

HISTORICAL SCIENCES

THE CITY OF THE FORT OF POWER

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Abstract

From the earliest times, only Azerbaijanis lived in the "Old" and "New Shusha" areas of the city of Shusha. Residential quarters were built around the Shusha fortress and the fortress was declared the capital of the Karabakh Khanate. Shusha Castle surrounds the historical center of the city. The castle, which has three main gates (Ganja, Irvan and Agoglan), is mentioned in all general plans of Shusha drawn in the 19th century. During the construction of the Shusha fortress, which is included in the reserve list of UNESCO, river stone, egg yolk and lime solution were used. A bridge with high architectural qualities was built near it, connecting the castle with the outside world.

Keywords: Karabakh, Shusha, castle, UNESCO, mosque, monument

The city of Shusha, founded in 1752 by Karabakh Khan Panahali, was one of the historical and cultural centers that played an important role in the social and political life of Azerbaijan. Shusha is located at an altitude of 1400-1800 meters above sea level, surrounded by Baggyran, Saribaba, Kirs, Murov and Kirkhiz. As a result of the Armenian military aggression, Shusha was occupied on May 8, 1992, and after that, the destruction of the existing historical and cultural heritage of our people was started in the city. The destruction of historical monuments and looting of cultural heritage in Karabakh and surrounding regions was actually aimed at destroying the cultural identity of Azerbaijanis in these areas. Targeting cultural heritage is another war crime.

National leader Heydar Aliyev said about Shusha: "Shusha is a dear city, a dear land, a dear fortress, a dear monument, not only for the people of Shusha, but for all Azerbaijanis, for every citizen who loves his homeland and nation" (1). Shusha is an area rich in historical and cultural monuments, literature, art and music. The city of Shusha, which has such a colorful character, is also received with interest by a number of scientists of the world. The city is one of our homelands with ancient and unique architectural monuments, embodying the antiquity of our people and our rich cultural heritage.

During the occupation of Shusha, all the historical-cultural, architectural monuments, sacred religious places belonging to Azerbaijan were destroyed by Armenian vandals. Finally, on November 8, 2020, Shusha was liberated from enemy occupation as a result of the leadership of Supreme Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev and the efforts of our victorious army. Reconstruction and restoration works were started in Shusha immediately after liberation from occupation. An example of this can be given by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation's repair, restoration and reconstruction of the museum-mausoleum complex of the great Azerbaijani

poet and public figure Molla Panah Vagif in Shusha in a short period of time.

In the past, world-famous scientists, travelers and artists traveled to Shusha and expressed interesting ideas. Scientist R. Burter said: "Shusha has stone buildings like European cities, wide streets with stone floors, beautiful remains of baths reminiscent of ancient Roman baths, which are not found elsewhere in the Caucasus" (2). Shusha is the historical cultural center of Azerbaijan, the main crown of Karabakh and an ancient city of military strategic importance. "There are 300 historical monuments, 550 ancient residential buildings, 870 meters long restored fortress walls in the 350-hectare reserve zone in Shusha. 23 of the historical monuments are republican (Isa spring, Heydar's tomb, Nateva's house, Two-story caravanserai, Govhar Aga mosque, Lower Govhar Aga mosque, mansion complex of Mehmandarovs: mosque, small residential house, large residential house, etc.) and one of world importance (Shusha Historical-Architectural Reserve) is considered a monument. Most of the monuments were built in the 18th-19th centuries. Every house, street, magnificent fortress walls, mosques, towering minarets, remains of magnificent castles in Shusha tell about our past. There are 17 neighborhoods in Shusha. These are: Gurdlar, Seyidli, Julfalar, Kuylug, Chukhur, Fourdlar Gurdu, Haji Yusifli, Four Chinar, Çöl Gala, Mardinli, Saatli, Kocharli, Mamayi, Khoja Marjanli, Demirchi, Hamam Gabaghi and Taza quarter. Each neighborhood has a separate bath, mosque, spring, etc. there are buildings.

