

Castle Mountain (Artagovana) as one of the most important potential of Geotourism Qayen town, South Khorasan south East in Iran

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Abstract

Castle Mountain, or Artagovana, glorious natural and human heritage remains from ancient age and Achaemenid dynasty in Qohestan the historic district in the south of Khorasan, the spent backbone and a long era . This castle in the first centuries of islam went, as one of the shelters and centers Zoroastrian propaganda and centuries later, the most important centers of activity of the Ismailid of Southern Khorasan province. As far as the compilation works such as ethics of AKHLAGHE-NASERI by Khajeh Nasir Tusi tale of considerable importance to it .This building as one of the centers advisable for attracting tourism, index makes location and natural landscape castle on the one hand, and the other hand remained of buildings and architectural works such as one floor or two floor spaces and embedded trench, water storage, and the wall is stable. Three points above the basic castle are:

- 1 – Background of ancient and historical building as a center of political and intellectual developments in effective land of Khorasan and compared with Alamut castle.*
- 2 - Position with beautiful natural space by clearing the height on top of a mountain over five hundred meters.*
- 3 - Buildings architecture of this castle that kept clear of the boom has various periods.*

Key words: *Iran - Khorasan - Qohestan - Castle Mountain - Ismailid.*

Introduction

Introduction Attractions tourism in temporary, one of the most familiar ways of non-indigenous people, and beyond the culture and civilization a region is considered the world. While these have provided the introduction for bigness considerable research and even from domestic and foreign tourists. Meanwhile, one of the points on the natural, political and Iranian architecture can be in the field of study and to be impassable, still pristine and instead remains intact, and the hardworking efforts of researchers to require its introduction, Castle Mountain is Qayen. Clay Clay This building, complete Any hound, is a narrative developments that this place has passed and objective way, change repeater fill this area of the incident on land in Iran.

Despite the many ups and downs of this historic castle is passed, but still much research to screening and in sharp has not brought researchers. Rather unfortunate that this dramatic effect of the natural - human, unknown corner of the ancient land of Khorasan as Qohestan, the landscape around the study is needed. Suitable location due to proximity to the castle with the main transit south of Khorasan, and efforts by the Organization for cultural heritage restoration and reconstruction of some parts of the castle has this, this location disability ...

Development. Castle mentioned the main road across a small distance to the presence there, that even the elderly people will simply accept.

1 - Geographical Castle Mountain:

Overlooking the city and is Qayen coast of Bozorgmehr mausoleum in East Tomb, a mountain range of the third millennium that glaring geology to connect to other heights in this region (Qayen the city because the setting is between), Mountain appellation later to change was Qohestan has taken to. 1

Therefore height this land area to land around, cause specific name refers to the situation geological of land and natural history of this land is. 2

So that means Persian literature has been:

همه بوم ماهان و جای مهان هم از قهستان تا در اصفهان.^۳

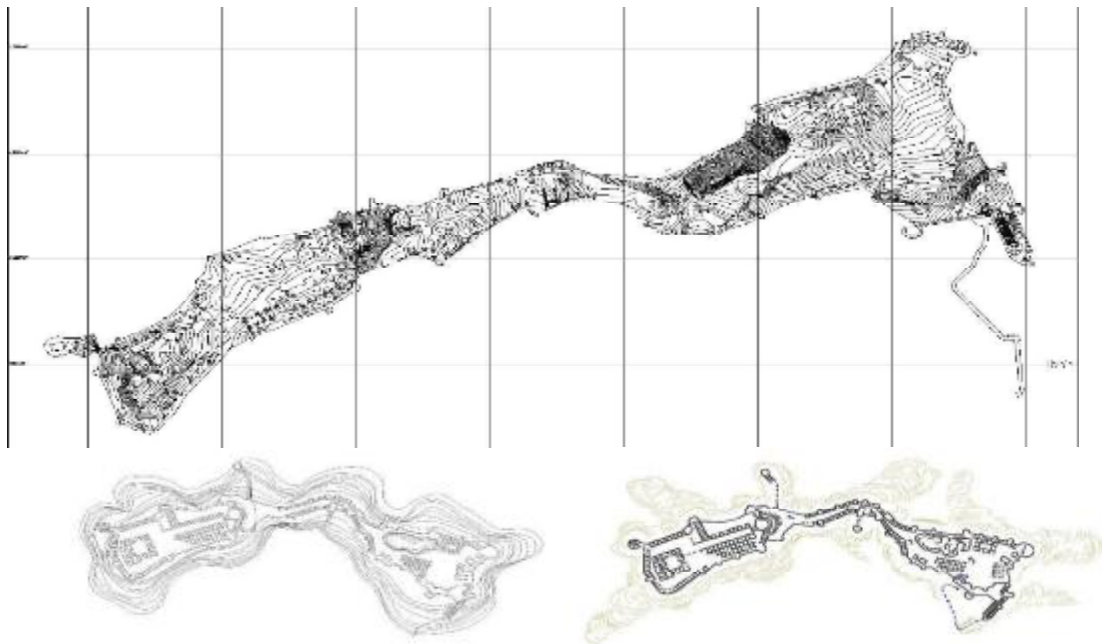
All canvas instead of Mahan and Mahan also Qhstan to Isfahan.³

