HUSEYN JAVID

Poet / playwright, 1882-1941

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Huseyn Javid is one of the prominent writers who contributed to the development of the best traditions in classical Azerbaijan literature. He is considered to be the founder of progressive romanticism in 20th century Azerbaijan literature.

Huseyn Javid was born on October 24, 1882 in Nakhchivan. He got his primary education in mollakhana – religious school and continued in Tarbiyya a school of M.T.Sidgi and wrote poems under the pseudonym Gulchin by his inspiration.
Javid lived in Tabriz and Urmiya in 1898-1903, studied in the *Talibiyya* Madrasah (religious high school) in Tabriz. In 1906-1909 he continued his education in Istanbul University, got inspired by poems of the poets such as Reza Tofiq and Tofig Fikrat. In 1903 Cavid began to publish his articles in the newspaper *Shargi-Rus*. He started to publish his poems in the *Irshad* newspaper and in the *Phyuzat* magazine when he was a student.
Huseyn Javid and Abdulla Shaig, the prominent poet of Azerbaijan
In 1909-1910 he worked as a teacher in Nakhchivan and wrote Ana (“Mother”) (1910) play there. In 1911 Javid left for Tbilisi and lived there till 1917. He wrote there the plays Maral (1912), Sheyk Sanan (1914), Sheyda (1916), there and published his book Kechmish gunlar (“Past Days”) (1913) in the Sharq printing house.

In 1918-1919 he taught in Rushdiyya school in Nakhchivan, became the member of Yashil galam (“Green pen”) circle in Baku.

The publishment of Bahar shabnamlari (“Spring dew”) in 1917 and Iblis (“The Satan”) in 1918, completion of Uchurum (“Abyss”) tragedy in 1919, especially the successful staging of Iblis (“The Satan”) made Javid more famous.
After the establishment of Soviet reign in Azerbaijan while teaching at the Institute of Teachers and Baku Theatre College Javid wrote the poem Azer (1928), the plays Afet (1922), Peyghambar (“Prophet”) (1923), Topal Teymur (“Timur the Lame”) (1925), Knyaz (1929), Siyavush (1933), Khayyyam (1935), Iblisin intigami (“The Satan’s Revenge”) (1936).
Being a great poet and playwright, Huseyn Javid was also one of the leading representatives of romanticism movement in Azerbaijani literature. His literary heritage has been included in golden fund of Azerbaijan literature. Javid’s creative works are quite diversified in terms of genre and form. He is the author of lyric poetry, lyric-epical poems and epics, as well as first verse tragedy and dramas in Azerbaijan literature. Huseyn Javid is mostly known as a dramatist. His philosophical and historical tragedies, family dramas introduce a new stage of development in Azerbaijan literature in terms of style, manner of writing and form innovation. These plays had a significant impact on the development of national theatre and were characterized as “Javid theatre”. Javid’s dramas embody humankind, political and cultural problems of his years.
Huseyn Javid’s two pince-nez and pocket watch
Javid wrote epic, lyrics and drama in arud (arabic prosody) and syllabic verse (metre) both in poetry and prose. He is the first poet who used the genres of sonnet, turku (ballad) and march in Azerbaijani literature. The poet created the new type of Hazaj verse metre – “Javid’s hazaj”.
Javid’s poetry consists of romantic poems and epics. The contradiction between ideal and reality, lyrical and philosophical thoughts emerging from delusions in search of real truth are the major content of Javid’s poetry.
He wrote his first (voluminous) poems at the beginning of 20th century. Covering the lyrical and romantic or romantic and philosophical content, generally these poems don’t contain plot features and characters, as if lyrical and romantic monologues.
Huseyn Javid’s mausoleum in Nakhchivan
Huseyn Javid is earmarked for skillful creation of literary characters of people from different religions and nations in his works. He personified the representatives of Turkish, Arabian, Persian, Russian, Georgian and other nations with the same affection. In this viewpoint, Javid can be compared with Nizami and Shakespeare. Each of them is cherished all over the world for their non-discriminative attitude to religious and ethnic individuals.
One of the exhibits demonstrated in Huseyn Javid’s home-museum is the carpet dedicated to his wife Mishkinaz khanum.
Made by: Afag Karimova, carpet-maker and artist
Javid’s heroes are distinctive, because they live with humanistic ideals and challenge people to enlightenment, benevolence, friendship and peace. “My idol is beauty and love”, – says the poet considering the human being to be the supreme of all and with all respect to love.
The carpet dedicated to Javid’s daughter Turan Javid. Made by: Afag Karimova, carpet-maker and artist
In 1922 first time “Recital of Huseyn Javid” was held. In 1926 he was sent to Germany for treatment by state support. In 1927 he was granted individual scholarship (pension). Beginning from 1931 the critical articles about Javid started to be published in periodical press. In 1934 he was maligned as “bourgeois writer” in Azerbaijan SSR Union of Writers, in 1937 was sentenced to 8 years of arrest under the pretext of participation in “Secret nationalist anti-revolutionary organization” and spent the sentence on exile. He died on December 5, 1941 on exile – in the village of Shevchenko in Irkutsk province near Lake Baikal.
Huseyn Javid’s portrait carved in pebble
Carved by: Edalet Pirverdiyev
“The Devil”, Poster. 26 May 1922.  
State Turkic Theatre
The repression of Soviet government to Javid continued after his death. On 6th of March 1956 Huseyn Javid was exonerated, in 1982 his well-known political figure mortal remains were repatriated from the far Siberia Azerbaijan by the support of Heydar Aliyev. A monument in Baku and a magnificent mausoleum over his tomb in Nakhchivan were built in Javid’s honor. A feature film and four documentaries have been shot about him. The screenplay of *Topal Teymur* (“Timur the Lame”) has been filmed and songs and romances have been composed to the words. *Poeziya teatrı* (“Theatre of poetry”) in Nakhchivan is named after him.
The monument of Huseyn Javid in the garden in front of Academy of Sciences in Baku
Sculpted by: Ōmar Eldarov, 1993
Appreciative statements about Huseyn Javid:

