



## THE MAIN SHRINE OF HAZRAD DAUD

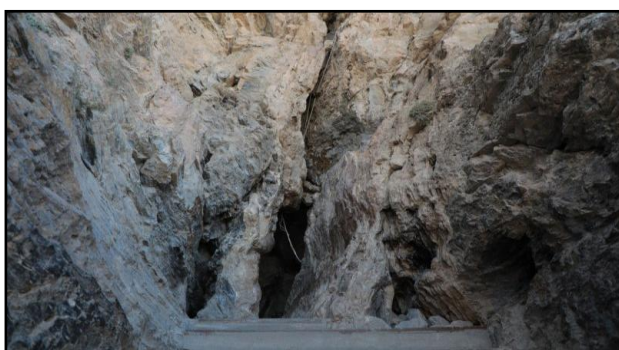
**Kenjayev Abdullaziz Erkin o'g'li – Assistant to the press secretary of Zami district administration**

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***Annotation:** In this developing tourism world, historical places are a key of developing domestic tourism. There for tourism system in our country is developing day by day. As world know Uzbekistan has a great deal of historical places. One of such historical sanctuaries is located in Mirankul Mountains of Samarqand region. In this article you can get valuable informations about King Davud cave which is located in Mirankul Mountains of Samarkand region.*

**Keywords:** Hazrad Daud cave, Samarkand region, Mirankul Mountains, Zoroastrizm.

In the Mirankul Mountains, forty kilometres from Samarkand, there is a legendary cave revered by members of different religious faiths. The cave is actually a narrow, 30-metre corridor. The flow of pilgrims, striving to touch the handprints left by Hazrat Daud (David) on the walls of the cave, never dries up.



Uzbekistan has always been a centre of spirituality. Real, historical personalities as well as heroes of as well as heroes of sacred writings, legends and myths marched through its territory leaving their traces. Uzbekistan was a meeting point of many religions: Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam.

King David (Daud) is deeply respected by Moslem mystics. The entire world knows the story of David, the hero who slew Goliath. He became a warrior king and the ruler of the United Kingdom of Israel (circa 1043 BC - 937 BC). He has gone down in history as the direct patrilineal ancestor of the Messiah, the author of Psalms and the father of King Solomon.



King David is one of the most significant personages of the Old Testament. His charismatic personality is described in masterpieces of prose, drama, poetry and music. His noble image is portrayed in paintings and sculptures.

The Old Testament describes David as a complex character, a rich and full personality. He is endowed with wisdom and many talents. On the other hand, he is impulsive and able to make mistakes at his expense.

David was shepherd when he killed Goliath had to escape, hiding himself in the desert, in the mountains and in the forest. According to Arabic sources, David was sent to Asia to preach monethism. At different stages of David's saga, his image undergoes substantial transmormation.



David is the author of psalms (*zuburs*); mountains and birds are subordinate to him and glorify the greatness of Allah with him. Daiud is the first man to work metal and make chain armour and weapons (*Saba 34:10, 34;11*) for this reason, daud is considered ta patron of blacksmiths in Uzbekistan.

The Koran has references to the combat between Daud and Jalut (Goliath). The post-Koranic accounts tell about conflicts between Daud and Talut (Saul) and confirm Talut's attempts to kill the hero.

The cave of Harat Daud attracts crowds of pilgrims from every corner of the world. In order to reach the cave, they have to climb ther 1303 steps, plunging up to the mountain peak. There, at the top, you can pray, at the ancient mosque. Then you need to go down



200 steps to the cave of Hazrat Daud. The cave, from 0.5 to 4-m wide, up to 15-m high and up to 60-m long, is a dark tunnel where you can see Daud's handprints and footprints at its end. To make a wish you should touch them.

There are also small restaurants or you can bring your own picnic.



### **The legends**

There are several legends of Saint Daud's cave. One of the histories of Hazrat Daud Cave tells that prophet Hazrat Daud was sent to these places to propagate Islam. The people confessing Zoroastrizm were angry with the prophet. Hazrat Daud was a fair man and Allah gifted him a possibility to fuse metal in his hands. The Samarkand sovereign decided to make Daud work for him – to forge swords and spears. The prophet knew about this and ran to

these places. Allah made the mountain clay, let Daud in the mountain and closed the entrance.

There is another version of how the cave of Hazrat Daud appeared. Daud was looking for a place in order to rest before the battle with Goliath (fighting man of unbeliever's army). Jinns (in Islam kind and evil ghosts) transferred Daud to the mountains not far from Samarkand. But ifrits (demons) found out Daud and brought Goliath to the mountains to Daud for fighting. Having realized that he is not yet ready, Daud began praying. He



asked Allah to hide him, and then large rocks appeared in front of him. Daud began digging the stony mass. The mountain became soft as wax. He went deep into the rock, leaving the Goliath, striking his club and the rock underfoot. According to legends, the traces of the giant knees and fingerprints at the antrance of Hazrat Daud cave belong to Goliath.



Of course, independence has given us the opportunity to study our stories in more detail, to preserve the heritage of our fathers , to recognize and be proud of who our ancestors were and today when the people of our immense country believe in tomorrow, we with rich pride can declare the presence of a truly historical heritage of the Uzbek people.

We can see many such places in the area as they tell stories from ancient times. The improvement of housing conditions not only by the government but also by the people living in the area enables them to reach their full potential and offer cultural leisure, as everyone in the area believes that their lifestyle is inextricably linked with them.

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