

Fuad Al-Qrize

Ibb memories

© 2022 Fuad Al-Qrize

The work, including its parts, is protected by copyright.
The author is responsible for the contents. Any
exploitation is prohibited without his approval.

CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
Zafar.....	9
Himyarite Kingdom.....	19
Disclaimer.....	32
About the author.....	36

Introduction

Yemen's governorate of Ibb, with Ta'izz Governorate to the southwest, Ad Dali' Governorate to the southeast, Dhamar Governorate to the north, and short borders with Al Bayda' Governorate and Al Hudaydah Governorate to the east and west, it is situated in the country's interior south.

It is the most populous governorate in Yemen outside of

San'a, with a total area of 5,344 km² and a population estimated at roughly 1,665,000 in 2004.

Ibb Governorate is the wettest region in Arabia as a result of the way it captures the upper-level southwestern monsoonal flow from April to October.

The yearly precipitation is definitely greater than 1,000 mm, and some estimates claim it could possibly be as high as 1,500 mm, despite the fact that meteorological data is extremely poor and even of questionable veracity.

From November to February, there is minimal rain, but for the rest of the year, there is likely at least 100mm of rain per month.

Even though daytime temperatures are warm, averaging around 30 °C, the evenings are quite chilly.

The province of Ibb is referred to as a fertile province due to its high rainfall.

Despite its steep topography, the governorate's rural areas are nearly completely under cultivation, and for such a tiny area, the number of crops produced is incredibly high.

Although qat is particularly significant, the majority of people outside of Ibb City rely on wheat, barley, sesame, and sorghum as their primary food sources.

A greater variety of crops may be produced throughout

the dry season thanks to sophisticated methods for managing and storing water from seasonal rainfall.

Ibb is a city in Yemen and the administrative center of the Ibb Governorate. It is situated 194 kilometers south of Sana'a and 117 km northeast of Mocha.

It is one of the most significant medium-sized cities in the nation and was founded as a market town and administrative hub during the Ottoman Empire.

It is located on a high range and encircled by productive terrain.

Ibb has been inhabited since antiquity, and the Ottomans chose it as their administrative hub because of its

strategic value.

The Ottomans founded the Wednesday market in Ibb, and it flourished as a market town.

Up until 1944, when the emirate was abolished, Ibb was ruled by a semi-autonomous emir.

Throughout its history, a large number of people have moved to Ibb from Yemeni regions that were experiencing drought in order to work in agriculture.

There was allegedly a smallpox outbreak in the city around the middle of the 1950s.

Hermann Burchardt, a German adventurer, took

photographs of the city in 1901, which are now on display in the Berlin Ethnological Museum.

The city is one of Yemen's most scenic; it is encircled by a high wall that is punctuated by tall homes.

The twin-minareted Al-Muaffariyyah Mosque is one of the many mosques in Ibb that is exceptionally nice.

There are a lot of well-built multistory residences, which are typical of Yemeni urban design.

Running water is provided to a large number of homes by an aqueduct from the neighboring mountains, which is an unusual characteristic of the nation.

Ibb's souk serves as the region's primary trading hub for agricultural and pastoral goods, and the city also boasts a few modest handcraft businesses.

On the north-south roadway that runs from the old port of Mocha (al-Mukh), via Ta'izz and Dhamr, to the national capital of Sanaa, Ibb is a crucial rest stop.

In 1982, there was an earthquake in Ibb.

Ibb memories

Zafar

Zafar, also known as Dhafar, is an ancient Himyarite site in Yemen that is about 10 kilometers southeast of Yarim and 130 kilometers south-southeast of the country's capital, Sana'a.

There is little question about the name's pronunciation given that it is mentioned in numerous ancient writings.

This location in Yemen is older than its counterpart there, notwithstanding the opinions of local nationalists in Oman.

At about 2800 meters, it is located in the Yemeni highlands.

The Himyarites, who at their height dominated the majority of the Arabian Peninsula, had Zafar as their capital.

The domain of the tribal confederacy and its supporters spanned beyond Riyadh to the north and the Euphrates

to the northeast for 250 years.

The settlement's origins from an archaeological standpoint are not well documented.

Old South Arabian Musnad inscriptions from as far back as the first century BCE make up the bulk of the sources. It is described by Pliny in his *Natural History*, anonymously in the *Periplus of the Erythraean Sea* from the first century CE, and in Claudius Ptolemy's *Geographia*.

The coordinates of Ptolemy's map were mistakenly copied or altered at some point, most likely in the Middle Ages, causing later maps to locate the city of "Sephar" in Oman rather than Yemen.

