

**YALANGTUSH BAKHODIR: THE POLITICAL, MILITARY AND CULTURAL
LEGACY OF A SAMARKAND REFORMER**

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Abstract: This paper explores the life and legacy of Yalangtush Bakhodir, one of the most prominent political and military figures in Uzbek history, who made a significant contribution to the architectural and cultural development of Samarkand in the 17th century. As a governor under the Ashtarkhanid dynasty, he played a critical role in restoring Samarkand's historic significance through major construction projects, most notably the Sher-dar and Tillya-kari madrasahs. Yalangtush's initiatives helped transform Registan Square into a cohesive architectural ensemble and revitalized the city's spiritual and educational centers. The study also sheds light on his political career, personal life, and contributions to science, education, and charity, marking him as one of the leading architects of Uzbekistan's cultural heritage.

Keywords: Yalangtush Bakhodir, Registan Square, Sher-dar Madrasah, Tillya-kari Madrasah, Samarkand, Ashtarkhanid dynasty, Uzbek architecture, Islamic heritage, cultural development, historical figures.

It was the main task of modern history to provide the world community with more complete and accurate information about the historical figures who lived in our country, their contribution to the development, strength, science and culture of the country. In this regard, historians try to emphasize the great political figures who lived in the past. In our history, which goes back to many centuries, we can meet many such persons and commanders. One of them was Yalangtush Bakhodur, one of the historical figures who carried out great beautification works in Samarkand during his career, made a great contribution to the development of the city and it was important to occupying a worthy place in the world civilization. The services of Yalangtushbiy are great in the fact that the "Registon" Ensemble in Samarkand has gained fame in seven climates and was an integral part of our national cultural heritage.

Yalangtush Bakhodir was born in 1576 in the family of the khokim of Nurota, the son of Boykhojibiy, one of the leaders of the Alchin clan¹. According to Makhmud bin Vali, the author of the most valuable work on his work – "Bahr al-asrar fi manoqib al-ahyor" ("The sea of secrets about the bravery of noble people"), the real name of governor was Khatoy Bakhodir and Yalangtush was his nickname. In history, this person was mentioned by names such as Yalangtush ibn Boykhojibiy, Yusuf Yalangtush, Abdukirimbiy, Nizamiddin². "Yalangtush" (in

¹ Olchin, alchin is one of the large ancient Turkic clans that were part of several Turkic peoples.

² A. Ziyo. Yalangto'sh Bahodir – ilm-fan va madaniyat homiysi // Yangi O'zbekiston. 2021 year, march 3. No44.

the meaning of bare-breasted, open-breasted hero) received this name as a hero who did not cover his chest with a shield or helmet in battles. He came to Khoja Khashim Dakhbediy (grandsons of Makhdumi A'zam) with his father Boykhojibiy, joined became a murid, and entered his education. Later, his teacher Khoja Khashim sent him to the service of Dinmukhammad to improve his military skills³.

Due to the fact that his father was in the service of the palace during the Shaybanids dynasty, he also grew up in the service of representatives of the ruling dynasty. Along with the Shaybanids, he also loyally serves the rulers of Ashtarkhanids. In 1612, Imam Quli Khan appointed Yalangtushbiy as the governor of Samarkand for helping in the fight against the Iranian ruler Shah Abbas and the Kazakhs Abulays and Ishim sultans and fulfilling one of the main tasks in seizing power. The appointment of Bakhodir as governor of Samarkand with the recommendation of Khoja Khashim, the elder of Imam Quli Khan, had a great impact on the cultural and economic potential of the city.

Despite the fact that the capital was moved from Samarkand to Bukhara during the Shaybanids dynasty in the 16th century, Samarkand will not lose its place as a center of science, culture and trade. The contribution of Yalangtush Bakhodir to the development of Samarkand in the 17th century was particularly great.

