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**THE STUDY OF THE GRAVES OF THE HEROES OF THE EPIC" TOHIR AND ZUHRA": BASED ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND WRITTEN SOURCES**

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**Abstract**

The epic "Tohir and Zuhra" is a love-love Legend, and until then it has been the embodiment of exactly love-love among the people. So is the Tomb of Tohir and Zuhra still present? Today this epic is only mentioned as a myth. But it is also possible that Legends arose in a certain historical process and embodied reality in themselves. As Aristotle says, "myths are false stories that report truth". Both the epics and the legends have moved from the mouth to mouth of the people and arrive to this day. We will also consider in the AOS of these legends certain historical figures in fact existing in history using the example of the epic "Tohir and Zuhra".

**Keywords:** Tohir, Zuhra, Karabakh, Oqdarya, Khwarazm, Namangan, Samarkand, Bukhara, Zarafshan, Amudarya, O.Mamatova, A.Berdimurodov, Sogdian, Turkic, M.Pardayev, S.Rahimov, Institute of Archaeology named after Yahya Ghulomov, agency for Cultural Heritage.

**Introduction**

Given the names of the heroes of the epic "Tohir and Zuhra", the names Tohir and Zuhra are considered Arabic words. But the word "Karabakh", found in the epic, is a Turkish word. Vaholanki said that the Turkish language existed in our land earlier than the Arabic language. That is, in the 6th-7th centuries, Turkish was widely spoken: Sogdian was in circulation in the 4th – 6th centuries, Turkish was in circulation in the 6th-7th centuries, and Arabic was in circulation in the 8th centuries.

Tohir and Zuhra, considered the main characters of the epic, perish at the end of the work and are buried in a single place. Karabotyr, however, places his grave in the middle of their graves, not wanting the two lovers to be together in the other world. As a result, three graves are concentrated in one location, and an ever-red flowering ivy grows from Tohir and Zuhra's grave. And from the grave of the Karabakh, a tie thorn always grows. With such a development of events, the epic is brought to an end.

Times pass, and centuries later these graves again begin to arouse interest among the people. That is, interest begins to awaken in what area exactly the main events in the saga took place.

Today, some experts from the regions of Kashagadarya, Namangan, Bukhara, Khorezm began to point out some graves and claim that it was the Tomb of the epic heroes.

Paying attention to the events of the epic, Tohir is placed in a chest, thrown into the river and flows to the territories of Khwarezm. The epic events took place on the same riverbank. It is indicated that the same river flowed to the regions of Khwarezm.

No river starting from Namangan areas flows as far as Khwarezmian areas.

As for the territory of the castle, there is no tomb of the heroes of the saga, even where the experts indicate it. But, the Oqdaryo (a branch of the Zarafshan River), located in the Samarkand area, flows towards Amudaryo, and the Amudaryo, towards the Khwarezmian areas.

As for the opinions of khwarezmian experts, it is said that the epic hero Tohir did not die in the regions of Khwarezmian and returned.

On the Internet Aniq.uz as reported on the site, in order to study the Tohir and Zuhra monument, archaeologist scientists Mukhtar Pardayev and Sobir Rahimov carried out scientific verification work on the territory of the cemetery and on the adjacent hills. Their research shows that the area where the monument is located was determined to have a three-Millennium history, while the graves had a one-and-a-half-millennium history.

Member of the Union of writers of Uzbekistan O.Mamatova says of the area where the epic khachramans and their tombs are located: "the shrine of Tohir and Zuhra occupied a very large area on the coast of Okhdarya. But later the agricultural fields along the river were expanded and added to the cotton fields. Only one hectare of land around the Hillhouse, located in the center, is preserved. During the last fifty years, Mayites were suspended from the cemetery after the village of " karabotir " was moved to the center. As a result, these areas became abandoned. The surrounding areas are now cleared and new roads open. Other graves in the cemetery are nearly leveled. The graves of the three lovers, located in the center, have not lost their grace for centuries."

O.Mamatova is a researcher of the Institute of Archaeology named after Yahya Ghulomov of the agency for Cultural Heritage about this cemetery. Berdimurodov also cites his thoughts.

"In the course of Archaeological Research in the cemetery, we did not find a single tombstone or or inscription. But many other accounts suggest the possibility that Tohir and Zuhra were buried in the same area."

The "Tohir and Zuhra" Cemetery in ancient times covered a very large area on the banks of the Okhdarya, and during the cotton soloism of the 1980s, two sides were pushed to the riverbed and added to the cotton fields. A 1-acre burial site around the graves of the middle Tohir-Karabotir-Zuhras is preserved.

Another reason why we say that the age of the cemetery "Tohir and Zuhra" is equal to the ancient IV-5th centuries is that the ancient rules that existed in Central Asia until the composition of the religion of Islam on our land, according to Customs, every Mayite was buried with his robes, weapons, wealth, jewelry at the time of his burial. According to some sources, it is necessary to leave a distance of seven steps between the graves so

that the Mayites would not hear each other's voices at the time when the interrogation of the world began, after the dead owners had made seven steps from the grave.

