

DALVARZINTEPA – A GOLDEN PAGE IN UZBEK ARCHAEOLOGY*Kazakboyeva Parvina Alisher kizi**Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies**Faculty of Eastern Civilization and Philosophy, 3rd-year student**Scientific Advisor: Senior Lecturer I. B. Khudoynazarov*

Abstract: This article explores the remarkable archaeological findings unearthed at Dalvarzintepa, an ancient site located in southern Uzbekistan. The study highlights significant cultural and historical artifacts discovered through extensive excavations, including the famed hoard of gold items found in 1972, some of the world's oldest known chess pieces, Buddha statues, coins, and various artistic objects. It examines the role of Dalvarzintepa as a major political, religious, and cultural center during the Kushan era. The article also discusses international scholarly collaborations and the exhibition of Dalvarzintepa's treasures in global expositions. Furthermore, it addresses current academic debates in Buddhist architecture and iconography.

Keywords: Dalvarzintepa, archaeology, Kushans, gold treasure, Buddhism, chess pieces, Buddha statue, Japanese-Uzbek expedition, cultural heritage, iconography.

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Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqola O'zbekiston janubidagi qadimiy arxeologik yodgorlik — Dalvarzintepada olib borilgan tadqiqotlar natijasida topilgan noyob madaniy va tarixiy topilmalar haqida hikoya qiladi. Xususan, 1972-yilda topilgan oltin buyumlar xazinasi, dunyodagi eng qadimgi shaxmat donalari, Budda haykallari, tangalar va boshqa badiiy ashyolar tahlil etiladi. Dalvarzintepaning Kushonlar davridagi siyosiy, diniy va madaniy markaz sifatida tutgan o'rni, xalqaro ilmiy hamkorliklar va yodgorliklarning jahon ekspozitsiyalarida namoyishi haqida ma'lumotlar beriladi. Tadqiqot, shuningdek, buddaviylik arxitekturasi va ikonografiyasi bo'yicha dolzarb ilmiy masalalarni yoritadi.

Kalit so'zlar: Dalvarzintepa, arxeologiya, Kushonlar, oltin xazina, buddaviylik, shaxmat donalari, Budda haykali, yapon-o'zbek ekspeditsiyasi, madaniy meros, ikonografiya.

Introduction:

As a result of archaeological research conducted in Uzbekistan, a number of invaluable historical monuments have been discovered. Among them, Dalvarzintepa, located in the Surkhandarya region, is of particular importance. This city, which arose in the 2nd century BC, became a major political, economic and cultural center of the Kushan Empire in the 1st–3rd centuries AD. In particular, the gold treasure, chess pieces and finds related to Buddhist art discovered in 1972 by an expedition led by archaeologist B. Turgunov aroused great interest not only locally, but also internationally. This article discusses the significance of the Dalvarzintepa monument, the objects found, and their scientific and cultural value.

MAIN PART:

Unique ceramic fragments depict soldiers riding horses. In the fall of 1972, a huge sensation was caused by the discovery of an unprecedented treasure trove of gold objects and two chess pieces, considered the oldest in the world. The chess pieces made of ivory date back to the 2nd century AD. On September 25, 1972, an unforgettable event occurred in Dalvarzintepa: a jar of gold jewelry and a treasure trove of yams were found. B. Turgunov, Eduard Rtvaladze, T. Belyaeva, student Erkin Jorayev and Anatoly Sa'dullaev counted the gold objects one by one, copied the inscriptions on the yams, and drew up a deed in duplicate. The gold treasure consisted of a total of 115 items: a bead necklace, 2 pectoral belt buckles worn around the neck, fragments of a bracelet, jewelry in the form of a shilling, earrings, gold objects in the form of a ball, a rectangular yam and other items. The weight of this treasure was 35 kg 712 gr 13 mg.

The Dalvarzintepa treasure testifies to the ancient trade and cultural contacts of our ancestors with neighboring peoples and countries. The Dalvarzintepa treasure was transferred to the Central Bank. The Secretary General of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan Shrof Rashidov met with archaeologists. On April 2, 1973, a press conference was held on these finds. After that, G.A. Puganchenkova's book "The Artistic Treasure of Dalvarzintepa" was published in Russian and French. Murodjon Mahmudov's story "Yombi" was published. A multi-room house, a drying area for pottery and a granary were discovered here. Houses and granaries where winemakers lived and worked in ancient times are located on the opposite side of the city. A temple dedicated to one of the Kushan goddesses was found in the northwestern part of Dalvarzintepa. Outside the city walls, a Buddhist temple and a dacha where nobles were buried were found. In the center of the city, through which one of the main streets passed, there was a Buddhist complex - a temple with magnificent statues.

