

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

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TRUST / AMANAT (1969)

Shukurbek Beishenaliev (1928–2000)

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OVERVIEW

Author

Shukurbek Beishenaliev was a Kyrgyz Soviet writer, novelist, playwright, and children's author. He was born in the village of Kurtka in the Naryn region of Kyrgyzstan. He graduated from the Faculty of Philology at Kyrgyz State University in Frunze in 1952 and attended Higher Literary Courses in Moscow from 1962 to 1964. Beishenaliev worked as a teacher, researcher, journalist, and editor. His writing explored Kyrgyz culture, rural life, human relationships, and social responsibility, with particular attention to children's experiences. In 1974, he received the title of Honored Artist of the Kyrgyz Soviet Socialist Republic. In 1976, his children's book *Müyüzdüü Kozu* (*The Horned Lamb*) received an international honorary diploma associated with the Hans Christian Andersen Award. In 1993, he was named People's Writer of the Kyrgyz Republic. He died in 2000 and was buried in Bishkek.

Beishenaliev wrote novels, short stories, children's books, and plays. In 1950, he won first prize in a republic-wide literary competition for *Chynygy Dostuk* (*True Friendship*). His novel *Taalay Jolu* (*The Path to Happiness*), published in 1957, is another notable work.

His other works include *Ukuk* (*Right or Law*), *Kordun Tukum* (*The Lineage of the Oppressed*), *Soldat Mahabaty* (*A Soldier's Love*), *Urpaktar Ünü* (*The Voice of Generations*), *Dankka Jarasha Jük* (*The Burden of Glory*), *Too Koyundagy Gül* (*A Flower Among the Mountains*), *Amanat*, and *Bolot Kalem* (*The Steel Pen*), a novel about the Kyrgyz poet Togolok Moldo.

Children's literature was central to his career. Works such as *Ak Taylak* (*The White Camel Calf*), *Tabyshmakchy Chynara*, and *Chabalekey* (*The Swallow*) reflect children's lives, nature, friendship, and Kyrgyz traditions. Beishenaliev also wrote plays, including *Dos* (*Friend*), *Meyman* (*The Guest*), and *Bagynbas Akyn* (*The Unyielding Poet*). In addition, he translated works by Leo Tolstoy, Anton Chekhov, Henrik Ibsen, and Mikhail Sholokhov into Kyrgyz, contributing to the development of Kyrgyz literature and its engagement with world literature.

Novella

Among Shukurbek Beishenaliev's works for children, the novella *Amanat* (1976) holds a special place. It was first published in 1969 under the title *Danaker* (*The Peacemaker*).

A Russian translation of *Amanat* was published in Moscow by *Detskaya Literatura* in 1975.

The Kyrgyz-language edition was published in 1976 by *Mektep* in Frunze (now Bishkek), under the title *Amanat: Novellas*. The novella was adapted into a film titled *How Do You Spell “Sun”*, directed by Usonjan Ibragimov and produced by Kyrgyz film in 1978.

Background

The novella can be studied within the broader context of Soviet-era Kyrgyz children's literature, which often emphasized moral education, social responsibility, and personal development. *Amanat* explores family ties, intergenerational relationships, and traditional ways of life in Kyrgyz culture. After his father's death, Amanat is placed in the care of his paternal grandfather and paternal grandmother because of his mother's health problems and difficult circumstances. His story highlights the important role of grandparents in raising children and passing down cultural values. The novella also offers insight into Soviet-era education and the traditional Kyrgyz culture of seasonal migration to summer pastures (*jailoo*). By bringing together family life, education, and pastoral traditions, the work reflects aspects of Kyrgyz society and its cultural heritage.

MAIN CHARACTERS

Amanat — A boy raised by his paternal grandparents who discovers his family's past through music.

Altynay (Aliya) — Amanat's biological mother, who later reunites with him.

Batma — Amanat's paternal grandmother, who raises him and teaches him traditional songs.

Nurak — Amanat's paternal grandfather, who raises him and supports his education.

Musa — Amanat's late father, a mining engineer who died in a mountain accident.

Bakir Temirov — Altynay's husband, a geologist and famous poet.

Junus Sherov — A singer and actor who helps Amanat develop his musical talent.

SYNOPSIS

Amanat grows up in the Kyrgyz pastures with his paternal grandparents, Nurak and Batma, whom he calls Father and Mother. Batma's sorrowful lament awakens questions about his family's past. Nurak and Batma eventually reveal that his father, Musa, died in a mountain accident and his biological mother, Altynay, lives in Frunze. Unable to understand why she left him, Amanat considers Batma his only mother.

Through stories about a grieving mare that adopts an orphaned foal, Amanat learns about loss, love, and the bonds between parents and children. He visits Musa's grave and begins to understand his own identity. Hoping to give him better opportunities, Nurak arranges for Amanat to participate in a music festival. His talent for playing the komuz earns him recognition and an opportunity to study at a music boarding school in Frunze.

In the capital, Amanat meets Altynay (Aliya), who records his music for the radio but hesitates to reveal who she is. Eventually, Amanat discovers the truth, and mother and son reconcile. Altynay explains the circumstances that led her to leave him, and Amanat stops blaming her. Together with Bakir, Altynay visits Nurak and Batma. Nurak forgives Altynay, and the family decides to move forward together, united by love, shared sorrow, and hope for the future.

SCENES

Amanat Remembers His Mother's Song

Amanat's Childhood Song Amanat remembered the song his mother had sung to him ever since he was a little boy. He had grown up listening to that familiar melody, which had become a precious part of his childhood. However, as time passed, his mother stopped singing the song, and Amanat could not understand why. Now that he had finished second grade, he missed the song more than ever. He often remembered how his mother used to sing it to him and longed to hear it again. One day, he finally gathered the courage to ask her to sing it. To his surprise, his mother told him that she had already forgotten the song. Deeply disappointed and unable to hide his sadness, Amanat burst into tears.

The Song Forbidden by His Father Crying bitterly, Amanat begged his mother, "Mother, I want to listen to that song! Please, please sing it for me!" His mother looked at him and, after a moment of hesitation, explained that she had not really stopped singing the song because she had forgotten it. Instead, she revealed the painful truth: his father had forbidden her to sing it. Seeing her son's tears and hearing his desperate pleas, his mother finally gave in and began to sing the familiar melody. Yet the song was not

cheerful or soothing. It was sad and deeply lyrical, carrying the sorrowful tone of a lament. As his mother sang, the familiar childhood melody filled Amanat with a strange warmth, despite its haunting sadness. He ran away while his mother was still singing, leaving her alone with the sorrowful melody.

