

**"THE HISTORY OF NEGLECTED GRAVESTONES IN FORISH DISTRICT,
JIZZAKH REGION"**

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Abstract: This article is a sample of research prepared on a topical topic, based on the information obtained as a result of a field trip based on reliable sources about the ancient history of the area, which is full of ancient stone inscriptions and inscriptions, known among the people as "NORVON OTA", located in one of the remote foothills of the Forish district of the Jizzakh region, one of the ancient monuments that speaks of the disappearing rich material and spiritual life of our country.

Keywords: Abandoned stone inscriptions, mosque, history of the origin of the name "Norvonota", ancient stone inscriptions, local legends.

Uzbekistan is a very paradise-like country. It has its own history and past, and there are many places whose history has not yet been determined. Each region has historical and cultural heritage and is being preserved, including Bukhara, Samarkand, Khorezm, Kashkadarya, Surkhandarya, Khiva, Namangan, Tashkent and many other places. Some of them have been reconstructed, some have been restored, and some have been conserved because they could not be reconstructed. This is one of the important steps to preserve the monuments that have not lost their appearance for centuries as a valuable heritage for future generations. At present, there are still undiscovered historical sites in the Forish district of Jizzakh region. The information about one historical site that we would like to bring to your attention was provided by elders among the local population who were directly aware of these events and by officials related to this site. In addition, information was obtained from some historical sources. We will not be mistaken if we say that this shrine is a real open-air find, which is called "Narvon Ota" by the local population. Many historical events have taken place in this shrine, and we learned about this information from conversations with local residents after visiting a village that has been preserved just near this shrine. According to the great and enlightened ancestors and mothers, most of the events that took place here date back to the era of Amir Temur and Shaybani-Ikhans (VII-VII centuries). We also heard other legends and stories from some of them, and we were very surprised. Surprisingly, the history of this shrine dates back to the history of the Prophets. The secrets and history of this shrine, which is full of events that have never been seen or heard of, have not yet been revealed. It is said that this shrine used to be a large cemetery. If we come to its history, it is said that in ancient times there was no place to bury the dead who died in wars and battles, and this shrine was placed in its place. According to the elderly residents of Narvan, people who were clean and pure in their prayers and who earned the respect of the people were buried in the cemetery of the shrine, and in some places there are also graves that were previously buried in a different state. There were also people who did not accept the grave and threw it to the surface of the earth. According to the story, they put the corpse in the grave and tied it with large stones to prevent the corpse from coming to the surface of the earth. In other words, such stories and

"legends" are told about this shrine at this time. Basically, it is a hilly place located on a hill, and as you walk along the path, the trees on both sides seem to greet you with a bow, and the whisper of the water flowing from the streams is very pleasant to the ear. The mausoleum located on the hill is simple and not decorated with any decorations, its appearance is very simple and unpretentious. It took a long time to reach this mausoleum, in a sense, climbing this hill with stairs was a little difficult. When you reach the mausoleum, the surrounding hills and the sunlight give a wonderful shine to the eyes in the early morning. The neighborhood One of the enlightened ones told a story like this: "Once upon a time, there was a saint. In a village, an old woman had a son who was the only one who had gone to Bukhara to study at a madrasa. Unfortunately, after a while, there was no news or letter from the old woman's son. The old woman was worried and thought that her son had passed away, and he had not come back. In order to have this son recited for her son, she went to this saint to make a loaf of bread with butter. Then the saint asked what the purpose was and what he was doing for it. Then the old woman told the story of what had happened and prayed for those who had recited. The old woman left a loaf of bread for the sheikh to eat, took a pinch from one end and ate it, then the old woman returned home and the bread reached Bukhara before it reached her home. Look at the power of God, three days later her son arrived home. The old woman looked at her son and cried and said, He says, "My son, I thought you were dead, and I told you the truth."

According to legend, an old sheikh lived in this place. One day, while he was cooking food in a small pot, Shaybani Khan and his soldiers, who were on their way to Samarkand, stopped here. The warriors asked the sheikh if he had any more food and said that it would not be enough for so many people. When the sheikh said that this food would be enough for everyone, they mocked him and even drove him into a frenzy. When all the soldiers finished eating, they were surprised to see that there was still food left in the pot. The commander of the soldiers looked at the sheikh and said that there was no room for so many people in your "chamber", where will we spend the night? The sheikh replied that he did not hurry, there was enough room for everyone, and also asked where we could get fodder for them, since our horses were hungry. The sheikh replied that these two sacks of barley would easily be enough for your horses. The soldiers woke up in the morning, their heads heavy with the events of the previous day, their minds filled with confusion over the actions of the sheikh, who had acted like Khojai Khizir, and all the warriors gathered to ask for forgiveness for their rudeness and to receive blessings from the sheikh. The sheikh, in turn, advised them to be patient and blessed them.

