



AYAZ KALA

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Annotation

Since the territory of the present-day Republic of Uzbekistan is located on the caravan route that connects east and west, there are many historical places and shrines in this area. Many historical structures found on the territory of our country testify to the extent to which our ancestors paid attention to urban planning and what achievements were achieved.

Key words: Karakalpak steps, archaeology, Kushan kingdom, Kanishka, ancient Khorezm, Aramaic script.

Introduction

Ayoz-Kala is a complex of archaeological monuments consisting of three castle ruins from the 3rd and 2nd centuries BC. It is one of the monuments located in the Beruni district, which is considered one of the most beautiful places in Karakalpakstan. It is generally located on the eastern side of the Sultan Uwais mountain range, 100 m. There was not one but three castles on the hill. In 1937, the Khorezm archaeological ethnographic expedition found the Ajoz fortress and carried out archaeological excavations in it. Among the castles located in this complex, the third castle was studied in more detail. Its area is 260 x 180 m, it consists of a courtyard and a building with 40 rooms. The total area of the premises is 2400 m². The walls of the room are made of square raw brick. Pottery, tools, weapons, jewelry and coins, including money of Kanishka, mainly from the Kushan period, have been found in the Ayaz fortress complex. Ayaz Castle served as a strong fortress on the northeastern border of Khorezm.



According to historical literature and legends of local residents, there are various assumptions about the name of the fortress. One of them is due to the constant cold and wind that reigns in the castle of frost because it is built above the ground, and the other is related to the name of the frostman, who is considered a local warrior.



The first site of Ayoq Qala or "castle under the wind" was on the hill itself and was considered a strong fortress on the edge of the Kyzylkum desert and served as a defense against settler incursions. The monument itself has a rectangular shape, and its 10-meter high walls are made of raw brick. Until now, you can see towers, two-story galleries, and evenly spaced holes in the walls that allowed archers to move easily. The castle gate, located on the southern wall, is protected by a rectangular structure with a passage to the eastern wall, and this structure is also strengthened by two rectangular towers.

At the northern door of the building, three inscriptions were found in the ancient Khorezm language, Aramaic, and above it a stamp belonging to the construction manager-master.

According to legend, in ancient times, one of the kings of Khorezm decided to build a large fortress on the border of the country against the incursions of foreign enemies. He declared, "I will give my beautiful daughter to the one who builds a great fortress that the enemy cannot enter." Ayaz, a shepherd living in this country, decided to take on this responsibility and started building a castle. How much time he spent building the castle is unknown. However, the king did not keep his word and married his daughter to another man. The construction of the castle is not yet finished. This is where myth meets reality.

The second city of Ayoq Qala is believed to have been built during the reign of the Afrigid dynasty, around the end of the 7th century and the beginning of the 8th century AD. The castle has a complex structure. A sloping path down once connected the castle gate with a large luxurious palace on the hill. This castle was known in the Middle Ages as the most beautiful castle in Central Asia. It had large pillared halls, elegant seats, ceremonial rooms, frescoes and a temple of fire worshippers. Coins of the kings of the Khorezm dynasty, especially King Bravik, were found here. The palace was built around the 4th century AD, but was later destroyed by two consecutive fires.



The third city of Ayoq Qala (4th-3rd century BC) is a large, solid structure built in the shape of a parallelogram, surrounded by a two-story wall and numerous towers. The towers are built in a square shape. The entrance to the castle is in the middle of the south side, and the front of the complex gate is protected by curved walls that form a labyrinth. The courtyard of the castle was completely empty,



but some small buildings may have stood in front of some wall. In the northwest corner of the castle is a large building with many rooms.

It was intersected by two overlapping corridors and the building was divided into 4 sectors with 10 rooms each. A third site, Ayaz Qala, is believed to have been used as a garrison or residence by the rulers during the Kushan Empire and may have been used as a shelter for local farmers. The old fortress, the first city of Ayaz-kala, sheltered a small number of soldiers and was used only as a control point. Around the castle walls, the remains of many farmhouses, agricultural lands, walls and fortified lands with vineyards were found.

Sources

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2. www.wikipedia.org
3. www.google.uz

