



## TOPRAK KALA

Bekbosinov Yesbosin Bekpolatovich  
Leading Employee of the Kungirov District  
Department of the Youth Union of Uzbekistan

### Annotation

The territory of Uzbekistan stands out from the crowd by its historical places. One of such places is Toprak-kala. This historical place is located in the Khorezm region, and there are several such historical monuments. This magnificent place is considered one of the most valuable and amazing history of Khorezm.

**Keywords:** Khorezm steps, Toprak-kala, excavations, historical monuments.

### Introduction

Toprak-kala is an ancient settlement with an area of more than 120 hectares, located on the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan. "Toprak-kala" is translated as "fortress covered with earth"

It is believed that Toprak-kala was an ancient Khorezmian capital during the rule of the Afrigid dynasty. This dynasty established its power based on Toprak-kala, originally on the right bank of the Amu Darya. In culture, there are connections and continuity with the Kushan kingdom, in the worldview of the population - the influence of Hinduism, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism and ancient Greek religious ideas. Ancient Khorezm writing was found in Toprak-kala.

Along the right bank of the Amu Darya, in addition to Toprak-kala, luxurious Kanga-kala, Dzhanbas-kala, Bazar-kala, Kyrkkyz, Kurgoshin-kala and Ayaz-kala were also stretched, which were built after irrigation facilities and were located close to each other for defense. According to scientists, this showed the real power of Khorezm of





that period In 1945-1950, under the leadership of S.P. Tolstov, archaeological excavations were carried out in Toprak-kala.



During the excavations, the remains of the palace were found with 150 halls and rooms, richly decorated with monumental painting and sculpture. The paintings found at Toprakkala are very similar in style to those known from Ajanta. Paintings were found not only in the rooms and halls of the Shah's palace, but also in ordinary houses.

The street starting from the castle gate divided the castle in two, and both sides of the street were divided into mavzas (mainly crafts), and one part was full of ehrams. In one of the castle buildings, in the "Hall", a large number of glass vessels, ornaments, alabaster figurines, wall paintings (masked dance), horns of a mountain ram with gilded bronze bracelets were found. statuettes of soldiers" - statuettes of soldiers, and royal figurines made of uncooked clay were found in the "King's Hall".

The height of the palace reached 40 meters. The entire archaeological complex of Toprak-kala included several palaces, as well as a city - residential buildings.



The core of the Toprak-kala palace was the Throne Hall, where solemn ceremonies took place. The walls of the palace were festively decorated and painted. The main sanctuary was the hall of dancing masks, the temple of Anahita, on the walls of which there were 16 bas-relief panels depicting dancing women and men. The Hall of Warriors is interesting with images of numerous figures of kings standing with ram's horns on the tops of the mountains, on which a fire was lit on New Year's Eve. One of the sculptures - the king is depicted with a crown on his head and with an eagle sitting on his hand. There was also the Deer Hall, the walls of which were decorated with beautiful paintings depicting deer and griffins. There was also a hall of kings, a hall of victories, etc.



During the excavations, a palace archive of the Khorezmian rulers was found. Documents were kept in the palace on leather (inventories or registers of issuance and delivery of some items, on tablets and on sticks (lists of names of men - free and domestic slaves who were part of large families, household documents, tags. All of them are written in black ink, their writing can be defined as early Khwarezmian cursive.

At the beginning of the IV century. the walls of the city were rebuilt, the palace turned into a citadel. By the 5th century, Toprak-kala became for some time a place where ordinary people settled, and then it was abandoned.

The archaeological site of Toprak-kala was nominated for the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

#### Sources





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