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Photo
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Chilpyk (I - IV, IX, XII centuries, end of the XII century - first half of the XIII century)

Chilpyk is one of the well-known monuments of archeology in Karakalpakstan. It served as an ancient Zoroastrian monument and later as a signal tower after the conquest of the Khorezm state by the Arabs.

In the second half of the 1st century BC to the 1st century AD, a circular shaped enclosure was constructed on the top of the conical hill, roughly 65 metres in diameter. According to Zoroastrian tradition, deceased people were brought here to clean the bones from the soft layer. The body of a deceased person was exposed to the birds and to the sun until the bones had been completely cleaned.

The remains of the deceased (skeletons) were placed in ceramic or stone ossuary containers and buried. This method of burial was associated with Zoroastrian philosophy, the purpose of which was to prevent the earth from being polluted by the remains of the deceased.

Later, after the conquest of the Khorezm state by the Arabs, Chilpyk ceased to function. And only with the division of political power in Khorezm in the middle ages, the Amu Darya began to serve as a natural border between the two capitals.