«Huseyn Javid is one of the victims of repression, his family and himself suffered great deprivation. However, not only individuals, but also all our people, regretfully, have been subjected to repression... During the Soviet rule our history and traditions were tried to harmonized only in communist ideology and Soviet Socialist regime. This is our history. We should draw moral out of all these for our people never to face such cases any more. Especially now, when we are independent. The people, particularly young generation should be well aware of our history and closely know the prominent personalities».

Heydar Aliyev, nationwide leader

October 24, 2002 Heydar Aliyev, the nationwide leader of Azerbaijani people cut the inauguration ribbon of Huseyn Javid’s home-museum on 120th anniversary day of the poet, got acquainted with exhibits and expressed his blessings writing his sincere words in the memory book of the museum.
Heydar Aliyev, the ex-president of Azerbaijan Republic with Turan Javid in the inauguration of Huseyn Javid’s home-museum.

Huseyn Javid’s works published in Arabic and Azerbaijani of Latin graphics while he was alive.
The room which belonged to Artoghrol, Huseyn Javid’s son in the poet’s home-museum. Artoghrol Javid’s photos shot in different years, the portraits of Shakespeare, Beethoven, A.M. Sharifzadeh in the role of Sheikh Sanan and picture of rose painted by Huseyn Javid

The triptych "Javid’s World". H.Javid is in the center and his heroes are to the right and left to him. Painted by: Oktay Sadigzadeh
“Javid’s creative activity is closely connected with theatre. Javid, of course, has its own theater. It is impossible to imagine Javid and theatre apart of each other».

Mammad Jafar, academician

The painting “Creation of the “Satan” opera”: Hanafi Teregulov, Huseyn Javid, Artoghrol, Panah Gasimov, Muslim Magomayev and Uzeyir Hajibayli were painted in the picture.
Painted by: Anvar Aliyev

«Javid theatre was a great art school for mighty actor generation who made up brilliant pages in the history of Azerbaijan theatrical culture. The professional career of Abbas Mirza Sharifzadeh, Ulvi Rajab, Marziyya Davudova, Reza Tahmasib, Mirzaga Aliyev, Kazum Ziya, Sidgi Ruhulla and many others is closely associated with Javid theatre».

Goulam Mammadly, publicist
Huseyn Javid’s portrait, carpet with plot, 1997
Made by: carpet-maker and artist Afag Karimova
Huseyn Javid’s mausoleum consists of two parts - hall and beneath holding graves of Huseyn Javid’s family’s other members.
The bust of Huseyn Javid in the capital of Montenegro
“Javid is accused of scarce creative works in the theme of Azerbaijan. But they forget that in addition to being great master of Azerbaijan literature, Javid was literary representative of huge region - Near and Middle East as well. He personified history, psychology, spirit and philosophy of these peoples. And this was one of the major trends and important directions of Azerbaijan literature».

Rafael Huseynov
«All the heroes of Javid’s tragedies are truth seekers, each of these tragedies is the epic of concern and knowledge eager to perceive the life more or less».

Yashar Garayev, academician

«Javid’s world of creativity is as complicated and contrastive as its rich context. However, his literary evolution and the tendencies he pursued in his creativity are not difficult to conceive. It requires attentive and in-depth approach to Javid’s profound literary legacy. First of all, nobody should misinterpret his works.»

Mehdi Mammadov, People’s Artist of Azerbaijan
Yesterday and Today

Happy the shining eyes but yesterday:
Here grief and mourning lies but come today.
Brave words so full of cheer but yesterday:
Full of despair and tears but come today.
Gay heart of yesterday it aches today.
Dead dreams of yesterday revive today.
Old Fortune is a jade without a heart:
Always with man has played and torn apart.
With her it’s all in play to smile, betray.
He, sentenced yesterday is judge today.
Happy the shining eyes but yesterday:
Here grief and mourning lies but come today.
Brave words so full of cheer but yesterday:
Full of despair and tears but come today.
Gay heart of yesterday it aches today.
Dead dreams of yesterday revive today.
Old Fortune is a jade without a heart:
Always with man has played and torn apart.
With her it’s all in play to smile, betray.
He, sentenced yesterday is judge today.
Unlucky, yesterday in luck today.
Those happy yesterday are sad today.
A different world today new laws, in fine;
The cups of yesterday held blood, not wine.
The king of yesterday a slave today.
The slave of yesterday a king today –
The pledge of yesterday washed out today.
The long-time enemy a friend today.
And Nature's not able on land or sea
To stay quite stable, eternally.
Without exception, changes all creation.
The law of life is "perpetual alteration".
What does not change? It's inconceivable.
Could there be such a law inflexible?
Just as firm steel is gnawed away by rust
At ever step the Great turns into Dust.
Today is not concerned with Yesterday.
New knowledge lights each minute of each day.
In every Darkness throbs at least one Gleam.
Huseyn Javid’s grave in Irkutsk, Russia where he was buried during exile in 1941

Huseyn Javid’s painting made on the wall of his home-museum in the background of Tabriz and Istanbul, two important cities in his life.