Zafar in Yemen is mentioned more than a thousand years before the location with the same name in Oman.

There are many written sources on Zafar, although they range widely in their informational usefulness.

A bishop who reportedly had his see in Zafar is mentioned in the Vita of Gregentios, a pious fiction made by Byzantine monks.

The language used suggests that the composition dates to the 12th century CE.

Al-Hamdani, an Arab geographer and historian who lived between 893 and 945, claims that Zafar was also

referred to as "the field of Yaib" or "aql Yaib."

There is proof that in the fifth and sixth centuries, Zafar and settlement in the Yemeni highlands as a whole saw a sharp fall.

Ideally, a relief of a crowned man was placed in what the excavator refers to as the Stone Building Site, and immediately after that, the viability of the city began to dramatically collapse.

The inscription on this sculpture is difficult to date, however, it may be from the middle of the fifth century.

The discovery of ribbed amphorae in Zafar, which were probably made in Aqaba or Ayla for the purpose of

transporting wine, indicates that the region just north of Aqaba was a productive agricultural region.

120 hectares make up a rectangular mapped surface area.

However, the settlement is smaller and has an uneven density.

After Marib, Zafar is the largest archaeological site in Arabia that has been mapped.

Both inside and outside the walls of the historic city are places of ancient settlement, these are thought to be 4000 meters long.

Even today, the "Husn Raydan" is the name of the main fortification.

The names of city gates, the majority of which are called after the town they face, are mentioned in a work by the Yemenite author of the Middle Ages, al-Hamdani.

Polytheist, Jewish, and Christian populations coexisted throughout the city.

The earliest known proof of Jews in South Arabia is the ring-stone of Yiaq bar Anina.

Surprisingly little information about the true nature and practices of these religions, which have spread far from their centers, is available.

The artifacts also don't support a picture of Christianity and Judaism as they are actually practiced today.

The sculpture's preponderance of polytheistic elements shows that polytheism predominated among the population.

In terms of religion, one can suppose that the late pre-Islamic eras were a blend of Christians, Jews, and polytheists.

The environment now is significantly worse than the one that served as the foundation for the early Himyarite tribal confederation's resource base.

Despite receiving about 500 mm of precipitation annually, water is scarce, highland soils are constantly being degraded, and the tree cover may have disappeared during the empire era.

The population of the Himyarite period decreased, especially in the 6th century, as a result of the depletion of natural resources, social unrest, diseases, and megadroughts.

The former capital is now inhabited by about 450 farmers.

Ibb memories

Himyarite Kingdom

The Himyarite Kingdom or Himyar was a polity in the southern highlands of Yemen, as well as the name of the region it claimed. It was traditionally known as the Homerite Kingdom by the Greeks and the Romans, its subjects were called Homeritae.

It was a part of the Qatabanian monarchy until 110 BCE, at which point it gained independence.

Their capital, according to classical sources, was located in the ancient city of Zafar, which was not too distant from the contemporary city of Sana'a.

In the fifth century, as the population grew, Himyarite power finally migrated to Sana'a.

Kings from the dh-Raydn tribe controlled their kingdom after it was established.

Raydin was the name of the kingdom.

Around 25 BCE, the kingdom took control of the neighboring Saba; around 200 CE, Qataban; and around 300 CE, Haramaut.

Up until it eventually overthrew the Sabaeen Kingdom in the year 280, its political fortunes in relation to Saba' constantly altered.

Then, Himyar persisted until it was finally conquered by Aksumian forces in 525 CE.

The majority of the South Arabian pantheon, including Wadd, Attar, 'Amm, and Almaqah, were initially worshipped by the Himyarites.

Judaism has been the de facto state religion since at least

the time of Abikarib Asad, who ruled from 384 to 433 CE.

Inscriptions to polytheistic deities disappeared after this date, though the religion may have been adopted to some extent as early as two centuries earlier.

It was first accepted by the upper classes, and probably over time, a sizable section of the common people.

The noble families of Dhu'l-Kala and Dhu Asbah, who were Himyarite descendants, were significant players in early Islamic Syria.

They helped establish Homs as a hub for South Arabian habitation, culture, and political power by commanding

the Muslim army's South Arabian contingents during the capture of Homs in 638.

In the First Muslim Civil War, their chiefs sided with Mu'awiya ibn Abi Sufyan against Caliph Ali.

Their authority decreased after they were defeated by the Quda'a confederation and Umayyad caliph Marwan I at the Battle of Marj Rahit in 684, and it essentially vanished with the death of their leader at the Battle of Khazir in 686.

Up until 525, the Imyarite Kingdom had a tenuous hold over Arabia.

