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# THE ANCIENT CITY OF ZANA « DIANA VETERANORUM » HISTORY AND RESEARCH

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## Abstract:

This study aims to highlight the importance of cultural heritage through the archaeological site of the city of Zana El baydaa .( Diana Viteranorum ).As we try to find scientific and practical solutions related to preservation and maintenance. To take this site back into consideration. Wherein maintenance and restoration are considered as the most important main methods that aim to achieve this, to preserve this heritage and other natural and cultural resources in the region and its development. through its rehabilitation ,maintenanceand preservation to serve future generations. Depending on maintenance and restoration. Therefore this study came to highlight the diagnosis of the archaeological site of the city of Zana and demonstrate its historical and archaeological importance.

**Keywords:** Cultural heritage; Rehabilitation; Preservation; Maintenance; archaeological sites.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Algeria is considered among the most important countries in the world that owns an unprecedented varied heritage of archaeological reserves, And what it holds of historical and civilizational values, including the city of Zana Al Bayda. It occupie as it is known in the past, a distinct geographical location in the northeast of the state of Batna « Diana Veteranorum ». It is endowed with numerous archaeological monuments including : The forum , Marc Aurèle and Lucius Verus arches . The Byzantine Church and the baths which are still standing. Which was established according to the administrative division of 1984,it was classified among the historical sites and monuments in the year 1900, within the list of places and historical monuments entered on December 20 th, 1967.

Archaeological sites require great care, especially when interfering with the deterioration that has occurred, specific and clear measures must be taken to determine the causes of that degradation. the most successful means of intervention to maintain in a line with their nature and composition to ensure that they remain in a good condition. The thing with which it is necessary to accelerate work to save those sites and their surroundings, so that these actions can be carried out on scientific grounds that ensure reaching the main goal of the valuation process . Technical rules and standards had to be followed and observed when dealing with preserving archaeological sites , And that is

through integrated works to prepare the valuation and rehabilitation project. From here, the importance of valuing archaeological sites and buildings has emerged. By presenting the problematic about the prospects for the rehabilitation of the archaeological site of the city of Zana Al Bayda (Diana Viteranorum), What is the diagnostic condition for studying the archaeological site of the city of Zana Al Bayda (Diana Viteranorum) archaeologically and technically ? What are the necessary actions to evaluate the archaeological site of the city of Zana Al Bayda (Diana Viteranorum) ?.

## **2. Field of study:**

The archaeological site of Zana El Bayda is one of the most important and richest archaeological sites of the state of Batna ,and one of the touristic heritage gains. Like other sites, it is necessary to preserve , appreciate , rehabilitate and pay attention to it. There is also a clear deficiency and shortage in studies dealing with this process in its various aspects. The study focuses on identifying how to prepare a scientific technical project to evaluate the archaeological site of the city of Zana Al Bayda (Diana Viteranorum). Diagnostic analytical study, reviewing the extent of the shortage in historical and technical studies to preserve this heritage, and linking studies and parity between them to prepare the restoration project and its related parties and their overlapping , And with the beginning of the twentieth century, the extent of interest of various countries in the attempts of their bodies and organizations to formulate a successive series of laws and policies aimed at preserving the architectural heritage has clearly emerged, and we have chosen the site of Zana Al Bayda (Diana Viteranorum) for research study and shed light on Its geographical, historical , artistic archaeological and analytical diagnostic aspect.

### **2.1.Rehabilitation :**

The process aims to find a function to revive the monument to achieve its continued preservation , this process requires minor additions to qualify it for a new function. (Cantacuzino, 1995, p. 21). The researcher Mohammed Ibn Abdallah, defined it as a kind of practice that combines art and science for the purpose of intellectual creativity in planning the design of buildings that are located in an historical archaeological site open to visitors , (Saleh., 2004, p. 4) Rehabilitation requires Commitment and documentation from the planner and the designer to what international laws and conventions dictate. Through repair or development while preserving parts of the building and its components that carry distinctive historical, architectural or cultural values, the rehabilitation also includes the continuity and preservation of the building by specialists who carry out maintenance work continuously (DEHNA, 2014, p. 22) .

