

THE IMPORTANCE OF REGISTAN SQUARE IN THE HISTORY AND MODERN LIFE OF SAMARKAND

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Introduction Samarkand is one of the oldest centers of human civilization, and its historical monuments represent an invaluable part of the world's cultural heritage. Among these remarkable architectural masterpieces, Registan Square occupies a special place. Registan has become not only a symbol of Samarkand but also of Uzbekistan as a whole. Throughout the centuries, it has served as a political, economic, scientific, and cultural center. Today, Registan Square is one of the most famous tourist attractions in the country and a globally recognized cultural heritage site.

Historical Significance of Registan Square

The word “Registan” originates from the Persian language and means “sandy place” or “sand-covered square.” Historical records indicate that in ancient times this area served as the central square of Samarkand, where royal decrees were announced, public gatherings were held, and important state events took place. After Amir Temur (Tamerlane) made Samarkand the capital of his vast empire, the city experienced rapid development, and Registan Square became its central hub. In the early fifteenth century, the great scholar and ruler Mirzo Ulugh Beg initiated the construction of the Ulugh Beg Madrasah. Built between 1417 and 1420, it became one of the leading educational institutions of its time. Subjects such as astronomy, mathematics, philosophy, and other sciences were taught there.

In the seventeenth century, the governor of Samarkand, Yalangtush Bahadur, further enriched the architectural ensemble of Registan. Under his patronage, the Sher-Dor Madrasah (1619–1636) and the Tilla-Kari Madrasah (1646–1660) were constructed. Together with the Ulugh Beg Madrasah, they formed the magnificent architectural complex that is famous throughout the world today.

Registan as a Center of Science and Education

For centuries, Registan Square served not only as an architectural masterpiece but also as a center of science and education. In particular, the Ulugh Beg Madrasah was considered one of the most prestigious educational institutions in the East. Distinguished scholars such as Qadi Zada al-Rumi, Ghiyath al-Din Jamshid al-Kashi, and Ali Qushchi were associated with this institution. Their scientific achievements made significant contributions to the development of mathematics and astronomy. The architectural decorations, mosaic artistry, and geometric patterns found throughout the Registan ensemble are outstanding examples of medieval Islamic architecture. The facades, domes, and interior decorations reflect the rich cultural heritage of the Uzbek people and their appreciation of art and craftsmanship.

The Role of Registan Square in Modern Times

Since Uzbekistan gained independence, considerable efforts have been devoted to preserving, restoring, and promoting Registan Square at the international level. In 2001, Samarkand was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List under the title “Samarkand – Crossroads of Cultures,” and Registan Square is recognized as one of the most important components of this historic city.



Today, Registan Square has become a symbol of Uzbekistan's tourism industry. Every year, thousands of domestic and international tourists visit the site to admire its beauty and historical significance. This contributes to the economic development of Samarkand by supporting tourism, expanding service industries, and creating employment opportunities. Furthermore, Registan Square serves as a prestigious venue for national celebrations, international conferences, cultural festivals, and concerts. For many years, the internationally renowned "Sharq Taronalari" (Melodies of the East) Music Festival was held in Registan Square, enhancing its global reputation and cultural significance. Conclusion Registan Square is an inseparable part of Samarkand's history and a unique monument that embodies the scientific, cultural, and architectural heritage of the Uzbek people. While it once served as the center of state and social life, today it stands as one of Uzbekistan's most recognizable historical landmarks. Preserving and passing this magnificent heritage on to future generations remains an important responsibility in safeguarding the nation's cultural legacy.

References

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