



THE ETERNAL SECRET OF DALVARZINTEPA

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ABSTRACT

The article of "The Eternal Secret of Dalvarzintepa" indeed captures the imagination of people and is able to remarkably shape our mind on the archaeological research conducted in Turkestan and sheds light on the ancient cultures and civilizations that once thrived in the region. Dalvarzintepa, with its unique monuments and preserved Kushan culture, stands as a testament to the rich history of Uzbekistan. The efforts of scientists, including G.A. Pugachenkova and the team of archaeologists and restorers including E. V. Rtveladze, have allowed us to glimpse into the past and appreciate the cultural legacy left behind by our ancestors.

KEYWORDS

Ancient treasure, excavation work, unique monuments, archaeological research, potters, treasure, phenomenon, ancient ruins, defense fortification, fortress, houses of the nobility, scientific verification work.

INTRODUCTION

Our wise people often put it "the past determines the future". Indeed, it is a true saying. In fact, every event that happened in the past, the phenomenon serves as the foundation for today. In its turn, the study of the past has been one of the main issues that every era assumes. Archaeological research in Turkestan of the late 19th and early 20th centuries was a crucial step in the history of Uzbekistan. The archaeological materials collected from the study of ancient material and

cultural monuments of the peoples of Central Asia have proven that the history of Uzbekistan to be extremely ancient. As a result, in the historical cultural regions of Bactria, Khwarezm, Sughd. As a result, the world of science became aware of the specific "cultural life" founded in regions of Bactria, Khwarezm, Sughd from the ancient times.

We are talking about one of the areas where ancient ruins have been found, albeit in small quantities, "Dalvarzintepa monument". Dalvarzintepa is a large hill located 10 km northeast of Shorchi district, Surkhandarya region. This ancient hill is known to the world as unique monuments, where the culture of the Kushan period was preserved.

The study of the Dalvarzintepa monument dates back to the 60s of the 20th century. At the Institute of art studies (now the Institute of Art Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan) in 1959, on the basis of the Department of Fine Arts and architecture, the "expedition of art studies of Uzbekistan" is organized and the first archaeological research was carried out in Dalvarzintepa by this department.

A number of mature scientists are involved in extensive excavation work which started in 1967. Among them, the leader of the expedition, G.A. Pugachenkova archaeologists-T.Belyayeva, B.Turgunov, E.V. Rtveladze, restorers-V.Lunev, N.Sotnikova, H.Khusnutdinkhojayev were. G.A.Pugachenkova assigned E.V. Rtveladze excavating the barrier and citadel section of Dalvarzintepa in Surkhandarya.

Academician scholar G.A. Pugachenkova suggests that the early Kushan capital was on the site of the ruins of Dalvarzintepa in present-day Shorchi district, and argues that the town is known in Chinese annals as "Khodzo". The samples of material culture obtained from the archaeological research carried out in Dalvarzintepa do not lag behind the samples of the monuments of the Kushan period, such as Holchayan, Ayritom, Karatepa, in terms of their scientific and practical significance.

According to scholars, Dalvarzintepa (47 hectares) was a town surrounded by a strong rectangular

fortification wall and ditch. The city served as the first capital of the Great Kushan empire, which dominated the territories of Central Asia in the 1st century BC and 2nd century AD. The presence of a major city other than Dalvarzintepa in the territory of Northern Bactria at the end of the 1st century BC is not recorded in the sources. This indicates the extent to which it flourished. The city consisted of 2 parts. This city with a powerful defensive wall was surrounded by a defensive wall (up to 10m thickness), which consisted of a royal palace fortress (where nobles, artisans, potters, merchants and priests usually resided) and a city part.

In Dalvarzintepa, local and foreign ancient scientists have been conducting archaeological research for almost 50 years, studying here the houses of the nobility of ancient cities, religious structures, buddhist temples, defensive fortifications. Archaeological excavations at Dalvarzintepa have revealed the ruins of structures which belongs to the era of the Kushans.