The Lament of the Komuz Amanat sat alone on a stone beside the yurt in the pasture, playing a simple komuz melody his father had taught him. His mother had been delighted by his progress, and they had invited their neighbors to celebrate his talent. Later, Amanat became an active singer in the school's music club. Now, however, he began playing his mother's sad, lyrical lament, half smiling and half crying. The neighbors heard the music and listened silently. His father returned from herding, as Amanat usually went to meet him, but stopped upon hearing the sorrowful melody, his own heart heavy with sadness.

A Lament That Awakened Old Sorrows The elderly couple, Nurak and Batma, were Amanat's paternal grandparents. When Nurak heard his grandson playing the sorrowful lament, he approached him and embraced him tenderly. "Who taught you this melody, my boy?" he asked. "Do you miss your father and mother? You have awakened the pain in my heart. You are my angel. I wish you to grow up, have a family of your own, and live a long life. I wish I could live to see it." Amanat replied, "This music and song belong to my grandmother, Batma. It is a very sad song, and I would like to change it a little." Just then, Batma approached them and said warmly, "My boy, you are so talented! You sing my song with such deep feeling."

The Truth That Could No Longer Be Hidden "Why are you singing this lament? Now you must tell the boy the whole truth," Nurak scolded Batma. Batma looked at her husband and replied, "You were the komuz player, and I was the singer. Now, we can no longer hide anything from this clever boy. We must tell him the truth together." After that incident, Nurak began taking Amanat with him to herd the animals. However, his grandmother, Batma, objected. "Don't take the boy with you," she said. "He should enjoy his summer vacation and have a proper rest. He spends most of the school year at boarding school, away from home."

Amanat Lives with His Grandparents in the Pasture

The Search for the Missing Mare Nurak worked as a horse herder. Among the horses was a mare with a golden, sandy-colored body and head, a black mane and tail, a dark belly, black lower legs, and a thin black stripe running along her back to the base of her tail. Despite her age, the mare had given birth to many fine foals over the course of twenty years. That year, she was pregnant once again. One day, the old mare suddenly went missing. Worried about her disappearance, Batma and Amanat mounted another mare and set off to search in one direction, while Nurak and the other herders went in the opposite direction to look for her.

A Boy's Longing for His Mother Suddenly, the mare Batma and Amanat were riding became restless and agitated. They dismounted and continued on foot. Watching the mare's behavior, Amanat said, "Perhaps she misses her foal. Foals search for their mothers, too, when they become separated. Batma looked at the boy thoughtfully and asked, "Why are you talking about a mother mare and her foal? Do you dream about your own mother?" That day, Nurak and Batma had told Amanat the truth: his father had died, and his mother was living in Frunze.

A Secret He Kept in His Heart Amanat wondered whether the building where his father had studied and lived was still standing. Batma gently replied, "My boy, when you grow up, you can search for her." But Amanat had another worry. "Please don't tell Grandfather Nurak that I asked about Frunze," he said. "I call my grandparents Father and Mother. Father Nurak might feel hurt if I ask about Frunze."

A Mother's Grief From a distance, Amanat and Batma watched as Nurak found the missing mare. To their surprise, the mare had already given birth to a foal. As the days passed, the newborn foal grew increasingly lively, constantly running and moving about. One day, while its mother was drinking water, the foal accidentally fell into the mountain river and drowned. The mare suffered terribly from the loss of her young one. Amanat watched her in distress and said, "She might die of grief." Nurak replied quietly, "Every living creature eventually learns to live with sorrow." The mare's udders were swollen with milk, and Amanat noticed tears in her eyes. Batma wanted to milk the suffering animal, but Nurak stopped her.

An Ancient Kyrgyz Tradition There was another foal whose young mother could not feed it properly. With insufficient milk, the mare rejected her foal and wandered away with the other mares that were not pregnant. Left behind, the hungry foal struggled to survive. Seeing the situation, Nurak and Batma decided to follow an ancient Kyrgyz tradition for getting a mare that had lost her own foal to accept an orphaned one. Nurak gently tied a scarf over the grieving mare's eyes. Meanwhile, Batma covered the rejected foal with the skin of the mare's dead foal. When they brought the little foal to the mare, it began suckling, and the mare allowed it to drink her milk.

Amanat Learns about His Father's Death

Memories of Musa, Amanat's Father "This mare reminds me of myself," Batma said quietly. "Why, Mother?" Amanat asked. "My son Musa, your father died in an accident. I was just like this mare, who had lost her foal. Your father, Musa, graduated from university as a mining engineer. Every summer, he would visit us wearing new clothes. He told us that he had a fiancée in Frunze (Bishkek), and promised to bring her home in the autumn. "He was a truly gifted engineer," Batma continued. "One day, he returned from the mountains carrying a bag full of large stones. He explained that they contained valuable minerals and other natural resources. Whenever he had free time, he would go into the mountains to explore them.

The Tragic Death of Musa Musa once told his parents that he had spotted a unique mineral rock on the edge of a high mountain cliff and wanted to retrieve it. Nurak and Batma strongly objected, fearing the danger. But Musa insisted, saying, "Let me go and see it today." He gathered all his tools and set off for the mountains. Musa did not return that evening. The following morning, his father, Nurak, raised the alarm, and the villagers joined the search. Tragically, they found that Musa had fallen from the rocky cliff and died. The kolkhoz chairman sent a telegram to Frunze informing Musa's death. Batma recalled how she had cursed the rock through her tears, grieving helplessly for her beloved son. But no amount of crying or cursing could bring him back.

The Memorial for Musa A large group of Musa's colleagues travelled from Frunze to honor his memory. Among them were three or four young women. His colleagues gathered the local people and organized a memorial meeting to pay their respects to the man they had admired. They honored Musa with great dignity and buried him beneath the cliff from which he had fallen. Amanat had heard some older boys talking about his father's grave, but he had never seen it himself. He often wondered where it was and hoped that one day he would find it. Batma recalled that during the funeral, Nurak had thanked everyone who had come to honor his son. With a heavy heart, he expressed his deepest regret that Musa had left no children to carry on his life and memory.

