



**MUSAEVA SHAKHNAZI**  
*Graphic Designer, Bishkek city*  
**1 PLACE. Group "Adults".**  
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### **For me, chess is...**

Silence. Two people silently sit opposite each other at the table. In front of them are black and white wooden figures on black and white squares. An unusual clock is ticking. The players, as if they are bewitched fairy tortoises, once in half an hour suddenly throwing off their stupor, move the pieces and again fall into deep thought. Their faces are impassive, only their eyes burn with incomprehensible fire. What is it? Sport! But wait, is this a sport? - the inhabitant will exclaim, not suspecting that a whole drama is being played out before his eyes! Fortresses are on fire, fierce battles are going on, the enemy intelligence network is clearly working, an important viceroy of the monarch is captured, and the sovereign himself is languishing in anxiety in a road tent ...

Quite a few years have passed since my grandfather opened this magical world to me, five years old, talking about chess dragons and elephants, but this childish idea of the ancient intellectual game does not leave me every time I sit down to play. I was fascinated by this noble black and white world. To this day, for me, chess is a bright, unique fantasy world, where fabulous scenery comes to life, where there are kings and queens, giants and mighty warriors, where there is a place for sophisticated palace intrigues, a dizzying career of ordinary infantrymen, peremptory loyalty and heroic sacrifice.

Over the years, my respect for the game only grows, with each new analysis of the games of my own and great chess players, I discover countless galaxies of moves and options for the development of events. I noticed that through chess combinations, a player can express his attitude to life, to situations. And it is infinitely interesting to observe not only the nascent ideas of the gods of the Chess Olympus of the past and present, their fantastic maneuvers, sometimes becoming a witness to a brilliantly played bluff, but also unfortunate miscalculations! And some have achieved such mastery that with a virtuoso game he expresses his admiration for the outside world, a world so flawless and amazing that it takes your breath away! Impeccable, in the sense of the Great Exciting Game. After all, the chess world, in my opinion, is only a reflection of the existing world order.

16 years in the service of Kaissa tempered the warrior in me, opened my imagination, and, which is very pleasant, gave me the opportunity to see many wonderful countries and their original culture. It is gratifying to realize that the love of the game, where the battle of wits is played, unites people, regardless of their skin color and religion. I would like, despite all the realities, such an order in which all military operations would be only on a chessboard, black and white board. After all, a world dominated by chess players will be a technological and ethical world of intelligent and smartest people, a highly developed and enlightened world. And I dream of making my contribution to bringing such a future closer!