



LOCATION OF ANCIENT RIGHT BANK SETTLEMENTS OF KHOREZM

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ABSTRACT

The article discusses the location of the settlements of the Khorezm Oasis on the right bank of antiquity, including the geographical location, location and stages of development of settlements, cities and fortresses in the Lower Amudarya basin from the end of the 5th century BC to the 4th century AD.

KEYWORDS

Jonboskala, Bazarkala, Korghoshinkala, Big and small Kirqqiz, Ayozkala, Burlikala, Tuproqkala, Yakka parson, Kaltaminor, Aqchakhankala, Anqakala, Ayozkala, Koykirilgankala, Akchadarya.

INTRODUCTION

Khorezm Oasis is geographically surrounded by two large deserts of sand dunes, and as a result of this region, it emerged as a historical and cultural agricultural oasis of Central Asia much later than the south. Due to the geographical location and natural conditions of the Khorezm oasis, they are located far from the ocean and the sea, as well as the absence of high mountains that prevent cold air masses from the north and hot air masses from the south. The Sultan Uwais mountain located in the northeast is not as high

as the Pamir and Tianshan mountains, so it cannot be a barrier to the cold wind coming from the north. The Lower Amudarya is bounded by the Ustyurt hills in the west, Karakum in the south and southwest, Kyzylkum in the east, and continues to the Aral Sea in the north. The lower Amudarya region consists of low plains, with a slight slope to the south-east, to the north, there are many shallow depressions in the plain, dry valleys, and the hills are 4-6 meters high. The area of Toshaska is 8-10 meters above the river level, and the right bank is



low and flat, and differs from the surrounding land by 1-3 meters. On the north-eastern side of the right bank of the Amudarya is the Sultan Uwais mountain, its height is 471 meters [1.154-156]. The height of the Amudarya basin is less than 100 meters above the ocean level. The average height of the coast of the Aral Sea above the ocean level is 40 meters. Millions of tons of silt flow into the Amudarya delta every year, and its average thickness reaches 80 meters.

THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

The geographical location of the ancient fortified cities of Khorezm indicates that there was a single system of fortresses protected from the desert side of the oasis boundary line, It is located on the border of the cultural lands that stretch along the canals at the ends of the Jonboskala, Bazarkala, Korghoshinkala, Big and small Kirqqiz, Ayozkala, Burlikala and Tuproqkalar ditches, which continued from east to west, forming a continuous chain of forts, one visible from the other.

At the end of the 5th century BC, at the beginning of the 4th century BC, new agricultural oases appeared around the previous small micro-oases, and the irrigation-agricultural massifs were formed by connecting them through a single main irrigation facility. This process was especially extensive in the Akchadarya basin on the right bank. These are the following:

- Bazarkala massive. The Bazarkala canal, which is adjacent to the ancient Kaltaminor canal (the easternmost valley of the Akchadarya), and several branches of it only to the right, include a system of oases in the canal basin. Towns located in this area (Koykirilgankala, Anqoqkala, Kozikirlangkala, Jonboskala, Bazarkala, Korghoshinkala, etc.). It served as the base military-administrative center of the regions in the initial or lower part of the irrigation systems released from the Bazarkala canal. The main

cities of the massif were the cities of Bazarkala and Jonboskala [2.16-166].

- Kyrgyz-Burgutkala massif. It includes agricultural oases in the basin of the Kirqqiz Canal, which is drained from the ancient Tozabogyob Canal, stretching for 70 km from the city of Guldursin to the Big and small Kirqqiz Castles in the north. Big Guldursin, Big and Small Kirqqiz fortresses and monuments of the later period are also part of this massive. The capital of the massive was originally Big Kirqqiz [3.5;30-31]. Later, Tuproqkala and Kirqqiz irrigation facilities were separated, and it is the city of Big Guldursin [4.223].