During his period of reign, the previous public mosque and madrasah of Samarkand, that is, the public mosque of Amir Temur and the Madrasah of Bibikhanim were destroyed, and there was a great need for such mosques and madrasahs in the city. The work of Abu Takhirkhoja Samarkandiy entitled "Samaria" contains some important information on the extensive creative works of Yalangtushbiy in Samarkand. In our glorious history, Yalangtush Bakhadir not only made a name for himself as a skilled politician and military leader, but he was glorified as "the architect of the city of Samarkand". In his article dedicated to Yalangtush Bakhodir, the source scholar K.Kattayev noted that "three famous rulers in history - Amir Temur, Mirzo Ulugbek and Yalangtush Bakhodir, made Samarkand the <<polish of the earth>> with the architectural monuments they built. In fact, during the period of the great leader Amir Temur, Samarkand became the capital of the Timurid empire and its status increased.

The Registon square was first built at the end of the 14th century in the building of the central Tim (covered bazar) under the name "Toqi Telpak Furushon (Telpaks sellers)". However, its architectural formation was related to the Timurid ruler Mirzo Ulugbek. On his initiative, in 1417-1420, the Ulugbek madrasah was built which was considered a prestigious educational institution for its time.

The "Ulugbek Khanaka", "Mirzoyi caravanserai" and a mosque was built on the north side of it. On the western side, the "Muqatta Mosque" and the "Abusaid" madrasah were built from wood, and the square acquires an integral look to the architectural quality of the area. During the period of Amir Temur and Mirzo Ulugbek, Samarkand gained its own potential and prestige, but it would not be wrong to say that Yalangtush Bakhodir rebuilt it based on the needs and demands of the times.

Initially, this area was called "Sardavanak" the meaning of "sari juri davanak" fast flowing river⁴. By the 17th century, the caravanserai was built by Mirzo Ulugbek on the Registan square was in ruins, the "Muqatta mosque" and "The khanaka of Ulugbek" completely

³ K.Kattayev. Amir Yalangto'sh Bahodir. Bahodir Yalangto'shning Markaziy Osiyo ijtimoiy-siyosiy va madaniy xayotida tutgan o'rni" mavzusidagi xalqaro konferensiya materiallari, Samarqand, 2019.

⁴ K.Kattayev. Amir Yalangto'sh Bahodir. Bahodir Yalangto'shning Markaziy Osiyo ijtimoiy-siyosiy va madaniy xayotida tutgan o'rni" mavzusidagi xalqaro konferensiya materiallari, Samarqand, 2019.

disappeared and the city market was located in their place. On the initiative and patronage of Yalangtushbiy, city construction projects were started and several changes were made. In particular, by his decree, repair work was carried out in the Mirzo Ulugbek madrasah, the khanaka built by Mirzo Ulugbek, instead of the Hammomi Mirzoyi and caravan palaces, there are two luxurious Sher-dar madrasahs (1619-1636) and the Tillya-kari madrasa-mosque (1646-1660) was built⁵.

Yalangtush Bakhodir was built Sher-dar madrasah to Khoja Khashim. The madrasah was built as a copy of the Mirza Ulugbek madrasah, as opposed to it. The external size of the building was 70-75 meters, the size of the inner courtyard was 30-35 meters. The number of hujras in the courtyard was 52 and classrooms are built around them. The meaning of the word "Sherdar" does not only mean that it has the abode of lions, but the lion, deer and sun in it refer to the 12 zodiac signs of the Hijri year. In this case, the sun means "solar year", the lion means "asad", and the deer means "jaddi". The meaning understood from this was that the presence of the sun in the Asad constellation gives the notion of "sadi zaman", that is, happy days. The famous scholar Komilkhan Kattayev noted his opinion that the lion and the deer are suitable for the calculation of the Hijri year with 12 zodiac signs. From this, the sun Hijri-solar year; Lion (asad) was the fifth month of the year; Deer (jaddi) was the tenth month, refers to the months in which the construction of the madrasah was started and completed. We can see that such images on coins and coins of the Seljuks, Ilkhanids and dynasties in Iran in the 16th and 17th centuries. In particular, the great Amir Temur ordered the lion and sun images to be displayed on the Aksaroy facade in Shakhrisabz. According to scientists, this was actually the Sun (teacher) driving the lion (student) to the deer (science)⁶.

