

Information about QIZIL AYAQ village

Qizil Ayaq is one of the Sheberghan villages; the people living there are Turkmen. When I went there to visit, I asked the villagers about Qizil Ayaq because there is always a question in my mind about Qizil Ayaq.

Qizil Ayaq means “red foot” in the Turkmen language. When I asked why people call this village “red foot,” they gave me this answer:
in old Turkmen, Qizil means gold and the Ayaq means plate. Many years ago there was a village in Turkmenistan called Qizil Ayaq, and the people of Qizil Ayaq who emigrated from there to Afghanistan had golden plates for their foods, as people were rich in Qizil Ayaq, When they emigrated to northern Afghanistan, they owned this area and they gave it the name Qizil Ayaq.

Qizil Ayaq is also known as the village of the Qizil Ayaq Khalifa (Abed Nazar Makhdoom) Baba who was the first to immigrate from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan. He is the best religious leader; he did good things for his village and the Sheberghan city people like him very much. People say that Zahir Shah, the last King of Afghanistan, visited him often.

At that time there were no schools built by government, so he built some Madrasas (Islamic schools).



***This is the Qizil Ayaq Madrasa and mosque built
By Khalifa Baba (Abid Nazar Makhdoom)***

Many years before, there was a market for people are coming from different places on market days to sell or buy things and do business there. Unfortunately, after the civil wars most of the people emigrated to Pakistan and the market days slowly transferred to the Khowja Dokoh district.

Nowadays Qizil Ayaq has no market days; there are just some old shops remaining from the past.

People in Qizil Ayaq are planning to revive this market and prepare more possibilities for businessmen.



Because of the civil wars and emigration, the village didn't develop the shops. The housing remained as it is and many places were destroyed and diseased because there were no homeowners. Now people are arriving from Pakistan to their homelands and repairing their houses and the village is returning, as in past years.



The old houses that were built during Zahir Shah's reign; people left their homes during the wars.

It was the first day of Nowroz (March 21) when I went there with my friends. People go by vehicles, motorbikes, and bicycles to a field called Taghay, ten kilometers from Qizil

Ayaq village. I asked my friends why people are going there. They said people go there for picnics and to watch many interesting things there. I went there (Taghay) with my friends. When we reached there, I saw a big yard. Everywhere, it is green. People are sitting with their families. Some are playing games, and most of the people are watching the dogfights.

On the other side, there are many singers. Lots of people watch them as they sing. We enjoyed that day very much and I took some pictures from that carnival.



People are coming to Taghay for picnic



People are watching for wrestling



People are going for other places

An interesting thing about this carnival is that people participate from Sheberghan, Aqcha, Andkhoy, and other towns. People coming here every year, so this carnival has become part of local tradition.



Thanks, and best regards
Noor Mohammad