

SAMARKAND – AN ANCIENT AND ALWAYS MAIDEN CITY

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Abstract: This article provides information about the history of Samarkand, one of the ancient and young cities of our country, and its ancient architectural monuments.

Keywords: Samarkand, Registan Square, Mausoleum of the Emir Gori, Bibikhanim Mosque, Shahi Zinda Mausoleum Complex, Ulugbek Observatory.

The ancient and ever-young city of our country, Samarkand, is beyond words. To get a complete picture of the great city, you should definitely visit it. It is not for nothing that this ancient city has been recognized as one of the 50 cities in the world that are a must-see. There is sufficient information about the antiquity of Samarkand in historical written sources. Muhammad an-Nasafi's "al-Qand fi zikri ulama", Haydar as-Samarkandi's (12th century) "Qandiyai Khurd", Abu Tohirkhoj Samarkandi's "Samaria", the works of the Chinese historian Zhang Xiang, Greek and Roman historians Arrian, Kursi Rufus and many other authors provide valuable information about Samarkand, as well as a number of cities in our country. Samarkand and Rome, considering their great services to the fate of humanity, were called "Immortal Cities". It is not for nothing that the folk expression "Samarkand is the shining surface of the earth" "Samarkand is the shining surface of the earth". In turn Our grandfather Amir Temur, during his reign, cherished Samarkand with love, made it prosperous, and turned it into a world landmark.

There are a number of information and hypotheses about the origin of the word "Samarkand". Eastern authors have proposed a number of artificial definitions, considering the 1st part of the word "Samarkand", that is, the word "Samar", as the name of the person who founded or conquered this city, but no information about a person with such a name has been found in history. The 2nd part of the word "kent" (kand) means village, city. Some European scholars explain that this name is ancient, close to the Sanskrit word "Samarya", that is, "gathering, gathering". In the works of ancient authors, the city was called Marokanda. This is very close to the truth, and in Morocco – The Greek pronunciation of the term Samarkand. 11th-century scholars Abu Rayhan Beruni and Mahmud Kashgari explain the origin of the city's name as a corruption of the word "Semizkent", that is, "fat village" [2]. The Spanish ambassador Ruy Gonzalez de Clavijo, who visited Samarkand in 1404, also supports this interpretation. In addition, in historical sources and books written in different periods, the name of the city is also recorded in such forms as Samariana, Saramanka, Sakanna,

Sanmangan, Samakiyon, Sumron, Shamarkan, Samaroy, Simroyat. Archaeological excavations show that people lived in the Samarkand area in the Upper Paleolithic period. Samarkand is one of the oldest cities in the world - it has a history of more than 2,700 years. Samarkand was the capital of the Sogdian state from the 4th century BC to the 6th century AD. According to the Roman historian Quintus Curtius Rufus (late 1st century BC - 1st century AD), the circumference of the Samarkand fortress wall was approximately 10.5 km. In 329 BC, the troops of Alexander the Great destroyed Samarkand. Spitamen, who led the liberation struggle against the Greek Macedonians, tried to free it from the Greeks, but was killed by the leaders of the treacherous nomadic tribes and his head was sent as a peace offering to Alexander the Great. Samarkand became part of the Turkic khaganate in the 6th century and was ruled by local governors. During this period, Samarkand actively traded with India, Iran, Egypt and the Byzantine Empire.

In its time, Samarkand was one of the major centers of the Turkic Khaganate, Arab Caliphate, Samanids, Karakhanids, and Khorezmshih states. In 1220, Mongol troops led by Genghis Khan invaded Samarkand, set fire to the city, and killed most of the population. The surviving population left the city. Only a few years later did Samarkand begin to recover. During this period, Samarkand was part of the Chigatai ulus. The Venetian traveler Marco Polo, who visited Samarkand in the second half of the 13th century, described the city as “a magnificent and famous city.” In the middle of the 14th century, popular movements against the Mongols took place in Maveronnahr. As a result of the Sarbador rebellion, popular power was established in the city for several months. In the late 14th - 15th centuries, the economic, political and cultural life of Samarkand significantly improved. Samarkand became famous throughout the world as the capital of the Amir Temur empire.

The capital of the empire, Samarkand, flourished especially during the reign of Amir Temur. Palaces, mosques, madrasahs, and mausoleums were built in the city by the hands of architects and builders from Isfahan, Shiraz, Aleppo, Khorezm, Bukhara, Karshi, and Kesh. Outside the city, gardens and parks were established. In particular, the Shodimulk Aga Mausoleum, Shirinbeka Aga Mausoleum, and others were built as part of the Shahi Zinda architectural complex. The city is home to the Bibikhanim Mosque, Amir Temur's residence, Koksaroy, and Bostansaroy. In general, Samarkand was completely rebuilt from scratch during the reign of Amir Temur, a little south of its ancient site, Afrosiab. The city is surrounded by a strong fortress wall surrounded by 6 gates, called Akhanin, Sheikhzade, Chorsu, Korizgoh, So'zangaron and Feruza, were established. Dozens of irrigation networks were laid in the agricultural oases of Maverannahr, in particular in the Zarafshan valley, and agricultural areas were expanded. New villages were established. According to Ibn Arabshah, Amir Temur named several new villages he founded around Samarkand after the famous cities of

the East: Dimishq (Damascus), Misr, Baghdad, Sultaniya and Shiraz. According to Amir Temur, Samarkand should surpass the largest cities in the world in terms of size, beauty and development of its surroundings. As the great orientalist V. V. Bartold noted, according to Amir Temur, Samarkand should have been the first city in the world. After the death of Amir Temur (1405), Ulugbek took the throne of Samarkand. During the reign of Ulugbek, creative work continued actively in Samarkand. Relations with neighboring states intensified. He brought the science and culture of the peoples of Central Asia to a certain level of world science in the conditions of the Middle Ages. Mirzo Ulugbek's greatest achievement was the establishment of the Samarkand Scientific School, the academy of that time. More than 200 scholars worked in this scientific school. The most prominent among them were Qazizoda Rumi and Ghiyosiddin Jamshid Koshi. His scientific school was based on the scientific tradition initiated by the famous Central Asian scientists Muhammad Khorezm, Ahmad al-Farghani, Abul Abbas al-Jawhari, Ibn Turk al-Khuttali, Khalid al-Marwarrudi, Ahmad al-Marvazi, Abu Nasr al-Farabi, and Abu Rayhan al-Biruni. Ulugbek built an observatory near Samarkand. As mentioned above, the city of Samarkand is ancient and its beauty has been compared to Rome. Especially during the reign of Amir Temur and the Timurids, the city's status increased significantly. It became a major center of trade, science, and culture. However, by the time of the Khanates, its importance had slightly decreased and has fallen into disrepair. At a certain time, earthquakes damaged the monuments. During the former Soviet Union, many valuable works of art and antiquities of Samarkand were taken to the center, and attempts were made to demolish architectural monuments. After gaining independence, attention to Samarkand increased even more. Reconstruction and repair work was carried out on ancient architectural monuments. Samarkand is opening up to the eyes of guests who come to the "Sharq Taronalari" international music festival, which is held every two years in Samarkand, because, as the great Amir Temur said, "Whoever wants to see our power, let him look at the towers we have built," the call can never be forgotten.

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