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### Revision of Mubarekeh History based on Field and Documentary Researches

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#### Abstract

Mubarekeh has an unclear history and all writings end in what they said Mubarekeh was originated from Amin Abad and related it to Safavid period. Having found some documents at the beginning, it got clear that Mubarekeh is different from Amin Abad. From some after documents we understand that Mubarekeh was referred to another place, previously named Sahra Mubarekeh (the Desert of Mubarekeh) and it was the first place of Mubarekeh. Talking with the natives, we found signs of ancient history with more than thousand year's old history. Then the field research was done and it got clear that Mubarekeh's history reaches at last to Susani Empire. This research has investigated the history of Mubarekeh based on several researching methods including document analysis, field

researches, conversations with natives and library studies. In confirmation of this finding, a Sassanid pot that was a food container was discovered, which a clear document of the antiquity of Mubarekeh is. By examining the gravestones in Mubarekeh cemetery, it became clear that the new place of Mubarekeh is nearly 330 years old and about three hundred and fifty years ago, the ancient Mubarekeh was destroyed and after that the modern Mubarekeh was built in a new place. The natives found old ovens, oil burners (lamp) and broken clay dishes called 'Kondole' in the ancient part of Mubarekeh and fortunately the researcher found many pieces of broken pottery in the same place, some of which are made of Sarooj (a traditional blue lime mortar in Iran) exactly the same material of discovered Sassanid pot.

**Keywords:** Mubarekeh, Amin Abad, Sassanid Pot, Thousands of Years, Sarooj

#### 1. Introduction

Mubarekeh has been a part of the Vast Lenjan which has three main towns including Mubarekeh, Falavarjan and the modern Lenjan. Common features of these three towns is passing the Zayanderood River through these three towns and irrigating the important fields of these regions by Maldis branched from the river. The history of Mubarekeh is unknown to us and some people have attributed it to Safavid period. Nevertheless, according to ancient history of Lenjan and its ancient culture and life, the history of Mubarekeh must be as old as Lenjan. Pointing out Mubarekeh is located in the center of old Lenjan and the passage of Lenjan which connects the south and the west of Iran to Isfahan includes Mubarekeh, it must not be true that Mubarekeh belongs to Safavid Dynasty. This research is exploring in Mubarekeh history and finding the first original place of Mubarekeh.

#### 2. History

Mubarekeh was considered a new town until a few years ago and its first original place was thought to be Amin Abad in the south of modern Mubarekeh. This writing has appeared in the book of «Ganjineh Zayanderood, the yearbook of Lenjan-Oliya 'Culture» for the first time without any documents. According to this book, the village was built in Shah Abbas Safavi I period for the first time and Maryam Beigom\_ Shah Abbas' aunt\_ tried to build it up. There were some other women helped repair and rebuild the village as there are traces of these people remained there and at first it was called "Amin Abad". Maryam Beigom was the wife of Ahmad Khan Guillani and Mubarak was her slave who was the agent of the lady. He opened the Holy book of Quran and there was this verse:«from the right bank of the valley in the blessed site»<sup>1</sup> so they named this village Mubarekeh. This is issued in the book of «Mubarekeh in the Passage of History »by Ismaeil Karimi but it is pointed that this

<sup>1</sup> In Arabic Mubarak means blessed

writing hasn't had any documents. (Karimi 1998). Casting doubt on this issue, Abdol Hossein Nehchiri wrote: there Maryam Beigom didn't send any person to choose the name of Mubarekeh by Istikhare. <sup>2</sup> (Nehchiri, 2019, 25). However, he believed that Amin Abad was the first name of Mubarekeh and he thought that Mubarekeh has expanded from Amin Abad to the north.

Isfandiyar Iranpour in his book «Mubarekeh: Return to History» wrote that the name of Amin Abad was changed into Mubarekeh in 13th century. (Iranpour Mubarekeh). It is obvious that there haven't been yet any authors or researchers who have done field or document researches on this topic and all we have is on the base of what these authors have heard. Seyed Reza Mousavinasab wrote about these subject: What is already in our hands about this subject is based on the stories and narrations passed down to the next generations. it is clear that we have no written documents about this and all these available scattered writings almost mostly based on guesses and not a real fact. (Mousavinasab, handwritten).

