



ḤĀŞEM, RAḤIM

ḤĀŞEM, RAḤIM (Rahim Mamedovič Hošimov), Tajik essayist, literary critic, and translator, who is considered to have been one of the founders of modern Tajik literature (b. in Samarkand, 5 October 1908, d. in Dushanbe, 1993; [Figure 1](#)). Like Ḥasan ‘Erfān (q.v.), Ḥāšem belonged to the Shi‘ite “Persian” (Ērāni) community of Samarkand, and his native tongue was the Turkic dialect of Transcaucasia. He was born into the family of a pharmacist (*‘aṭṭār*) and began his formal education in 1916 at a modern school (*maktab-e oşul-e jadid*; see [EDUCATION xxviii](#)). Şadr-al-Din ‘Ayni (q.v.) was his teacher there in 1918. Ḥāšem continued his education at Samarkand’s teacher training college and later at a local Russian-language high school.

From 1924, while still attending high school, he worked as a literary editor for the newspaper *Zarafşān* and the review *Ma‘āref wa uqitgʻuvči*. Later, in 1928, he joined the renowned journal *Rahbar-e dāneş* and the Naşriyāt-e dawlati-e Tājikestān (State Publishers of Tajikistan), both based in Samarkand, where the first generation of Soviet Tajik writers were being trained under the leadership of ‘Ayni. In the late 1920s and early 1930s, he participated (along with Şarāf Jabbāri, ‘Ayni, Peyrow [Solaymāni], and others), sometimes under the penname Raḥim Mim, in the compilation of several Persian language textbooks for the new Soviet elementary schools, including *Alefbā*, *Jehān-e now*, *Sāktmān-e now*, *Rāh-e now*, and *Panj dar čār*. He also compiled second- and third-grade reading books. Before long Ḥāšem became a prominent member of the Union of Tajik Writers and, accompanying ‘Ayni, participated in the first congress of Soviet writers (1934). Ḥāšem supported the poet Peyrow



Solaymāni, who had become a target of the party-oriented “proletarian” writers, and he collected and published his poems in 1934, a year after his death, with a preface boldly defending his late comrade. Ḥāšem’s memoirs show that he was closely associated with Feṭrat (q.v.) before the latter’s execution. Soviet documents remain silent on the next ten years of his life, but his friends and colleagues maintain that, due to his patriotism, he fell victim to the Stalinist purges of the late 1930s and was exiled to Siberia for some ten years. According to Ḥāšem himself, his “very long journey” started on 17 February 1938 (Hošim, p. 119).

In the late 1940s, Ḥāšem’s literary activities were closely related to that of his mentor ‘Ayni, whom he served as a secretary (*kāteb*) during the late 1940s and early 1950s in Samarkand. In 1955, he resumed his life-long career at the newly-established Language and Literature Department of the Tajik Academy of Science, while also enrolling in the State University in Dushanbe, where he earned a graduate degree in 1963. He was admitted as a member of the Union of Writers of the Soviet Union (1960), and won the prestigious *Ƙodimi ƙizmatni-šondodai ilmi Tojikiston* [*Ƙādem-e ƙedmat-nešāndāda-ye ‘elm-e Tājikestān*] prize (1978). Ḥāšem never joined the Communist Party.

Ḥāšem was a prolific writer, who published numerous critical essays on various aspects of Tajik Persian language and literature, and many biographical works on writers and poets, such as *Pire ki javon šudaast* [*Pir-i ke javān šoda-ast*] (on ‘Ayni; 1937), *Haykali buzurgi nazm* [*Haykal-e bozorg-e nazm*] (1964; on ‘Abd-al-Raḥmān Jāmi), *Berunī* (a short essay on Biruni; 1983), *Ibni Sino* (on Avicenna; 1977), as well as further works on Maxim Gorky, Anton Chekhov, Abu’l-Qāsem Lāhuti, Peyrow Solaymāni, and many other contemporaries. In this respect, as well as in his works of literary criticism, Ḥāšem became a role model for many younger writers, including Moḥammadjān Šokurov (later Šakuri), Rajab Amānov, Şāḥeb Ṭabarov, and Atakān Sayf-Allāhev (Sayfulloev). Ḥāšem’s selected essays appeared in *Sukan az ustodon va duston* [*Soƙan az ostādān wa dustān*] (1971, 1983) and *Solho dar sahifaho* [*Sālhā dar şaḥifahā*] (1988), which contain his memoirs. His *Glazami sovesti* (co-authored by Radiī Fish, 1978; Tajik Persian tr., *Bo amri vijdon* [*Bā amr-e vejdān*], 1979) is also about the life and works of ‘Ayni. His work *Hikmati asrho* [*Ḥekmat-e ‘aşrhā*](co-authored by Vladimir Kapranov) is on traditional herbal medicine.

Ḥāšem was also a prolific translator of literary works into Tajik Persian. His numerous translations from Turkish and Russian include Tolstoy’s *Anna*



Karenina, Maxim Gorky's *The Mother* (and other works by him), as well as works by Lermantov, G. Figeyredo, Nāzem Ḥekmat, Rāšed Nuri, R. N. Guntekin, B. Karboboev, Rabindranath Tagore, and Mark Twain. Ḥāšem's Persian prose, though sometimes verbose, is distinctive on account of its clarity, force, and avoidance of vulgarization and Russification.

Ḥāšem was editor or co-editor of several works, including stories from the *Šāh-nāma* (*Šāhnāma*; 1937), selected poems of Malek-al-Šo'arā' Bahār (1958), an anthology of Afghan poets (1959, 1960), the Persian works of Fožuli (1960), Āḳōndzāda's *Maktubāt-e Kamāl-al-Dawla* (1962), an abridgement of Sa'di's *Golestān* (1985), and Ebn Balkī's *Fārs-nāma* (1989). He acted as a senior editor in two major works of lexicography: *Luğati rusī-tojikī* [*Loğat-e rusi-tājiki*](1933) and *Farhang-e zabān-e tājiki* (1969; q.v.).

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