

UNIQUE MASTERPIECES OF ZOROASTRIANISM IN THE TERRITORY OF UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract:

The article provides information about the remains of Zoroastrian temples found in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the present time.

Keywords: monument, light, shadow, Zarathustra, temple, caliph.

The monument covers a thousand-year period from the 2nd century to the 8th century

Uzbekistan is one of the ancient cradles of human civilization. Another historical monument found in Namangan region scientifically proves it, enriches the science of archeology with new information, and contributes to increasing the tourism potential of our country.

An ancient Zoroastrian temple was found in Norin district as part of the practical project "Research of archaeological monuments of the Uchtepa-Buloqmozor complex of domestic and international tourism and turning them into a museum under the blue sky" funded by the Ministry of Innovative Development.

The scientific value of the archaeological monument, its role in the development of domestic and international tourism is incomparable. In its place, the question arises whether such a priceless monument has been overlooked by scientists until now.

"Although we had information about the monument a long time ago, these works were being postponed due to the issue of funds," says A. Askarov, Doctor of History, Academician. — Excavation work started in April 2019. At first, we assumed that the tomb of the ancient ruler and the riches buried with it according to the traditions of that time must be under the hill. The results were better than we expected. Therefore, the scientific value and importance of the resources we have acquired is incomparable. Under the ruins of the temple, more than 40 altar furnaces, more than



10 stones from different eras intended for slaughtering sacrificial animals, several types of idols and goddesses made of stone, various objects related to the religion of fire worship, and the holy drink were found. Remains of pots and pottery were found. The study of these objects provides valuable information to science.

This monument belongs to the historical period from II century BC to VIII century AD. Its uniqueness can be seen in the fact that it ideologically embodies the clash of two great cultures, that is, two great religions. The mosque was damaged due to the widespread promotion of Islam in Mowarounnahr by Qutayba ibn Muslim, the viceroy of the Arab caliphate. This is the first Zoroastrian temple opened and scientifically researched in our country.

Although there are scientific hypotheses about the existence of such temples in various regions of Uzbekistan, large-scale excavations have not yet been carried out in any of them. In addition, the unique architecture of the temple, architectural solutions, pictures carved on ceramic fragments show that urban planning, visual arts, and scientific and philosophical worldview have developed in our country since ancient times. Especially, the Aramaic script written on the ceramic pieces proves that our history goes back several thousand years earlier than the monuments of Orhun-enasay. Reading and scientific research of these records is one of the current tasks of archeology researchers.

In Zoroastrianism, stones, especially black stones, were revered. The stone carvings show how wide the world of imagination of our ancestors was, and how the skill of working with stone rose to the level of art. The discovered fire-worshipping temple was the city-wide religious-ideological center of one of the local governments of the ancient state of Ferghana, and was fully opened and studied for the first time.

Studying historical monuments and passing them on to future generations is one of the important tasks. It is especially important to preserve such an ancient monument in its present state. Of course, necessary measures should be taken for this. The goal of the scientific team was to research the monument and turn it into a museum under the blue sky. With the support of the Namangan regional government and the Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Heritage, the top of the monument was completely covered, and special escalators were installed in order to create comfort for tourists and to protect the findings from damage.



Because this monument is very old, the amount of weathering and salinity is high. Therefore, it is important to maintain a uniform temperature inside the building. In order to preserve the monument for a long time, treatment with a special chemical agent, i.e. freezing method, was used. It is no exaggeration to say that this was another discovery made during the implementation of the project. Currently, research is being conducted to study the effects of this chemical agent. If the results are as we expect, a fundamental turn will be made in the world archeology in terms of preservation of historical monuments.

It is good to see that in the future, the world's achievements in museum science and innovative technologies will be effectively used here, and it will become a wonderful place for tourists. It is planned to decorate the walls with special installations and paintings based on new approaches to introduce the pilgrims to the atmosphere of the ancient times, to reflect the fires burning in the altar hearths through holograms, and to display the findings in an enlarged form in the exposition.

In addition, construction and improvement works are being carried out based on the developed project. Cultural and educational centers, a library, shopping centers and parking lots will be organized around the monument.

The tomb of Quraysh mother was also found in the Uchtepa-Buloqmozor monument complex. The lineage of this woman, who was active in the spread of Islam in the region, and known among the local people as Kara Khatun ("Great Queen" in the old Turkish language), goes back to the descendants of our Prophet. During the Karakhanid era, a wonderful mausoleum was built over his grave, and the Uchtepa-Bulagmazar cemetery was formed around this grave. Unfortunately, the mausoleum of Quraysh Mother was destroyed due to the atheistic ideology that prevailed during the Shura period. Nevertheless, taking into account that the construction of the symbolic mausoleum of Mother Quraysh will serve to increase the number of pilgrims, the projects in this regard have been developed and suggestions have been submitted to the district administration.

There is no doubt that such historical monuments and open-air museums located in Namangan region will serve to increase the domestic and international tourism potential of our country.



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