

THE LATEST HISTORIOGRAPHY OF SAMARKAND UNIVERSITY - THE HEIR OF ULUGBEK'S HIGHER MADRASAH

Yusupov Rakhimjon Karimovich

Department of IT

Candidate of Historical Sciences,

Associate Professor of the Department of Sociology and Social Work
at Samarkand State University, Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Abstract— Abstract The article is devoted to a history of Samarkand State University, which is the direct successors and assigns of the High Madrasah based scholar and statesman Mirzo Ulugbek in 1420. On the basis of historiographic analysis, popular science works (books, brochures, scientific articles, collections and newspaper materials) of historians, source researchers and scholarly architects, published in the late XX - early XXI centuries, about the need to create an impeccable history of the university, proving to our people and to the world community that its historical roots are closely related to the Ulugbek madrasah

Keywords—Madrasah, Mirzo Ulugbek, "Ulugbek Academy", Amir Temurbek Sahibkiran, rasadkhona, observatory, mudarris, sextant

For the first time, the idea that Samarkand University is the direct heir and successor of the Higher Madrasah, founded by the great scientist and statesman Mirzo Ulugbek in Samarkand, was noted by the first President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov. He wrote about this in his congratulatory message to the participants of the international scientific conference dedicated to the 600th anniversary of Mirzo Ulugbek, which was celebrated in 1994 [1]

Furthermore by the decree of the President, the year was declared as the Year of Mirzo Ulugbek in Uzbekistan. The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan decided to celebrate the 600th anniversary of Mirzo Ulugbek, and an international conference and other scientific events dedicated to the 600th anniversary of Mirzo Ulugbek were held in Samarkand. In addition, according to the decision of UNESCO, the anniversary date of the birth of the astronomer scientist was widely celebrated at the international level. Solemn events were also held in Istanbul and Paris in honor of the 600th anniversary of Muhammad Taragay Mirzo Ulugbek.

The eldest son of Shahrukh Mirza, Ulugbek Mirzo was born on March 22, 1394 in the city of Sultaniya, in the

territory of the modern north of Iran, near the city of Hamadan. He was given the name Mohammed Taragay. This name was the name of the late father of Amir Temur, so the inner circle in the palace was ashamed to repeat the name of their grandfather, and as a sign of respect they treated him with the name Ulugbek, the meaning of which meant "great bey". Mirzo is a title— (prince, prince, originally from a royal family) is placed before the main name. For example, Mirzo Ulugbek. In the latter sense, the descendants of Amir Temur were called Mirzes.



Fig 1. Monument of Mirzo Ulugbek in Samarkand

His grandfather Temurbek was often called "Amir Temur". Amir - in Arabic "commander-in-chief", "ruler", "bey". In the late 10th - early 11th centuries, the "amir" were the rulers and commanders of different classes (Ayyubids, Mamluk states, etc.). In the Middle Ages, the khanates of Movarounnahr bore the titles "Amir ul-umaro", "Amiri Shikh". In the Golden Horde, then in Movarounnahr and Iran after the Mongol invasion, the leaders of the peoples were called amirs (which means bek or noyon). Amir Temur also received this title. The princes of the Timurid dynasty were called amirzoda ("son of the amir"), and "mirzo" was its abbreviated form.

In Samarkand, in preparation for the 600th anniversary of our great ancestor, many scientific articles and popular science publications were published. Among them, a series of articles entitled "Ulugbek Academy" stands out, the authors of which are academician Tashpulat Shirinkulov, rector of the Samarkand State Institute of Architecture and Construction, Professor Rustam Khalmurodov, Head of the Department of the Samarkand State Institute of Architecture and Construction, Professor Akhtam Urolov [2].

In their articles, they pointed out that Mirzo Ulugbek ruled Samarkand for 40 years (1409-1449), during which the city became a world-famous center of science, culture and education not only of Maverennahr, but of all of Central Asia. Sources indicate that in 1398 Amir Temur appointed Hamza ibn Ali as the tutor of his five-year-old grandson Ulugbek. In history, Hamza ibn Ali is widely known as Sheikh Azari (1382-1462), whose father was Ali Ibn Tusi, one of the leaders of the Sarbadars. This popular sarbadar movement arose in the 60s of the XIV century. in Maverennahr and was directed against the Mongol yoke. Ulugbek's next mentor was Amir Shokhmalik, one of the close associates of Mirzo Ulugbek's father Shahrukh Mirza. Amir Shokhmalik is a close adviser to Mirzo Ulugbek's father, the prince's mentor. Mentors were appointed by the rulers until the princes came of age. Such mentors were chosen from among the prominent figures of the Temurids state, noble aristocrats and military personnel who received the title of Amir.

Mirzo Ulugbek became the independent ruler of Maverennahr in 1411 and began to gather all scientists and scientists in his palace. Mirzo Ulugbek, who had an innate talent from a young age, was very concerned about scientists and poets. The talents brought up in Samarkand during the reign of Amir Temur were lost after the death of Sakhbikiran. Sahibkiran Amir Temur is an outstanding statesman who played a huge role in the development of the Uzbek statehood. In historical sources, Sahibkiran Amir Temur is also called "Lord of the World" and "Sohibi adl" - "Fair".

