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## History of "Aspabaraq" Castle

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#### **Abstract**

This article is mainly written about the Asparaq castle, which is one of the historical monuments, based on historical sources, about its appearance and historical significance. At the same time, the social significance of this historical monument was analyzed in depth, and information was given about its special place in the history of mankind.

**Keywords:** Tortkul city, Koykirilgan castle, temple-observatory in IV-I centuries BC, circular fortress, Aspabaraq city, Central Asia, Ankhita, Siyovush, Shilpiq monument, Movzeley-temple.

#### Introduction

An ancient archaeological monument located 12 kilometers north-east of Tortkul. It is circular in construction, surrounded by a wall, total area - 86.5 meters 0.6 hectares. In the central part of the monument, a two-story structure was built, circular in shape, 14.5 meters of the 44.4-meter structure, surrounded by a two-line defensive wall, which in turn has 9 minarets. The gate has a right-angled "labyrinth" with a front side of 18 meters, two sides are reinforced with semicircular towers, and its total area is 0.3 hectares. The city was surrounded by a moat, 15 meters wide and 3 meters deep [1].

Koykirilgankala is an architectural complex consisting of a 42-diameter circular tower-like structure. It is surrounded by a defensive wall consisting of 9 towers. The 8-meter-high fortress served as a temple and observatory in the IV-I centuries BC. In one of the sections of the complex there are large bathrooms. Statues of local goddesses were found in the main halls of the temple. At the same time, on ossuaries and ceramics in the form of statues, examples of economic accounting and book writing were identified [2].

Archaeological sources found in the monument prove that programs with religious beliefs related to Siyavush took place in Koykirilgankala. For example, small figurines of Siyavush can be seen on the walls of flower pots in the fortress, and his reliefs, including royal crowns, ossuaries, and Khan mints. So, Koykirilgankala can be said to be a mausoleum built 2,400 years ago in honor of Ankhita and Siyavush, two Buddhas accepted and widespread in Central Asia in ancient times.

At the same time, an observatory and an ancient inscription were found in Koykirilgankala. The emergence of the science of astronomy is connected with the development of agriculture. According to observations, temple observatories in Central Asia were founded in the Middle Stone Age

(Neolithic), which is evident in the monuments of the Jeytun culture. Babylon in the 1st millennium BC, centers of special Greek astronomers in the 4th century. At the same time, the Koykirilgankala temple-observatory was born on the banks of Southern Island. At the beginning of the century AD, this service may have moved to the Shilpig monument.

The inhabitants of the fort, jrets - astronomers, their staff, including tourists and pilgrims who came to the fort - lived in houses located inside the fortress and around the temple. The walls of this place are made of straw mud, and these houses are cool in summer, warm in winter, and easy to build.

"Aspabaraq" or "Aspabagaq" temple in the inscription found in the castle of the 3rd century BC is probably the chief priest and astronomer of that time. Therefore, sacrifices were made to the two gods Anahita and Siyavush, including the spirits of the departed kings.

The etymology of the word "Koygyrilgankala" is simple and was created in the first half of the 20th century. More specifically, the archaeologist S. P. Tolstov, who conducted scientific research in the monument for the first time in 1938, named it after a sheep found dead inside the monument by one of the guides. At that time, two monuments were located on the east side of Koykirilgankala, not far away, and they were introduced to the science with the terms "Koykirilgan Castle I" and "Koykirilgan Castle II". According to scientists, the castle is based on a written source found in Koykirilgankala. It is possible to call it "Aspabaraq city" [3].

In conclusion, in IV-I centuries BC, Koykirilgankala was an ancient archaeological monument that served as a temple-observatory on the banks of the South Island, and there are several archaeological written sources from there, Anakhita and Siovush, who are considered the holy gods of Zoroastrianism. a temple built in his honor and others were found. Koykirilgankala is located in a place that is important for astronomy. The construction of the castle was built taking into account the above. Koykirilgankala was considered the perfect construction of its time.

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