

TAKHT-I-SULAIMAN/ SOLOMON'S THRONE

(A world known spot)

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Abstract: The main objective of this study is to highlight and the existence of takht e suliman with Quranic details. Takht-e Sulaiman, or Takht-i Suleiman (Throne of Solomon) is a building complex, consisting of the Palace, a fire temple and fortifications from the late period of the Sassanid. The first investigation was carried out of the ruins in 1937 by an American research group under AU Pope. The explorations of Eurasia the German Archaeological Institute were carried out by Rudolf Naumann, Hans Henning von der Osten, D. Huff, W. Kleiss and U. Harb in the years 1959-1966 and 1968-1975. The extensive documentation of the excavation is kept in the Eurasian Department in Berlin. Archaeological excavations have revealed traces of a 5th-century BC occupation during the Achaemenid period, as well as later Parthian settlements in the citadel.

The main theme of this article is to add the knowledge in the empirical study that Sulaiman ranges is exist in southern Waziristan (Pakistan) are named after prophet Sulaiman (Gibb H A R 1939: 180). The Imperial Gazetteer reported that in Sulaiman ranges of Southern Waziristan iron is found and smelted in various localities (Gazetteer: Rep: 2002, 252).

Key words: TAKHT-I-SULAIMAN, Verses of the Holy Quran, Current existence

1. Introduction

Hazrat Sulaiman/ Prophet Solomon is one of the best known prophets of God. He is revered in Judaism, in which he is known by the names of prophet Shlomo and also Jedidiah as one of 48 Talmud prophets, in Christianity under the name of Solomon and in Islam. Prophet Sulaiman's name is mentioned in the Holy Quran 17 times. He is also a subject of numerous legends and stories. The traditionally accepted dates of Hazrat Sulaiman's rule are circa 970 to 931 BCE.

Verses of the Holy Quran reveal that Hazrat Sulaiman was the son of Hazrat Daud (Prophet David). After he became a prophet of Allah, he urged and asked for a kingdom, which is described in the Holy Quran as

قال رب اغفر لي و هب لي ملكا لا ينبغي لاحد من بعدي انك انت

الوهاب (35 ص القرآن)

He said “O my lord! Forgive me, and grant me kingdom which may not suit another (king) after me verily, you are the bestower of good things (without measure)” verse 35 Surah Sad Al-Quran.

Other verses of the Holy Quran further confirm that prophet Sulaiman was given a vast and powerful kingdom.

2. Literature Review

The Holy Quran reveals that Allah bestowed upon Hazrat Sulaiman certain superpower abilities. One of them was the power to control not only humans, but also the evil spirits.

والشيطيين كل بناء و غوص (37 ص القرآن)

And likes this did (others obey his order), the evil ones of every kind of builder and diver. Verse 37 Surah Sad Al-Quran.

In another chapter the Holy Quran further describes the power of prophet Sulaiman over Jinns as under,

يعلمون له ما يشاء من محاريب و تماثيل و جفان كالجواب و

قدر و راسيت (13 سبأ القرآن)

They (the Jinns) worked for him as he wished (making) arches, images, basins (to held liquids) as large as ponds (of water) and (large cooking vats or) kettles held (firmly in places) verse 13, Surah Saba Al-Quran.

Another supernatural ability of Hazrat Sulaiman was the power to control the wind. The Holy Quran states:

فسخرنا له الريح يجرى بأمره رخاء حيث أصاب (36 ص القرآن)

So we made the wind obey his power, to fly gently by his order where ever he wanted. Verse 36 Surah Sad Al-Quran.

By his power over the wind Hazrat Sulaiman visited every corner of his vast kingdom. With the help of wind he could send people to other places to deliver things from there to his palace. He also had a throne which could follow him wherever he was going.

ولسليمن الريح غدوها شهر ورواحها شهرا (12 سبأ القرآن)

And (we made) the wind (obedient) to Sulaiman its early morning (flow) was a month (journey) and its evening (flow) was a month (journey). Verse 12 Surah Saba Al-Quran.

Meeting of Hazrat Sulaiman with Queen Saba/Prophet Solomon and the Queen of Sheba

Queen Saba, whose name is revealed in the Holy Quran, was the queen of Saba kingdom in the area on the shores of the Red Sea, which is presently the territory of Yemen, Eritrea, Somalia and Ethiopia. The Quran and several other traditional sources give her name as Belqees. She is also shown in the Turkish copy of Sulayman Nama by Firdaws, painted (Irwin R 1997: 206 Fig 168).

لقد كان لسبأ في مسكنهم حنتين عن يمين و شمال
(15 سبأ القرآن)

(Even) before this time, there was sign for (the people of the city of) Saba in their home land two gardens to the right and to the left. Verse 15 Surah Saba Al-Quran.

The news about the prosperous kingdom of Saba and its queen was brought to Hazrat Sulaiman by a bird hoopoe, as reported in the Holy Quran.

فمكث غير بعيد فقال احطت بما لم تحط به وجئتكم من سبأ
بنبايقين (22) اني وجدت امراه تمليكم و اوتيت من كل شي و
لها عرش عظيم (3 سورة انمل القرآن)

But (The hoopoe) did not stay behind too far, He (approached Sulaiman and) said I have traveled through lands) where you have not gone and I have come to you from Saba with true and correct) news.

The bird further explained I found a women Saba / Belqees ruling (there) over them and made things available for every want, and she has grand and beautiful throne.

