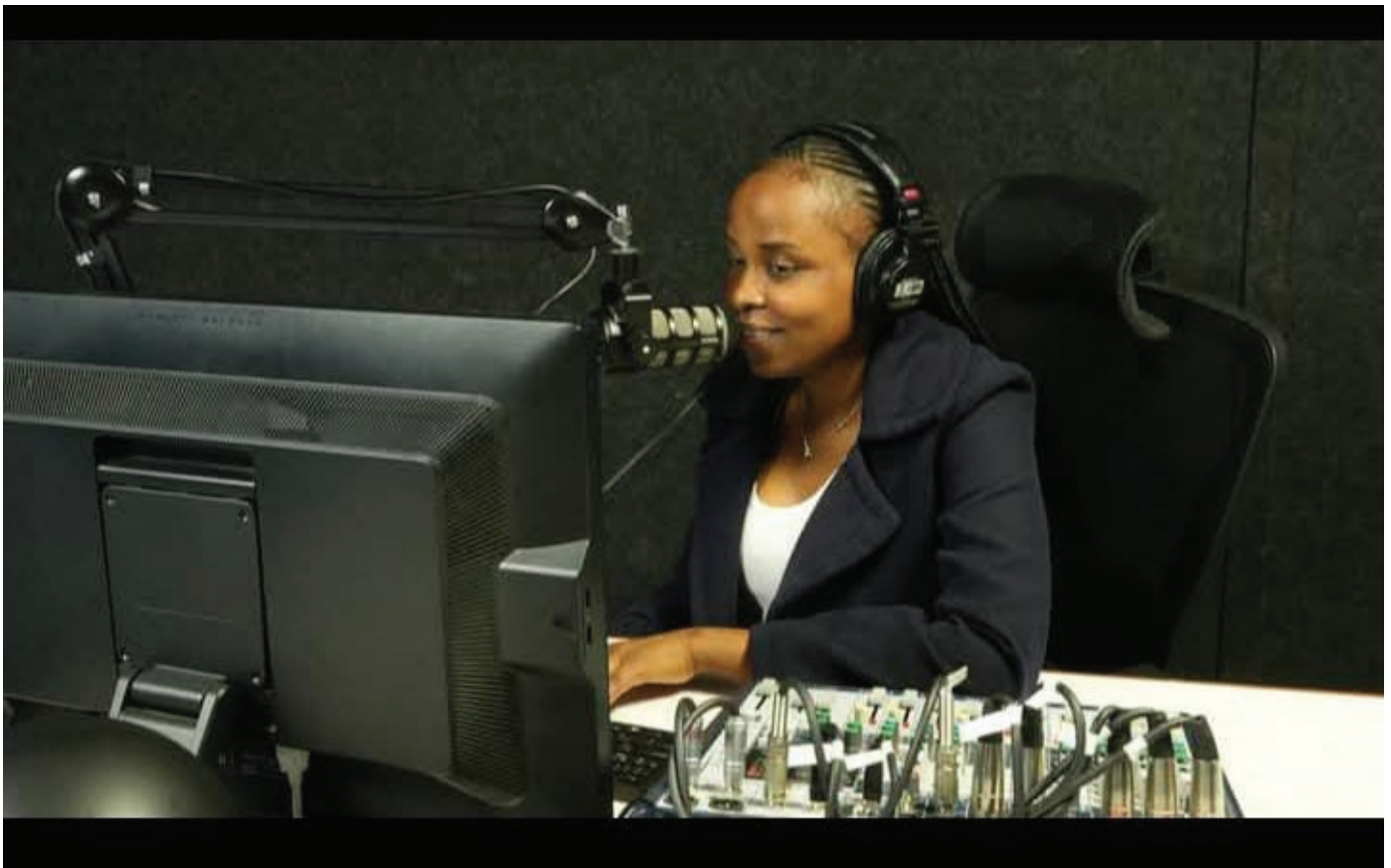
Wawaza kama funutu, mawazo duni haki-
ka,
Kijiko chako sepetu, wapakua vya kulika,
Wenye kuvaa sapatu, wananchi watese-
ka,
U mnyama mlawatu.

Kwa beti hizi tandatu, tama malenga nafi-
ka,
Hutalindwa na majitu, utakapohukumika,
Ungakamata kukutu, uongozi 'tatoweka,
U mnyama mlawatu.