At one time in Shusha there was the State Drama Theater, the State Museums of Karabakh History and the History of Shusha City, the memorial museums of Uzeyir Hajibeyov, Bulbul, Mir Mohsen Navvab, a branch of the Azerbaijan Carpet State Museum, the State Art Gallery, 4 technical schools, 2 institute branches, secondary and secondary music schools, li-

braries were functioning. In addition, there are 2 sanatoriums, home museums of prominent artists, a tourist base with 70 seats, a boarding school with 1200 seats, etc. There was a. The number of monuments in Shusha is as follows: 1 Kurgan, 1 Stone box graves, 1 Cave camp, 2 Necropolis, 1 Castle, 2 Palace, 1 Horoscope, 3 Tombs, 2 Mansions, 74 houses of historical figures, 12 Mosques, 1 Mosque-madrassa, 1 Madrasah, 2 Mosque-caravanserai, 4 Caravanserai, 24 Springs, 1 Ganja gate, 2 Temples, 2 Baths, 1 "Realni school" building, 1 Hospital building, 1 Residential building, 1 Girls' school, 67 Residential houses, 1 Reservoir, 1 Nunnery, 1 Administrative building, 1 Mill, 3 Churches (3; 51-53).

From the earliest times, only Azerbaijanis lived in the "Old" and "New Shusha" areas of the city of Shusha. Residential quarters were built around the Shusha fortress and the fortress was declared the capital of the Karabakh Khanate. Shusha Castle surrounds the historical center of the city. The castle, which has three main gates (Ganja, Iravan and Agoglan), is mentioned in all general plans of Shusha drawn in the 19th century. River stone, egg yolk and lime solution were used during the construction of Shusha Castle, which is included in the reserve list of UNESCO. A bridge with high architectural qualities was built near it, connecting the castle with the outside world. This bridge is also known as the Castle Bridge. Panah Khan gave his consent for the construction of the fort after consulting the clergy, officials and local residents. The prime minister of the Karabakh Khanate, historian Mirza Jamal Javanshir Karabakh, said: "In order to build a new fortress, Panah Khan, after much consultation with officials, religious figures and well-known local residents of Karabakh, decided that we should build a fortress in the mountains, in a strong and impassable place. Let's build an eternal and indestructible fortress, so that even a strong enemy cannot besiege it. One side of the fortress should always be open to the people in the mountains, and our communication with the districts should not be interrupted (even for a moment). After thoroughly studying the surroundings, the guides sent by the Khan returned with the good news and told him that there was no running water except for two or three springs inside the newly built fortress. They dug wells in the suspected places and plenty of water came out of these wells. This news was delivered to Panah Khan. Khan came here with his close people, got acquainted with the place, and persistently built the castle" (4, 57).

The root of theater art in Azerbaijan is closely related to the people's activities, festive and wedding traditions, and everyday life. When talking about Azerbaijani theater, we should not forget the Shusha State Kolkhov and State Farm Theater, which was established in Shusha in 1938. Rich in cultural and historical monuments, Shusha is a place where not only Azerbaijani, but also Eastern and European cultures meet. Literary preparations that started with Shabih plays played a big role in the creation of the national theater. Corresponding member of ANAS, art critic Ingilab Karimov wrote in his book "History and Development Stages of Azerbaijani Professional Theater": "In 1848 in Shusha, in 1851 in Lankaran, in 1857-1858 in Shamakhi... importance" resulted in the creation of a national theater

in Azerbaijan (5, 74). In 1943, the theater building was named after the genius composer Uzeyir Hajibeyov and was organized as the Shusha State Musical Drama Theater. The Shusha State Musical Drama Theater stopped its activity in 1949, and later, thanks to the efforts of local theater lovers, this temple continued to operate under the name of People's Theater. On May 11, 1990, by the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the theater restored its name and resumed its activities as the Shusha State Musical Drama Theater. But it didn't take long. In 1992, Shusha was invaded by Armenian vandals. As a result, the theater was forced to move to Baku. Finally, Shusha was freed from occupation by our brave army on November 8, 2020. In addition to the theater building in our Shusha, restoration and reconstruction works are already underway in other cultural and historical monuments. After Shusha's release, the movie "Dönüş" dedicated to Shusha State Musical Drama Theater was shot.