Attracting famous scientists to Samarkand, Mirzo Ulugbek set before them the task of collecting the works of great scientists of the East and West, translating them, writing the necessary scientific comments and developing important aspects of mathematics, geometry, medicine, history, astronomy and poetry. Soon, about a hundred scientists took refuge with Mirzo Ulugbek.

Continuing the work of his grandfather Amir Temur and Mirzo father Shah Rukh, who, were patrons of the sciences, arts and crafts, he has not only developed these areas, but also personally involved in science and education. Mirzo Ulugbek built several madrasahs, and then a rasadkhona (observatory), which is unique in the world where he conducted scientific research.



Fig 2. Observatory of Ulugbek in Samarkand

Madrasah comes from the Arabic word *darasa* (reading), which means school, and is a higher education institution that trains teachers of schools and madrasahs, civil servants - muftis, judges, social and exact sciences specialists such as *alam* (lawyer). In 1417, madrasahs were built in Bukhara, in 1420 in Samarkand and in 1433 in Gijduvan.

Rasad is a Persian word meaning to keep a close eye on what is on the road or in the distance. Literally in the sense of "rasadhona" is "house for observation." Astrologers have built observatories to accurately and accurately study the stars. We know from history that scholars such as Al-Khwarizmi (783-850) was the head of the Observatory of Al-Mamun in Baghdad, which was once the center of the Muslim world, Umar Khayyam (1040-1123) led the Isfahan Observatory her and Nosiriddin Tusi (1201-1274) headed the observatory in Magara. Speaking about the world famous observatory of Mirzo Ulugbek, it should be emphasized that its construction began in 1420 and was completed in 1429. The imposing observatory, which was built as a three-story building, hosted astrology classes along with practical research. Before the construction of the observatory, classes were held in the Mirzo Ulugbek madrasah. After the death of Mirzo Ulugbek, the observatory was not destroyed, but operated and flourished for another 150 years, according to sources; it functioned until the beginning of the 17th century.

Built in 1420 in Samarkand, the madrasah was two-storied, with fifty hijras (cells), each of which consisted of a bedroom, a study room and a storeroom. Mawlana Shamsuddin Muhammad Khawafi was appointed the first mudarris-rector of Ulugbek madrasah. The first lesson in Ulugbek madrasah was taught by Shamsuddin Muhammad Khawafi. In the madrasah, various sciences were taught by such prominent medieval scholars as Kazizade Rumi, Giyasiddin Jamshid Kashani, Mirzo Ulugbek and his student Alauddin Ali Kushchi. The great scientist and teacher of Ulugbek Kazizade Rumi, known as "Plato of his time" (born in 1360 in Rum (now Bursa, Turkey)). He died in 1437 in Samarkand. In addition to them, many more astronomers and mathematicians gathered in Smarkand. According to sources, the population of Samarkand during this period was 150,000 people [3].



Fig 3. Higher madrasah of Mirzo Ulugbek in the city of Samarkand

At the observatory, together with Ulugbek, Ghiyasiddin Jamshid Kashani conducted scientific research and observations. At the invitation of Mirzo Ulugbek, Ghiyasiddin Jamshid ibn Masud, who left after the death of Sahibkiran, arrived in Samarkand in 1417 and lived in this city until the end of his life until 1429. The main instrument of the observatory, the sextant, was built under the direction of Ghiyasiddin Jamshid. This sextant was the largest known astronomical goniometric instrument in the East [4].

Our contemporary and well-known Samarkand archaeologist, Amriddin Berdimurodov made a huge contribution to the modern historiography of madrasahs of the time of Mirzo Ulugbek. The scientist studied the works of Academician Dilorom Yusupova, a prominent historian and source expert in this area, and tried to explain in more detail why this scientific school, founded by Mirzo Ulugbek, achieved such great success, especially in astronomy.

Based on the above, we can conclude that from the first years of independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan, it was in Samarkand that significant opinions began to be expressed about the higher school or the academy of Mirzo Ulugbek, about the history of his madrasah and observatory.

Indeed, the scientific works of academician Kari Niyazi, who studied the scientific heritage and activities of Mirzo Ulugbek in the 60s of the last century, are known. In his writings, Kari Niyazi described in detail the creation of the "Ulugbek Astronomical School" in Samarkand [5], also, in the last quarter of the last century, notable historians Buriboy Akhmedov [6] and Ashraf Akhmedov [7] in their writings, having studied the significance of the academic school of Ulugbek, showed that it can be called the Academy of the time. The Samarkand Academy 250 years ago was recognized by the great French philosopher, writer and historian Voltaire (1694-1778), who wrote: "In Samarkand, Ulugbek founded the Academy. Having specified the measurement of the globe and participating in the compilation of astronomical tables" [8].