Mtunzi: Paul Ndetei
Lakabu: Mshairi Msi Shari
Nairobi



Cathren Gathoni



Bio -

Cathren Gathoni is a passionate and driven communications professional who studied Journalism and Mass Communication, with a specialization in Public Relations, at the Nairobi Institute of Business Studies (NIBS). With a strong foundation in media, storytelling, and image management, Cathren has cultivated a unique voice in the ever-evolving world of modern communication.

Her time at NIBS shaped her deep understanding of how narratives influence public opinion, empower communities, and inspire change. She honed her skills in news writing, broadcasting, digital media, and strategic communication—emerging

not only as a communicator but also as a connector of people and purpose.

Beyond her academic achievements, Cathren is deeply passionate about the life she's living. She believes in authenticity, growth, and living boldly—qualities that shine through in both her personal journey and professional endeavors. Whether it's crafting compelling stories, engaging with diverse audiences, or building bridges through dialogue, Cathren approaches every challenge with heart, clarity, and purpose.

As she continues to grow in the media and communications field, Cathren remains committed to using her voice and platform to spark

meaningful conversations and inspire those around her.

Content -

Moments

Life is a moment after a moment.
In a second, a moment becomes past,
And the future becomes present.
In truth, past and future
Live only in the mind—
And only the moment exists.
If you want to feel happiness
Or enjoy anything,
You cannot do so without being
in the moment.
And this fleeting moment of time
Is all we ever truly have.

Try not to ignore the present moment.
We often place our attention

In the past or future,
But that makes us
Miss what passes before our eyes.
For everything, all fulfillment,
Exists in that fleeting moment.

When we want to feel love,
To give love, to express it,
We can only do so in the present moment.
But all regret and hopelessness
Belong to the past or the future.

The present holds only bliss,
joy, and happiness.
Nothing exists beyond this moment.
A life fully lived is always lived
in the present—
No escape, only purpose, revealed to you.
The moment finds gods within us .

Poet: Cathren Gathoni

EZEKIEL NZEKE



Bio -

Ezekiel Nzeke, affectionately known by his poetic moniker Karma, is a Swahili poet and cultural voice whose words rise from the heart of Kivovwe village in Kibwezi West constituency, Makueni County. Born the second of his family to Jacinta Kamene and the late James Mutinda, Karma's roots are steeped in resilience and the rhythm of community.

His educational journey began at Sekeleni Primary School, where he laid a foundation of discipline and excellence that earned him a place at Nguumo Boys High School. He later completed his secondary studies at St. Simon Secondary School in Kibwezi, achieving a university entrance grade that marked the start of his intellectual ascent.

Karma now pursues a Bachelor of Education Arts with a Geography and Kiswahili combination at Murang'a University of Technology. It is here that he nurtures his dual passions for language and landscape—one shaping the inner world of human emotion, the other mapping the physical contours of our lived experience.

Inspired by shairi and the power of poetic expression, Karma channels emerging societal issues into artful verse, using poetry as a mirror for truth and transformation. His work resonates widely, appearing in Taifa Leo, Kenya's leading Swahili newspaper, where his voice speaks to the soul of the nation.

With a growing platform and vision, Karma's poetry evokes memory, justice, and cultural pride—anchor-

ing him primarily as a rising literary figure in East Africa. Through his creative endeavor Kisiwa Cha Mashairi, he continues to weave artistry with purpose, one stanza at a time.

Content -

Streets Of Blood

Here comes the peasants' son
From the streets of blood
With dense heavy crimson
And eyes full of tears
Lips cracked and legs number
Embarrassing streets with no mercies

Ups and downs by blue men
Whips and kicks by ruthless paid humans
Who will listen to sons of the soil?
The peasants
Our billboards are useless
Our language is different, no one understands

Embarrassing streets, we lost our brothers

Our rights! Our rights! No one cares

Our lives! Oh lives!

On the streets are endangered
No one to lean on, chased as foreigners

The black metal blasts our brothers and sisters

Embarrassing streets full of frustrations

By streets of blood, we lost parents

Streets full of abductions and

False accusations, oh streets!

Peasant is crying, her daughter is dead

A day in streets, a pool of crimson

Embarrassing streets with no humanity

Poet: Ezekiel Nzeke

Pen Name: Kama

Makueni County

David Ndung'u Kimani

Bio -

David Ndung'u Kimani, popularly known as Testimony is a passionate educator, author, and mentor committed to transforming lives through service, writing, and leadership. A student at Murang'a University of Technology pursuing a DEGREE course. David is also a rising motivational speaker and corporate and Christian youth leader with a deep heart for purpose-driven impact.