Having heard about Queen Saba, prophet Sulaiman wanted to call her to meet him. He wrote a letter to Queen Saba / Belqees,

انه من سليمان و انه بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم (30) الا تعلقوا اعلى
واتوني مسلمين (31 نمل القرآن)

This is from Sulaiman, and is (written) in the name of Allah, the most Gracious, The most Merciful; you do not act proudly with me, but come to as Muslim in submission (to the religion of Allah) verse 31 Surah Namal Al-Quran.

On receiving the letter, Queen Saba /Belqees discussed it with her confidants and decided to visit Hazrat Sulaiman. When she visited his palace, she was impressed by the power and spiritual highness of prophet Sulaiman and converted to his faith after a conversation with him,

She said O' my lord! Truly I have wronged my soul and I submitted with Sulaiman to Allah and to the lord of my world. Verse 44, Sura Namal Al-Quran.

قالت رب انى ظلمت نفسى و اسلمت مع سليمان لله رب العلمين
(44 نمل القرآن)

From the above reported verses of the Holy Quran it is clear that she converted as follower of Hazrat Sulaiman and she married Prophet Sulaiman (Iqbal Q J UD: 131). Qari Javed Iqbal further states that after they married Queen Saba / Belqees desired to visit the area of seven rivers of what is now known as Sulaiman mountain range on the eastern edge of Iranian plateau on the border with Indian subcontinent. Prophet Sulaiman along with her and his entourage came to Sulaiman ranges of southern Waziristan (Ibid). These seven rivers of Waziristan can be seen in the Olaf Caroe's work as under (Caroe O 2003: 390-412).

- I. Zob river
- II. Gomal river

- III. Takki Zam river
- IV. Wana Toi river
- V. Dhana river
- VI. Kundar river
- VII. Khaisara river

Prophet Sulaiman and Sulaiman Ranges

Various scholars, historians and writers from Ibn Battuta onwards agree that the famous Sulaiman ranges of southern Waziristan are named after prophet Sulaiman (Gibb H A R 1939: 180). Moreover, it is essential to make a mention here that another important spot known as Takht-i-Suliman is located in Azerbaijan in Central Asia (Irwin R 1997: 126 Fig 104). The following examples regarding the association of prophet Sulaiman with Sulaiman ranges can be considered confirming the arrival and visit of prophet Sulaiman.

The Holy Quran describes the works and duties of the subjects of prophet Sulaiman in this regard.

وجفان كالجواب وقدر وراست (13 سبأ القرآن)

The Jinns worked for him as he wished making basins (to hold) as large as ponds of water large cooking vats or kettles held (firmly in places) Verse 13, Surah Saba Al-Quran.

The Imperial Gazetteer reported that in Sulaiman ranges of Southern Waziristan iron is found and smelted in various localities (Gazetteer: Rep: 2002, 252). Thus it can be stated that as reported in the Holy Quran that the Jinns worked in making things definitely of metal which was available and found here in Sulaiman ranges, which confirms the arrival and visit of prophet Sulaiman and even of queen Saba / Belqees.

Qari Javid Iqbal reports in his work that a tribe known as Sulaiman Khel are still occupying Sulaiman ranges and they consider themselves the successors of prophet Sulaiman (Iqbal Q J UD: 131).

Qari Javid Iqbal as well as Olaf Caroe reported the seven rivers in this region which queen Saba / Belqees had urged to visit (Ibid, Caroe O 2003: 390-412).

Furthermore, Sulaimani beads are named after Sulaiman ranges which itself is named after prophet Sulaiman.

Sulaimani tea is another confirmation which is a kind of tea prepare without milk also have connection with the under discussion area.

Hereby we can establish that this mountain range is named after prophet Sulaiman. It is a widespread practice all over the world to name places after personalities this way or the other associated with them like Jabal al-Tariq in Spain associated with Tariq bin Ziyad, Jodhi hill associated with Hazrat Nooh and Thoor hill with Hazrat Musa. The local tradition also clearly suggested that prophet Sulaiman visited this place and thus associated with him.

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3. Conclusion

The highest peak of Sulaiman range at 3,487 meters is Takht-i-Sulaiman or Solomon's Throne, which is located in South Waziristan. The spot known as the actual place where the Sulaiman's throne was positioned is located at 31'41'N and 70'F with a height of 11295 feet above the sea level (Gazetteer 2002:257) while the same hill is 12000 feet above the sea level (Raverty 2001:5) and the actual spot is located below the rest of the same hill. The place of the Takht or throne is 6 feet long and 4 feet wide having the appearance of a smooth stone slab.

It can be accessed from Zhob Baluchistan through the hills as well as from D.I. Khan City. The immediate range where Takht-i-Sulaiman is located was known as Kashghar during Mughal period (Harvi KN 1986:419), later on it was called Kasi Gorh or Kaisargah (Gazetteer 2002:257), while nowadays the area is known as Mughal Kot.

This mountain range is also famous for being a place of Qais Abdur Rashid Ziarat. Qais Abdur Rashid is considered to be a father of Pukhtoon nation and due to that his grave is revered till this time. Therefore, the actual spot of Takht-i-Sulaiman is also known as Ziarat.

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Annexure:



Takht-i-Suliman is located in Azerbaijan in Central Asia
(Irwin R 1997: 126 Fig 104)

Turkish copy of Sulayman Nama by Firdaws,
painted (Irwin R 1997: 206 Fig 168).

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