- Tuproqkala-Gavkhora cultural and economic massive. It includes a number of small oases in the basin of the Amukhkala canal and the canals that take water from it to the northwest of the Tozabogyob canal towards the Sultan Uwais mountains. Dumankala, Tuproqkala, Kyzilkala, Burlikala are the administrative centers of the micro-oases of this region, and Tuproqkala became the main center of the massif from the II-III century AD. A Yakka parson massive. Ayozkala 1, Ayozkala 3, which was the center of agricultural oases along the Yakka parson canal, which was removed from the ancient Tuproqkala canal, also includes the monuments of the later period. Ayozkala 3 city in the lower part of Yakka Parson channel was the main administrative center of the region [5.33-35;117-134].

- Tashkhirmon cultural and economic massive. The capital is Aqchakhankala [6. 165-167;172-178].

- Katkal'a massif. It includes the basin of the Kat channel, which is drained from the Amudarya. The capital of the cultural economic center was Al-Fir (Pilqal'a) [7.45].

Tashkhirmontepa, Tuproqkala and Kyzilkala, which are the center of Akchadarya on the right bank of



Amudarya, will be built. At the place where the Kaltaminor channel separates from the tributary, Anqokkala appears, followed by Jonboskala and Koykirilgankala. From this period, military fortresses such as Ayozkala 1, 3, Burlikala, Big and Small Kirqqizkala were built along the Sultan Uwais mountain range in the northern region, leading to the emergence and formation of internal farming oases.

In ancient times, fortresses were built along the important military-strategic and caravan routes, such as Korghoshinkala on the border of Kyzylqum of the Akchadarya basin, Govurkala on the slope of the western ridge of Sultan Uwais mountain, Kyzilkala near Tuproqkala.

From the IV century BC, a radical change is observed in the culture of Khorezm urban planning. As the economic and military power of the Khorezm state develops, the boundaries of the built cities expand.

In this place, the location of the monuments of antiquity along the canals of that time was of great importance, because ancient Khorezm was based on artificial irrigation, and water was brought to each fortress through canals and ditches. In general, the location of the monuments along the Amudarya coast can be studied through canals.

We direct the location of the monuments from the southern regions of the Amudarya banks to the north. In ancient times, there were two large canals on the right bank of the Amudarya, the Kaltaminor and Tozabogyob canals, which were supplied with water through the Amudarya. The Kaltaminor channel is located in the south-eastern region, and the Bazarkala tributary is separated from it. In the northern direction of the Kaltaminor canal, there is a monument of the first ancient period, the Koykirilgankala [8.73].

Koykirilgankala was built on the basis of local control of the flowing flood waters and was a fortified circle-shaped settlement surrounded by a thick circular wall. Now this wall looks like a low rise as a result of erosion. Although the walls of the arch are partially and strongly eroded, they are well preserved, based on which it is possible to roughly determine the original appearance of these buildings.

Fortifications of the Koykirilgankala type were something like castles, probably inhabited by Khorezm warlords, as well as Achaemenid-type warlords, and had their own well-armed private volunteer troops. Large open villages appeared around this ancient “koshk”. The owners of these castles - high-ranking clan heads - slavers and governors of the entire district, were the support of the political and military power of the kings of Khorezm. The mobilization of the population for public works and the gathering of troops were carried out through these. It is known that at this time construction of new canals and expansion of old ones were also done by clan communities. The leaders of this community were undoubtedly the “golden-armored priests” of the Massagetae, as noted by Herodotus [9.83].

To the north of the Koykirilgankala fortress is the monument of Anqakala, its area is surrounded by a square (75x75 m) two-line defensive wall. There are four-cornered and square constellations on the wall, and there are 9 of them. The defense and tower walls were built first of thatch, then of square raw bricks. The size of the bricks is 40x40x10 cm [13.114]. The castle gate is located in the middle of the south-eastern wall, its two corners are reinforced with a right-angled tower, its size is 5x8m. The defensive wall and bastions are reinforced with spear-pointed tires, the inner part of which is 1.20 cm wide, and the outer part is 1.90 cm wide [14.52]. Although the fort is small (0.81 ha), it is

very well built from the point of view of fortification [10.57].