He is the author of powerful books that reflect his journey of faith, hope, and overcoming adversity. His works are known for inspiring youth to rise above challenges, serve with excellence, and live with vision. David is currently working on publications of his books and aims to influence the East African literary and mentorship space through his writings and upcoming foundation.

Content -

"A Nation On Edge"

In the land of green hills and golden sun,
Where youths are crying for freedom,
Now whispers walk louder than truth can speak,
And the cry of the broken grows bleak.

Guns echo in alleyways, not in war zones,
But in streets where Gen-Z have laid cornerstones.
Masked in suits, or in hoods, or in state attire —
They stoke fear, not peace, set silence on fire.

Goons hired by shadows behind high gates,
Turn peace into powder, and mercy to hate.
Youth become pawns in a power drunk game,
While the poor are buried without name.

Green uniforms that once meant law,
Now mirror the terror we once saw.



WAKANDA VISUALS

Trigger-happy hands with bloodstained might,
Steal sleep from homes each cold night.

A father is lost on his way from toil,
A son dies in blood-soaked cells.
"He killed himself," they will say,
As justice withers and fades away.

We see your lies, masked in briefcase smiles,
Your silence screams across county miles.
From the city to western, whispers grow loud —
A nation betrayed, but unbowed.

O land of Mau Mau and sacred song,
How long shall the wicked thrive so long?
How long shall the brave be bruised by

power,
And truth be jailed hour after hour?

Yet hope still clings to the bones of the street,
In songs of the youth with restless feet.
They rise like dawn through tear gas and pain —
To reclaim a land, and break every chain.

So let pen and paper be weapon and voice,
Let conscience awaken, let justice rejoice.
For Kenya shall heal, her children shall see —
A nation that walks in truth, bold and free.

Poet: David Testimony

FATMA ALI MOHAMED

Bio -

Fatma Ali Mohamed ni mza-liwa wa Wingwi Michun-gani, Wilaya ya Micheweni Mkoa wa Kaskazini Pemba. Kwa sasa ni mwalimu wa shule ya Sekondari. Fatma pia ni mwandishi wa di-wani ya Uhondo wa Ngoma ambacho ni mkusanyiko wa mashairi.

Content -

Tutafuteni Suluhu

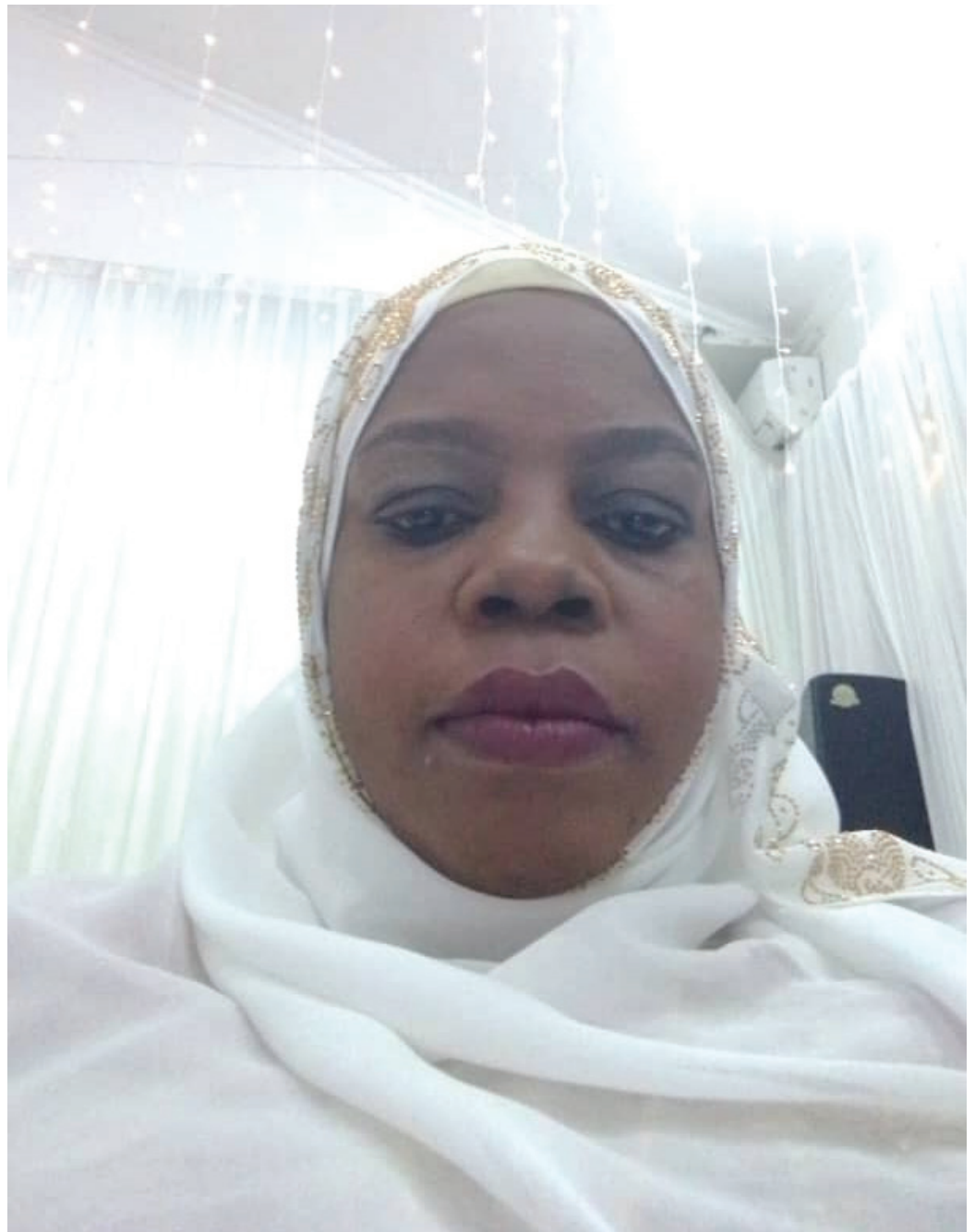
Mambo yanayotendeka, nchini
yanaumiza,
Vizuri kuyaepuka, familia ya-
naliza,
Kufanywa si muafaka, ndio
mana nakataza,
Tutafuteni suluhu, nchi itande
amani.

