

Birthplace of Ismael Jorjani, A Renowned Iranian Physician: Jorjan (Near the Present-day Gonbad-e Kavus) or Urgench (The Present-day Uzbekistan)

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Dear Editor,

I would like to point out some issues regarding the article entitled "Sayyed Ismael Jorjani, The famous Iranian physician and philosopher" by Seyyed Alireza Golshani that has been published in the journal of Jorjani Biomedicine Journal Volume 2, Issue 2 (Autumn 2014 & winter 2015 2014) and is about the great 11th-12th century physician, Ismael Jorjani.

In this article, the author has referred to Mudjam al-Buldan (a geographic encyclopedia written by Yaqut al-Hamawi) and stated that Jorjani was born in Gorganj (Urgench or Gorganch or Konye-Urgench or Jorjan) the capital of Khwarazm, South of the Amu Darya, which was located near the present-day Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan border. However, there was another city called the ancient Jorjan (the author might have mistakenly referred to it as the current Gonbad-e Kavus), which is currently located 80 Km east of the present-day Gorgan, formerly known as Astarabad. The author claimed that many authors have incorrectly considered the birthplace of Jorjani as the current Gonbad-e-Kavos, since the name of both cities were pronounced Jorjan in Arabic (1).

By careful reading the Mudjam al-Buldan, on pages 32-36 of 2th volume, the book describes "Jorjan" as a city located between Khorasan and Tabaristan in Iran, which could be reached from east of the city of Damghan by passing through the high mountains and valleys.

The book then introduces "Jorjanj" on page 36 and describes it as a large city in the coast of Jihoon, capital of Khwarazm. The capital was originally a city called Mansoura in the western

border of Jihoon, but was later destroyed, thereby forcing the locals to migrate to Jorjanj in the eastern shore of Jihoon, which was also later destroyed by the Tatar invasion (2).

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In the other reference of the article "The practice of medicine, surgery and gynecology in Persia between 1500 A.D. and 1750 A.D." in the chapter of "Safavid medical practice" the author wrote Jorjani's birthplace was Jorjan which is current Gonbad-e Kavus and located 80 kilometers east of the present Gorgan (formerly Astarabad), he describes Jorjan was built on two sides of the Gorgan River, and due to the fact that the Qabus building -The world's tallest brick tower which erected in 396 was of special significance(3).

In the comprehensive introduction of Zakhireye Kharazmshahi, Dr. Velaiaty wrote the birthplace of Jorjani was Jorjan, which ancient ruins of this historic city are now found in the east of the Gonbad-e Kavus.

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Jorjani went to Neishabur, the center of Khorasan to study science at an early age, and around 504 AH he went to Khwarazm. The territory of Khwarazm was wide in the two sides of the Gjhon River (Amu Darya), a land between the Caspian Sea and the present Aral Lake, and it was mentioned in the same introduction to the city of Gorganj or Urgench, the capital of Khwarazm, and Nowadays, its old part is located in the western part of Gjhon and in Turkmenistan, with its eastern part in the east of Gjhon in Uzbekistan. (4)

Despite this minor inaccuracy, the praiseworthy effort that the author has put forth in introducing and honoring this great Persian scientist and physician should not be overlooked.

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