It was written that the Surah of "An'am" 115-117 versus of the Qur'an on its front in Arabic text. On the front of the madrasa, the name of Yalangtush Bakhodir and abjad are written in qasida. If we turn into the word "Yalangtush Bakhodir" numbers in the abjad calculation, we can see that Yalangtush-816, Bakhodir-212, a total of 1028 Solar Hijri years have been calculated. If we convert it to the AD year, it was 1619, that is, the year when the construction of the madrasah began. When the madrasah was built, it was popularly known as "the big madrasah of Yalangtushbiy"⁷. In many countries of the world, when they are asked about the city of Samarkand, the image of "Lion" comes to their mind, firstly. This was not for nothing, because in 2007, on the eve of the celebration of the 2750th anniversary of Samarkand, at the international conference, the image of a lion in the Sherdar madrasah was recommended to the government as a symbol of the city.

As for the Tillya-kari madrasah, the work of Abu Takhir Khoja Samarkandi "Samaria" tells about it – "It was built in 1051, 10 years after the Sher-dar madrasah". This Tillya-kari madrasah was located north of Ulugbek and Sher-dar madrasahs, next to both of them. It was reported that after the destruction of Amir Temur Koragan mosque, the people of the city used to perform Friday prayers in the Tillya-kari madrasah⁸. Its construction lasted 14 years, it means that "made of gold". It was noted that the reason for this was that it is possible to build a monument with the

⁵Chabryar Adle and Irfan Habib. History of civilizations of central Asia/ Volume V.-UNESCO Publishing. 2003.-P48

⁶ K. Kattayev. Amir Yalangtush Bahodir. Bahodir Yalangtushning Markaziy Osiyo ijtimoiy-siyosiy va madaniy xayotida tutgan o'rnini mavzusidagi xalqaro konferensiya materiallari, Samarqand, 2019.

⁷ Abu Tohirxoja Samarqandiy. Samariya. P 27. www.ziyo.com kutubxonasi

⁸ Abu Tohirxoja Samarqandiy. Samariya. P 28. www.ziyo.com kutubxonasi

gold used inside the mosque of his madrasah⁹. One source says 77 kg of gold, while another says 25 kg¹⁰. Two buildings were built in one building: a madrasah on the east side and a mosque on the qibla side (1641-1646). The calligraphers wrote inscriptions in Kufic and Suls letters in Arabic script on its pediments. The gold water was gilded on the ceiling of the mosque dome (1660). At the time when this madrasah-mosque was built, it was called “Small madrasah of Yalangtushbiy”. Its construction was completed in 1660 after the death of Yalangtush.

In order to cover the costs of bare madrasahs, the salaries of teachers and the pensions of students, he donates a lot of profitable land, shops and caravansary to them as life estates. In this regard, the article of researcher Abdurakhim Khasanov “Cradle of Scholars” of “Tafakkur” magazine states that there are 11,610 (eleven thousand six hundred and ten) fields, 25 fertile lands, and 8 shops in the madrasahs of Sher-dor and Tillya-kari madrasahs. He gave information about the benefits of 38,000 coins¹¹. In particular, the foundation of properties belonging to Sher-dar and Tillya-kari are mainly located in several areas such as Buyrachi, Korayog'och, Sogdi Kalon, Alhasan Tepa, Oktepa, Nahri Haidar of Ofarinkent, Totkent, Shovdar districts and 26 of them are land properties.