Muhammad Ali Shakeri wrote that what has been remained in people's minds and mouths is that the first building in Mubarekeh was built at the time of Turks' and Mongols' dominance in this region and Isfahan because there are still some parts of the first buildings in the old houses of this region that shows the especial Seljuk's architecture and its antiquity. However, they said the development of Mubarekeh began in the Safavid period and continued to Quajar era. (Shakeri, a handwritten book) but it should be considered that none of these authors has explored and studied what the knowledgeable and elderly natives said. It is noticeable that lots of issues were clarified by the writer of this article and just Ismaeil Karimi pointed out that some natives have said that Mubarekeh in the beginning was built in the vicinity of a pond and because of that pond it was called Molberkeh meaning near a pound then it was changed into Mubarekeh. (Karimi 1991, 28). Actually, far so no field and documentary researches about Mubarekeh history have been done by the writers and the history of Mubarekeh is completely vague and unclear.

This research has identified the first place of Mubarekeh and its history by using written and spoken sources and document analysis as well as using archaeological signs. In addition, linguistic studies were conducted on the meaning of the word "Mubarekeh". In this way the root of the ancient word of Mubarekeh was traced so this fact that the name of Mubarekeh is very old confirms that -like its name-the town is ancient too.

### 3. The Denomination of Mubarekeh

About 18 villages with the name of Mubarekeh have been recorded in the book of "The Dictionary of Iran 's Villages and Religious Places in 1987 (Papoli Yazdi, 2005) but this number reduced to 9 villages with this name in the volume 3 of the book of Gitaology of Iran which shows that 9 villages have been destroyed in 17 years (Jafari, 2005). So, let's find the common points in philosophy of naming of these villages. To research in recognition the name of places we should have linguistic studies, identify the place and its history and find the root of the word in the old and middle Persian language. (Mehryar, 2009). About the name of

Mubarekeh which is located in Tiran and Karvan, it has been written that this village is one of the villages that was formed by the migration of Armenians to this region and the Shah Abbas's government settled them in this relatively fertile and good weather area and dug aqueduct for them at the expense of the government and helped them to build up the village. Base on the conversation with the elderly local people, the reason for naming the village has been stated as follows: when the aqueduct was dug in the village and water flowed and the village prospered, this event was very happy for the villagers so everyone congratulated each other and the name of the village was originated from that event (Mubarekeh Village Certificate, 2016). In the writer's opinion this philosophy is questionable and cannot be true because it should be checked whether this world existed in the language of Armenian at that time?

About Mubarekeh near Taft in Yazd, it is said to be very old according what the local officials and elders believed. However due to its suitable location for agriculture and easy access to water sources and good weather it was a nice place for forming villages. (Mubarekeh and Cham, Taft, 2015, the leading plan of the villages). As people of Mubarekeh in Taft are Zoroastrians, this belief that the name of Mubarekeh was originated from Arabic language is doubtful. We can see this kind of naming in Iran that is compatible with the language of the settlers in those regions, for instance we can see Georgian names in Fereidan in Isfahan province as they were Georgian people who moved there in Shah Abbas period. It is interesting to note that about the name of other Mubarekehs in Iran, there aren't any clear and accurate information and all we have are questionable. After lots of explorations in geography and field studies, the linguistic approach has been really helpful and through the author's researches in Persian names and his proving the antiquity of Mubarekeh, all of names which have the same root with Mubarekeh were found. The names of Noobar, Barkeh, Nookeh and Boorkeh all around Iran have the same root with the word Mubarekeh and in the speech of Isfahan an Mubarekeh natives there are the words like Moubarkey, Noubarkey, Moubarkeh and Noubarkeh and Noubarkeh pronunciation is more common among elderly natives. From linguistic point of view what natives pronounce is very important and the common pronunciation of the region can be the key to solve the names puzzle of that region, therefore we can rely on it. (Mehryar, 2003). To show his mastery on historical geography of Isfahan province Mir Seyed Ali Jenab in his book named Al Isfahan wrote the name of Mubarekeh with 'e ' not 'a'. (Jenab 1992, 54). Seyed Hossein Razavi Ghahnaviyeh in his handwritten book wrote a poem about the historical attack of Cheragh Ali Khan Bakhtiyari to Mubarekeh and the word Mubarekeh is identified with diacritics:

بد صد و هشتاد فارس همروش      او فتادش در مبارکه گذار

(Razavi, handwritten Book)

Both Mir Seyed Ali Jenab and Seyed Hossein Razavi were the Quran teachers and it is clear that both of them had a complete knowledge of the Arabic words and the clear differences of Mubarak (means congratulations in Arabic) and Mubarekeh and intentionally wrote the word Mubarekeh with its correct diacritics and pronunciation. It is clear that Mubarekeh is different from Arabic word Mubarak and the

<sup>2</sup> Istikhare means consulting a book at random in need of some one's guidance

word Noubarkeh clarifies this point. In pronouncing Noubarkeh and Noubarkey there is change of /n/ sound to /m/ sound like other words Bademjan, Badenjan and informally pronounced Badenjoon. The words and letters: Na, Ne, Ni, Niyeh, Neh and Nou (like Noughan) and other forms of this word all mean water (Mehryar, 2003, 511) and abundance of words like Keyneh, Nehchir (Nichir) and Dehno in the villages around Mubarekeh is meaningful and enlightening. The researcher of this article thinks the word Nou meaning water refers to the river since there is a river called Roodkhane Shour follows through the villages Keyne and Nehchir and it is interesting to notice that the researcher later found the passage of this river that passed through ancient Mubarekeh and the experts have confirmed the passage of this river through this place (Jafar Boroumand, 2009, oral conversation) and this river passes through the old place of Dehno. Although there is this view that "ke" means place and location, we can still hear "ke" meaning aqueduct among the natives of Mubarekeh. Also "key" in the word 'Moubarkey' is equal "ke" and clearly means aqueduct and we can see 'desert out of Ab Moubarkey' in a document in 1955 (1334 AH). So, what is the meaning of "bar" in Mubarekeh?

In the language of ancient Persian "bar" means border and beach. Knowing this meaning doesn't require lots of research as this word is still used in the form of bar. This word means by, near, too. For example: *بیا برم بشین* (come and sit by me) or we can see this word in Ferdosi poems in Shahnameh:

*"بیامد بر شاه خورشید فش"*

(Ramezankhani, 2012). This word is used in modern language of natives in Mubarekeh by changing the sound /b/ into /v/. With all of these points we can come to this conclusion that Mubarekeh is the same Moubarkeh or the ancient word Noubarkeh and it means a place which has an aqueduct near the river.

#### 4. Mubarekeh from Sassanid Period

What was found about Mubarekeh and its history is the result of several years of research about the history of Mubarekeh and the contradictory signs and statements about this town indicate the obscure history of Mubarekeh. The first issue is that some believed Mubarekeh was built in the Safavid period but we couldn't find any signs or remnants of that period and all were found in Mubarekeh referred to the post period of Safavy, for example in the study of gravestones in Mubarekeh cemetery, the oldest gravestone went back to 1731(1110A.H). And the researcher in the research about the tribes that migrated to Mubarekeh reached to the history close to this year of 1731(1110A.H). There is a document founded on the edge of Quran by Mola Ali. He was the imam of Great Mosque in Mubarekeh. On the edge of that book the date of his death was 1751(1230 AH) and in other part of that Quran it was written that Ali is the son of Heidar, the son of Mehdi Mubarekeh. Considering the average age of thirty years for each generation, the death date of Mullah Ali's grandfather was 1791(1170 AH). Also in the study of Mubarekeh different tribes we got to the grandsons of Asaleh and by drawing his family tree and considering the same 30 years for each generation we didn't get to the 330 years before his immigration to Mubarekeh. In the ethnology of people in other villages the author of this article couldn't find any tribes and narrations more than 330

