

## Wonderful Miracles

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**Abstract:** This article provides information about the history and archaeological appearance of the Kozalikir fortress, one of the first city-planning fortresses of Khorezm.

**Keywords:** Khorezm, Kozalikir, the first city, straw and raw brick, 25 hectares, S.P.Tolstov, "Avesta", farming and animal husbandry, synagogue, "Past Shahar", Achaemenid state.

Khorezm is an oasis on the banks of the Lower Amudarya River, which has made a great contribution to the development of mankind. It is known from history that hundreds of scholars such as Zoroaster, Al-Khorazmi, Beruni, Zamakhshari, Najmuddin Kubro, Ogahi, who lived in this area, contributed a worthy share to the treasure of world science.

Or the unique murals of Khorezm, the charming Lazg, the tall blue towers, the brilliant paint used for them, the calm nature on the banks of the lively Jayhun, and most importantly, the hard work between Karakum and Kizilkum. It is the history of a hard-working, at the same time responsive and cheerful people.

People have been living in Khorezm oasis since ancient times. Gradually, as a result of the development of agriculture and crafts, urban culture began to develop in the Khorezm oasis. Mil. avv. By the first quarter of the 1st millennium, as a result of the development of irrigated agriculture and the development of productive forces in the regions of ancient Khorezm, a state system began to form instead of primitive community relations. Ancient cities played a big role in the formation of this system. However, it is worth noting that it is still not clear which city is the earliest capital among the ancient cities of Khorezm. According to the results of the research, there are many similarities between the planning styles of the ancient cities of Khorezm - internal and external structure, protective structures, natural location. The ancient state of Khorezm BC. It was one of the most powerful states from the 4th century to the 3rd century AD. According to Beruni, there were more than 300 cities in Khorezm during this period.<sup>2</sup> The formation of Kozalikir, one of the oldest city fortresses of Khorezm recognized by researchers, dates back to avv. It belongs to VII-V or VII-IV centuries.

Kozalikir is a city-castle ruin in ancient Khorezm dating back to the first half of the 1st millennium BC. The fortress is located on the banks of the old river of Jayhun, and was discovered in 1939 by the Khorezm archaeological and ethnographic expedition led by S.P.Tolstov. Excavated in 1950, 1953-54. The inhabitants of Kozalikir were forced to live in such long, dark corridors only to protect themselves and the main wealth of the community - cattle - from the constant raids of those times. The inhabitants were engaged in farming and cattle breeding outside of Kozalikir, and when there was a danger, they drove their cattle inside - to this triangular area, and they stood<sup>3</sup> on the roads and repelled the enemy.

Kozalikir corresponds in many respects to the descriptions in the Avesta. Scythian brass, bow arrows, various pottery and pottery items were found in Kozalikir.

Kozalikir is an architectural monument of ancient Khorezm, whose initial structure is quite clear, surrounded by protective walls and having the character of religious worship. A large area around it may have been intended for later constructions. It is worth noting that the construction of temples is

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<sup>2</sup> Беруний Абу Райхон, Қадимги ҳалқлардан қолган ёдгорликлар. –Т.: 1968. Б. 231.

<sup>3</sup> <https://uz.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ko%CA%BBzaliqir>



important and one of the main factors in the urban planning culture of Central Asia by the VI-V centuries BC. Kozalikir, like other cities of Central Asia, was considered a fortified military-political and administrative center of the oasis, and was provided with developed irrigated agriculture.

If we dwell on Kozalikir in more detail, the Khorezm expedition under the leadership of S.P.Tolstov has carried out many research works in this monument since the middle of the last century. The tourist places in this monument, which the researchers of ancient Khorezm described as "old city " and "fortress", were built mainly of straw and raw bricks. According to the results of research, the castle went through two construction periods. Mil. avv. The sizes of the bricks in the lower layers of the VI-V centuries are mil. avv. It differs from the bricks of the upper layer of the V-IV centuries. In addition, some ideas can be observed in the characteristics of ceramics and the making of bronze arrowheads <sup>4</sup>.

In the center of Kozalikir, the remains of a large building were discovered, where a cultural layer of about half a meter was preserved. The strict planning structure and the strict area of the building gave strength to the whole complex. According to researchers, they are structures associated with religious ceremonies. Kozalikir may be the first city to appear in the Aralboi region, as it is preserved by researchers from the pre-Ahmonite period. With the incorporation of Central Asian oases into the Achaemenid state, the internal politics of the regions was concentrated in the centers of the satraps. As in ancient times, cities were considered economic, political and religious-ideological centers in Khorezm. As S.P.Tolstov pointed out at the time, if public and religious buildings were located in the centers of the oldest cities of Khorezm, then by the beginning of AD, the central part of the cities was occupied by the fortress.