Shahnameh Ferdowsi Tusi in the mountainous areas of the greatness and importance Qohestan will learn:

The Guild Charter to draw Nbshtnd elders and oven Kian

Qhstan land and gave him the Shah was great because they sometimes.⁴

نیشند منشور بر پر نیان به رسم بزرگان و فر کیان
زمین قهستان و را داد شاه که بود او سزای بزرگی و گاه.^۴



Castle mountain of Qayen

This castle within normal limits in South and East to the mountains and the plains of West and North Qayen is completely near. The smallest movement in the area remained not far

from the seen, and even climb through the section is impossible or very difficult. Trenches defense and construction of stone walls in this section, to achieve within makes it completely impossible. Height of this mountain, about five hundred meters above sea level and have average annual rain is 170-80 mm. Therefore, access to the valley just behind the castle is possible. As such, more barriers, trenches and walls long defense, in this section is located .5

According to some historians, this area has two natural heterogeneous situation, the vast land area that had eighty eighty fields and most of the heights of mountains and plains in the desert. 6

This castle of the places which are scattered among these mountains and mountain region that has overcome the plain, a narrative history, is made by Sam Ibn Nariman .7



Castle mountain of Qayen

Although the position impassable mountainous region with vast desert plain has been the cause of some provincial Qohestan small and lack political and social importance and credibility required in South Khorasan know the ancient era. 8

Of course, this means painting location is low. As some European traveler Marco Polo told , this region consists of two independent provincial as flourish, TUN and Qayen and said credit means TUNOQAEN .9

One of the authors of the fourth century / tenth century, the insecurity in this region a thousand years ago, and said that robbers pirates and other surrounding wilderness are inclined to attempt to plunder Posts convoy. 10

Not causeless occasion if lack of central government control in this region, some security on occasions be provided and argument strength, claiming the presence of some areas of the province. Including the presence can be strongly in this region, especially the Ismailid deployment Qayen pointed mountain fortress.

2 - consolidation and establishment of Ismailid in Castle Mountain:

Although the historical background to the Achaemenid castles and asylum Zoroastrian it goes, but mostly it Ismailid known as settlement now. Historical sources also confirm the fact that the mountain fortress of the most important centers of power(similar Qayen Ismailid) in Iran

has been considered. After the appearance of Hassan Sabbah, Malekshah Seljoghi, one of its commanders that named Ghezel Sarugh, send for consolidation and discipline affairs, means the region can be deployed to a central disposal Nazari Ismailid. 11 This castle before melee, this area Symjuriyan family were under the hegemony and the relative peace enjoyed. 12

But special features natural fortress, it was the Ismailis to also take refuge in this castle resort to stabilize his right and central to their religious and political operations in East Iran. Some historians reports, Ismailid significant expansion and prosperity and the mountainous area to build their fences in defense and military castles Qohestan particular supporters around the city today Qayen. 13

Therefore, after the invitation of Hasan Sabbah began, invited the pectoral region Qohestan immediately followed him. He sent at 484 AM / 1092 M, one of her motive to the invitation that named Hossein Ghaeni Qhstan and settle in the mountain castle Qayen. 14

This group invited the mass was actually comply Qohestan Castle Mountain, as one of the prominent and prestigious castle Ismailid were in cachexia. As to where this castle later Demographics of Iran was very rich and valuable cultural centers and libraries and will have extensive. Many books of around Iran and even Muslim world was upside down castle. The packer was led gradually to the central castle for outstanding books and writing in different fields such as ethics and philosophy is wisdom.