The Secret Musa Left Behind After the funeral, Batma returned to Musa's grave. There, she noticed a young woman dressed in black, weeping beside it. The woman introduced herself as Altynay, Musa's newlywed wife. They had recently married, but their wedding celebration had been postponed until Musa could return to Frunze with his parents. Altynay then revealed that she was pregnant. Hearing this, Nurak and Batma asked her to bring the child to them after the birth. Batma gently told her, "You are still young, Altynay. You deserve to find happiness and build a life of your own. Just bring the child to us. We will raise the baby and cherish it as our own."

The Mother Amanat Chose The villagers soon learned about Altynay and came to pay their respects. Afterward, she left for the city to continue her studies, as she was in her final year at the university. When Amanat heard the truth, he protested, "No, you are my mother! Don't lie to me. I don't want any other mother but you. No, Altynay!" He kissed Batma, clinging to her with all his affection. Batma then showed him the mare that had rejected its foal. Amanat immediately said, "That mare is just like Altynay. She rejected her own child." Batma defended Altynay gently. "She gave birth to you, my boy. She was young and beautiful, and she had no choice." The conversation was painful for Batma, and she struggled to continue. Fortunately, some boys arrived to play with Amanat, bringing a welcome end to the difficult discussion.

Altynay Leaves Her Baby with His Grandparents

Altynay's Struggle and Hope Meanwhile, Altynay was hospitalized because of the severe stress caused by Musa's death. She had a heart condition, and the doctors warned her that the strain could lead to a miscarriage. They advised her to take great care of herself. Altynay kept writing letters to Nurak and Batma, and they replied with warm words and sent her gifts. As an orphan studying on a scholarship, she had no one else to support her. She had to continue her studies and spent much of her time in the university library. Shortly before giving birth, Altynay successfully defended her thesis. Her friends at the dormitory cared for her as best they could. When her professors congratulated her and wished her an easy delivery, she burst into tears. In that moment, Altynay understood that, life continued, carrying new hopes and possibilities.

A Mother's Painful Decision After giving birth, Altynay looked at her newborn son and tried to find a resemblance to Musa in his little face. Yet she was still extremely weak and unable to breastfeed him. She remained in the hospital for a month and a half, struggling to recover from the delivery and manage her heart condition. One day, the doctor told her that she was well enough to leave the hospital, but she was not strong enough to care for the baby. Her heart condition made the task too difficult, and she had no breast milk to feed him. Altynay sadly acknowledged the situation and suggested taking her son to his paternal grandparents, Nurak and Batma, who had longed for a child to carry on their son's memory. The doctors supported her decision, recognizing that the baby would receive the care and nourishment he needed.

The Journey to the Grandparents Altynay and her friend Goyana set off for the village with the baby. However, as their car climbed to a higher altitude, Altynay began to struggle to breathe and needed medical attention. She had to remain halfway along the journey, while Goyana continued to the village with the baby. Nurak and Batma were away in the pastures, herding their horses. When Goyana arrived there, she discovered that they were away visiting acquaintances. The villagers, seeing Goyana with the baby, assumed that she was Musa's wife. Soon, the baby began to cry. One of the village women asked Goyana to breastfeed him, but she refused. Unable to find Nurak and Batma, Goyana was left to wait until the grandparents returned.

The Grandparents' Disappointment When Nurak and Batma returned from visiting guests, the villagers told them that their daughter-in-law had left the baby without even feeding him and had gone back to the city. Nurak became furious that Altynay had left their grandson without waiting to see them. He felt that she should have brought the child to them herself. However, Batma defended Altynay, believing that there must have been a reason for her actions. Meanwhile, Altynay was still unwell. She wrote a letter explaining her condition and informing them that it was her friend Goyana who had brought the baby to the village. Although Altynay had graduated from the university's geology department, her heart condition prevented her from working in the mountains as a geologist.

The Letters Left Unanswered Nurak, however, did not believe Altynay's explanation. He thought she was young and assumed that she had simply been unwilling to go into the mountains. Unconvinced by her letter, he decided to ignore it rather than reply. Altynay waited anxiously for a response, hoping to hear from her son's grandparents. When no answer came, she wrote three more letters. Yet none received a reply. Eventually, Altynay felt deeply hurt and offended by their silence, unable to understand why they would not respond to her heartfelt messages.

The Mother in Amanat's Heart Amanat often wondered why Altynay had left him. If she was his real mother, why had she not raised him in Frunze? Why had she given him away? In his heart, he refused to accept her as his mother. He believed he had only one mother—Batma, who had raised him with love and tenderness. One day, Amanat asked his father, Nurak, to show him Musa's grave. Nurak agreed, and Batma prepared food for the journey. Four women and two men set off together to visit the grave.

Amanat Visits His Father's Grave

The Father's Grave When they arrived, Amanat intended to place soil on his father's grave, following an ancient Kyrgyz Muslim tradition of honoring the deceased. This customary act was an expression of respect and remembrance for his father, Musa. Nurak began to pray beside the grave. Batma continued her sorrowful lament, gazing toward the cliff where her beloved son had fallen. As her voice grew heavier with

grief, Nurak tried to stop her, unable to bear her suffering. But the women around them intervened, saying, "Let her cry. Let her pour out the sorrow in her heart." Batma continued until she had finished her lament. Then Nurak resumed his prayers, asking for peace for his departed son.

Amanat Comes to Understand Amanat stood before the grave and read the inscription: Nurakov Musa. He repeated his father's name several times, as though trying to engrave it in his memory. Then he placed the flowers he had brought on the grave. Now he understood that he was an orphan. But he was not alone in the world: he had Nurak, whom he called Father, and Batma, whom he called Mother. From that day on, Amanat tried not to be naughty anymore. He did his best to help Nurak and Batma with whatever he could. But Nurak would not let him take on too much. "Don't burden the boy with household chores," he told Batma. "He's still a child."

A Better Future for Amanat Amanat was studying at the boarding school in the kolkhoz while Nurak and Batma spent much of the year at the farms in the pastures. Nurak began to think that Amanat should attend a boarding school in the city, where he could receive a better education and have opportunities to visit the cinema, theatre, and sports events. At the village boarding school, Amanat's world was limited to the pastures and Batma's sorrowful laments. Nurak wanted the boy to see more of life and build a bright future for himself. He decided that one day he would approach the government officials and ask them to help Amanat enter a boarding school in Frunze.