S.P. Tolstov and Ya.Gulomov considered Anqakala to belong to the III-IV centuries [11.117-118]. Recent studies have shown that the ceramic fragments found in the monument are very close to the materials of the upper layers of Koykirilgankala, Tuproqkala and Ayozkala 3. Based on these, it was concluded that Anqakala is a monument of Khorezm belonging to the 1st-3rd centuries [10.57-64].

The surroundings of Anqakala were surrounded by open and unprotected villages in ancient times. The entire oasis is irrigated by the Bazarkala and Jonboskala networks, which are irrigated from the ancient Kaltaminor canal. Anqakala was a military garrison (barracks) built to protect these farming areas and the irrigation systems there.

2 km north-east of Anqakala is the Kozikirilgankala castle, known as “Topshahar” among the local people, and it is watered by the tributaries of the Kaltaminor canal. It was once a two-story building, and only the first floor is well preserved. At a distance of 60 m to the east of the building, a 7.50 m long wall was found, this wall is double and its function remains unknown. Found pottery fragments belong to the I-III centuries [12.56-57].

On its northern side is Bazarkala, which is also supplied with water through this canal. Among the different types of cities of the Early Antiquity period, Bazarkala, which was built much earlier on the right bank of the Amudarya, is particularly noteworthy. The ruins of the city are located on the plain next to the ancient large “Long House” depression [9.81].

Bazarkala was located along a large canal, which may have been a continuation of the current Kaltaminor canal. At present, the dry bed of the Bazarkala channel

runs in an almost meridional direction 1 km west of the ruins of this city, and its end disappears in the lowlands 8-10 km north of Bazarkala. In the region along the canal, remains of a material culture similar to the culture of the early Bazarkala period are widespread. This fact shows that people lived in this place, and at the same time, various archeological materials found under the ground during the excavation of canals and their cleaning in ancient times clearly confirm that people lived here in ancient times.

Jonboskala is located on the north-eastern side of Bazarkala, that is, along the tributaries of the Kaltaminor Canal, the Bazarlari. That is, it was built on the slope of the Aqchadarya river valley, at the eastern foot of the Sultan Uwais mountain. The layout of the monument is rectangular, 200x170 m, its walls are well preserved, rising 9.5-10 meters above the hill [13.88]. A single gate is located in the center of the northern wall, and several winding corridors are reinforced with the “Labyrinth”. The building is rectangular in shape, 52 meters long, 20 meters wide, 3.5 meters entrance, 18 meters from the wall to the side, it has a corridor with a labyrinth wall, the height of the wall is equal to the castle wall, and the total area is 0.1 ha. The labyrinth wall also has crossbow spikes at certain distances. The castle wall has no bastions, but it can be seen that there are many shinaks [14.44]. Bricks in the walls and corners of the walls served as a constellation. A 30-meter wide street passed from the city gate to the opposite side, which divided the city into two neighborhoods [13.93]. There are about 200 houses of different sizes in each neighborhood. S.P. Tolstov believes that the division of the fortress in this way shows that the clan community is organized on a dual basis [15.33]. A wide street in the castle leads to a temple on the opposite side. The monument has a chapel but no arch [14.44].



S.P. Tolstov describes the fortress in full, but he did not write information about the village located near the fortress, on the plain opposite its gate, and extending far to the west. In the place where this village is located, there are stone and thatch foundations of houses, remains of pottery kilns, traces of ditches, etc. If we compare this village with the castle, we can be sure that the main population of the area lived outside the castle [16.80].

CONCLUSION

In short, fundamental changes took place in the socio-economic life of the Khorezm oasis in the ancient period. The establishment of the powerful state of Khorezm, centered in the lower Amudarya basin, made it possible to expand the scope of the irrigation systems of the region. The territory of cultural oases based on irrigated agriculture expanded with the deepening of old riverbeds on the unexploited barren land on the right bank of the Amudarya river or with the construction of large irrigation canals parallel to it.

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