

Recognition of the Characteristics of Iranian Art and Civilization of the Sassanid City of Gur (224 BC. -1300.)

Abstract

The city is the last phase in the development of the primitive human environment. Cities are the crystallization of the cultural, economic, social and physical systems of their time. The existing cities in Iran undergone various stages in terms of formation. The study of the history of urban planning in Iran dates back to ancient times. Today, traces of a number of such cities remain. The city of Gur, which dates back to the Sassanid period, is one of the cities mentioned above. The city of Gur is a symbol of the manifestation and exhibition of the consequences of the human soul and the performance of gathering of the Iranian community in the formation and organization of one of the significant urban spaces in Iran in the early Sassanid era. The city of Gur is the first city founded by the Sassanids. The issue raised here is the possibility of recognizing the art and civilization of the Sassanid era by examining this historic city. The research method is descriptive-analytical and the method of data collection is library and documentary analysis. Findings of the research indicate that the city of Gur expresses the personality, destiny and the passage of historical developments of the people of this land; furthermore, its knowledge in the form of culture and civilization of Sassanid Iran can be deliberated. Acknowledging the city of Gur is not only significant in terms of geographic features rather it is the recognition of political, cultural, social, artistic and architectural values; in other words, the city is a piece of history that has been materialized from the mind and embodied in the form of public habitats, networks, streets, public places, fire temples and observatories.

Research aims:

1. Recognition of the city of Gur as an ancient city.
2. Investigation of the elements of art and civilization of the Sassanid era in the city of Gur.

Research questions:

1. What are the characteristics of the city of Gur as an ancient city?
2. What is the reflection of Sassanid art and civilization in the city of Gur?

Keywords: Gur city, Firoozabad, Sassanid cities, art and civilization

Introduction

The Sassanids ruled Iran for a prolonged age in the history of ancient Iran and during this period, the province of Fars became their main capital. During this period, the city of Gur bestowed distinct importance and this position continued to the Islamic period. The city has witnessed many political events during its life such events constantly take place within a geographical environment, and such factors may influence the course of events, nonetheless it is continually human beings who play a vital role in political events. Since one-dimensional interpretations of history are not expressive and satisfactory for a complete description of human behavior and action, it is necessary to know the historical geography whose subject is the study of the influence of place on the fate of history and civilization. The city of Gur, as one of the most important cities of the Sassanid period, beholds an ancient civilization and a vivid cultural heritage. The prosperity of this city started from the Sassanid period and continued until the Buvid period; Therefore, according to this article, the purpose is to use the information provided by historians and geographers on the one hand and the archaeological data of recent years on the other hand, the position and role of the city of Gur as one of the main contexts of ancient Iranian heritage which extended beyond the geographical boundaries of the time.

Regarding the background of the present study, it should be said that no independent work with this title has been written so far. However, numerous studies have been written about the city of Gur. From recent research, valuable information can be extracted from the city of Ardeshir Khoreh. Among those who have provided valuable reports of their observations, the following studies can be mentioned: the archeological works of Dietrich Hoff (1987) as well as the "systematic study of the city of Ardeshir Khoreh" by Montazer Zohori (2014). In these two works, the city of Gur is briefly studied. Another article entitled "Study and analysis of the throne of the city of Gur; "A Nasty Building with a Ceremonial Function" has been written by Judaki et al. (2017). In this work, the architecture of this city is discussed. The main standing of the present study is that in expressing the historical geography of the city of Gur, an attempt has been made to examine the dynamics, origins and formulations of history and geography in parallel and in interaction with each other. This research was conducted by descriptive and analytical methods and relying on library data and documentary analysis in order to clarify the hidden angles of civilization in the city of Gur in the history of Iran.

Conclusion

The city of Gur is one of the most vital cities in the province of Fars; furthermore, the identity and fame of the land of Fars has long been mediated by this city and several other large cities such as Parseh, Istakhr, Bishabour and Darabgard. The city of Gur is of great importance due to its location along the Tangab River, fertile lands, good weather and being located on the Shiraz-Siraf commercial road; as most geographers have evaluated natural geography, climate and its predisposing conditions and have praised this land as an important region. Therefore, knowing the city of Gur is not just knowing a geography; Rather, the recognition of political, cultural, social, artistic and architectural values is a selection of history that has been materialized from the mind and embodied in the form of public habitats, networks, streets, public places, fire temples and observatories. This result is influenced by the confrontation and cultural interactions and relations of the living forces (material and spiritual) in the historical geography of the city of Gur. The final point is that the city can be considered as one of the few works in the history of world architecture and urban planning, the desire to register it globally not only shows admiration and respect for its predecessors, but also as a document of the evolution of prominent technical and architectural forms in world history. We will know the value of the remnants of this city when we remember that this structure is the first known city of regular circles in the world and a reflection of those architectural creations that have emerged over the centuries through cultural exchange between different peoples.

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