



HISTORY OF THE STUDY OF KANPIRAK WALL

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ABSTRACT

This article devoted study of wall named "Kanpirak". Many defense structures from the early Middle Ages have been preserved in our country. Today, we have some information about the history of their construction and what function they performed. An example of this is the wall of Kanpirak located in the oasis of Bukhara.

KEYWORDS

Kanpirak wall, "wall of the oasis", defensive wall, archaeological excavations, Ephtalians, nomadic tribes.

INTRODUCTION

Archaeologists have mentioned this wall as the "wall of the oasis". The total length of this defensive structure is 350-400 kilometers, and

the preserved part of the wall is better preserved in the Bukhara oasis than in other places. This part of the wall corresponds to the steppe regions

of the current Kiziltepa district. The construction history of the Kanpirak wall is important because it gives us important information about the activities of the people life who lived in this area, the architectural solution of the structure, the defense system, the way of life of the past people, and the trade and diplomatic relations with the neighboring countries.

The construction of the Kanpirak defense system was made in order to avoid the attack of nomadic tribes. According to information, this wall was first built in the 4th century. The completion of the wall corresponds to the period of the strengthening of the rule of Bukhorkhudad in the oasis, that is, to the 5th century. It should be noted that the construction of this structure, like the Great Wall of China, required a lot of money, workforce and a long period of time. According to reports, by the time of the Turkish khanate, the Kanpirak wall had been neglected for more than a century. The reconstruction of this structure was started after the Arab conquest due to the increase of conflicts between the settlers and the local population. Due to the huge cost of reconstruction the wall, this process dragged on for 50 years and was never completed. After Ismail Samani sat on the throne of Bukhara, as a

result of the elimination of mutual disputes, the oasis defense system gradually lost its importance.

As a result of the construction of irrigation and farm facilities in the oasis, a very large part of the Kanpirak wall was destroyed, but the part of about 13 kilometers in Kiziltepa district was relatively well preserved. As for the term "Kanpir devor", its meaning is "dug hole". In the pronunciation, there is an exchange of "n" and "m" sounds. The syllable "Pir" comes from the old payrya meaning circle, winding. So, the word kan(m)pir itself means "wall with a trench". The word wall was added when the original meaning of the word kanpir was forgotten. In modern times, the term Kanpir devor (Devori kanpirak) refers to a system of defensive structures built in Central Asia to protect agricultural oases from attacks by settlers.

It can be seen that the preserved Kampirak wall in Kiziltepa district stretches for a long distance from the northeast and southwest parts. This defense structure starts from the Karatog mountains on the central border of Karmana district and extends along the left bank of Zarafshan, east and west. The direction of the structure is along the left bank of the Abu Muslim

canal, towards the Kiziltepa monument located in the center of the district and from there to the southwest, then to the south, ending in the southeastern part of the Kogon district.

THE MAIN RESULTS AND FINDINGS

In 1896, military topographer N.F. Sitnyakovsky mapped the area consisting of the remains of the wall surrounding the Bukhara oasis in ancient times, which was known as the "Old Woman's Wall" [1, B. 130]. In the language of the local population, this magnificent construction fortification was called "Kampirdevol". The history of this structure, which is considered a rare example of the architecture of the defense fortifications of Central Asia, is closely related to the history of the people of the Bukhara oasis, and archaeologists and historians call it the "wall of the oasis", "the wall of the old lady". It is reminiscent of the world-famous Great Wall of China with its architectural and construction methods. Archeologist and historian Utkir Alimov and Mirsodiq Ishakov write that there were five Kanpirak walls surrounding the territory of ancient Uzbekistan in the early Middle Ages. The first Kanpirak wall was considered a defensive wall that surrounded the cities and villages of the

ancient Bukhara oasis above mentioned. In the sources, in particular, in Narshahi's "History of Bukhara", it is stated that the Kanpirak wall was built in 782-831 [2]. It should be noted that Narshahi's information corresponds to the period when the wall was restored. According to the Arab historian and traveler Mas'udi, the wall of Kanpirak was built in the time of the ancient Sogd kings (V-VI centuries). The information given in written sources about the wall of Kanpirak was confirmed during the archaeological excavations. The original wall reported by Mas'udi occupied a much smaller area than the wall of Kanpirak recorded by Narshahi, which was preserved without an artificial border. There is information that the total length of this wall is 336 km.

The second Kanpirak wall was built at the end of the 8th century - the beginning of the 9th century and surrounded the oasis of Ancient Sogd. Its length is 120 km. The third Kanpirak wall was built in the ancient Ustrushona oasis. The fourth Kanpirak wall was built in the western part of the ancient Fergana valley at the end of the 8th century - the beginning of the 9th century. The fifth wall of Kanpirak surrounded the ancient Tashkent oasis from the north and stretched from Khojakent to Sirdarya [3, B. 439].

