

CULTURAL SPACE OF NUROTA

Similar situation can be observed in all territories of Uzbekistan, where peculiar cultural space is preserved. It can be met: the existence of flowing water and spring as well as comfortable natural conditions for human living in all of these places. Nurota is also one of such places where exists very abundant spring, even if located a bit far from residential areas. Suitability of the nature for human survival created favorable conditions for people living permanently for thousands of years in this area.

There are some assumptions about the name of the place is connected with the rays coming out of the spring. The word “*nur*” means ray, “*ato*” means existence. Initially the place was called “Nurato”, subsequently it changed to “Nurota”.

In the territory above the spring, ruins of ancient castle are preserved. Local people call this castle as “Castle of Iskandar”, “Castle of Makedonskiy”. According to historians the castle from which the whole Nurota region is visible and observable, was constructed in this hill in 2nd and-3rd BC.

Nurota’s name became famous in the world thanks to Abulkhasan Nuriy (pseudonym Nuriy was given later) who came to Nurota from Baghdod in 957. This person was one of the ambassadors who was sent to propogate Islam and subsequently served for sustaina-



bility and the acceptance of Islam in these territories.

The water of Nurota spring is 19.5 degrees both in winter and in summer and the fish, which is not eaten by the local people live there. It is used to heal many diseases because of existence of more than 20 types of minerals in this water it. Because of the microelements in the water, the fish live there without any additional food.

Pilgrims from all regions of Uzbekistan and from neighboring countries, come to heal their diseases to “Castle of Iskandar” and to Nurota spring. In spite of the fact that Nurota is located far from residential areas, many pilgrims come to visit it. Because of this reason, people lived here permanently and a special cultural space was formed in this place. In its turn, this is reflected in the people’s lifestyle, gardening, agriculture, cattle breeding, handicraft, culture, art and mentality.

