

## Study of Stone Period Monuments (On the Example of the Medium Zerafshan OAS)

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**Annotation:** This article is devoted to the history of the discovery of one of the archaeological cultures of the Neolithic era - Sazagan culture, studied in the territory of Central Zarafshan and notes the special services of the M. Jurakulov. The Sazagan culture was in cultural contact with the cultural communities of Kaltaminar, Central Fergana, Ustyurt, which were studied in Uzbekistan and Gissar in Tajikistan. At the same time, the Middle Zarafshan region has been inhabited by people since the Paleolithic era, and later periods, in particular the Sazagan Neolithic communities, were also interpreted as belonging to the local indigenous population due to the specifics of their material culture.

**Key words and phrases:** Sazagan, Neolith, microlithic, stone industry, Middle Zarafshan.

On the northern slopes of the Qoratepa mountain massif in the Middle Zarafshan oasis, monuments of Neolithic communities have been found and studied in a number of cases. This material culture is introduced into science under the name "Sazagan culture". The Sazagan 1 monument was opened by O. Ibragimov in 1966 and is located 27 km from Samarkand. found on the Sazagonsoy slope in the distance. In the same year, research work on the monument was carried out by D.N. Lev. Remains of a culture layer have been identified from a terraced carved terrace here [Lev D.N. 1970. C. 21.]. This place was studied by DN Lev and MJ Jurakulov in 1967-1968. As a result of excavations carried out in 1971-1977, an area of 96 m<sup>2</sup> was inspected and cultural strata were identified. Initially, D.N. Lev enumerated the Sazagan 1 site with the Neolithic period and found it to be specific to the Kaltaminor culture. As a result of further research, the materials of the monuments were studied statistically and comparatively by M. Jurakulov and compared with the materials of Kaltaminor [Djurakulov M.D. 1972. C. 25; Djurakulov M.D. 1983. C. 12.]. As a result, it was found that the Sazagan 1 industry was highly developed with a high level of microlithoid, not plate-like stone weapons. Among the finds of Sazagan there are elements that connect it with the Late Paleolithic site of Samarkand.

In 1966, Sazagan 2 site was found. It is located at the top of Sazagonsay, on the left bank of the terrace. As a result of excavations carried out by the Department of Archeology of SamSU in 1971-1982 under the leadership of M.J. Jurakulov, cultural layers in the area of 800 m<sup>2</sup> were discovered and many archeological materials were obtained. In addition to stone objects, bone weapons, faunistic remains, jewelry, pottery and for the first time craniological materials were found [Djurakulov M.D. 1981. C. 41; Djurakulov M.D. 1983. C. 25]. The materials obtained are similar to those of Sazagan 1, but differ in number. Here were found some new types of weapons (geometrically shaped items). Pottery, on the other hand, is often of the post-Neolithic period.

So far, no residential remains have been found in the Sazagan monuments. However, the diameter of the Sazagan 2 space is 3.85x3.65 m. The area where the stone was collected was identified [Djurakulov M.D., Avanesova N.A. 1988. C. 499.]. In 1988, the remains of stone structures were also found at Jangal 1. It is oval in shape, measuring 4x4.5 m, and is made of large (25x35 cm) cut stone. The height of some parts of this structure reaches 40-45 cm [Kholmatov N.U. 1988. C. 19.]. Such large slabs of stone were also found in Sazagan 2 [Djurakulov M.D. 1984a. C. 5.]. But it's hard to say for sure about their character. These structures can be the foundation of houses made of wood, reed or stone. The largest of these stone platforms is 40 m. sq. m. [Korobkova G.F. 1977. C. 137-138]. Such housing remnants suggest that there was a certain degree of settlement. The presence of stone platforms in the Sazagan monuments, as in the Tutkavul area of Southern Tajikistan, and the presence of garbage dumps around them confirm the above idea. These include pottery fragments, mammalian bone remains, and h. were found [Djurakulov M.D., Avanesova N.A. 1988. C. 499.].

The site of Jangal 1 is located on the slope of Egriqulsoy, adjacent to Sazagonsay, and was studied by the SamSU archeological expedition from 1986 to 1989. The main stone industry belongs to the Sazagan

ISSN 2722-0672 (online), <https://pssh.umsida.ac.id>. Published by Universitas Muhammadiyah Sidoarjo

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culture with its character and characteristics [Kholmatov N.U. 1988. C. 19.].

Tepakul 3 site is located on the left bank of Tepakolsoy and was explored by the seasonal SamSU archeological expedition in 1989-1996. Analysis of stone tools and pottery found in the area showed that they belonged to the Sazagon culture [Jurakulov MD, Kholmatov N.U. 1997. B. 7.].

Tepakul 4 site is located on the shore of the lake, which is approximately 250-300 meters upstream from Tepakul 3 site along the riverbed. The monument is an archeological object that was studied and acquired during 1996-2004. 2000. B. 4-14.].

Achilgor site is located on the side of Sazagonsay, more precisely, at the top of Sazagon 2 Neolithic site, which has been studied by the SamSU archeological group since 2004. Archaic weapons, disc-shaped large scrapers, triangular rock carvings, ponasi-shaped weapons found in the site allow us to conclude that the lower cultural layer of the space is a Mesolithic, the upper cultural layers of pottery are monuments of the Neolithic community [Kholmatov N.U. 2006. B. 220-225.].

As mentioned above, more than 30 sites of primitive human traces have been identified in the area, but no archeological excavations have been carried out on them yet.

Analysis of geomorphological and paleogeographic data shows that some of the sites in Qoratepa were deserted and were the main settlements of the population, which in one way or another developed the natural resources of the adjacent areas.

Another Neolithic monument in the Zarafshan valley is located 18 km south of Samarkand on the northern branches of the Zarafshan mountain range, on the Ohalik mountain in the Qoratepa massif. The monument is located under a rocky terrace called Shohtosh in the local language. It is located on the right bank of the marble, 6-7 m above the water level. located at an altitude of.

The area of the porch is 4x5 m. Three cultural layers were found in this area, ranging in thickness from 20 cm to 1 m. However, nothing was found from the first layer other than some of the pottery typical of recent times. In the second layer, it is noted that the Andronovo period pottery is mixed with Neolithic period materials. Coal and kiln remnants have also been identified in this layer. Only Neolithic artifacts were found in the third cultural layer of the monument. Retouched plates and microplates, some microcracks, cutters, retouched chips, nuclei, and bone weapons were found in these layers. Culturally, Ohalik materials are unique to Sazaghan culture [Grechkina T.Yu. 1986. S. 7-10; Grechkina T.Yu. 1993. S. 1-22].

In 2019, N. "Sazagon culture and its role in the Neolithic period of Uzbekistan" by Kholmatov [Kholmatov N.U. 2019. 72 p.] Defense of the doctoral dissertation, M.J. He served as one of the great works that Jurakulov did as a teacher. This was undoubtedly important in the study and research of Sazaghan culture in archeology. At the same time, Samarkand State University has a strong tradition of teacher-student.

It can be said that every word of Mavlon Jurakulov, a selfless scientist, a kind teacher, a holy man, who created a school of humility, patience and endurance, sought out the unique riches of our country's history from the depths of the earth and filled the world of science with beauty, is light. . This light is as warm as the sun, as bright as the lamp of knowledge and enlightenment, and will forever illuminate the building of the scientific and pedagogical school created by the teacher.

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ISSN 2722-0672 (online), <https://pssh.umsida.ac.id>. Published by Universitas Muhammadiyah Sidoarjo

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Proceedings of the International Conference on Innovation, Integration and Modern Education (ICIIME 2022)

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