During the period of Arab rule in Central Asia, in the 8th-9th centuries, the oases of Bukhara, Sogd and Ustrushona formed a single defense system connected by the walls of Kanpirak. These walls were built as a defense system against raids by nomadic tribes and people on settled agricultural oases. The Kanpirak wall in the Bukhara oasis surrounded the area from Karmana, which belongs to Bukhara Sogd, to the center of today's Kogon district, as well as the northwest, north and northeast regions. The wall spread in the northwest along the borders of Varakhsha (Jondor district), Subuktepa, Borontepa (Romitan), Khojaqultepa (Peshko), passed to the left bank of the Shafirkon canal, and reached Abu Muslimtepa. Also, another raised wall along the Hazora gorge crossed the Konimekh oasis and reached Karatov in the center of the Karmana district.

There was no defensive wall around the ancient city of Poykend, part of the Karakol oasis. A large number of caravanserais with increased defense power were built in its place. At the time when raiding campaigns of herding tribes intensified, many young fighters gathered from the villages of the Bukhara oasis and resisted the attacks of the robbers.

Towns or villages, rabots were built at the distance of each farsakh (6-8 km) of the direction of the Kanpirak wall. In the territory of Kiziltepa district, in addition to the Kiziltepa city monument, there are such fortifications as Shahri Vayron (place of the city of Tavoys), Aksochtepa, Lavandoq. Special gates were built in the walled areas, and military towers were built less than a mile between the ramparts. This shows that the Kanpirak wall served as a multi-faceted, powerful defense structure. In 1913-1916, L.A. Zimin conducted research in the Bukhara oasis. In addition to the monuments in this area, he also explored the Old Wall in his research. In the course of his research, he inspected and re-described Kampir-devor, as well as a number of other towns and hills [1, B. 130]. In 1934, on the initiative of A.Yu.Yakubovsky, the Zarafshan joint expedition was organized. During the expedition, the ancient caravan route of international importance connecting Bukhara and Samarkand was archaeologically studied. Also, during the expedition, research was carried out in the preserved part of the Kanpirak wall [1, B. 131].

N.F. Sitniakovsky, A.Yu. Yakubovsky, A.V. Shishkin during the research conducted by archaeologists such as Muhammedov, the following results were

found in the part of the Kampirak wall passing through Kiziltepa district: the bottom part of the structure consists of soil mixed with gravel and is 13 metre wide; that the wall is mainly made of straw, and in some places it is raised from large-sized raw bricks of a rectangular shape; that the construction of the wall was actually carried out in two stages; in the second stage, it was proved that it was kept in the previous place, except for some changes.

Factors that led to the construction of the wall of Kampirak in the 5th century AD, a powerful Ephtalite state was established in Central Asia, Eastern Turkestan, Afghanistan and a large part of Northern India. This state is also referred to as the state of the White Huns in the sources. According to most researchers, the Ephtalians lived in the Syrdarya valley, their first life was as a nomadic cattle-breeding tribe, and later they moved to the south. The capital of the Ephtalian state, which operated in the years 420-579, was first the cities of Poykend and Varakhsha near Bukhara, and then the city of Shakala (now Sialkat) in India [4, B. 47-48].

In the beginning and middle of the 6th century, the Heptali state was greatly threatened by the Iranian Sassanid state and the Turkish khanate. It

is this reason that prompted the construction of the Kanpirak wall, according to the sources. Between the years 563-567, the Ephtalians were defeated in the battle between the Turks and the Ephtalians near the Bukhara, and the Ephtalian state was completely destroyed in 579. During the Turkish rule, the wall lost its former position. During the Khaganate period, the independence of about 15 large and small states in Central Asia was limited, they were officially subordinated to the Khaganate and paid annual taxes and fees. These small states (Kingdom of Bukhorkhudotlar, Kingdom of Vardonkhudotlar, Samarkand Sogd) were organized as the Sogd confederation and were part of the Great Turk Khanate [5, B. 28-40]. Since Khakhanid benefited greatly from trade, especially from silk trade, great opportunities were created for Sogdian merchants, who were given trade facilities even in the most distant countries of the world. These processes caused the wall of Kanpirak to lose its importance and become a ruin.

In the last quarter of the 7th century and the beginning of the 8th century, another political force began to encroach on the territory of Turan. It was the invasion of the Arab conquerors. After the first campaigns of Qutayba ibn Muslim (660-

715), who was appointed as the viceroy of Khurasan, Movarunnahr, including Bukhara (Western Sogd), was conquered at the beginning of the 8th century. During this period, the conflict between the inhabitants of the oasis who converted to Islam and the desert nomads who did not accept Islam intensified, and as a result of the need for the Kanpirak wall, it began to be restored.

In 819, the Samanid dynasty came to power in Movarounnahr and Khorasan. Ismail Samani founded the Samanid state, which operated independently of the Arab state, in 874. This country was famous for its power, progress in spiritual and educational life. Ismail Samani, the founder of the Samani state, said: "As long as I am alive, I will be the wall of the Bukhara region" [2], and since that time, the Kanpirak wall has completely lost its importance.

CONCLUSION

From the research results, it can be concluded that the Kanpirak wall was considered the only defensive structure defining the boundaries of Bukhara in the 5th-6th centuries. It has been proven in the researches that this region

functioned as a large cultural land with buds of traditional statehood at that time. The Kanpirak wall is a symbol of the heroic history of the ancestors of the Uzbek people, and studying its history, not losing the preserved part and passing on to future generations is considered one of the urgent issues.

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