Amanat Prepares to Leave the Pasture for Frunze

The Road to Frunze One day, a man named Dalbay arrived at the pasture carrying a letter from the kolkhoz chairman. The letter said that Amanat should be sent to the district center to take part in a music festival. If he performed well, he would be sent to the capital city, Frunze. Seeing this as an opportunity, Nurak decided to visit the kolkhoz chairman and ask him to arrange a place for Amanat at a boarding school in Frunze, since he and Batma spent the whole year in the pastures. Meanwhile, Amanat felt surprised and troubled by the prospect of leaving home. "I might get lost in the city," he said. "I want to go there when I'm grown up. Batma tried to reassure him. "You must have a good future, my child. We'll come to visit you by plane—it takes only an hour. You should go to the city. Your father studied there, too."

Amanat's Performance At the district festival, Amanat performed traditional komuz melodies called kuu. The jury asked him to play three melodies. He thought he had not been selected for the national festival because the applause was not loud enough. Disappointed, he ran away and visited shops, where he bought some books. Soon, someone found him and said, "We've been looking for you! You disappeared!" Amanat refused to return. A kind man approached and asked whether he missed home. His name was Junus Sherov, a singer and actor from the district.

A Journey Amanat was the only participant from his kolkhoz to receive such a high evaluation. Junus Sherov promised to teach him some komuz-playing techniques. Amanat did not understand the word technique, so Junus explained that it meant sitting properly, attracting the audience's attention, looking at listeners, and presenting the music well. He taught Amanat several useful techniques. Later, the district cultural department ordered special costumes for the singers who would perform in Frunze. Finally, Amanat and the other participants set off for the capital, beginning a new experience far from the pastures.

Amanat Performs in Frunze and Meets His Mother

Amanat Arrives in Frunze Fifty people from the province arrived in Frunze. They were all accommodated in hotels, and Amanat and Junus Sherov stayed at the Ala-Too Hotel. Amanat enjoyed looking at the beautiful streets, green gardens, and parks of the capital. However, he still did not dare to go outside alone because he was afraid he might get lost. He wanted to see the university where his father, Musa, had studied. He was also interested in visiting School No. 5, one of the two Kyrgyz-medium schools in Frunze. Amanat thought he would ask Junus Sherov to take him to these places.

Amanat's Performance at the Concert At last, the day of the concert arrived. The leader announced, "Amanat Nurakov will perform the *Mash Botoy* kuu on the komuz." Amanat went on stage and began to

play the traditional melody, using the techniques Junus Sherov had taught him. He remembered Junus's advice about sitting properly, attracting the audience's attention, and looking at the listeners while performing. When Amanat finished playing, Junus came up to him and hugged him warmly. "Good job! Well done, my boy!" he said. Amanat hugged Junus in return, happy to receive such warm praise from the man who had helped him improve his performance.

Amanat's Prize and a Visit from the Radio Amanat received a radio as a prize, and he immediately thought of giving it to his Father and Mother, Nurak and Batma. They could listen to it in the pastures, too. Meanwhile, the telephone in his hotel room kept ringing nonstop. A woman from the radio station was trying to reach him. Eventually, she came to the hotel and recorded Amanat playing komuz melodies and singing folk songs he had learned from Batma.

The woman introduced herself as Aliya and asked Amanat who had given him his name. Amanat did not want to tell her his whole story, so he simply answered, "I don't know." Then he sang Batma's sorrowful lament. As she listened to the song, Aliya began to cry.

A Mother Meets Her Son Aliya was actually Altynay, Amanat's biological mother. Later, she had married Bakir Temirov, a geologist and a famous poet. Bakir often urged Altynay to visit Amanat and see how the boy was growing up, but she always hesitated. Now, after seeing Amanat at the festival, she was amazed by how clever he was. He had told her that he wanted to visit Boarding School No. 5 and the university where his father, Musa, had studied. Altynay had seen the boy's talent at the festival and decided to visit him at the hotel. As she spoke with Amanat, the pain in her sick heart returned. Amanat noticed her suffering and brought her some water. After she had recovered a little, Altynay asked him whether she could take him to see the school and the university he wanted to visit.

Amanat's Visit to the University When Junus Sherov returned to the hotel, Amanat told him that Aliya had visited and promised to show him the school and the university where his father, Musa, had studied. Junus said that Bakir Temirov was a close friend of his. Amanat had read some of Bakir's poems, and Junus explained that some of his own melodies had lyrics written by Bakir. The next day, Aliya arrived late, and Amanat waited for her a long time. She took him to the university department where Musa and she had studied together, but she did not dare tell him the truth. Amanat asked whether she had studied there, too. She said yes. Then Aliya asked, "Do you know your father?" Amanat replied that his father had died before he was born. When she asked about his mother, Amanat said, "I have only one mother. Her name is Batma. I don't know any other mother." Aliya felt pain in her heart again, and they could not visit the boarding school that day.

Amanat Discovers the Truth and Reunites with His Family

Good News for Amanat The following day, Aliya took Amanat to the boarding school and spoke with the principal. There, she learned that Amanat's documents had been sent back to the Ministry of Education. Amanat was deeply disappointed and began to think that meeting Aliya had brought him bad luck. Back at the hotel, he fell asleep. Suddenly, someone woke him. He saw Junus Sherov, Aliya, and another man—Bakir Temirov. They told him that he had been accepted into the music boarding school. They asked Amanat for *suyunchu*, a traditional gift given to someone bringing good news. Amanat said he had nothing to give. Bakir smiled and said that he could play the komuz as his gift. Amanat played, and then they laid the table and began eating together. During the meal, Amanat said he wanted to become a scientist, but worried that he could not do so if he attended a music school. Aliya explained that the school taught mathematics, physics, chemistry, and other subjects alongside music. Hearing this, Amanat felt happy again.

Amanat Discovers the Truth One day, Amanat asked Aliya and Bakir if he could visit his Father and Mother, Nurak and Batma, before school began. Bakir replied, "Let's talk about it this evening." Amanat went outside to play. When Aliya came home, she took him into a room where he saw a portrait of Musa, his father, and Aliya. "Did you know my father?" Amanat asked. "Yes, I knew him," Aliya replied. "Is this you in the picture?" "Yes." Amanat read the names beneath the portraits: Musa and Altynay. He looked at Aliya and asked, "Are you the Altynay who left me?"

A Mother and Son Reunited Altynay began to cry, and the pain in her heart returned. Amanat told her that she had left him without breastfeeding him. Altynay explained that her friend had brought him to the village. After hearing her explanation, Amanat stopped blaming her. Altynay hugged her son, and he hugged her in return. When Bakir came in, he understood that they had been having a private conversation. Both had tearful eyes, and he realized that something deeply emotional had passed between them. Afterward, Amanat, Altynay, and Bakir went to the village to visit Nurak and Batma. The elderly couple were happy to see them. Together, they visited Musa's grave, where Nurak forgave Altynay.