During the excavations, the buildings found in Dalvarzintepa had different sizes, purposes and grounds. The neighbourhoods of Dalvarzintepa were built mainly on the principle of social class. The urban area had royal streets that divided it into a number of neighborhoods, as well as narrow streets. One of the royal streets with the width of 12 meters, was the residence of wealthy citizens, and there is also a neighborhood of artisans and potters close to the arch (fortress). The rooms there have been designated as secondary ones in the rank. The rooms where the potters live are luxurious, and the walls are painted in various colors.

From this it can be concluded that the potters leads quite a sufficient life and settled mainly in the capital. The findings indicate that the pottery was of a high level. As an integral feature of residential buildings,

apart from rich, multi-roomed houses, the common ones also had separate prayer rooms, where a ceremony was held at a special place to set the daily sacred fire .

In Dalvarzintepa, the area to the north-east of the castle wall is mainly burial structures-tombs, while a buddhist temple is located 200 meters to the north. Dalvarzintepa also contains the remnant of a building and a mausoleum under which the people appeared to have been buried in the pottery pitch in supine posture. In the middle layer, human bones were recorded, which were previously cleaned in the hut. So, those who died from the representatives of the middle layer were buried according to the Zoroastrian custom. And the people of the upper layer are buried above each other.

The objects found during the research and studies at the Dalvarzintepa monument indicate how rich its history is. As proof, we can see the "treasure of Dalvarzintepa". In the fall of 1972, at the time of excavations by the archaeologists of the Institute of Art Studies of Uzbekistan, the discovery of a treasure of gold objects and 2 chess pieces, which are considered as the oldest in the world, became a great success. On September 25, 1972 , a memorable event occurred in Dalvarzintepa: a jug of gold jewelry was found. B. Turgunov, Eduard Rtvaladze, T. Belyayeva, student Erkin Zhurayev, and Anatoly Sa'gdullayev counted the gold objects one by one, transcribed the inscriptions in the jewelries, and made an act in two copies.

The gold treasure consisted of 115 items in total: a bead shed, 2 pecto belt buckles worn on the neck, bracelet pieces, scab-shaped jewelry, earrings, gold objects with a pendant, square jewelries and other objects. This treasure weighed 35 kg 712 gr 13 mg. This treasure from the 2nd-3rd centuries included the earrings, the

bracelet, the belt, the ring gold that were made with a high skill according to the scholar E.V.Rtveladze. The treasure artifacts are vivid evidence of the ancient trade, active cultural cooperation of our ancestors with the neighboring peoples and countries.

G.A. Pugachenkova considers the Dalvarzin treasure to be the trophy of war won by the landlord in the north-western part of India. As for the period of Dalvarzin treasure, although it was suggested that it belonged to the flourishing period of the Kushan empire, archaeologists of the world have not yet come to a clear conclusion in this regard.

On April 2, 1973, Sharof Rashidov, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Uzbekistan compartia met with ancient scholars to hold a press conference on these findings. After that the book which was devoted to Dalvarzin treasure was published in Russian and French languages under the name of "The Artistic Treasure of Dalvarzintepa " by G.A. Puganchenkova. Then, the story "Yombi" by Murodzhan Mahmudov was also published about this treasure. The part of the artifacts found as a result of Archaeological excavations are kept today in the foundation of the Institute of Art Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Tashkent.

In the end, we can safely arrive at conclusion that the role of the Dalvarzintepa monument in world and the development of Central Asia and its culture is incomparable. "The dalvarzin treasure " is notable for its scientific significance, not inferior to the "Ammudarya treasure" that are kept in the British Museum now. Thanks to the scientific verification work carried out by the employees of the Institute of Art Studies of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan in Dalvarzintepa, new pages of the history of our ancestors have been opened, which are so far unknown to us. Dalvarzintepa has many pages that are

still unknown to us, and it is not surprising that the continuing scientific research on this historical monument, which has kept its secrets underground for centuries, will enrich our history with new information.

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