Tuanze na serikali, nguvu
mngelipunguza,
Hebu oneni muhali, watu kuwa-
teketeza,
Wengi sana si akali, maisha
wamepoteza,
Tutafuteni suluhu, nchi itande
amani.

Mtumiapo maguvu, raia ku-
waathiri,
Si kwamba ni ushupavu, na
wala si uhodari,
Twaona ni uonevu, na woga
ulokithiri,
Tutafuteni suluhu, nchi itande
amani.

Sheria wan'okiuka, ni bora
wakamatani,
Pale panapohusika, wote
kawapelekeni,
Funguweni mashitaka, kisha
muwahukumuni,
Tutafuteni suluhu, nchi itande
amani.

Na raia nawasubu, mutendayo
si mazuri,



Mali mnapoharibu, huo sio
uhodari,
Mwajitafutia tabu, kusudi kwa
askari,
Tutafuteni suluhu, nchi itande
amani.

Kupora vitu vya watu, jambo
hilo ni vibaya,
Katu huo sio utu, nyuso nazione
haya,
Ada mnapofurutu, ndipo huto-

kea haya,
Tutafuteni suluhu, nchi itande
amani.

Fanyeni yenu kwa wema, na
amani itawale,
Chombo kisende mrama, kina
abiria tele,
Tukivuushe salama, tupige
vigelegele,
Tutafuteni suluhu, nchi itande
amani.

Nazikamilisha beti, za hili shai-
ri langu,
Huku nikipinda goti, kuwanasi-
hi wenzangu,
Tusiende tofauti, wahadaa
ulimwengu,
Tuitafute suluhu, nchi itande
amani.

Mtunzi: Fatma Ali Mohamed
Wete-Pemba

Veronica Njagi



Bio -

Veronica Njagi is a spirited Kenyan writer, poet, and passionate teacher who believes in the magic of words and chalk dust. Author of *Don't Kill Her* and *Other Poems*, *Legacy of the Godfather*, and *Just a Kiss*, she writes with heart—tackling love, memory, and resilience with a lyrical twist. When she's not writing or shaping young minds, she's probably lost in a book, a deep conversation, or a daydream.

Content -

Call:
Come, children of the storm
and the scroll,
Children born where borders

blur
And names no longer divide
but gather.
Come, from mountain and
coast,
From island and dry earth,
From tongue and tribe and
timeline.
Come as one.

Prayer:
Let not our blood remember
the feuds of our fathers.
Let not our hands carry the
weight of their wars.
Let not our mouths echo their
madness —
But shape a new language,
Where unity is not a plea, but
a practice.

Call:
You, with the fire in your chest
—
Do not dim it with division.
You, who post and protest,

Who march with music in your
ears
And hope in your fists —
Do not be fooled by flags that
forget the people.
Oh motherland!

