

LETTER TO EDITOR

The Village of Razmaz in Transoxiana: Tuberculosis sanatorium in the History of Medicine in the World in the Tenth Century AD

Dear Editor,

The Samanids (874–1004 AD) was an Iranian Sunni government that ruled large parts of Transoxiana for almost two centuries. It was centered in Khorasan and Transoxiana and, to its fullest extent, ruled over present-day Afghanistan and large parts of present-day Tajikistan, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Pakistan (Frye, 1975, p. 164).

Abū Ibrāhīm Ismā'īl ibn Ahmad (d. 892-907 AD), known mainly as Ismail Samani, and also known as Isma'il ibn Ahmad, was the Samanid amir of Transoxiana and Khorasan. Isma'il Ibn Ahmad was the fifth powerful Samanid Emir to rule the entire Samanid realm under a single flag in 892, the strongest period of the Samanid domain during his time. Although the Samanids accepted the Abbasid's caliph sovereignty, it practically became an independent state in Khorasan and northeast and east of Iran (Canfield, 2002, p. 12).

When Amir Isma'il ibn Ahmad Samanid fell ill at the end of his life, on doctors' advice, he went to Razmaz village from

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Joey Molyan, which had a humid climate and caused his tuberculosis or asthma to be more severe. Razmaz was one of the royal states of the Samanids (Narshakhi, 1984, p. 127; Golshani, 2021, p. 44). According to Yaqut Hamavi (1179-1229 AD), a geographer and historian in the *Mu'jam ul-Buldān*, the village of Razmaz, is a part of the Sogdia or Sogdiana district of Samarkand, between Ashtikhan and Kashaniyeh, seven miles from Samarkand in present-day Uzbekistan (Yaqut al-Hamawi, 2001, p. 520). (Figures 1 and 2)

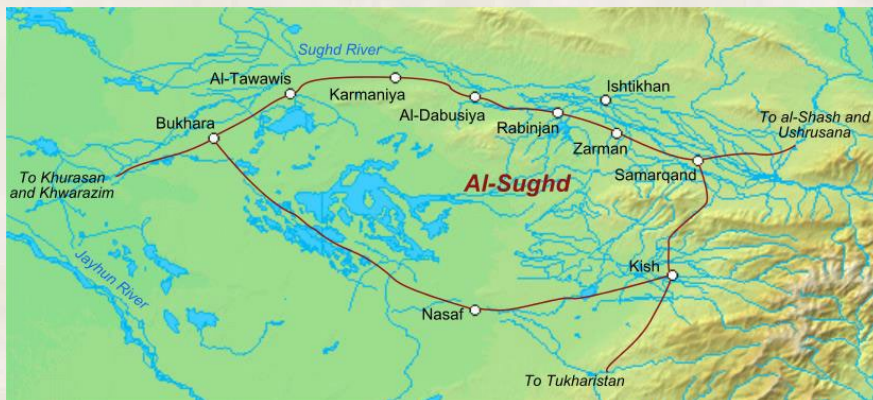


Figure 1. Map of Samarkand-Bukhara Road in the Tenth Century. (Available at: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Samarkand-Bukhara_Road_Tenth_Century.svg [Accessed January 16th 2022])

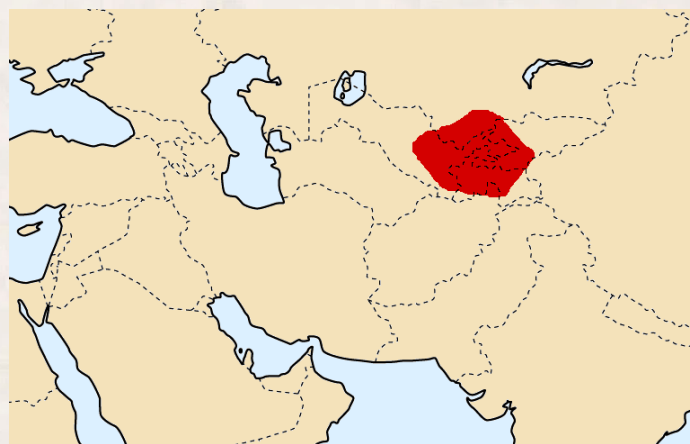


Figure 2. Map of Sogdiana. (Available at: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sogdia#/media/File:Sogdiana-300BCE.png> [Accessed January 16th, 2022])

In his book *“The Benefits of Food and Repelling Harms”*, Razi mentioned Jarir al-Tabib, the special physician of Shah Isma’il Samanid, who had scientific correspondence with Razi (854-925 AD) (Razi, 1984, p. 238). However, it is not clear which of the royal doctors prescribed him to go and stay in Razmaz village for his treatment. It is assumed that Jarir al-Tabib accompanied him until the end of Amir Ismael’s life. Amir Isma’il loved that summer resort, where he had a mansion garden built. In his spare time, he used to go there for hunting. Nevertheless, the doctors’ prescription was ineffective, and



he passed away in the same village on November 30th, 907 AD, at the age of fifty-eight (Narshakhi, 1984, p. 127; Golshani, 2021, p. 44). It can be claimed that the village of Razmaz in Transoxiana was a tuberculosis sanatorium in the history of the medical world in the tenth century AD. However, this has not been found in any historical sources so far.

Conflict of Interest

There is no conflict of interest to declare.

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