In 1752, when the city of Shusha was built, a residence for Panah Khan and his family was built at the same time as the fortress walls. Currently, the facade walls of Panah Khan's palace, which is an important architectural monument of the country, are left, and the inner walls have been demolished. Most of the palace was destroyed by the Armenians, only the outer walls, a part of the tower, and the ceiling of the entrance remained intact. "The palace, which has a rectangular shape, has defense towers placed at its four corners, and appropriate rooms have been built inside. The architectural features of the Shahbulag castle had an impact on the volume, space and layout of the palace" (6).

The Govhar Agha Mosque, which is considered one of the main symbols of Shusha, was built by the order of Govhar Agha, the daughter of Ibrahim Khan. The architect of the mosque was Karbalayi Safikhan from Karabakh. Later, it was known as Ashagi Govhar Agha Mosque among the people of Shusha. Both the Lower Govhar Agha Mosque and the Upper Govhar Agha Mosque are considered among the most magnificent and rare pearls of the East. According to the opinion of the historian Ibrahim Zeynalov, "there is a three-arched balcony on the northern facade of the Ikiyaruslu mosque. Its middle arch, unlike its semicircular side arches, is square, which gives the building a special beauty. That arch rising along the main facade above the side arches marks the front entrance of the mosque. The minarets of this building, which differs from the Yukhari Govhar Agha Mosque in some features, do not cover the main facade, but the second facade, which is located in the south and opens to the small Qapan square. The main entrance of the Lower Govhar Agha Mosque is located in the northwest direction. Its axis is similar to the axis of the entrance of the madrasa building located opposite. According to the appearance of the mosque, Yukhari Govhar Agha is a reduced form of the mosque complex. The main facade of the Lower Govhar Agha Mosque is surrounded by the area created as a result of the widening of the street. The prayer hall of Ashagi Govhar Agha Mosque is covered with a dome and five domes. This is the main characteristic of that building. One of the main aspects of the mosque's

architectural style is the location of the mihrab decorated with special professionalism and stalactites. On the sides of the second floor of the mosque, there are balconies intended for women. This shows its architectural richness" (7). During the occupation of Shusha in 1992, Ashagi Govhar Agha Mosque was subjected to Armenian brutality and the mosque was seriously damaged. However, the monument has been partially preserved.

Many types of medicinal plants can be found in Shusha, which has rich vegetation. "Museum of Medicinal Plants" operated in Shusha's Taza quarter, in the mosque building belonging to Karim Bey Mehmandarov. The opening of the museum is considered a successful achievement for nature conservation. "Museum of medicinal plants" is also called "Green pharmacy museum". Treatment with medicinal plants in Shusha is connected with the name of Karim Bey Mehmandarov. That is why the "Green pharmacy museum" was opened in the complex of Karim Bey Mehmandarov. In the museum, besides plants, there are also dishes used in medicine, copper havangdasta, grill, chest, glass containers for preparing medicine, rose bowl, etc. was displayed. The information about Shusha's medical personnel Mirza Sadiq, Mirza Javad, Mirza Huseyn, Mammadgulu Karabagi and Karim Bey Mehmandarov was also exhibited here. The exhibition also featured photos and written examples of our famous intellectuals such as Mir Mohsen Nawab, Valida Tutayug, Sattar Asadov. In addition to the Azerbaijani language, explanations were given in Russian and English, taking into account the foreign guests who came to visit the museum. "During the Soviet period, Armenians created a Geology Museum in the house of worship, which was turned into a "Green pharmacy" during the occupation. On the walls of the mosque, there are still shelves for exhibits. The house has a square shape in plan. Three of the four rooms on the second floor open to the veranda on the side of the house, and the large room with a bay window, which serves as a living room, opens to the laconic main facade" (8).

Supporting the restoration and revival of Shusha monuments is the work of each of us. All work is carried out in a planned manner and it is planned to continue in this manner. Mainly, restoration works are being done while preserving the antiquity of Shusha. Specialists, architects, historians, and especially the people of Shusha play an exceptional role in restoration and construction works. We think that the restoration of Shusha's historical image and ancient cultural monuments should be carried out in accordance with Azerbaijani architectural style. We consider it admirable that the restoration and construction works should be carried out in a strengthened manner so that the people of Shusha can return to their homeland soon.

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