



ĠOJDOVĀN

ĠOJDOVĀN (also *Ġojdavān*, *Ġajdovān*), town and district in the oasis of Bukhara. The modern town (*Ġejdovān*) is located at 253 m above sea level, 49 km north-northeast of Bukhara, at 40° 6' N and 64° 41' E. The district is irrigated by the Pirmast canal that branches westward off the Zarafšān River and corresponds to *Ġarġānruḍ* mentioned by Eṣṭakri (p. 310) and Ebn Ḥawqal (p. 486). According to Vasilii Barthold, the present-day *Ġejdovān* corresponds to Lower *Ġarġāna* of the early Islamic geographers (Eṣṭakri, p. 309; Ebn Ḥawqal, p. 485), while the district of Upper *Ġarġāna* was located near *Ġarġānkaṭ*, opposite *Karminiya* (Barthold, *Turkestan*³, pp. 98, 114, 120; idem, *Sochineniya* III, p. 200; cf. Shishkin, 1963, pp. 11, 26).

Maqdesi/Moqaddasi (p. 267, n. c) mentions *Ġojdovār/Ġojdovān* among Bukhara's large villages that possessed all the characteristics of a town except the presence of a pulpit (*menbar*). Maqdesi's note led Richard Frye to the conclusion that *Ġojdovān* was a satellite village of the town *Rāmītan/Rāmīṭana*. Historical data, however, as well as archeological finds place *Ġojdovān* well inside the series of the old walls, known as *Kampir(ak) dēvāl*, that extended around the oasis of Bukhara and that had been rehabilitated before the Samanids (Eṣṭakri, p. 294; Moqaddasi, pp. 266-67; Ebn Ḥawqal, p. 473; *Ḥodud al-ālam*, ed. Sotuda, p. 106, tr. Minorsky, p. 112; Barthold, *Turkestan*³, pp. 114, 116-17; Shishkin, 1963, pp. 19-31). According to Sam'āni (ed. Margliouth, fol. 406b), *Ġojdovān*, situated at a distance of six farsakhs from Bukhara, was an important commercial center where a weekly regional market was held. Šehāb-al-Din Yāqut (*Boldān* III, p. 775) mentions the



name without providing any information, and Moḥammad b. Jaʿfar Naršaḳi (p. 94, tr. Frye, p. 58) refers to it as the hometown of a commander of the Sapid Jāmagān, i. e., the followers of al-Moqannaʿ, who rebelled in Transoxania during the caliphate of al-Mahdi (158-69/775-85).

Ġojdovān is mentioned as the home of several men of fame, including the Naqšbandi Sufi K̄vāja ʿAbd-al-Kāleq Ġojdovāni (d. 1220, q.v.), whose tomb in Ġojdovān attracted pilgrims (Faḏl-Allāh Koṅji, p. 62; Samandar Termeḏi, text, pp. 277 f.; Ṭāleʿ Bokāri, tr., pp., 117-20). Saʿd-al-Din Masʿud Taftāzāni (14th cent.) held his teaching circles in Ġojdovān for a while (Gafurov, I, p. 684; cf. Barthold, *Sochineniya* XIII, p. 435). There remains in Ġojdovān a partly-extant *madrasa* with a lofty portal built by Uluḡ Beg (Pugachenkova, photo on p. 243; Shishkin, 1933, pp. 11-18).

In the late 15th century, Ġojdovān was a city-like (*šahr-mānand*) large village, near which stood the village Ṭawāyes/Ṭawālis (Wāʿeḏ Kāšefi, pp. 34, 58, 510), the once important town Ṭawāwis/Ṭawāʿis (Eṣṭaḳri, pp. 313-14; Ebn Ḥawqal, p. 489; Moqaddesi, p. 267) that was assumed by Barthold to have disappeared by the 15th century (*Turkestan*3, pp. 98-99).

Ġojdovān was the site of a battle in 918/1512, when the Safavid forces were defeated by the Uzbeks, who had already routed Ḍahir-al-Din Moḥammad Bābor and re-conquered Bukhara (*Bābor-nāma*, tr. Beveridge, pp. 356-62; *Jahāngošā-ye Kāqān*, pp. 432-36; Ḥasan Rumlu, ed. Navāʿi, pp. 168-75; Wāleh Eṣfahāni, pp. 211-21; *Ḥabib al-siar* IV, pp. 523-29; Semenov, pp. 122-28). From the 16th century, Ġojdovān appeared as a strong fortress, which, as the key to Bukhara, was the site of many battles (Ṭāleʿ Bokāri, pp. 76-79; Samandar Termeḏi, text, pp. 130-32, 180, 277, who refers to Ġojdovān as a town, *balada*, and always mentions it together with the stream Jelvān, which is considered to be different from the K̄rḡānrud; Shishkin, 1963, pp. 11 ff.). In 986/1578, during the reign of the Shaibanid ʿAbd-Allāh Khan b. Eskandar (q.v.), a thirteen-span bridge, which functioned also as a dam to divert the water into irrigation canals, was built near Ġojdovān on the Zarafšān River (*Tārik-e Rāqemi*, apud Barthold, *Sochineniya* III, p. 200).

In modern times, the district was called either after the village (Tumān-e Ġejdovān) or after its canal (Tumān-e K̄rḡānrud; see *Dokumentī k istorii*, pp. 56-64, 185; Barthold, *Sochinenia* III, p. 200, nn. 94, 95; Moḥammad-Yusof Monši, tr., p. 125). In the early 19th century, Ġojdovān was a *tumān* of Bukhara (ʿAbd-al-Karim Bokāri, text, p. 77, tr., p. 171; for tax collection, see Sitnyakovskiĭ, pp.



121-314; Logofet, I, p. 250).

Şadr-al-Din ‘Ayni (q.v.), who was born in Sāktari, one farsakh east of the town, considered Ġojdovān as the most fertile and productive district in the whole emirate of Bukhara (p. 149) and elaborated on the ever-lasting battle against the encroaching sand to keep it from cutting down the size of the farm land. The present raion, created in 1926, is the most densely populated (124,000 souls in 1976) among the 13 raions within the oblast of Bukhara in Uzbekistan (Muminov and Muzafarov, pp. 73-76).

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