Not only historians, but also Samarkand architects and scientists wrote a large-scale work about the Samarkand astronomical school, which played a significant role in the

development of not only astronomy, but also other branches of science. For example, A. Uralov and M. Khodzikhhanov, in their book dedicated to the educational activities of Mirzo Ulugbek, investigate the latest aspects of the era of "Muslim Renaissance" in Maverennahr and Turkestan [9]. At the observatory, Ulugbek created a large library, where more than fifteen thousand books were kept in almost all branches of science.

In modern historiography of the latest period, a particularly valuable research is the popular scientific publication of Academician Boturkhon Valikhodzhaev entitled "Excerpts from the history of higher education - higher madrasah - in Samarkand" [10]. This work of the academician claims that according to historical sources and results of scientific research, Samarkand State University is the direct heir and successor of the Higher Madrasah, founded by the great scientist and statesman Mirzo Ulugbek in Samarkand. It should be noted that this study of Academician Boturkhon Valikhodzhaev was recognized by foreign scientists, especially Turkish and Iranian specialists. This book contains information that the first lesson in the Mirzo Ulugbek madrasah was conducted by Shamsiddin Muhammad Khafoviy on September 21, 1420. Mirzo Ulugbek and Kazizade Rumi attended the lecture with the participation of more than 90 listeners.

The rich material published in the book shows that modern educational institutions did not appear spontaneously, but had a long historical tradition. The chief editor of this work was the rector of Samarkand State University, professor R.I. Khalmurodov. This scientific work is a creative result of the new thinking of the period of independence, requiring research work, and deserves special attention from the point of view of our national ideology today.

Having written about Samarkand historians, archaeologists, architects, one cannot fail to mention the research work of another scientist historian Komilkhon Kattaev "History of madrasah and development of science in Samarkand", which contains valuable information about the history of 55 madrasah in Samarkand [11]. The author describes the history of the creation of madrasahs with their exact locations, reveals the education system and the principles of their work using ancient sources. At the same time, the scientist's work also includes some problematic issues in the field of historiography. For example, the author in his research has reliably proved that our country has long been a hotbed of science and education. The fact that in almost all regions of our country there are monuments of educational institutions-madrasahs is a vivid confirmation of this.

It should be noted that when Shavkat Mirziyoyev began to lead the Samarkand region in 2001, he instructed to develop the Arkand State University itself according to modern requirements to create an impeccable history of the university, proving to our people and the world community that its historical roots are closely related to the Ulugbek madrasah. After that, the leadership of the Arkand State



University Sam and a group of city scientists intensified research on the history of the university, and its contribution to the development of domestic and world science, the education system in Samarkand.

Similarly, in the historiography of new Uzbekistan, historians [12], scientists [13], international experts [14] proudly note that the cornerstone of the present Samarkand State University is that it is the direct heir to the medieval madrasah of Mirzo Ulugbek. On June 26, 2020, the Samarkand Regional Kengash (Council) of People's Deputies supported the proposal of scientists and the general public on the widespread celebration in the fall of 2020 of the 600th anniversary of Samarkand State University. In preparation for the celebrations, in order to familiarize the world community with the historical roots and centuries-old traditions of continuity in the education of the oldest university in Uzbekistan, an international scientific online conference was organized on the topic "Samarkand State University, the heir to Ulugbek madrasah."

In this connection, an interview with Professor Rustam Khalmurodov, a member of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis and the rector of Samarkand State University, was published in the issue of the Narodnoye Slovo newspaper on July 3, 2020 on the topic: "The river of civilization still flows smoothly. A new renaissance of science begins in Uzbekistan" [15]. Indeed, it focuses on the most pressing issues that inspire national pride for our people, especially among young people, which inspires respect for our glorious history and love of science. This is evidenced by the fact that according to the available data, at the suggestion of Sultan Mehmet Fotikh in the years 1464-1474, one of the most talented students of Mirzo Ulugbek, the outstanding astronomer Ali Kushchi, taught at the Aya Sofia madrasah in Turkey.

Alauddin Ali Kushchi, he once taught at the Mirzo Ulugbek madrasah in Samarkand, studied and researched celestial bodies and mathematics. This means that the roots of our modern education go back to a deep history. And we can come to the conclusion that the scientists of the 15th century who lectured in prestigious foreign educational centers were formed in various madrasahs operating in the ancient land of Uzbekistan.

Consequently, Samarkand State University is still one of the oldest higher educational institutions and centers of science in our country. In accordance with the concept of the country's higher education system development until 2030, it is planned to make this university the flagship of the country's higher educational institutions and include it in the list of the 500 best universities in the world. Indeed, according to history and sources, the madrasah-university system can become the basis for the continuous continuation of education on the land of Samarkand over time. Samarkand State University, which is the spiritual heritage of Mirzo Ulugbek, has its place in the development of science in Central Asia. Restoring the history of development The Arcand State University itself, as the successor of the Mirzo Ulugbek Academy, will be a tribute to

our great ancestor and the basis for the further growth of the international authority of the higher education system of our country.

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