Prayer:
May we be wise enough to
know
That tribe is not enemy,
But story.
That name is not weapon,
But root.
That our future will rot
If it is fed only by the past.

Call:
Rise,
Not in rage alone,
But in reason.
Not with stones,
But with song,
With strategy,
With shared breath.
Oh motherland!

Prayer:
May we gather —
Not as fragments,
But as flame.
One light.
Many wicks.
Oh motherland!

May we heal where hate once
slept.
May we speak where silence
once ruled.
May we build altars of kinship
From the bones of broken pol-
itics.

May unity be our loudest an-
them.
Our quietest vow.
Our daily work.
Our sacred rebellion.

Oh motherland!

Poet: Poetess Verah

BRIAN OIGARA

Bio -

Brian Oigara is a passionate educator and seasoned editor with a deep commitment to language, literature, and knowledge dissemination. As a poet and author, he has written numerous poems and short stories that explore a wide range of human experiences. His expertise as a translator has seen him successfully render various texts from English into Kiswahili, preserving both meaning and cultural nuance. Brian is also a meticulous editor, having revised and polished many works across different genres and formats. His keen eye for detail and love for language make him a trusted hand in the editorial process. Beyond creative and editorial pursuits, Brian is a research enthusiast who is fascinated by the power of data and its implications in understanding societal patterns and informing solutions. He is driven by a vision to become a reckoning force in academia; contributing meaningfully to scholarly discourse and shaping knowledge that empowers future generations.

Content -

Thread of the Nation

We are threads of one great fabric,
woven gently through this land,
from the whispering shores of morning light
to hills that rise with ancient hands.



Our voices bloom in many tongues,
our footsteps trace a thousand songs,
yet still we dream beneath one sky,
where every soul and heart belongs.

Our fathers toiled in different fields,
our mothers knelt with different prayers,
but every tear they gave this soil
was love, was hope, was answered cares.

The flag we lift was stitched in pain,
its colors born from struggle's flame,
but see it wave through storm and fire;
still proud, still strong, still not ashamed.

No name, no tribe, no bitter past
can tear apart what time has spun.
For every wound, a deeper bond,
and every loss, a rising sun.

When greed would pull our hands apart,
when hatred speaks in careless cries,
let memory be the voice we heed,
let wisdom in our roots arise.

For those who sleep beneath this earth,
whose dreams became the roads we walk,
still whisper truths in winds and fields;
they speak through silence, not through talk.

So let us build with steady hands,

with every voice and every face.
Let justice lead and peace abide,
let love and truth restore this place.

Our anthem is not just a song
but every child who dares to dream,
each time we rise above the storm,
each time we mend a broken seam.

And when we stand with one sure heart,
when difference is no cause for fear,
then nationhood becomes a light;
and all we cherish holds us near.

Poet: Brian Oigara
Pen name: Golden Fingers

Marjona Baxtiyorovna Jo'rayeva



Bio -

Marjona Baxtiyorovna Jo'rayeva was born on October 18, 2003, in Termiz district, Surkhandarya region.

She studied at School No. 6 in her district from 2010 to 2021. From grades 5 to 11, she actively participated in the "Knowledge Competitions" and "Subject Olympiads" in the subject of Uzbek Language and Literature, winning first place in district-level rounds and becoming a winner at the regional level. She graduated from school with an honors diploma and a gold medal. In 2022, she was admitted to the Uzbek Language and

Literature program at the Faculty of Philology of Termiz State Pedagogical Institute on a state scholarship. Currently, she is a third-year student at the institute and also serves as the coordinator of the "Mushoira" (Poetry) Club. In addition, she works as a teacher of Uzbek language and literature at the specialized School No. 12 in Termiz district. She is a member of the Democratic Party of Uzbekistan "Milliy Tiklanish" (National Revival). She has a good command of both English and Turkish languages and holds a B2 level certificate in Turkish.

Content -

Don't Lose the Chance...

This day, this life was made for you,
All the pleasures of the world are yours too.
But I have something important to say:
Never, ever let your chance slip away.

Study, seek, and take steps toward heights,
Hold on to your chosen path with all your might.
Opportunities now are only for you,
Step forward with purpose—stay strong and true.

When morning comes, the roads lie ahead,
One leads you to goals, to dreams you've fed.
Another may pull you into the unknown—
The choice is yours, and yours alone.

Take action, move—for your own sake,
No one will hand you success to take.
Look—your parents with hopeful eyes,
Watch you, their light, their greatest prize.

