



# XORIYIY TILLARNI O'QITISHDA INNOVATSION YONDASHUVLAR NAZARIYANING AMALIYOTGA TATBIQI

*mavzusidagi respublika ilmiy-amaliy anjumani*

## ABDURAHIMBEK TOLIBOV – PERSIAN ENLIGHTER

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**Abstract:** *This article thoroughly explores Abdurahimbek Tolibov's ideas on enlightenment and his contribution to modern Persian literature. It analyzes his views on education, social and political reforms, and the influence of his works on Iran's enlightenment movement and modernization. Additionally, it discusses Tolibov's most famous works, their plots, and their themes.*

**Keywords:** *Abdurahim Tolibov, enlightenment, modern Persian prose, educational reforms, social reforms, literary influence, realism, revolution.*

At the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, the enlightenment movement intensified in Iran, just as in several other countries. During this period, many intellectuals sought to reform society, update the education system, and develop modern literature. One such intellectual was Abdurahim Tolibov, whose progressive ideas and works significantly influenced not only Iran but also Azerbaijani literature and culture.

Mirza Abdurahim Tolibov Tabrizi (1834–1910) was a well-known writer, thinker, and enlightener in Iran. Throughout his life, he produced important literary, political, and social works, becoming one of the influential figures during Iran's Constitutional Revolution. He grew up in a respected and educated family. As a young man, he traveled abroad to learn Russian, studying in present-day Georgia. During this period, he became acquainted with new political ideologies, including socialism and democracy, and developed a strong admiration for Russian literature, from which he gained extensive knowledge.

*Tolibov's Intellectual Journey and Literary Contributions.* Tolibov did not publish any books in his youth. It was only between the ages of 55 and 65 that he decided to write books in various scientific, political, and philosophical fields. His works were primarily written in a debate and dialogue style, influenced by ancient Greek philosophical literature. However, many conservative clerics and political figures considered his views incompatible with Islam and attempted to suppress discussions about his ideas.

Despite opposition, in 1906, Tolibov participated in the first session of the National Assembly (Majles) and was elected as a representative of Tabriz. However,



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even after joining the parliament, he did not relocate to Tehran and remained in his hometown, Tamerkhan-Shura (modern-day Buynaksk, Dagestan). He passed away in 1910 at the age of seventy-seven.

*Themes in Tolibov's Works.* One of the most prominent features of Tolibov's works is his emphasis on freedom. His deep knowledge of various sciences contributed to the richness of his writings. His works also reflect his modern views on social sciences, religion, and politics. Moreover, his prose is characterized by clear and accessible language, making complex and abstract concepts understandable to a wide audience.

His exposure to Western ideas through his Russian education and experiences abroad shaped his perspective. Russia served as a bridge between Eastern traditions and Western thought. Tolibov believed in using Western sciences to solve political problems but remained cautious about adopting foreign ideologies wholesale.

One of his most famous works, "Kitab-i Ahmad" (Ahmad's Book), was initially criticized as a promotion of Bábism. However, modern scholars have dismissed these accusations as baseless. His works played a significant role in Iran's modernization and reform movements, advocating for enlightenment and social progress.

*Impact of Tolibov's Ideas on Iran's Modernization.* Tolibov's works emphasized the importance of education, science, and political reforms for the advancement of Eastern societies. His ideas significantly influenced Iran and the broader Muslim world's modernization processes.

A 2019 article published in the "Tarikh-e Iran" (History of Iran) journal by the Islamic Azad University examined Tolibov's contributions to Iran's intellectual transformation. The article analyzed how he approached concepts of identity and "the other," as well as his role in Iran's modernization.

Similarly, a 2018 study by Mehrdad Nosrati and Dr. Fatima Heydari in "Bahor-e Adab" (Spring of Literature) discussed the intellectual and literary contributions of 19th-century Azerbaijani figures, including Tolibov. The study highlighted his role in raising social awareness and promoting revolutionary ideas.

*Analysis of Tolibov's Key Works.* To begin with "**Kitab-i Ahmad**" (Ahmad's Book, 1908)

Written in dialogue form, the book features conversations between a boy named Ahmad and his father on education, politics, progress, and social reforms.

It was published in Istanbul and became a significant work of the enlightenment movement in the Muslim world.



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The book aimed to analyze the causes of Eastern societies' backwardness and proposed enlightenment as a solution.

Another noteworthy work by Abdurrahim Talibov is "Liberty and Politics". This work consists of two treatises: "Explanations on Liberty" and "Tolibov's ideas about politics. The first treatise discusses the concept of freedom, the National Consultative Assembly, its benefits, the duties of people's representatives, future Iranian laws, taxation, and the constitution. The second treatise provides a detailed discussion on political philosophy.

Last but not least, "Masalik-ul-Muhsinin" (The path of benefactors) narrates the story of a group of young people embarking on a scientific expedition to Mount Damavand. Through their journey, they engage in debates and discussions on ethics, society, and education.

While praised by reformists, the book was condemned by conservative clerics and autocrats, who even attempted to ban its circulation.

In conclusion, Abdurrahim Tolibov was one of the leading figures of the Iranian enlightenment movement. His ideas played a crucial role in the intellectual and literary modernization of Iran. His works, particularly "Kitab-i Ahmad" and "Liberty and Politics," advocated for the scientific, political, and social reforms necessary for Eastern societies' development. Although, he was influenced by Western ideas, he emphasized the importance of preserving national identity. His thoughts and literary legacy left a lasting impact on Iran's history and literature. His works not only influenced his time but continue to serve as an inspiration for social and political change in the modern world.

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