One Family Again Standing at Musa's grave, the family remembered the sorrowful events that had separated them. Now, they were ready to put their misunderstandings behind them and live as one family. Amanat asked if they could climb to the cliff and bring back the rock for which his father had died. Bakir gently refused. "No, my son. We will not allow you to go there," he said. They all remembered the tragedy that had taken Musa's life and did not want to risk another loss. They decided to live as one family from then on, leaving their sorrows behind and looking toward a future together.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Amanat

Amanat is the central character of the novella. He grows up in the Kyrgyz countryside under the care of his paternal grandparents, Nurak and Batma, whom he calls Father and Mother. Although he loves them deeply, he wonders about his deceased father, Musa, and his biological mother, Altynay, who lives in Frunze. Music plays an important role in his life, especially the komuz melodies and sorrowful songs he learns from Batma. His musical talent brings him to the capital, where he gains new opportunities and meets his biological mother without initially knowing her identity. Through these experiences, Amanat gradually discovers his family history and learns to understand the painful circumstances of his childhood.

Curious Amanat's curiosity is evident in his desire to understand his family's past. After learning that his biological mother lives in Frunze, he wonders whether the university where his father studied still exists. He asks Batma about the city but requests that she not tell Nurak, fearing that his grandfather might feel hurt. His curiosity also leads him to visit Musa's grave. There, he reads the inscription bearing his father's name and repeats it several times, trying to remember it. Later, in Frunze, he wants to visit both the university and School No. 5. These scenes show that Amanat actively seeks knowledge about his family and the world beyond his village.

Sensitive Amanat is deeply affected by music and the emotions it carries. When he begs Batma to sing the song from his childhood, he cries because he misses the familiar melody. Later, he plays her sorrowful lament on the komuz, and the music awakens painful memories in Nurak and Batma. His sensitivity is also evident when he watches the grieving mare after its foal drowns. He worries that the animal might die of sorrow, showing that he understands suffering even before he fully understands his own family's grief. These scenes reveal a boy who responds strongly to sadness, affection, and loss, and whose emotional world is closely connected to music and nature.

Determined Amanat shows determination through his commitment to music and his willingness to pursue new opportunities. At the district festival, he performs several traditional komuz melodies for the jury. Believing he has failed because the applause is not loud enough, he leaves and refuses to return when people search for him. However, once Junus Sherov explains that Amanat has received a high evaluation, the boy accepts his guidance and learns how to present his music more effectively. At the concert in Frunze, he applies Junus's advice and performs successfully. His determination is also evident in his wish to continue his education and become a scientist, despite his uncertainty about attending a music school.

Forgiving Amanat's ability to forgive becomes clear when he discovers that Aliya is actually his biological mother, Altynay. For much of his childhood, he believes she abandoned him and insists that Batma is his only mother. When he sees the portrait of Musa and Altynay, he asks whether she is the woman who left him. He expresses his pain over being separated from her as a baby. Altynay then explains

that her illness and inability to breastfeed prevented her from caring for him, and that her friend brought him to the village. After hearing this explanation, Amanat stops blaming her and embraces her. His response shows that understanding another person's suffering can overcome resentment.

Nurak

Nurak is Amanat's paternal grandfather, whom the boy calls Father. He works as a horse herder and lives with his wife, Batma, in the Kyrgyz countryside. After the death of his son, Musa, Nurak helps raise Amanat and becomes an important figure in the boy's life. He carries deep sorrow over Musa's death but rarely expresses his feelings openly. At first, he refuses to answer Altynay's letters because he believes she has abandoned her baby. As Amanat grows older, Nurak recognizes the importance of education and seeks better opportunities for him. His character reflects the responsibilities of family, the weight of grief, and the gradual movement from misunderstanding toward forgiveness.

Protective Nurak's protective nature is especially visible in his care for Amanat. When he considers sending the boy to a boarding school in Frunze, he wants him to receive a better education and experience opportunities unavailable in the countryside. Although Amanat fears getting lost in the city, Nurak reassures him that he and Batma will visit. He also tells Batma not to burden the boy with household chores because he is still a child. This scene shows that Nurak wants Amanat to enjoy his childhood rather than carry adult responsibilities. His protection is expressed through practical decisions and concern for the boy's future, even when he cannot always express his affection openly.

Grieving Nurak's grief over Musa's death remains deeply rooted in his heart. When he hears Amanat playing Batma's sorrowful lament on the komuz, he approaches the boy and embraces him tenderly. He asks who taught him the melody because it awakens painful memories. At Musa's grave, Nurak prays for his deceased son while Batma sings her lament. He initially tries to stop her because he cannot bear to hear her suffering. These scenes reveal that Nurak's grief is quiet but powerful. Rather than openly discussing his loss, he often tries to contain his emotions, demonstrating how the tragedy continues to affect the family years after Musa's death.

Stubborn Nurak's stubbornness appears in his reaction to Altynay after Amanat arrives in the village. When villagers tell him that the baby's mother left without feeding him, he becomes furious. Although Altynay later writes to explain that illness forced her to stop during the journey and that Goyana brought the baby, Nurak refuses to believe her. He ignores the letter and does not respond to her subsequent messages. His decision prolongs the misunderstanding between the two families and prevents Altynay from receiving news about her son. This behavior shows how Nurak's strong convictions, combined with his grief and anger, can prevent him from considering another person's circumstances fairly.

Forgiving Despite his earlier anger toward Altynay, Nurak eventually demonstrates that he can forgive. When Altynay returns to the village with Amanat and Bakir, the elderly couple welcome them. The family then visits Musa's grave together, confronting the memories that have shaped their lives. At the grave, Nurak forgives Altynay, bringing an end to years of resentment and silence. His forgiveness is significant because he had previously ignored her letters and believed she had willingly abandoned her child. By accepting her explanation and welcoming her back into the family, Nurak chooses reconciliation over bitterness. His actions suggest that love for the family can gradually overcome old misunderstandings.

