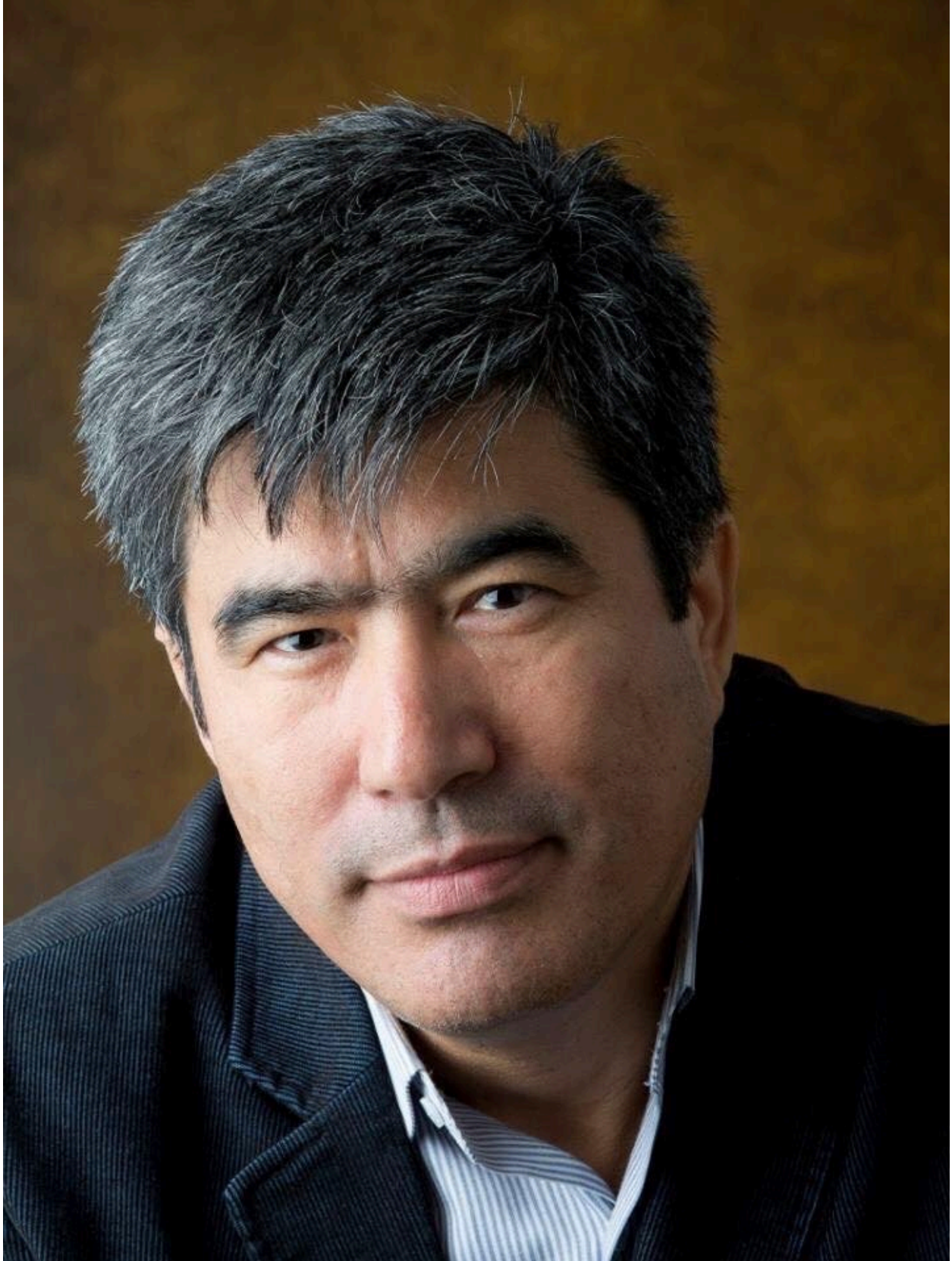


Ahmatjan Osman

POET · PHILOSOPHER · GUIDE OF THE SOUL

Also written Ekhmetjan or Exmetjan Osman



A poet-philosopher who writes, speaks, and teaches across **Uyghur, Arabic, English, Turkish, and Chinese** — illuminating the human essence and the soul's road home.

At a Glance

- **Born:** 1964, Ürümqi, East Turkistan
 - **Based in:** Toronto, Canada
 - **Writes in:** Uyghur, Arabic, English
 - **Known for:** Leader of the Uyghur “New Poetry” (*gungga*) movement; foremost Uyghur poet of his generation
 - **Public role:** Third President of the East Turkistan Government in Exile (November 2015 – October 2018)
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Biography

Born in 1964 in Ürümqi, Ahmatjan Osman grew up between the city's edges and a wide emptiness where, as he recalled, “the only things that connected me to the outside world were the Sun, Moon and stars.” His mother sang him folk poetry; by thirteen, his verses were read on the radio. He became the foremost Uyghur poet of his generation and the leader of its New Poetry movement.

His reach has never stopped at one language. Studying in Damascus, he mastered Arabic so completely that the great poet Adonis became an admirer; his work now lives in English translation, and his spoken dialogues move freely through Turkish and Chinese. He has translated Rumi, Octavio Paz, Paul Celan, Fernando Pessoa, and Adonis into Uyghur. Across all of them, one subject remains: the human essence, and the soul's long road home.

He has never separated the poet from the patriot. Through years of exile — and through his work as a writer and broadcaster — he has given his voice to the cause of his homeland, speaking against the oppression of the Uyghur Nation and for the freedom and dignity of East Turkistan. From November 2015 to October 2018 he served as the third President of the East Turkistan Government in Exile.

Today he lives in Toronto, where he writes in English, Uyghur, and Arabic, and continues his ongoing public dialogues on how to become who we truly are.

Selected Works

Title	Year	Language	Publisher
Uyghurland, the Farthest Exile	2015	English translation	Phoneme Media / Deep Vellum
Oh, Land of Uyghurs	2015	Japanese translation	Sayusha
Selected Poems of Ahmatjan Osman	2015	Uyghur	Published in Turkey
Poetry, What How (essays)	2024	Uyghur	World Uyghur Writers Association
My Share of the Night	2007	Arabic	—
In Ruins of Sumer Where I Reside	2003	Arabic	—
Season of the Soul	1996	Uyghur	—
The Second Fall	1988	Arabic	—

Uyghurland, the Farthest Exile is the first collection of Uyghur poetry ever translated into English — translated by Jeffrey Yang with the author, and long-listed for the 2016 PEN Award for Poetry in Translation.

Press & Recognition

- **Granta** — named among the most influential Uyghur poets
- **PEN America / ArabLit** — 2016 PEN Award for Poetry in Translation longlist
- **Words Without Borders, Asymptote Journal, The China Project** — featured poems and translations
- **Deep Vellum / Phoneme Media** — English-language publisher
- **Türkiye Yazarlar Birliği (TYB İstanbul)** — featured author

Contact & Links

- **Booking / inquiries:** uyghuria@gmail.com
- **Website:** ahmatjanosman.com
- **X (Twitter):** [@AhmatjanO](https://twitter.com/AhmatjanO)
- **Instagram:** [@ahmatjanosman1112](https://www.instagram.com/ahmatjanosman1112)
- **YouTube (Dialogues):** [@uDialog](https://www.youtube.com/@uDialog)
- **Facebook:** facebook.com/ahmatjan.osman