After the conquest of the Kushan kingdom by the Hephthalites in the late 3rd - early 4th centuries, Dalvarzintepa was destroyed, and life was preserved only in one part of it (on the site of the current citadel (Hissar) royal palace). After the Arab conquest, the city was completely destroyed, and life moved to Budrochtepa, about 10 km east of Dalvarzintepa. 1989 marked a new stage in the study of Dalvarzintepa - the Uzbek art expedition is working together with the Japanese expedition led by Professor Kyudzo Kato of Soka University in Tokyo and the Institute of Archaeology in Kashihara.

We should also acknowledge another find from Dalvarzintepa: in the spring of 1867, while the mechanic N. Murodov was digging a small hillock north of Dalvarzintepa, a human head statue emerged from the ground. It was a Buddha statue. The international archaeological and tourism forum "Uzbekistan – Crossroads of Civilizations" was held in Termez as part of the Cultural Heritage Week

on the theme “Uzbekistan – Crossroads of Civilizations. Empires, Religions, Cultures”. Scientists, archaeologists, museum and institute leaders from Uzbekistan and more than 80 foreign countries came to the forum. Professor of the National Center for Scientific Research of France P. Lerish: “Historical monuments in Surkhandarya play an important role in studying the history of world civilization. In particular, monuments such as the Teshiktash Cave, the Zarautsoy Monument, Dalvarzintepa, Kampirtepa, Jarkuton, Holchayon, Koratepa and Fayoztepa preserve many ancient traditions.

The study of the history of Buddhism in Central Asia, the iconography of Buddhist characters, the specific aspects and laws of the urban planning process, the formation of statehood, the traces of the Great Silk Road, the interaction of religious beliefs during the Kushan period and their reflection in the art of Bactria-Tokharistan are among the most pressing scientific problems facing Japanese and Uzbek scholars. Dalvarzintepa emerged as a village in the 2nd century BC, and by the 1st century AD it had grown into a large city with an area of 47 hectares, flourishing as the capital of the Kushan empire. The object, located in the eastern part of the Dalvarzintepa city, was excavated last year by the Institute of Art Studies of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, with the participation of the famous Japanese archaeologist, the late Kato Kyuzo, and the famous scientist B. Turgunov. Among the many finds, among others, a large number of coins and a coin-shaped object with a handle of a strange shape were found.

To date, the Buddhist temple in the interior and exterior of Dalvarzintepa and about 40 large and small Buddhist sculptures found there; the oldest chess pieces in the world (dating back to the 1st century AD); the treasure of 115 gold objects weighing almost 36 kilograms, discovered by archaeologist B. Turgunov in 1972 and one of the most famous finds in the history of Uzbek archeology, made Dalvarzintepa famous in its time.

Many unique finds from Dalvarzintepa were exhibited at exhibitions in several countries around the world, including Japan, South Korea, Switzerland, and France. Interest in the finds was especially high at exhibitions in Japan. As a result, many Japanese tourists visiting Uzbekistan today come specifically to see the Buddhist monuments of Dalvarzintepa and the Surkhan oasis. Local and foreign archaeologists have been conducting archaeological research in Dalvarzintepa for nearly sixty years, studying the houses of the ancient city's nobles, production facilities, including the potters' quarter and the khanums, religious buildings, the city's Buddhist temples, and defensive fortifications. They found many archaeological material sources, including exquisitely crafted examples of art, artistic metalwork, and crafts. The remains of a Buddhist temple, a Buddha's head, chess pieces made of precious ivory, elegant statues made of plaster, copper coins, copper mirrors, ivory jewelry, and chess pieces vividly tell the story of how this place was a cultural, artistic, and commercial area with beautiful cities and castles from ancient times.

Conclusion:

Dalvarzintepa - with its rich archaeological layers, finds rich in unique art samples, and ancient urban culture, occupies a special place not only in the history of Uzbekistan, but also in the history of the whole world. Archaeological excavations conducted here not only shed light on the cultural life of the Kushan period, but also play an important role in introducing cultural heritage to the wider public through international scientific cooperation. Also, through the Dalvarzintepa monument, many aspects

of Buddhist art, ancient urban planning, trade relations, and the history of statehood are being studied. Even today, this place remains the focus of attention of Japanese, French, and other foreign scholars.

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