Batma

Batma is Amanat's paternal grandmother and the woman he considers his true mother. She raises him with tenderness and teaches him traditional songs, including a sorrowful lament connected to the family's past. The death of her son, Musa, leaves her with lasting grief, which she expresses through singing. Batma understands Amanat's emotional needs and tries to protect him from painful truths until he is ready to learn them. She also defends Altynay when Nurak accuses her of abandoning her baby, recognizing that

the young woman may have had reasons for her actions. Through her love, songs, and memories, Batma connects Amanat to his family, cultural traditions, and heritage.

Loving Batma's love for Amanat is evident in the way she raises and comforts him. When he learns that Altynay is his biological mother, he rejects her and clings to Batma, declaring that he wants no other mother. Batma does not use this moment to turn him against Altynay. Instead, she gently explains that Altynay was young and had no choice in her circumstances. Batma also worries that Amanat spends too much time away from home at boarding school and tells Nurak that the boy deserves rest during his summer vacation. Her actions show a caring grandmother who prioritizes Amanat's emotional security, happiness, and childhood.

Compassionate Batma demonstrates compassion toward both people and animals. When the old mare loses its foal, Batma recognizes its suffering and wants to relieve its swollen udders. Later, she and Nurak help the grieving mare accept an orphaned foal by following an ancient Kyrgyz tradition. Batma covers the orphan with the skin of the dead foal, allowing the mare to accept and feed it. Her compassion also extends to Altynay. Although she could resent the woman for leaving Amanat in the village, Batma defends her and believes there must be a reason for her actions. These scenes reveal her ability to understand suffering and respond with kindness rather than blame.

Traditional Batma represents the preservation of Kyrgyz traditions through her songs and knowledge. She teaches Amanat traditional melodies that he later performs on the komuz, allowing cultural heritage to pass from one generation to the next. Her sorrowful lament carries memories of Musa and expresses grief that words alone cannot communicate. Batma also participates in the traditional practice of helping a grieving mare accept an orphaned foal. When the family visits Musa's grave, she sings her lament as an expression of mourning and remembrance. Through these scenes, Batma embodies a culture in which music, oral traditions, customs, and respect for the deceased maintain connections between the living and their ancestors.

Strong Although Batma suffers deeply after losing Musa, she continues caring for her family. Her grief emerges through the lament she sings, particularly when Amanat visits his father's grave. Nurak tries to stop her singing because he cannot bear her sorrow, but Batma continues until she has finished. Her willingness to express grief shows that she does not simply suppress her pain. Instead, she finds a way to live with it while remaining devoted to Amanat. She also faces difficult conversations about Altynay and the boy's origins, even though these subjects reopen old wounds. Batma's strength lies in her ability to endure suffering without abandoning her responsibilities or compassion.

Aliya (Altynay)

Aliya, whose real name is Altynay, is Amanat's biological mother and Musa's widow. After Musa's death, she continues her university studies despite being an orphan with a heart condition. Following Amanat's birth, her poor health and inability to breastfeed him make it difficult for her to care for the baby, so she arranges for him to be taken to his paternal grandparents. However, Nurak misunderstands the circumstances and ignores her letters. Years later, Altynay meets Amanat in Frunze while working with the radio, but she initially hides her identity. Her eventual reunion with her son becomes a turning point in the story, allowing both to confront their painful past and begin rebuilding their relationship.

Resilient Altynay demonstrates resilience through her determination to continue her education despite personal tragedy and illness. After Musa dies, she suffers severe emotional stress that threatens her pregnancy. Nevertheless, she continues studying and eventually defends her university thesis shortly before giving birth. Even after delivery, when her heart condition leaves her too weak to care for Amanat, she tries to make the best decision for his welfare. Later, despite years of separation and uncertainty, she approaches Amanat in Frunze and offers to show him the university and school he wants to visit. Her persistence shows that she continues moving forward despite grief, physical limitations, and emotional hardship.

Loving Altynay's love for Amanat is evident even when circumstances prevent her from raising him herself. After giving birth, she looks at her newborn son and searches his face for a resemblance to Musa. Although she wants to care for him, her heart condition and lack of breast milk make this difficult. She arranges for him to live with his paternal grandparents, believing they can provide the necessary care. Years later, she hesitates to approach him because she fears his reaction, but eventually visits him after seeing his musical talent. When Amanat discovers her identity and confronts her, she cries and embraces him. Her actions reveal a mother whose love persists despite prolonged separation.

Regretful Altynay's regret is most visible in her hesitation to reveal her identity to Amanat. When she meets him in Frunze, she is moved by his talent and wants to spend time with him, yet she cannot bring herself to explain who she is. At the university, she asks about his mother and hears him insist that Batma is the only mother he knows. His words cause her emotional pain, but she remains silent. Later, when Amanat recognizes her in the portrait of Musa and Altynay, she breaks down in tears. These scenes reveal her regret over the years they have lost and her difficulty finding the courage to explain her past.

Forgiving Altynay demonstrates a willingness to reconcile when she returns to the village with Amanat and Bakir. Although Nurak previously ignored her letters and misunderstood her decision to send Amanat to his grandparents, she does not allow the old conflict to prevent their reunion. She faces the family and joins them in visiting Musa's grave. Nurak eventually forgives her, allowing the family to move beyond years of resentment. Altynay's return represents more than a reunion between mother and son; it also offers an opportunity to restore relationships between the adults. Her willingness to reconnect shows that she values family unity and hopes to build a better future together.

THEMES

Society

Tradition: Cultural Heritage

In this novella, Shukurbek Beishenaliev presents Kyrgyz cultural heritage through traditional music, customs surrounding death, celebrations, and knowledge passed down through generations. These traditions are part of the characters' everyday lives and help them express emotions, preserve memories, and maintain connections with their community.

Music plays an important role in the story. Amanat learns to play the komuz and performs traditional instrumental melodies called kuu, including Mash Botoy. Batma also teaches him folk songs, especially her sorrowful lament for her deceased son, Musa. When Amanat plays this lament, it awakens Nurak's grief and reminds him of the son he lost. Through the song, family memories are passed from one generation to the next. Music is therefore both a cultural tradition and a way for the characters to express feelings that are difficult to put into words.

The story also depicts customs for honoring the dead. When Amanat visits Musa's grave, he places soil on it as an act of remembrance and respect. Nurak prays beside the grave, while Batma sings her lament. The women accompanying the family encourage Batma to finish singing and release the sorrow she has carried for years. This scene shows how mourning can be expressed through shared cultural and religious practices.

