



"The past and present of Karabakh on the literary level" - the first scientific symposium in Shusha

Discussion-interview

As we reported, a scientific symposium was held in Shusha on August 31 within the framework of Vagif Poetry Days. In the symposium "The Yesterday and Today of Karabakh on the Literary Level", the tasks facing our literature, the literary examples created in the last 30 years, the stimulus given by Vagif Poetry Days to literary people and the unique creativity of Molla Panah Vagif were discussed. At the symposium, the secretary of the Azerbaijan Writers' Union, writer-playwright Ilgar Fahmi, academician, member of parliament, director of the Atatürk Center in Azerbaijan Nizami Jafarov, correspondent member of ANAS Tehran Alishanoglu, editor-in-chief of "Literary newspaper" Azer Turan, doctor of philological sciences, "Literary newspaper" and the department head of the Institute of Literature, member of the YAP Board of Directors, Elnara Akimova, deputy editor-in-chief of "Literary newspaper", poet Adil Jamil, writer-publicist Mustafa Çamanli, critic Asad Jahangir, associate professor of BSU, doctor of philosophy in philology, writer Alamdar Jabbarli, young poet Ramil Ahmed gave a speech. We present the materials of the symposium.

Dear friends, I welcome each of you to the symposium "Yesterday and Today of Karabakh on the Literary Level" held within the framework of the Days of Vagif Poetry. Today we are in a truly historic event. After many years of interruption, holding the Days of Vagif Poetry in free Shusha and organizing the symposium is truly a significant and memorable event.

Of course, we would like this symposium to be held with a larger composition, with the participation of our greater scientists and literary critics, but considering the current pandemic situation and the limited conditions here, it was decided to hold the symposium concisely, with a limited staff. In the coming years, of course, we are thinking of holding a grander, even international scientific symposium within the framework of the Vagif Poetry Days... However, no matter how concise it is, I am sure that this symposium will be engraved in the pages of our literary history as a first. I once again welcome all our participants and declare our event open.

These days, holding such a symposium in Shusha, the capital of the former Karabakh Khanate, is undoubtedly as natural as it is historical. And we are grateful for the national will demonstrated by the President of Azerbaijan, Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev in front of the eyes of the whole world, for the liberation of Shusha and the mountainous-lowland Karabakh in general, both from several decades of occupation and from several centuries of claims.

Giving a new life to the Molla Panah Vagif Poetry Days, opening a conversation about the past, present and tomorrow of Karabakh within the framework of these days, on the literary level, shows once again that our state confidently continues the cultural policy of the great leader Heydar Aliyev, by giving great importance to literature in the moral development of our people. Of course, the literary environment in Karabakh does not begin with Vagif, but Vagif laid the foundations of the



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literary movement we call realism in Karabakh, in Shusha, and as a whole, he brought the literary environment of Karabakh to the forefront of Azerbaijani literature. And it should be acknowledged that the Vagif era in literature was a strong renaissance event due to its idea-aesthetic character. It was not long ago that Karabakh gave Azerbaijani culture "Karabagname" that had a significant impact on the development of national consciousness, along with great poets such as Zakir and Natavan. In each of those works, the history of Karabakh is described in such detail, the past and present are explored in such detail that the fact that there is no place for Armenians in it already confirms the groundlessness of the territorial claims of this hated tribe to Karabakh.