

ANCIENT CITY CONNECTED WITH THE NAME OF THE WELL “KHEYVAQ”

Ergashbek Salaev

*Khorezm Mamun Academy, regional branch of Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan,
Markaz№1, Khiva city, Republic of Uzbekistan ergash_s@mail.ru*

Abstract: In this article analytical information about Kheyvaq well, Gates and mud walls of Ichan Kala, which are considered cultural and precious heritage of Khiva, ancient monuments, that play a main role in 2500 years of history of Khiva, is mainly brought.

Key Words: Ichan Kala, Deshan Kala, architectural monument, kheyvaq well, gates.

INTRODUCTION. One of the main tasks of each of us is to testify that the architecture and construction of the ancient cities of the world - the ancient civilizations of the world, such as Rome, Egypt, and Mesopotamia - show the progress of architecture and construction will not. Taking into account the special role of Khiva in the development of world culture, the 28th session of the UNESCO General Conference held in Paris in October-November 1995 adopted a resolution to celebrate the 2500th anniversary of Khiva worldwide. On October 20, 1997, the 2500-year anniversary of Khiva was widely celebrated [3]. "Ichan-Kala, considered as a miracle of Khiva, was recognized as the only reserve in Central Asia in 1967, and in December 1990 was included in UNESCO's list of world culture and heritage and the city was given the high status of "Khiva - an open-air museum city!" (Figure 1)

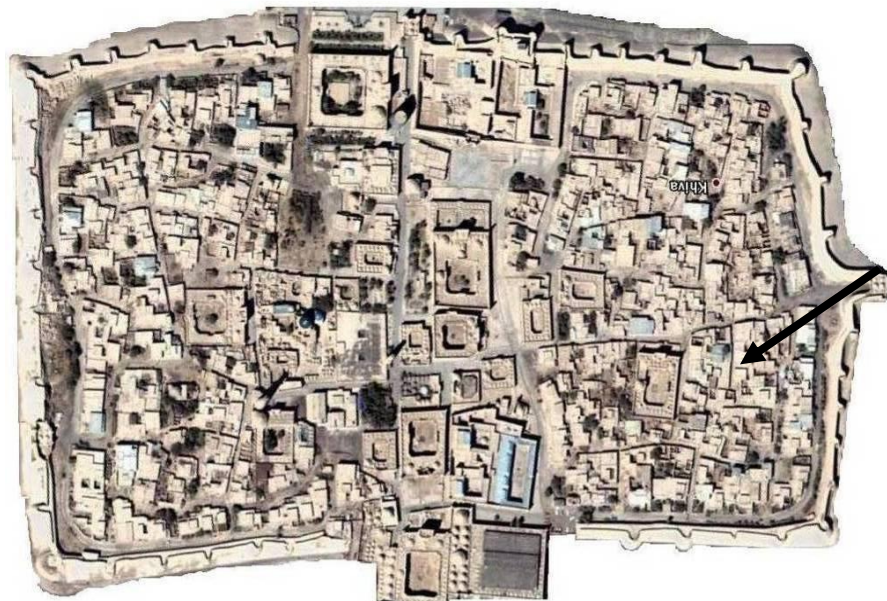


Figure 1. The photo of the location of the well “Kheyvaq” in the museum of Ichan Kala

As the First President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov said, "Khiva is the pearl of our beautiful country, a symbol of the art and creativity of our people, a miracle that embodies the eternity of our cultural and spiritual traditions".¹

The main elements of the ancient antique cities are the castle walls. Its main purpose is to protect the city from its external enemies. The nearly 3,000-year-old city of Khiva's Ichan Kala is a pinnacle of Central Asian fortresses with its elegance, high defense, and the rising culture



Figure 2. The wall of Ichan Kala

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The fortress has four gates, to the south is "TashDarvaza", to the north is a "BogchaDarvaza", to the east is a "PolvonDarvaza", and to the west is the "OtaDarvaza". During the Khiva khanate, there were several cemeteries around the fortress[2]. According to the old men, these graves were set up so that enemy soldiers, who understood the Muslim pillars in the invasion wars, could not pass through the tombs, that is, to attack the fortress from the place where the graves were located². (Figure 3).



Figure 3. The cemetery around the fortress wall of the Ichan Kala Museum-Reserve

¹I.A.Karimov "Xorezm – muqaddaszamin". K.Nurjonov. Urgench: Xorezm, 1998.

²A.Abdurasulov"Khiva".T: "Uzbekistan", 1997.

By the beginning of the 20th century, Ichan-Kala had become an inner city with a whole complex of architectural composition. The wall of the Deshan Kala was formed around the Ichan Kala. The town was inhabited by the poor, artisans, and small merchants.

In some parts of the fortress where thickness of the walls is up to 8-10 meters, three rooms were created alongside the length of the walls. In the 4 figure (b) an entrance to inner room, just like we said above, is shown in the north part of the fortress. Archeological research held because of 2500th anniversary of Khiva found large bricks related to antique period in the rooms.