Another example is *suyunchu*, the traditional gift associated with bringing good news. When Amanat learns that he has been accepted into the music boarding school, Aliya, Bakir, and Junus ask him for *suyunchu*. Since he has nothing to give, Bakir suggests that he play the komuz. Amanat performs, and the group then shares a meal to celebrate his acceptance. The scene illustrates how an important event becomes an occasion for communal happiness.

Finally, Nurak and Batma use an old Kyrgyz practice to help a grieving mare accept an orphaned foal. Their knowledge reflects traditions developed through experience and passed between generations. Through these examples, the author emphasizes the importance of preserving cultural heritage. The story's didactic message is that traditions connect people to their history, teach respect for others, and strengthen family and community bonds.

Illustrative Moment: When Amanat is accepted into the music boarding school, Aliya, Bakir, and Junus ask him for *suyunchu*, a traditional gift given in response to good news. Amanat says he has nothing to offer, so Bakir suggests that he play the komuz instead. Amanat performs, and they then sit down to share a meal. This moment shows how Kyrgyz traditions turn personal happiness into a shared celebration and how music can serve as a meaningful gift.

Education: Learning and New Opportunities

Education is presented as a way for young people to develop their abilities and build a future beyond the limits imposed by their circumstances. Amanat is curious and eager to learn, and he dreams of becoming a scientist. His interest in the university where his father, Musa, studied shows that education means more to him than gaining knowledge: it also gives him a way to feel connected to his father's life and follow a path of his own.

Amanat's talent for playing the komuz brings him new opportunities. At the music festival, his performance attracts attention, and the singer and actor Junus Sherov helps him improve his skills. Later, Amanat hopes to enter a boarding school in Frunze. When he learns that his documents have been returned to the Ministry of Education, he feels deeply disappointed. He even begins to think that meeting Aliya has brought him bad luck. This moment shows how easily a young person's hopes can be shaken when an opportunity seems out of reach.

Nurak also plays an important role in creating these opportunities. He recognizes that life in the pastures limits Amanat's experiences and wants him to receive a better education in the city. Batma supports this decision, encouraging Amanat to go even though she will miss him. Their willingness to let him leave home reflects their belief that education is worth the sacrifice.

When Amanat is finally accepted into the music boarding school, Aliya reassures him that he can continue studying mathematics, physics, and chemistry alongside music. This scene resolves his fear that pursuing his musical talent will prevent him from becoming a scientist. Through Amanat's journey, the story emphasizes the importance of recognizing a child's abilities, providing access to education, and encouraging young people to pursue their ambitions. Its didactic message is that talent needs guidance and opportunity to develop, while education can open doors to a wider future.

Illustrative moment: When Amanat learns that his application to the boarding school in Frunze has been delayed, he becomes discouraged and begins to doubt whether he will achieve his dream of becoming a scientist. However, after he is accepted into the music boarding school, Aliya reassures him that he can continue studying subjects such as mathematics, physics, and chemistry alongside music. This moment shows how education can open doors to new opportunities without requiring a young person to abandon other ambitions. Through Amanat's experience, the author conveys a didactic message: children's talents should be encouraged, and they should be given the education and support they need to shape their own futures.

Relationship

Parenthood: Motherhood and Sacrifice

Motherhood is shown through both the everyday care Batma gives Amanat and the painful choice Altynay makes when she cannot raise her baby herself. Although the two women become mothers to Amanat in different ways, both are connected to him through love and concern for his future.

Batma raises Amanat as her own child after the death of her son, Musa. She gives him affection, protects him, and helps him grow up surrounded by family traditions. Her care is not limited to feeding and looking after him; she also passes on memories of his father through songs and stories. Her sorrow over Musa's death remains part of her life, but caring for Amanat gives her a reason to keep looking forward. She hopes he will grow into a strong man, build a family, and bring happiness to his grandparents in their old age.

Altynay's experience of motherhood is more painful. As a young woman with a heart condition, she is unable to breastfeed Amanat and cannot care for him as she wishes. Her friend Goyana brings the baby to his paternal grandparents, where he can receive the care he needs. From the outside, Altynay's separation from her son may appear to be abandonment. However, her circumstances reveal a more complicated

truth: she is a mother whose health and situation prevent her from raising her child herself. Her love does not disappear simply because she is absent from his childhood.

The contrast between Batma and Altynay shows that motherhood is not defined by one experience alone. Batma expresses her love through years of daily care, while Altynay carries the pain of separation and the hope of meeting her son again. Both women are shaped by sacrifice: Batma gives herself to raising her dead son's child, and Altynay must endure life apart from the child she gave birth to. Through them, the story presents motherhood as a bond that can survive grief, distance, and difficult circumstances.

Illustrative moment: After giving birth, Altynay looked at her newborn son and tried to find a resemblance to Musa in his little face. Yet she was still extremely weak and unable to breastfeed him. She remained in the hospital for a month and a half, struggling to recover from the delivery and manage her heart condition. One day, the doctor told her that she was well enough to leave the hospital, but she was not strong enough to care for the baby. Her heart condition made the task too difficult, and she had no breast milk to feed him. Altynay sadly acknowledged the situation and suggested taking her son to his paternal grandparents, Nurak and Batma, who had longed for a child to carry on their son's memory. The doctors supported her decision, recognizing that the baby would receive the care and nourishment he needed.

Parental Love

In *Amanat*, family and parental love are closely tied to the importance of children in Kyrgyz culture. A child is not only a source of happiness for parents but also the person who carries the family name and continues the lineage. For this reason, the loss of an only son brings a grief that reaches beyond the pain of losing a beloved child. It also raises the fear that the family line will end with him.

This fear is clear after Musa's death. Nurak and Batma lose their only son, and their sorrow is made heavier by the thought that he has left no children behind. During the funeral, Nurak expresses his regret that Musa did not have a family of his own and children who could carry on his name. His words reveal how deeply he feels the loss: he is mourning not only his son but also the future he had imagined for his family. With Musa gone, Nurak believes that the family's lineage may have come to an end.

Their feelings change when they learn that Musa's wife, Altynay, was pregnant when she left. This news brings back the hope they thought they had lost. The unborn child becomes a connection to Musa and a chance for his family to continue. When Amanat is brought to his grandparents, he fills the empty place left by his father's death. Nurak and Batma raise him with great care, treating him as their own child and giving him the love they can no longer give to Musa.

However, the novella also shows that love within a family can be complicated by misunderstanding. Nurak believes that Altynay abandoned her son, and his anger keeps mother and child apart for years. Although his actions come from grief and a desire to protect Amanat, they cause further pain. The eventual reunion shows that family ties can survive separation and resentment. Through Amanat's story, Beishenaliev presents children as the continuation of family life and shows how parental love, grief, and the hope of preserving a family's future shape the lives of several generations.

