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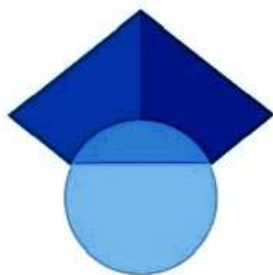


# **“Ilm-fan muammolari tadqiqotchilar talqinida”**

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## **MATERIALLARI TO‘PLAMI**

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## THE PORTRAYAL OF THE HARDWORKING WOMAN IN PEARL BUCK'S "THE GOOD EARTH"

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**Abstract:** Pearl Buck's "The Good Earth" highlights the pivotal role of hardworking women in rural Chinese society through the character of O-Lan. This article examines O-Lan's portrayal, emphasizing her resilience and contributions to her family's prosperity amidst social upheaval.

**Keywords:** resilience in adversity, endurance in hardship, rural Chinese society, gender roles, societal expectations.

### **Introduction**

In Pearl Buck's "The Good Earth," the character of O-Lan emerges as a symbol of unyielding fortitude and silent strength. Set against the backdrop of early 20th-century rural China, the novel portrays the struggles and triumphs of peasants like O-Lan, whose labor sustains their families amidst societal turmoil. This article delves into O-Lan's portrayal as a hardworking woman, shedding light on her resilience and contributions to her family's survival and prosperity.

### **Examination of O-Lan's Daily Toil in the Fields and Household Chores**

In "The Good Earth," Pearl Buck meticulously portrays the arduous daily life of O-Lan, a peasant woman in rural China. O-Lan's labor is essential for the survival of her family, and Buck vividly illustrates the extent of her toil in the fields and household chores. As a peasant woman, O-Lan's days are consumed by backbreaking work, from dawn till dusk, cultivating the land alongside her husband, Wang Lung. Buck writes, "They worked on in the sun. O-Lan's back bent like a water-buffalo's" (Buck, 1931, p. 54). This imagery evokes the physical strain and endurance required of O-Lan as she labors under the scorching sun, her back stooped from years of toil. Moreover, O-Lan's responsibilities extend beyond agricultural work to encompass the

myriad tasks of domestic life. She manages the household with remarkable efficiency, cooking, cleaning, and caring for her family's needs. Despite the drudgery of her daily routines, O-Lan performs her duties diligently and without complaint, embodying the quiet strength and resilience characteristic of peasant women in traditional Chinese society.

### **Analysis of the Sacrifices O-Lan Makes for Her Family's Well-being**

O-Lan's sacrifices are central to the narrative of "The Good Earth," underscoring the profound lengths to which she goes to ensure her family's survival and prosperity. Buck portrays O-Lan as a selfless and devoted wife and mother, willing to endure hardship and deprivation for the sake of her loved ones. One poignant example of O-Lan's sacrifices is her decision to forego luxuries for herself, even during times of relative abundance. Buck writes, "O-Lan ate the gruel with the others and she asked for no more than they had" (Buck, 1931, p. 112). This simple act of self-denial exemplifies O-Lan's humility and unwavering commitment to her family's welfare. Furthermore, O-Lan's sacrifices extend beyond material comforts to encompass her emotional and physical well-being. She endures the pain of childbirth and the loss of children with stoic resignation, shouldering these burdens silently. Buck portrays O-Lan as a figure of quiet strength, whose sacrifices form the foundation of her family's prosperity. O-Lan's daily toil in the fields and household chores, as well as her numerous sacrifices for her family's well-being, are central themes in "The Good Earth." Through Buck's vivid portrayal, readers gain a deep appreciation for the resilience and fortitude of peasant women like O-Lan, whose labor sustains their families amidst adversity.

### **Exploration of O-Lan's Ability to Endure Hardship and Adversity**

Pearl Buck's portrayal of O-Lan in "The Good Earth" exemplifies a remarkable resilience in the face of adversity. Despite facing numerous challenges, including famine, poverty, and societal expectations, O-Lan demonstrates an unwavering strength of character that enables her to persevere. Buck presents O-Lan as a symbol of resilience, drawing on her inner fortitude to confront the harsh realities of rural Chinese life. O-Lan's resilience is evident in her ability to maintain composure and



dignity even in the most trying circumstances. For instance, during periods of famine, when resources are scarce and survival becomes uncertain, O-Lan remains steadfast in her resolve to support her family. Buck writes, "O-Lan worked as she had always worked and Wang Lung, seeing her, was silent and there was no reproach in his heart" (Buck, 1931, p. 197). This passage highlights O-Lan's quiet determination and her refusal to succumb to despair, despite the direness of the situation.

### **Discussion of How O-Lan Navigates Challenges Such as Famine, Poverty, and Societal Expectations**

O-Lan's resilience is further underscored by her adept navigation of the myriad challenges she faces, including famine, poverty, and societal expectations. Buck portrays O-Lan as a pragmatic and resourceful individual who utilizes her ingenuity to overcome obstacles. During times of famine, for example, O-Lan demonstrates her resourcefulness by foraging for wild plants and finding creative ways to stretch limited food supplies. Buck writes, "O-Lan dug roots and found snails and caught strange fish in the streams and picked the leaves off trees and she went from house to house in the village and begged" (Buck, 1931, p. 198). This passage illustrates O-Lan's resilience and adaptability in the face of adversity, as she employs various strategies to ensure her family's survival. Moreover, O-Lan's resilience extends beyond physical challenges to encompass societal expectations and gender norms. As a woman in a patriarchal society, O-Lan faces numerous constraints and limitations imposed by traditional gender roles. However, she navigates these expectations with grace and determination, challenging stereotypes and asserting her agency in subtle yet profound ways. Buck portrays O-Lan as a figure of quiet strength, whose resilience enables her to navigate the complexities of rural Chinese society with dignity and integrity. O-Lan's ability to endure hardship and adversity, as well as her adept navigation of challenges such as famine, poverty, and societal expectations, are central themes in "The Good Earth." Through Buck's portrayal, readers gain a deep appreciation for O-Lan's resilience and fortitude, which serve as a testament to the indomitable human spirit in the face of adversity.

### **Conclusion**

O-Lan's portrayal in Pearl Buck's "The Good Earth" epitomizes resilience amidst adversity in rural Chinese society. Through her enduring strength and determination, Buck illuminates the indomitable spirit of women like O-Lan who navigate challenges with grace and fortitude.

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**Mas’ul muharrir**

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