ABDUSHARIFOVA SARVINOZ

Bio -

Abdusharifova Sarvinoz
Uzbekistan

Content -

Self

The joy has gone from my heart,
A pain has gripped me.
I don't know what it is,
It burns me with fire.
Like a sinner,
It chains me.
Why does this pain
enslave and torment me?
"I will find mine,
If I cannot find myself"
I took Navoi in my hand
Waving my hand to everyone,
At once a spark fell
Sizzling in my heart.
He was in pain...
He was a pure guard!
He did not understand...
He did not understand
Myself!
Stuck in papers
My feeling that I did not seek.
What kind of person am I,
Two worlds of myself
Roaring in silences
My words come out without
him.
* * *
I wonder,
Am I now hitting my head on
a stone?
After all, from time immemorial
I am myself, but my identity is
different.



Khotnazarova Shohista

Bio -

Khotnazarova Shohista

Content -

Spring is coming...

Spring flowers are blooming in the sun,
The fairy tale of spring has melted the snow,
A bud of hope is growing on the tree.

The day has come, say hello to my heart,
spring..

The grass is spreading green,
The bear is also opening its den,
The bee is eating its sorrows and is full of nectar

The flower has become my bride, spring
Water flows along the ditches
The tulips in the mountains are cheerful,
Everyone is in a hurry to say that spring is coming
The day has come, say hello to my heart,
spring



MUBINAXON NIMATJONOVA

Bio -

Mubinaxon Nimatjonova – a young writer who has placed poetry in her heart and developed a deep love for words. She was born in 2006 in the Fergana region of Uzbekistan. Currently, she is studying at the Faculty of Foreign Philology at the National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek. From an early age, the magic of words, artistic expression, and the call of the heart led her toward poetry.

She strives to capture delicate human emotions, dreams, and deep reflections on social life through her verses. Mubinaxon's works have been published in international anthologies and national publications. Through her creativity, she aims to bring goodness into society and believes in widely promoting the power of books and thought among young people.

Content -

Desire

On moonlit nights, I gaze at the sky,
And ask the full moon softly about you.
When stars disturb the peace of my mind,
My heart longs for you, aching and true.

When birds sing, it echoes my soul,
When clouds weep, it mirrors my tears.
How painful this torment of longing—
Can my patience match mountains through the years?



Each dawn you shine like sunlight in my heart,
Each night you gift me darkness and despair.
Tell me, how can you be so naive, so cruel—
Yet so kind, so pure, so tender and fair?

Sometimes you're distant,
sometimes you're near,
Sometimes you're like a peak too steep to scale.
A path with no end, no turning back—
My heart, like a mad willow, follows your trail.

A heart full of pain, of love, of

sorrow—
Isn't this life of longing already too much to borrow?
I can't let go of you—don't let go of me.
I am you, you are me—my dream, my heartbeat, my destiny.

Inomjonova Dildora



Bio -

Inomjonova Dildora

Content -

For my name Dildora

In gardens of grace where blossoms bloom,

There walks Dildora — heart's perfume.
A name that whispers gentle light,
Soft as stars that kiss the night.

"Dil" — the heart, where love is grown,
"Dora" — the jewel, uniquely known.
She carries warmth in every breath,
Her kindness stirs the winds of depth.

With Inomjon's legacy in her stride,
Noble roots in which dreams abide.
She speaks in verses, quiet and wise,
A soul that soars through velvet skies.

Her smile — a balm, her voice — serene,
A tapestry of grace unseen.
She's not just — its flesh and bone.

Iroda Rakhimova Islombekovna

Bio -

Iroda Rakhimova Islombekovna was born on August 8, 2005, in the city of Khiva, located in the Khorezm region of Uzbekistan. She graduated from School No. 11 in Khiva with a gold medal and was admitted to Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhan Beruni on the basis of a state scholarship. Currently, she is a second-year student at the Faculty of Philology and Arts at the same university. Her poems, short stories, and articles have been published in both national and international journals. She is an active member of the "Mushoira" literary club established at the university and continues her creative work through this platform.

Content -

Muhammadrizo Ogahiy Is The Unsetting Sun

Since the creation of mankind, there has been the sun — the sun that generously shines its light equally upon all, warming hearts, dispelling darkness with its selfless rays, and illuminating the world with boundless brightness. Muhammadrizo Ogahiy was just like that sun — but a sun that never sets, a sun that never fades...