Illustrative moment: Batma's response to the old mare that loses her foal reflects her own experience of losing Musa. When the mare accepts an orphaned foal, the scene shows how care for a child can ease the pain of loss. The episode connects the family's sorrow with a traditional Kyrgyz understanding of kinship: love and responsibility can extend beyond biological parenthood, helping life and family bonds continue even after tragedy.

Family Bonds: Trust, and Responsibility

The name *Amanat* is connected to the Arabic word *amānah* (أمانة), meaning a trust or responsibility entrusted to someone. This meaning is central to the story: Nurak and Batma name their grandson Amanat because they see him as a precious trust left in their care by their deceased son, Musa, and their daughter-in-law, Altynay. After Musa dies in a mountain accident, they raise Amanat with love, preserving their son's memory while fulfilling their responsibility to his family.

However, Nurak interprets Altynay's separation from Amanat as abandonment and becomes resentful toward her. Amanat, unable to understand his mother's absence, considers Batma his true mother

because she has raised him with tenderness. These misunderstandings deepen the family's separation and show how grief can complicate the bonds that love is meant to protect.

As Amanat grows older, he begins to explore his origins and gradually discovers the truth about his biological mother. Altynay eventually reconnects with him and visits Nurak and Batma with her husband, Bakir. Nurak's eventual forgiveness allows the family to begin healing and rebuilding their relationships.

Ultimately, the story presents *amanat* as more than a responsibility to care for a child. Through Amanat's life, it explores the preservation of family ties across generations and the possibility of overcoming separation through understanding and forgiveness.

Illustrative Moment: At a hotel, Altynay, who introduces herself as Aliya, records Amanat's komuz music and songs for radio broadcast. She asks who gave him his name, hoping to learn more about his past. Although he is still a child, Amanat is reluctant to reveal his personal history to someone he does not know well, so he keeps his secrets to himself.

Later, Amanat plays and sings a song taught to him by Batma—a melody that combines a lament with a lullaby. Deeply moved, Altynay begins to cry. Her heart condition worsens, and she struggles to breathe. Amanat quickly brings her water. As she drinks from his hand, she feels that she is receiving water from her own child. This simple gesture awakens a powerful maternal connection with the son from whom she has been separated for so long.

Psychology

Identity: Belonging

Identity and belonging are closely connected to family, memory, and the search for the truth.

Although Amanat grows up surrounded by the love of his grandparents, Nurak and Batma, he struggles to understand why his biological mother did not raise him. He considers Batma his only mother because she has cared for him throughout his life. When he learns about Altynay, he cannot understand why she left him, and he refuses to accept her as his mother. His feelings show that belonging is not determined by biological ties alone; it is also shaped by the people who provide love, care, and security.

Amanat's visit to his father Musa's grave is an important step in understanding his family history. At the grave, he learns more about his father and the sorrow that has shaped the lives of his grandparents. Batma's lament also connects Amanat to Musa, preserving his father's memory through song. Although Amanat never knew Musa personally, these memories help him recognize his place in the family and understand the loss that came before his birth.

His search for identity continues when he meets Aliya in Frunze. He feels drawn to her but does not know that she is Altynay, his biological mother. During their visit to the university where Musa and Altynay studied, Amanat insists that Batma is his only mother. Later, when he sees the portrait of Musa and Altynay and discovers Aliya's real identity, he confronts her about leaving him. Altynay explains what happened after his birth, and Amanat finally stops blaming her. Their embrace marks the beginning of a new relationship.

The visit to Musa's grave with the reunited family brings the theme to its conclusion. Amanat does not have to choose between the grandparents who raised him and the mother he has just come to understand. He can acknowledge both his upbringing and his biological roots. The story suggests that finding one's identity means understanding the past and making room for complicated family relationships.

Illustrative moment: When Amanat sees a portrait of his father, Musa, and reads the name Altynay beneath it, he realizes that Aliya is the mother he has always wondered about. He asks her directly, "Are you the Altynay who left me?" Altynay begins to cry and explains that her friend Goyana brought him to his grandparents because she was unable to care for him after giving birth. After hearing her explanation, Amanat stops blaming her, and mother and son embrace. This scene shows Amanat beginning to understand his past and accept a new part of his identity while remaining connected to Batma and Nurak, the grandparents who raised him.

Sorrow: Loss and Grief

Musa's death leaves Nurak and Batma unable to forget their son. Batma's grief comes through most clearly in the lullaby she sings to Amanat. A Kyrgyz lullaby usually carries a mother's wishes for her child to grow up healthy, strong, and happy. Batma's song is different: it is a lament for the son she has lost, filled with sorrow but also with a mother's love and hope.

When Amanat grows older, he asks Batma to sing the song again. Nurak does not want to hear it because it brings back the pain of Musa's death, but Amanat cannot understand why the song has become forbidden. He has known the melody since childhood and feels attached to it, even though he does not yet know the full story behind it. When Batma finally sings, Amanat is moved by the song's sadness. Later, he learns to play the melody on the komuz, keeping his grandmother's lament alive.

The song affects Nurak, too. Hearing Amanat play it, he embraces the boy and admits that the music has reopened his own grief. He wishes for Amanat to grow up, have a family, and live a long life—a hope shaped by the loss of his only son. Through Amanat's questions, the older generation can no longer keep Musa's story hidden from him.

The lament reaches Altynay in a similar way. When Amanat sings it for the radio recording in Frunze, she begins to cry. She recognizes the sorrow carried by the song, although Amanat does not yet know who she is. The scene brings mother and son close before either is ready to speak openly about their connection.

In Kyrgyz oral tradition, songs, melodies, and epics have long carried feelings and memories from one generation to another. Batma's lament shows how a family's grief can remain present in everyday life, and how a song can express sorrow that the characters struggle to put into words.

Illustrative moment: In her lament, Batma calls Amanat “a drop from the mountain spring” and “a gift from my deceased son, my young eagle.” She wishes for the little drop to grow into a mighty river and the young sapling to become a great tree. Her words carry the sorrow of a mother who has lost her son and the hope that his child will grow up, have a family, and bring happiness and pride to his elderly grandparents. The song is both a lament for Musa and a lullaby for Amanat, joining the pain of the past with a grandmother's hopes for the future.