Kozalikir - the new generations of the Khumbuztepa people have mastered the southern lands, started agriculture at a higher level than it, and in order to ensure abundant harvest on the basis of this, a circular plan, 40 hectares in size, to Kozalikir heights They founded the castle, which was surrounded by a two-row wall with a semi-circular tower along the outer wall. The structure of the walls is as follows: straw, raw brick, shinak, burj. The wall marked the geographical boundary of the population center <sup>5</sup>.

Based on the materials of the city of Kozalikir, the archaic period of Khorezm is divided into two stages: the early archaic and the late archaic. Based on the typological analysis of the Kozalqir materials, it can be said that the military fortifications of the early archaic period of Khorezm were irregular, located on a hill, large-sized fortress walls with one-story ethnic passages without a dome has a flat print. In the second stage, protective towers of rectangular shape were built in Kozalikir from square bricks. There are three rows of tires on the wall. Shahrstan is divided into two parts by the fortress wall. One of them is located in the southwestern part of the hill. It was the original center and fortress of the city. The second part is "downtown " called. There is no doubt that Kozalqir is a primary structure: the construction of crafts, the remains of worship buildings, and the fact that the layers of the population within the fortress wall were socially different indicate this. Based on these reasons, Kozalikir is considered the first city in the history of the ancient world in Khorezm.

In many literatures about the history of the ancient world, Kozalikir is indicated as one of the fortresses that started the city development in Khorezm. Kozalikir, which belongs to the type of cities with fortresses and defensive walls in the ancient Khorezm region, was 25 hectares <sup>6</sup>. In the later periods, the construction of circular fortifications in the military architecture of Khorezm was significantly reduced.

The Kozalikir urban area has a remarkable feature: a large area surrounded by a very thick and several kilometers long wall, devoid of any signs of habitation, consisting of narrow lanes of inhabited

<sup>4</sup> Эшов Б. Қадимги Ўрта Осиё шаҳарлари тарихи. – Т., 2006. – Б. 153-154.

<sup>5</sup> Ўзбекистан Республикаси Фанлар Академияси Тарих Институту. Хоразм Тарихи замонавий тадқиқотларда. – Тошкент – Урганч, 2018. – Б.27-28.

<sup>6</sup> Ходжаниязов Ф. Қадимги Хоразм муҳофаа иншоотлари. – Т.: "O'ZBEKISTON", 2007. – Б. 69-72.



buildings lined with the walls of the urban ruins. A lot of information about these cities is written in the holy book "Avesta". This book describes the "Four-cornered Wara" fortification of the legendary person Yimo, the architecture of the cities of Qal'alikir and Kozalikir, as well as some aspects of the social and economic life of Khorezm at that time. A large area inside the city, surrounded by high and thick walls, is a cattle farm - it shows that cattle-breeding was dominant in the Khorezm region at that time. The remains of irrigation facilities around the city indicate that its inhabitants were also engaged in agriculture. Similar monuments were also found in the Fergana Valley.

As S.P.Tolstov noted, a few hundred people lived in the six-seven-kilometer-long row of buildings in the fortress. In his opinion, the fact that houses in the city do not differ much from a social point of view shows that the community in it still maintains a rather archaic system - clan-tribe relations. Secondly, the preservation of undoa livestock, except for those who lived in fortresses surrounded by strong walls, indicates that during this period there were great fights between communities for livestock, which was their main wealth. "Avesta" and many researchers confirm the above points. "Avesta" contains important information describing the social system of Central Asia, including Khorezm, during the period of early slavery<sup>7</sup>.

In conclusion, Kozalikir city is one of the most developed cities and fortresses of the Khorezm oasis and started the stage of urban development. That is, it is the first fortress of the Khorezm region, which consists of a thousand fortresses. In the following periods, the fate of the castle was different. The land of Khorezm was destroyed many times by invaders. First, the Achaemenid state was destroyed by the Arabs and then by the Mongols after a few centuries. Despite being conquered by many invaders, most of the fortresses in the Khorezm oasis have been preserved until now. These fortresses have been studied in great detail by scientists, and through these studies we have a lot of information about the people, occupations, irrigation system and architecture of ancient Khorezm.

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<sup>7</sup> Жабборов Исо. Кўхна харобалар сири. – Т.: Ўзбекистон ССР давлат нашриёти, 1961. – Б. 44 – 45.