Of course, there are several other stories about this place, such as Hazrat Muhammad Muqim Babakhoja Sheikh sitting in the cave here, serving the orders of his father, and praying obediently, and being honored by the conversations of Hazrat Khizr Alayhissallam. When the villagers went to observe this sheikh, the sheikh noticed this and entered the cave in this place and disappeared. There was a main passage in front of the cave, but this passage was later closed, and in recent years this cave was reopened from the top of the hill, that is, by local residents.

The staircase you see in this picture 1 was the entrance to the cave at the main entrance. As we mentioned above, this passage was closed over the years. Gradually, over the years, older people who left the population dug a hole in the tomb, from where various coins, religious books in Arabic script and other similar items were found. In addition, when we asked the representatives of the population where the items found in that basement are currently stored, they did not answer, we only received one answer. They say that the items found were stored in a box placed at the entrance to the prayer room in the shrine, but at present we have witnessed that there are no items found in this box. There are also conclusions that for some reason the items were taken away, destroyed, burned, or thrown away.

To date, there is a porch at the entrance to the interior of this tomb, and then a passage leading to

a cave inside. There is also a separate tomb located above the tomb, and it is interpreted that the main tomb is in that place



Figure 1. Front view of the mausoleum, 2015.

was made, but if you look at it based on the sources, it turns out that this is incorrect information. The interior of the tomb is located at a depth of about 2.5 meters, and its width is 1.80 meters. In the interior, we can see 2 simple stones and various hollow and porous places. This tomb has many unique aspects. Apart from this, the tomb does not provide any other information about the aforementioned saint Qori Fayz. It is interesting that one of the luminaries of the neighborhood mentioned that there are many more secrets and crafts in this tomb that we do not know about. Undiscovered history - the future generation that is being renewed can work in this field right now and show their skills. As you can see, the interior and exterior of the tomb are reflected in the pictures, in some places small granular pits, and in some places larger porous places are reflected.



Figure 2. Interior view of the mausoleum, basement, 2023

When we went around the area and descended to a lower level of the mausoleum, we saw some amazing stones. Looking at these stones, we thought they were stones that had been preserved for centuries. However, these stones are very similar in shape to stones from the era of Amir Timur.



Figure 3. A tombstone named Gultash



Figure 4. A tombstone named Besiktas.

The unique names of both stones are surprising, we asked the elders about why they got such names, their history and got a satisfactory answer. Beshiktash has a wonderful appearance, surprisingly, the tooth under this stone also interested us. The reason is that the stone is 14 cm thick and is placed under this Beshiktash, it is almost the same in length, and what is even more surprising is that these stones have their own snakes that guard them. The snakes do not harm anyone, but if someone goes there and interferes with the stones too much, the snakes will not be silent. That is, they give a wonderful response to these people. A 14 cm thick black stone is placed at the bottom as a foundation. When it reaches the surface, it is 14 cm high, its total length is 138 cm, and its width is 31 cm. The stone is mainly cradle-shaped, blue in color, and there are inscriptions in Arabic script on both sides, as mentioned above. Both stones are located side by side. The next stone is blue in color, cradle-shaped, and decorated with very beautiful patterns around it. And the last stone that gives us information is the chest stone, which is a rectangular box-shaped stone, with patterns written in the Arabic alphabet on the top, and there are carved decorations similar to the patterns on the flower stone on both sides. It is 150 cm long, 25.5 cm high, and 27 cm wide. It was most likely determined that there was a grave under the stone. The tombstone is important because if the inscriptions on it are determined, the findings will be clarified, and this is considered an achievement in a major scientific expedition. These stones have not been moved from one place to another, the weight of the stone and its history interest people. After all, the Arabic inscriptions and carved patterns on this stone amaze people. In addition, there are other stones, which are much smaller in size than these stones and do not have such patterns. But we can see that these stones also have inscriptions in Arabic script.



Figure 5. Besiktas and its Arabic inscriptions.

Other stones found are also very interesting. Some people have asked about these stones but have not tried to discover their history.



Figure 6. Remaining stones around the tomb, with inscriptions in Arabic script on them. 2023

It is clear that the stones you see have been neglected for a long time without conservation. As we mentioned above, there are also Arabic inscriptions on them. However, these inscriptions are different from the inscriptions on the large stones. The inscriptions on the large stones seem to be written twice in two layers, but in the inscriptions in Figure 6, we can see a simple engraving.



Figure 7. One of the stones with Arabic inscriptions.

Basically, the information about the stones mentioned above was obtained from representatives of the population and some sources, and its historical significance and the fact that it is a valuable heritage amaze people.

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