years old and this hypothesis that a natural disaster caused the dispersion of people from this region is very strong. Although the possibility of an earthquake can be raised (Shafaghi, 2002) the possibility of flooding is much higher as Sharden wrote about a flood in Isfahan exactly at the same period in a way that King Soleiman safavi lost about two millions Eco (Sharden 1956, translation of Mohammad Abbasi). The possibility of a flood becomes stronger when we know that in the flood of 1954, Bisheh village which was attached to the modern town of Mubarekeh was completely destroyed and the name of Bisheh added to the last name of people in this village is seen. On the other hand, in the petition attributed to Sheikh Baha'i there is the name of Mubarekeh Madi (Madi means the wide streams branched off that from the river). From the contents of this document it is clear that this document was written in 923 lunar year and the water share of this Madi from the Zayande Rood river is six shares which is more than the shares of the famous villages like Dizi and Riz (Sheikh Baha'i petition). Therefore Mubarekeh must not have been a new village at that time. On the other hand, it became clear in the conversations with the natives that the water of Madi used to be up to the brick bridge that was in the west of Mubarekeh and its desert and later this Madi was drawn to the village (oral conversation, Seyed Reza Erfani, Jafar Salehi 2018). Another issue is that the name of Mubarekeh is applied to two places: One is Mubarekeh village and the other Mubarekeh desert that it is just a part of deserts around Mubarekeh, not the whole deserts. Talking with elderly natives revealed that signs of old life were found during the excavation of this desert just a few decades ago and the most important one was the discovery of an oven between 2018 and 2022. Also the researcher found a lot of broken pottery along with pieces of Sarooj which should belong to food storage containers in Mubarekeh Desert. In this desert traces of a mud wall were found in two places by the researcher. This mud wall was found at far distance from the place of Sassanid pot.

Also, the existence of an old mill called Sahra Darasiya near the same desert, which has also been found in the documents shows the existence of life around the desert of Mubarekeh in the past. Otherwise, the names of deserts included dessert of Mubarekeh and near deserts are Tira, Angari, Pala Mahsood, Pakooreh ...All of these names are ancient and this is a very important sign of the antiquity of this area. One of the elderly natives who was very knowledgeable believed that the name of Mubarekeh is different Arabic word of Mubarak.

Here's his poem about this:

*به نزد مردم دانا وجود ان هدف است*

*بود مبارکه شهری که نام ان شرف است*

(Oral conversation, Seyed Reza Erfani, 2018). He believed that the name Mubarekeh is strongly formed from three parts mo + bar + keh. And the researcher of this article came to the same conclusion after many investigations and studies in historical geography of Mubarekeh. The antiquity of life in Mubarekeh Desert was proved to the researcher after seeing some gravestones there and finding a Sasanid pot made of Sarooj which was a container for food storage in 2021. In fact this was the final confirmation of the antiquity of Mubarekeh desert. The research in finding the meaning of Mubarekeh got to this point that a river must have passed

through the ancient Mubarekeh. And what is more interesting is that later he found the bed of this river in the same place.



Fig 1: Some of pottery found in the old place of Mubarekeh



Fig 2: The sandy bed of river passing through the old Mubarekeh



Fig 3: The remains of a wall in the old place of Mubarekeh



Fig 4: The Sarooj pot founded in Mubarekeh

Finding this bed of river confirms the meaning of river in the word Mubarekeh as well as its antiquity.

Kholejan's history of several thousand years which has at least a thousand-year history of being a city, the existence of several thousand-year-old words and names in this region as well as forty thousand years of human history in Ghale Bozi's caves prove the antiquity of the former place of Mubarekeh.

## 5. Conclusion

The first and original place of Mubarekeh town is in deserts of modern Mubarekeh. Finding broken pieces of pottery in this desert and then discovery a pot made of Sarooj which its history goes back at least to Sasanid period show the ancient history of Mubarekeh until that time. We came to the same conclusion by studying and examining the meaning of the name Mubarekeh because it got clear that the origin word was Nobarkey and this name means river near aqueduct and we can find the same meaning in the lots of words and names in many villages in Isfahan province and all-around Iran. We can still find pieces of the same type and the same shape as the Sasanid pot at a distance of a hundred meter from it in this desert. Also, in the conversation with the natives it became clear that at the distance of a few hundred meters from this pot three large ancient pots were crushed while excavating with a shovel leader. To find more information archaeological excavations are needed in this place and the researcher of this article suggests the students and the researchers to sample and design the pottery of this place and research about the type of the soil of these pottery.

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