Indeed, every new century awaits its enlightened minds. On the challenging pages of history, there are individuals who swim through the depths of time with awareness. Their every word, every line becomes an explanation of an era, a source of pride for their people. One such remarkable figure is Muhammadrizo Ogahiy. Today, as the world and ways of thinking rapidly evolve, and as young people strive to understand their

identity and deeply feel their history, the legacy of Ogahiy serves as a guiding beacon towards enlightenment.

Muhammadrizo Ogahiy (1809–1874) was a distinguished poet, historian, exceptional translator, and statesman — a multi-talented intellectual. His literary heritage is considered a rare phenomenon in 19th-century Uzbek literature, while the period during which he lived and created marks a high point in the literary environment of Khorezm. During that era, three major directions of literary activity dominated Khorezm's cultural scene:

1. Original literature (lyric and epic poetry);
2. Translated literature (primarily based on examples of Eastern classical literature);
3. Historiography.

Ogahiy actively contributed to all these fields, creating masterpieces that established a true school of literary craftsmanship unique to himself. The more we thoroughly study his works, the clearer this truth becomes.

Through careful research of Mavlono Ogahiy's creative heritage, we discover that the poet not only excelled in major lyrical genres such as ghazal, qasida, and mustahzad, but also produced abundant works in shorter lyrical forms such as rubai (quatrains), tuyuk, qit'a, chronograms (ta'rikkh), and riddles (muammo).

Ogahiy lived during the period of the Khiva Khanate and was both a witness and participant in the political and cultural life of the region. He did not merely write history — he felt it, sang about it, and conveyed it to the people. His works not only depict historical events with precision but also reveal the lessons and wisdom embedded in history. He was a "conscious" or enlightened person of his time, which is why he wrote history — for historical works are, above all, schools



By creating historical works such as "Riyoz ud-davla", "Zubdat ut-tavorikh", "Jome' ul-voqeoti sultoniyy", "Gulshani davlat", and "Shohidi iqbol" Ogahiy sought not merely to document events blindly, but to present them with moral depth and an honest reflection of the times. Especially in "Riyoz ud-davla" he provides detailed insights into the socio-political life of the Khiva Khanate, the rulers' activities, and the social conditions of the people.

In writing history, Ogahiy did not simply record "what happened", but questioned "why did it happen?" and "what lessons should be learned from it?". This approach is extremely relevant for today's youth. After all, we do not study history for the sake of facts alone, but to gain understanding, to learn from past mistakes, and to avoid repeating them. Therefore, Ogahiy was not only a historian, but also one of the renowned poets of his time. His ghazals, rubai, and masnavis embody deep spirituality, empathy for the people's struggles, and love for the homeland. In his poetry, themes of self-awareness, patriotism, justice, and

his couplets, Ogahiy writes:

"Determination dwells on my tongue and in my heart, O soul, be vigilant,

Recognize every moment, for only the enlightened understand the enlightened..."

This couplet reflects Ogahiy's life philosophy, literary worldview, and intellectual criteria.

Even today, Ogahiy's works remain a source of light for hearts, a torch of knowledge for those lost in darkness, a guide for those who seek the right path. Indeed, Ogahiy's message urging us to "be enlightened" is not merely a moral lecture, but a powerful call for national awareness and vigilance. If we aspire to raise a generation of young people who are loyal to their homeland, knowledgeable, thoughtful, and in love with their history, language, and literature, we must encourage them to become acquainted with Ogahiy's works. History — and most importantly, the mistakes of the past — remains humanity's greatest teacher. Without historical memory, there can be no future!

Qobulova Gulzoda Maksud

Bio -

Qobulova Gulzoda Maksud qizi was born on October 20, 1993 in the Khanika district of the Khorezm region into a family of teachers.

In 2012-2016, she studied at the Urgench State University named after Al-Khorezmiy, specializing in History (by countries and regions) on a state budget (grant). From September 23, 2019 to January 18, 2020, she successfully graduated from the Institute for the Study of Youth Problems and the Training of Promising Personnel under the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In 2021-2023, she graduated from the Master's Department of Urgench State University, specializing in History (by countries and types of activity).

Since 2025, she has been conducting scientific research and studies on the topic of her PhD dissertation as a basic doctoral student in the specialty of History of Uzbekistan at Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhon Beruni 07.00.01.

Qobulova Gulzoda Maksud qizi also works as the secretary of the "OLIMA KIZLAR" club of Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhon Beruni.

She is a member of the "Zakovat" intellectual club.

She also served as the General Coordinator of the "Kizlar Ovozi" club in the Khanika district.