### **2.2 Preservation :**

It is intended to preserve it as a process in the first place to extend the life of the piece, by using preventive methods to prevent its deterioration, whether natural or resulting from its accident, for a specific period of time. Thus, this definition fully corresponds to keep the effect as long as possible,this maintenance comes only with the continuous observation , this means creating conditions ,so that the hit cannot be allowed to reappear again.thus Maintenance will be by creating conditions that are appropriate to the condition of the building and with the materials used in its construction in terms of temperature and humidity as well as biological damage factors, (Marie Bardico, 1990, p. 07)

### **2.3 Restoration :**

the word (Rertauration) was derived from the Greek word (Stauros) which means predicated or standing, so the word becomes with the meaning : to strengthen the pillars ,It was used previously , it refers to the method of military defense (Hazzaz Imran, Deborah George, 1997, p. 93) Restoration is an attempt to restore the original effect form as much as places through multiple operations such as : cleaning, completion, strengthening, and repair. In other words, restoration means clearing the effect, which has accumulated over time while preserving its shape and details without any change, therefore, restoration is not a renewal of the effect, but rather an attempt to restore its natural face (Al-Banna, 2002, p. 79) .

Mary Pardico defines it as : a surgical operation that includes the deletion of subsequent additions (Marie Bardico, 1990, p. 09), as well as from Cesar Brandi's part defines it as follows: It is an attempt to revive and understand archaeological, artistic and historical materials, and it aims to preserve them from its artistic and historical side , To be handed over to the future generations in its natural image (Cesar, 1990, p. 15).

### **3. The Stages of preparation:**

There are two main axes of interest in archaeological heritage, the first begins with research and study ,and ends with publication, the other relates to conservation, maintenance, restoration, rehabilitation and appraisal. Therefore, international charters and bodies consider preservation , appraisal, and restoration projects for archaeological sites and buildings as the best way to achieve the goal of preserving heritage.

#### **3.1 The Name's origin :**

The name of the city came from its division into two parts, as the word « Diana » is a reference to legendary deities known to the Romans as the hunting Gods and the volatile nature (Al-Faqih, 2013, p. 27), whereas the word (Sheniti, 2013, p. 183), veteranorum vetira means the ancient warriors of soldiers of the third Augustan division that established the city of Diana Vitranorum at the beginning of the second century AD (Ghanem, 2010, p. 200)

And the designation of « Zana » according to Prof. Dr. Mohammed Al-Sagheer Ghanem is a derivative of the Persian word (zun), its meaning is the God worshiped by the pagans (Ghanem, 2010, p. 204), while Bakri says that the name of the city in Zana was relative to the trees which were spread in it (all trees are Zan) .

#### **3.2 History of the city:**

It is known among researchers and scholars of the civilization of the ancient Maghreb that the Roman colony and its occupation stages began the incursion during the first century AD, by designating provinces and divisions and establishing small military barracks in order to provide security and stability depending on the material remnants that are one of the sources of studying The countries of the ancient Maghreb (Sheniti, 2013, p. 60), which were found at the site and its surroundings. In The oldest archaeological writings the name of the city of Zana was mentioned dating back to the year 140 AD during the reign of Marx Aurelius (CHARLES, 1896, p. 253)

It seems that the Emperor Trajan had realized the strategy of many locations, especially Lambaz, ,as

it allowed to monitor the sources and outlets of the valleys that penetrate the Aures Mountains, especially the Valley of Abdi and Al-Abyad, and it may support the Roman army's stationing in Lombaz by establishing several settlements and annexing lands to Roman properties and further expansions to the west. And south of all these settlements for the benefit of the ancients of the third army of the Augustus Legion around Lombaz (Sarhan, 2014, p. 12). and its surroundings and from those settlements we mention: Vercunda (Stéphane, 1911, p. 240) Lambiridi, Khirbet Awlad Arif (Stéphane, 1911, p. 12), Oum al-Asnam (Tadutti) (Stéphane, 1911, p. 139), Thacarata (Mesnage, 1913, p. 62), Bagai Castle (Mesnage, 1913, p. 60), Diana Veteranorum (Stéphane, 1911, p. 141), Marwana (Lamasba), and Tabunae in the far west, which was granted a municipal title during the reign of Septimius Severus (Stéphane, 1911, p. 62)

