

Prophet Noah and Nakhchivan – the Cradle of Mankind

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The name of Nakhchivan city is connected with the name of Prophet Noah. The tomb of Prophet Noah is located in the Nakhchivan city, Azerbaijan. It is composed of three parts: the vault, the over grave tomb and the conical cover. The Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic Supreme Mejlis Chairman Mr. Vassif Talibov signed a decree on restoration of the tomb of Prophet Noah, dated June 28, 2006. The restoration work concluded in 2008.

The history of Prophet Noah's tomb goes back about 7500-8000 years, to VI millennium BC and it was restored three times throughout the history. First time the tomb was restored in VIII century by Arabs. For the second time it was restored in XII century (unknown by whom) and the last time by the local authorities of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, Azerbaijan.

Greek historian Claudius Ptolemy (II century AD), showed the facts that the grave of Prophet Noah was in Nakhchivan and Prophet Noah laid the foundation of the Nakhchivan city and Nakhchivan was considered to be the center of ancient civilization. He also showed the great relations of Sumerians and Nakhchivan.

XV-XVI century Arab historian al-Tabary and al-Ashrafy noted the facts that the grave of Prophet Noah is in Nakhchivan, also there were given the facts about the existence

of the remainders of Prophet Noah's ark in Nakhchivan. Government officials of the tsarist Russia and Russian researchers visited the grave of Prophet Noah in XIX-XX centuries and gave a number of facts about it.

There are a number of facts in the religious books of Koran, Bible and Torah, in the Sumerian and Akkard legends about Prophet Noah and Great Flood. According to the Sumerians Prophet Noah is considered to be the second father of mankind. Prophet Noah lived for 950 years and he was 3 meters tall.

Prophet Noah's name is associated with the Great Flood. The facts show that Prophet Noah lived around Mesopotamia. The Great Flood was the result of volcanic eruption in the Agridagh (Turkey) and flooding of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Before the Great Flood Allah ordered Prophet Noah to build an ark, to take his family members, his believers and a pair of each animal into the ark. Prophet Noah built a great ark. When the Great Flood began he took his family members, believers and a pair of each animal into the ark and began to sail. During the voyage the ark firstly touched a mountain which Prophet Noah called " Agir dagh" ("Hard mountain"). It is located in Turkey and has had the name since then as "Agridagh". For the second time the ark touched another mountain. Prophet Noah said that it was not lesser than the first one. So, it was called "Kemky" (not lesser) which is located in South Azerbaijan. Then the ark touched a mountain for the third time and at the result the top of the mountain forked. Later it was called "Hachadagh"(Forked mountain) among the people. Prophet Noah said: "Inan dagh" (Believe, it is a mountain). After the water receded snakes gathered on the mountain and it was called "Ilanlidagh". Hachadagh is located in Julfa region Nakhchivan AR, Azerbaijan. After touching the mountains Prophet Noah's ark landed around Gapyjigh peak of Gamigaya mountain Ordubad region Nakhchivan AR. Prophet Noah called the mountains by different names that his ark had touched. We would like to note that nowhere in the world there

are so many toponyms about Prophet Noah as in Nakhchivan AR. One of the most valuable evidences is the Special Topographic Map that was compiled by Nakhchivan Separate Caucasus Corps in early XIX century. There has been shown the location of the tomb of Prophet Noah on the map.

In 2006, during the archeological excavations around the tomb of Prophet Noah, there have been found two parts of the tomb walls of XII century. One of those parts is being kept in the tomb and the other part is being kept in the Nakhchivan Department of Azerbaijan National Sciences Academy.

Outstanding realist artist of the early XX century Behruz Kengerli painted the picture of the tomb of Prophet Noah on the canvas six times. The original of those paintings are kept in Behruz Kengerli Museum and in the Nakhchivan State History Museum. One of them was painted with oil paint and is kept in Azerbaijan Museum of Fine Arts. The photo of the tomb of Prophet Noah was taken by Russian researchers in XIX century. There is written under the photo: Nakhchivan, Noah's grave.

In 1890 there was portrayed the tomb of Prophet Noah's grave in the postcards. The gravure taken by the French in 1840 is displayed in the tomb exposition. In the painting there was portrayed the tomb, the remainders of the Nakhchivangala, Hachadagh mountain and Eshabukehf pilgrimage. The author of the painting was the French traveler Fredrik De Monpery. The traveler dealt with Prophet Noah's grave in his work "Caucasian".

Archeological excavations in Gamigaya, Ordubad region were expanded by the order of the Nakhchivan AR authorities in 2001. In the archeological excavations of 2001-2005, there were found the ancient inscriptions about Prophet Noah.

According to the legend when Prophet Noah's Ark landed, the mountains were burning in the surrounding. But the flame didn't burn the people or the greens around. When asked the reason, Prophet Noah explained that it was not the usual flame, that was the miraculous flame of the strength and

prosperity and Holy Prophet recommended them to settle there. Then, for the first time, where Noah's heel touched the ground, the place was called Noahdaban (Noah's heel). During the archeological excavations in the Nakhchivan AR territory, there were found sea gems which proved the existence of sea in the Nakhchivan territory. According to the legend the Nakhchivan city was founded by Prophet Noah and it was called Nuhchikhan (the place where Prophet Noah landed). As we know legends derive from the real life.

On April 24-25, 2009 International Symposium "Flood of Noah and Nakhchivan" was held in Nakhchivan. About 40 scientists from four countries- Azerbaijan, Turkey, Egypt and Irag attended the symposium.

The foreign and local scientists came to the most important conclusion that Nakhchivan is the land where people inhabited after the Great Flood happened on the Earth. The people and animals from the ark, Prophet Noah, his sons and believers landed in Nakhchivan and it is the first city where the primitive city culture was formed. So, we believe that Nakhchivan is the cradle of the mankind, it is the most ancient city in the world and its name is associated with the name of Prophet Noah.

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