Youth Ambassador - 2021, 2024

Content -

"Devonul Lugatit Turk" - The Golden Treasure of the Turkish Language (Dedicated to Mahmud Kashgari)

A language that is a fire in old hearts,



A stream that lives in ancient traces.

The meaning that unites the people, the word contains, Devon is the loud cry of history.

Mahmud Kashgari is the world of the Turks, He drew his great blood with his tongue.

He traveled the East and the West, and the language from the heart,

He gave the word a throne, honor and glory.

The king and judges listened in Baghdad, The Turkish language resonated, and he also wrote about his friend.

In "Devonul Lugat", language is the wisdom of the people, This is the jewel of knowledge - the path of enlightenment.

He gave an explanation to each dialect,

The complete history of famous tribes.

Proverbs, wise verses, He became a statue for the salvation of the language.

He wrote: "Turkish is the language of virtue", The future connects the past. He did not describe only one background, The spirit of the people, faith.

He said that there is power in words, the people will be healthy, Let no countryman, mountain remain without knowledge. This Devon is not only the beauty of words, This is a memory, a legacy for the nation.

"Qang'li", "O'guz", "Qarluq", "Yomut" - each one, Are found on the page as a bundle of words.

He held the name Turk high, Our soul trembled in every pro-

nunciation.

Oh, contemporary, do not forget this treasure, Language is the most sacred step of the nation.

Look at "Devon", look for yourself, You will find your tomorrow, your footprint in the past!

"Kutadgu Bilig" - The Source of Wisdom

Wandering through the deserts of Old Turkestan, At dawn - unfading like a star. He shared his knowledge with his people, A diamond that never fades through time.

This is the path that leads the

.....

Contd page 23

Qobulova Gulzoda Maksud

Contd from page 22

people to justice,
"Kutadgu Bilig" – this is a luminous word.
Whatever the kingdom, this work is the foundation,
He did not miss a single judgment, greetings.

Yusuf Khos Hajib – a learned, wise person,
He created society with words.
Each verse is a cure for pain, life,
His words illuminated the darkness of life.

Many who have not seen you in their hearts,
Remember their grandfather in every line.
Deep thought, fluent language, kindness,
A wide horizon opened in the work of wisdom.

Kuntagdi – the spirit of justice, righteousness,
Stands firmly on the path of truth, without error.
Aitoldi – the state, the essence of power,
Will be a stick for the people in sorrow and trouble.

Odgurmiş – guides the soul with reason,
Guides them in pursuit of virtue.
Odgurkhan – the age of patience, asceticism,
Truth burned in silence.

Four images – four worlds, four virtues,
Without them, the kingdom cannot be held.
Such a great work is a blessing to the nation,
It will remain forever in the heart of the living.



O, child of the time, remember it,
It stands like a flag in books.
Knowledge that is saved is a happy day for the people,
A light like a star shines in history.

Siyosatnama – Wisdom Written by the Pen of Truth (Dedicated to the Memory of Nizam-ul-Mulk)

A luminous name that shone on the stage of history,
Nizam-ul-Mulk is a courageous word full of wisdom.
Every line he wrote is a lesson for the people, a path for the country,
"Siyosatnoma" is a noble lake opened to truth.

Not only a sultan, but in his heart he thought of the people,
Each chapter is an intention that was poured with honesty.
There is wisdom in his words,

and truth in his heart,
This treatise protects the people from oppression and enmity.

Every line is a lesson, every chapter is a treasure, a treasure,
The light that has been revealed by the truth, taken from deeds.
He wishes patience for the leader, strength in honesty,
Only honesty and wisdom can carry out the work of the people.

He said: "The kingdom is a tested sail",
Not a crown, but the consent of the people, if there is, I am like a sail.
If there is no justice, the throne is a rotten base,
The tyrannical rule will be broken, and the unyielding spirit of truth will triumph.

Balance in politics is the most powerful weapon,
Violence is like the wind, it is the path with itself.

If you are a leader, if you hold the hearts of the people in your heart,
The country will rise and prosper, if it is blessed, it will be colorful.

"Policy" is a wisdom that connects the centuries,
Every era that reads from it is a leader and a politician.
Pure intentions are necessary in governing the country,
Let service to the people be the real thing, and there is no pride in arrogance.

Nizam-ul-Mulk, who holds the pen, is the pillar of the state,
Every law is restored with his word.
Loyalty, honesty, and integrity are the foundation of this work.
For a leader, this book is a guiding star, an eternal beacon.



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