Here, as additional information, journalist N.P. Ostroumov noted in his article “Islamology” published in “Turkestan Vision” magazine in 1914 that 95 students studied at the Sher-dar madrasah and two teachers taught them. It was noted that 130 students and enough teachers taught them in Tillya-kari and that both madrasahs had more than 3000 thousand rubles of endowment property in 1914¹².

In addition to these, in honor of Yalangtushbiy Mahdumi A'zam, in 1618 in Dakhbet, on the south side of the tomb, he built a one-roofed house, two mosques, and a forty-room madrasahs (but the madrasah has not yet arrived).

In the article of Komilkhan Kattayev, “Samarkand was redeveloped four times: 1) After the invasion of Genghis Khan, it was restored by Amir Temur and the monuments were rebuilt; 2) During the reign of Mirzo Ulugbek, the city areas were beautified and the “Registon” square was founded; 3) Sher-dar and Tillya-kari madrasahs were built during the reign of Yalangtush Bakhodir, and the “Registon” area was fully formed, among the large landowners who followed his example, the courtiers also started creative works in order to contribute to the beautification works. This was typical only during the era of Amir Temur and Mirza Ulugbek; 4) the next revival of Samarkand coincides with the era of Amir Ma'sum - Amir Shakhmurad, one of the great rulers¹³. Nevertheless, a wide range of constructions and examples of creativity carried out during the period of Yalangtushbiy served the interests of culture, science and ordinary people.

⁹ K.Kattayev. Amir Yalangto'sh Bahodir. Bahodir Yalangto'shning Markaziy Osiyo ijtimoiy-siyosiy va madaniy xayotida tutgan o'rni” mavzusidagi xalqaro konferensiya materiallari, Samarqand, 2019.

¹⁰ M. Tursunova. SHERDOR MADRASAH BUILT BY YALANGTOSHBIY BAHODIR. Journal “Oriental Renaissance : Innovative, educational, nature and social sciences”. Volume 2 | Issue 4\2 .-April 2022. P 1162

¹¹ M. Tursunova. SHERDOR MADRASAH BUILT BY YALANGTOSHBIY BAHODIR. Journal “Oriental Renaissance : Innovative, educational, nature and social sciences”. Volume 2 | Issue 4\2 .-April 2022. P 1163

¹² M. Tursunova. SHERDOR MADRASAH BUILT BY YALANGTOSHBIY BAHODIR. Journal “Oriental Renaissance : Innovative, educational, nature and social sciences”. Volume 2 | Issue 4\2 .-April 2022. P 1163

¹³ K.Kattayev. Amir Yalangto'sh Bahodir. Bahodir Yalangto'shning Markaziy Osiyo ijtimoiy-siyosiy va madaniy xayotida tutgan o'rni” mavzusidagi xalqaro konferensiya materiallari, Samarqand, 2019.

Yalangtush Bakhodir died in 1656 at the age of 80, and according to his will, he was buried in the khanaka of Mahdumi A'zam in Dakhbet, at the foot of the grave of his elder Khoja Khashim. It was recorded in historical sources that he had a son named Boybek. But he died seven years before his father in 1650. In addition to his son, Yalangtushbiy had two daughters named Iklimbonu (died 1657) and Oybiy (died 1666), who were also buried here.

In conclusion, it was worth noting that Yalangtush Bakhodir caught the attention of representatives of the ruling dynasty and pirs with his fearlessness and courage from his youth. His good military education led him to victory in battles. Along with military education, he received good religious education. For this reason, along with creative work, he followed the path of charity. He built many mosques, madrasahs, monuments serving the people and made an unforgettable contribution to the prosperity of the city. During the governorship in Samarkand, he carried out important political and cultural events that determined the future fate of the city. Especially, as mentioned above, the "Registon" square became a whole during the reign of Yalangtush Bakhodir. Yalangtushbiy tried to build madrasahs and mosques in harmony with each other, to create a unique "Bouquet" in the center of the city. He promoted science in addition to performing extensive municipal beautifying projects. It is essential to thoroughly research the lives of such great persons so that future generations will remember them.

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