Agriculture was the mainstay of its economy, and

frankincense and myrrh exports dominated its foreign trade.

The kingdom served as a key bridge for many years connecting East Africa with the Mediterranean region. The majority of this trade involved bringing ivory from Africa to the Roman Empire for sale.

While the trading cities of East Africa were independent, ships from Imyar frequently traveled the East African coast, and the state also had a significant cultural, religious, and political influence over those cities.

Since the Kingdom of Imyar replaced Ma'rib as its capital with Raydan/Zafar during this time and defeated

the kingdoms of Saba and Qataban, they are known as Dhu Raydan.

Saba' and Qataban broke away from the Kingdom of Imyar in the early second century AD, but within a few decades Qataban was overrun by Hadhramaut (which was later invaded by Imyar in the fourth century), whereas Saba' was finally conquered by Imyar in the late third century.

Around 380, some decades after the Ethiopian Kingdom of Aksum's conversion to Christianity, the Himyarite monarchs appear to have given up polytheism and adopted Judaism.

The language, writing, or calendar of the people

remained unchanged.

On this day, an age in which countless inscriptions list the titles and accomplishments of monarchs and dedicate structures to regional and major deities comes to an end.

Temples started to be abandoned in the 380s, and allusions to the previous gods were replaced with references to Rahmanan, also known as "the Lord of Heaven" or "the Lord of Heaven and Earth."

Tub'a Abu Kariba As'ad, one of the first Jewish monarchs, is thought to have converted after a military campaign into northern Arabia in an effort to drive off Byzantine influence.

In an effort to dominate the lucrative spice trade and the road to India, the Byzantine emperors had long had their eyes on the Arabian Peninsula.

By converting the locals to Christianity, the Byzantines wanted to create a protectorate.

Although they had made some progress in northern Arabia, they had had little luck there.

The reign of Ysuf, also known as Dh Nuws, who persecuted the Himyarite Christian population of Najrn in 523, brought an end to the Jewish kingdom in Imyar.

By the year 500, the kingdom of Himyar was in charge

of a sizable portion of the Arabian Peninsula and was on the cusp of the regency of Marthad'In Yanf.

His rule saw the beginning of the Himyarite kingdom's transformation into an Aksumite tributary state, which was completed during the rule of Ma'dkarib Yafur, a Christian chosen by the Aksumites.

Many Himyarites took part in the Muslim invasion of Syria in the 630s, and after Homs was taken in 637, they migrated there together with other South Arabian tribes.

Samayfa ibn Nakur of the Dhu'l-Kala, a Himyarite prince, was one of the commanders of the victorious Muslim forces.

The Himyar of Homs was led by the Asbah chief

Kurayb ibn Abraha Abu Rishdin, but he later went to Egypt with the majority of the Dhu Asbah.

Abraha ibn Sabbah and his son Abu Shamir, two members of that family, had taken part in the Muslim conquest of Egypt between 640 and 641.

Ibb memories

Ibb memories

Disclaimer

The publisher and the author are providing this book and its contents on an “as is” basis and make no

representations or warranties of any kind with respect to this book or its contents. This is a work of nonfiction. No names have been changed, no characters invented, and no events fabricated.

Although the publisher and the author have made every effort to ensure that the information in this book was correct at press time and while this publication is designed to provide accurate information in regard to the subject matter covered, the publisher and the author assume no responsibility for errors, inaccuracies, omissions, or any other inconsistencies herein and

hereby disclaim any liability to any party for any loss, damage, or disruption caused by errors or omissions, whether such errors or omissions result from negligence, accident, or any other cause.

Ibb memories

About the author

Fuad Al-Qrize (In Arabic: *فؤاد الكريزي*), is a Yemeni Journalist, Producer, Author, Writer, Screenwriter, and Musician, Born on January 1, 1990.

Other than being the youngest successful effective TV and music producer, he is also a well-known author in Yemen, he is considered the youngest producer in Yemen.

Ibb memories

Copyright © 2022 Fuad Al-Qrize

All rights reserved. No part of this document may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior written permission of the publisher.

Ibb is a governorate of Yemen. It is located in the inland south of the country with Ta'izz Governorate to the southwest, Ad Dali' Governorate to the southeast, Dhamar Governorate to the north, and short borders with Al Bayda' Governorate to the east and Al Hudaydah Governorate to the west. Ibb city is a city in Yemen, the capital of Ibb Governorate, located about 117 km northeast of Mocha and 194 km south of Sana'a. Through these simple words in this book, we recount part of the memory of this picturesque region, so that it remains in our memory as a witness to its beauty and history.