It is the distances between the three large, centuries-old graves that still stand today, located in the middle of the "Tohir and Zuhra" cemetery, that are also seven steps (meters) in length. This event also testifies to the fact that this cemetery is centuries old, old in life. Sitting in front of the graves and reading a blessing to the spirit of lovers, you believe that their life, love is not a myth, but a fact.

In the following years, large-scale work, projects, decisions on the improvement of this shrine are being carried out by the Oqdarya District institution of the international charitable public fund "Golden Heritage". Komil Pardayev, Kamolkhan Kattayev, Nadir Mirzayev, Oktam Ikromov, historian scientists and specialists of the oqdarya district, also gave a lot of information about Miyonkol and its history in their writings. The famous historian scholar H. Wambéry left references to the epic "Tohir and Zuhra" in his 1830 book "a journey to Central Asia".

The cemetery "Tohir and Zuhra" is located on the Left Bank of the Oqdarya, on a high ravine. The Zarafshan river passes through the city of Samarkand and splits into two Oqdarya and Karadaryo and continues to merge again around Kattaqurgan and flow towards Bukhara Oasis. In the past, these two river ranges (15 km wide, 100 km long) were called "Nim Sughd" (half Sughd), Miyonqol (island between the lake) in written sources.

According to the O`zR FA Archaeological Institute's records of the history of Oqdarya (Miyonqol), the area has a history of three thousand years. In the monument "Koktepa" of the city of Chelak, next to oqdarya, in the second half of the 1990s, a mile in the Soghd territory when studies were carried out in cooperation with the Uzbek-French international expedition. Av. A Sagan of the "Sac queen", buried with a large number of gold jewelry dating from the 3rd to 2nd centuries, had been found. So, on the Right Bank of the present Oqdarya there is a bucket City, a monument to "Koktepa", and on the Left Bank there is a Miyonqol, a ruined city Place – The Hill "Changaltepa", and next to it is the cemetery "Tohir and Zuhra", and the history of these places is very ancient.

The "Chorvoqtepa" (Zuhra tepa) Hill in Zarafshan MFY area of oqdarya district is one of more than 200 nationalized hills and monuments, and is located next to the "Qorahontepa". Locals say that Zuhra's father Karakhanshah created a garden for his daughter, Women and their concubines, using this hill between them as a storage place. Archaeologists confirm that this hill dates from the 3rd-4th centuries, and under the hill there are underground passages, domed houses – rooms.

According to the opinions of historians (Miyonqol), the territories of the Okdarya district, Ishtikhan, Payariq districts belonged to the Bukhara Khanate. It is noted that the events of the epic took place precisely during the Bukhara Khanate. To confirm this opinion, we again turn to the scientific work of our scientists. In order for us to be sure that the events of the epic took place in Bukhara, the Zarafshan River must have certainly flowed through the territory of this Khanate and poured into the Amudary. To the requirements of this condition, the famous archaeologist scientist of our time Ya.

Gulomov responds positively during his scientific expedition" in the footsteps of Mohandarya". The scholar confirms with evidential objects that the Zarafshan river flowed through the territory of the Bukhara Khanate at that time, passing through the present-day infected Mohandarya ozani of the river through the village of Yakkatut and poured into the Amudarya.

In the 1980s, an academician of the Institute of Art Studies G.A.A special expedition under the leadership of Pugachenkova carried out exploration and excavation work in Myongol. As a result, more than 200 archaeological monuments of different eras have been registered in the territory of miyonqol.

Archaeologist R.Ravshanov studied the hill" Changaltepa "next to the" Tohir and Zuhra " cemetery, arguing that there are remains of an ancient fortress, while pottery fractures are examples of early 5th-century pottery, substantiating that the site became a ruin in the early 5th century.

We can conclude this on the basis of the above facts and historical data. In the late 4th and early 5th centuries, Central Asia was divided into a number of small states, the governors of which fought incessant wars with each other. Sogdiana 3. Below Samarkand are two small states - Ishtikhan and Kushonia-along Zarafshan. The name of today's Ishtikhan district is associated with the ancient city of Ishtikhan Kingdom, and Oqdarya district was separated from Ishtikhan district in December 1968, and the "Tohir and Zuhra" cemetery remained part of the territory of Oqdarya district.

If we beautify the area where the heroes of the Epic are located and turn it into a place of pilgrimage, the area that would become a lesson for young people would also serve as an interesting object for the tourism industry. The epic" Tohir and Zuhra " is considered one of the common legends in Central Asia, the Volga region, Azerbaijan. Therefore, if we beautify the area, it would be a great innovation, both for National Tourism and for the international tourism sector. The area was handed over to the District Municipality of Oqdarya as a place of pilgrimage. But even so far no changes have been made in the area. The reason is in the lack of funds and the lack of attention of organized organizations. The epic heroes have been sealed in history as a symbol of true love, loyalty, and for their love they have even sacrificed their lives. It is considered a great feat and a upbringing for today's youth.

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