So do not doubt that this castle remained there impassable mountainous earth, the formation of a central field staff was also formed. Ismailid rulers of the castle stand slowly adding staff and staff sculares and celebrities for their presence in this era castle and the use of their capacity brought invited. Growth of moral and philosophical books translated from Arabic to Persian attempts another motive to this castle has been considered. 15

Invite of Khajeh Nasir Tousi to use the large library this castle, and the use of the motive Khajeh presence, and he was finally possible that the head takes Tous, scientific reputation because it was means that this castle. Some reliable sources of historical presence in Khajeh Nasir in Qayen mountain fortress this time, according conditions of time. 16

Khajeh went to near Naseroddin Mohtasham Qhstani and translated and began writing books. Including encouraging Nasir al-Din, pirated books **Altaharah** from Arabic to Persian that wrote by Moskoveyh and returned and some additional extensions added to it and to Nasser it ethical to bring AKHLAGHE NASERI in writing. 17

Even Khajeh Nasir in ode eulogy Al-mostasam Bellahe Abbasid Khalif, wrote and sent to caliphate transmitted port. Theorem related to the cause of political connection and device Minister of Khalif, caliphate Qohestan castles can provide some correspondence between the Minister Khalifa (Ibne- ALqamy) and Nasser al-Din Mohtasham and Khajeh Nasir was performed. 18

Although the correspondence Khajeh Nasir cause rejection of the castle was Qayen after some of Nasir al-Din because he was suspicious of him with a range Alamut until the end of the Mongol invasion castles Ismailid, Khajeh Nasir was released and also served Hulaghukhan. 19

Therefore with models as Khajeh Nasir, clear evidence of the prosperity of this historic castle is in different periods. Because and point characters in the region and spent the castle that they only mention their names will to become lengthly. 20

That enough to be noted that Nasser , Khusrow in travel to Qayen city has seen a man who was aware of any scientific, medicine, astronomy and logic palaver also that this man has done in his travel is tip means .21

This much suggests that perhaps this district of Khorasan, because there is Ismailid motives of Qayen Castle Mountain, the growth and development staff have over other areas .

Apparently in the next periods less clear news does not get this castle and the Mongol invasion, led to what the color of the Ismailid is awarded to the cast. Therefore, this castle to the glorious memory of lost gradually and approach to our era, day by day was added to destroy it. However in recent years, the Cultural Heritage, a good effort to restore and rebuild the castle has accepted this space so that you can now welcome domestic and foreign tourists were there.

3 - Profile building and its material:



Castle mountain of Qayen

Castle mentioned longitudinal extent of more than five hundred meters in width and much less, is built on the heights, (plan comes into the castle). This area to the smaller area of several different applications have apparently has been divided. The military is uses such as settlement and warfare, residential and comfort from Castle Place, culture or location, and teaching and library, and the animals of the location such as horse riding and wagon and mule There is a floor and two floor buildings as well as visible currently available. There are several rooms with different dimensions of wood cover is fully confirmed.

These buildings and the rooms of stone, brick, plaster and mortar have been made. Required water from the spring rain to a warehouse in water depth of five meters long, four and three meters wide, which was built of brick and plaster was provided. Use of mud and plaster of straw wall building castles in the surface is visible. Many of the rooms was ceiling plaster and lime apparently . As the writer of this castle has seen nearly, two-floor room that appear to apparently school must be made for residents.

At all levels of walls, architecture is a way that inside bricks and stones is also pointing . Containers, broken pieces of colored clay surface area to mass Castle, the story of life in this place is long term.

Conclusion:

Castle Mountain Qayen can be the most important cultural centers and even the civilization of East considered significant enough role in the development of science and religion had the land. Role in the papers on Color this castle, this castle valuable indicator position in the past and the forgotten role in the present. If this work be properly introduced to visitors, especially with the exposure of the main highway south of Khorasan, for many interesting and even tourists will be controversial memory. Failed at the heart of the region castles share appropriate for attracting tourism to the area in and where we value the natural and historic , innocence washed the dust and world see the it .



Castle mountain of Qayen

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