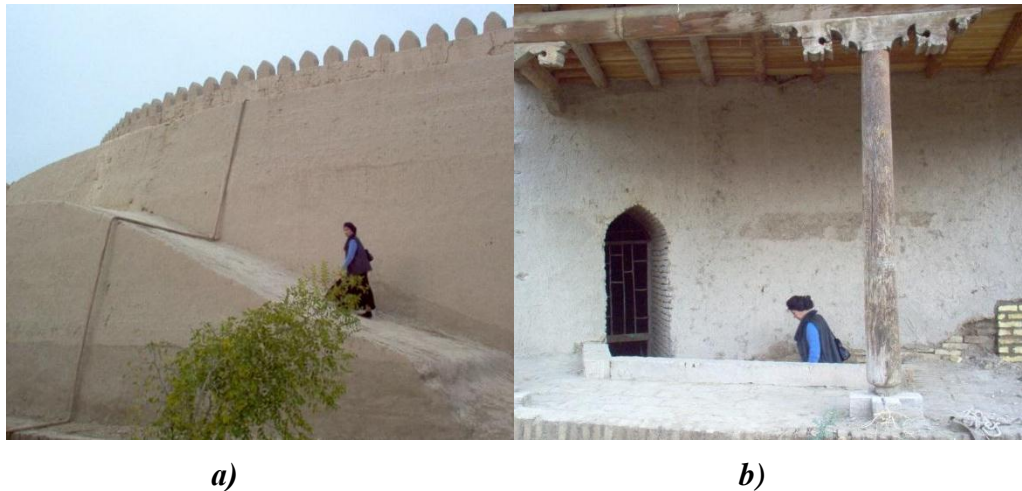


Figure 4. *The upstairs part of the fence, in ancient times, provided food and weapons to the warriors standing in chariots (a), and the room between the wall to the north of the wall (b)*

The interesting story of the Khiva historian Khudayberdi bin Awaz Muhammad is full of the ancient history of Khiva. He writes in his strange language: "Raml is another city in Khorezm. It was founded by Shem bin Nuh, now called kheyvaq. The town's former name is Raml, which means sandy. One day, Sam ibn Nuh was sleeping on this bed, and he dreamed that he was in the middle of three hundred lighted torches. He woke up happily. Then he wanted to leave a memory from himself and hesmoothed here and built a city. Another time he came here, he surrounded the place with walls and dug a well on the west side. In short, kheyvaq was said to had been destroyed and rebuilt many times".³

The bottom of the well is "hammer", the brick bottom is cylindrical, the middle part is rectangular, and the upper part is eight-sided. It is natural for every visitor to Khiva to ask, "Was there a well or had a castle been built before?" But I would say - wells first appeared.

The kheyvaq well is located in the northeastern part of Ichan-Kala near the Bogcha Darvaza, in the courtyard of a man known as the Madirim Crook. (Figure 6.)

³A.Abdurasulov"Khiva".T: "Uzbekistan", 1997.



Figure 6. Facade section of the ancient courtyard, where the "Kheyvaq" well is located and the old man standing next to the well

Every story has truth, first of all, because the thing needed for life is water, people gathered around the well and started to live together, then a city was built gradually. Later the city was surrounded by walls because of the changes of sovereigns and wars.

The bottom of the kheyvaq well is spun out of grooves. In this case, ancient craftsmen, who know how to tolerate moisture-resistant and groundwater intake as a rigid structure tree, can dig a well from 1.0 to 2.0 meters in the form of a cylinder (Figure 7).



Figure 7. The top part of the well was rebuilt with burnt bricks in the independent years, and the inner part was remained as it was before

According to the book “Khorezm”, written by R. Kalandarov and others: “The stone was laid in the bottom of the Khiva well in three layers. The bottom part is cylindrical, then rectangular and the upper part is octagonal. The former was covered with a dome.

In 2007, we researched the history and technical condition of the historic architectural monument of the kheyvaq well[4]. At that time, there was no water at a depth of 7.0 meters. The diameter of the well is measured - 1.0 m. The bottom of the well, up to 1m, from "rosy" - "squat" and the upper part is made of stones, with a rectangular Muslim brick near the ground level and the upper part of the well - 25.0 x 25.0 x 5cm.

The Ichan-Kala elders say that the eye of the well, which collects groundwater was covered with sand and soil afterwards. A man named “Sadullah oqsoqol” who once lived in the area (in the 1950s), wanted to dig the well, but the sand dug into the ground. Due to this, the well is not drilled and there is no water in the well as groundwater levels have been decreasing over the last two years.

In conclusion, Khiva saved its ancient beauty and rich in wonderful history, and a beautiful city just like the ones described in the Eastern legends. Ichan Kala and Deshan Kala are unique collections of architectural monuments of XIV-XX centuries in Central Asia. Natives appreciate and take care of them. They have been proud of those places. Because there are many historical and architectural monuments and old households. The constructors, who built the ancient monuments in Khiva, knew mathematics and geodesics as well as the astronomy. And they were the best at art of architecture and succeed in urbanization too.

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