#### 4. History of research:

Research year	Research results
Paysonnel 1850 Chaw and	(Léon, 1852, p. 38) First visits to the ancient city
Carbouccia1850	Conducting drillings at the Makran level culminated in the discovery of a (Ragot, 1874, p. 224) dedicating inscription of the Makran Arch
Renier1881	(Léon, 1852, p. 38) Carrying out excavations in Byzantine Basilica
( 1899 -1893) S.Gsell	Research and studies have been conducted on the city's monuments
J.Alquier1927	Excavations at the level of many monuments (the public square, the fort, the Byzantine Church, part of the Deccanus Maxus Road, and the western and southern baths)
Assabloch1962	studying and counting many reliefs
Pringle	Studies on Byzantine fortifications
Fentress	City site study
Filah Mohammed 1986 Mustapha	A theoretical study around the city to prepare a doctoral thesis
Farid Tata -2011 2012	A theoretical study to prepare a master's thesis Ancient ruins of the city of Zana (Diana Viteranorum) History and Landmarks (Tata, 2011, p. 60)

#### 5. Landmarks of the city:

**Forum:** extracted by j-Alquier in 1929-1932. It is located in the middle of the agglomeration and surrounded by a floor, inside 60 m length and 46 m width, also a pavement was found, in the middle of the courtyard a row of tiles which are very wide compared to other pieces found in the Forum North to the south, that is covered by a central city system (Filah, 1986, p. 26) .

**Arch of Marc Aurèle and Lucius Verus:** This arch was built to commemorate the Emperor Marcus Aurelius Fors. This arch is formed from a single door located on the northeastern side of the site. The interior of the arch is decorated with various floral motifs consisting of roses, flowers and grape leaves divided in the form of boxes and in the middle of the arch there is a drawing of the goddess Diana, which is in good conservation despite the lack of some stones on top of the arch.

We found in the sides of this arc several parts of two large engravings of the same size. Auréle and Lucius Verus (Filah, 1986, p. 26).

**Ducimanus maximus:** extracted between the two arches within a distance of 71 m.

**Marcrin Arch:** A large triumphal arch with three doors, this arch was originally in honor of Emperor Caracalla, but his name was replaced with the name of Emperor Macran, the main entrance to the public square decorates Seban Stephan Qazzal, the width of the arch is estimated at 14 meters, and the height is 10 meters, its main entrance is in the center of the arch (Middle Gate) is 3.90 m wide and 5.50 m high, and on its sides there are two small entrances compared to the size of the middle door, with two small arches (Stéphane, 1901, p. 127)

**The Door of Diana Temple:** It is located 500 meters south of the city and is completely destroyed, only a huge gate remains, which connects to the inner courtyard of the temple. Around this arch, we find decorating elements and some motifs a frieze and bust of Diana, as well as a gift engraving portrait of Satorius who is a Councilor, this engraving is not dated (Filah, 1986, p. 27) .

**The Byzantine Church:** This monument was built on the tiles of the public square, it is likely that Basilica dates back to the Byzantine presence in the area, which means that the center of the ancient city of Zana was occupied to be exploited to build Basilica on it. as it was used in its construction many materials taken from the various elements of monuments found in the archaeological site, it has a rectangular shape according to Stefan Ghazal, its dimensions are 27.86 meters long and 16.74 meters wide (Stéphane, 1931 , p. 268)

**The Byzantine fort:** is located in the north of the Forum, reached through excavations, we find that the Byzantines took advantage of the Makran arc to make it a special entrance to the fort, where they closed the two small arcs and narrowed the main entrance to the arch.

**The Byzantine Castle:** is located east of the public square at a distance of 200 m, according to Gsell, its dimensions (61.53 m), surrounded by four towers on each side, the monument was not subjected to any excavation or drilling , it is in a very bad condition , its architectural elements were taken to construct other landmarks in the same Archaeological surrounding.

**The Western Baths:** are located on 400 m west of the Makran Arch, in a very bad condition of preservation, currently large halls with mosaics have disappeared.

**The Southern Baths:** are located on 500 m south of Makran Arch. It is possible that here is a basin, which is in a poor conservation condition.

**The Central South House:** This house is located on the southern side of the ancient city. According to what Professor Mohammed Mustapha Filah mentioned, we find several single halls tiled with mosaics, but they are not exposed.

**The Central North House:** located 400 meters north of Macrin Arch, a mosaic was found there , however excavations reports did not express all of the mosaics.

**Cemeteries:** According to Stefan Guazzal, he noticed several shrines in the southeast and in the west of the site, and now all of them have disappeared. There are also two cemeteries, the first located on the eastern side of the site and the second in the southeast.

## **6. Maintenance and Restoration proposals:**

The protection of our historical and archaeological heritage depends on conservation works and their own principles, which require the presence of several professional capabilities to take these works into consideration. Site management is the process of planning and implementing

procedures to protect the site with its cultural values, and to achieve the objectives of protection, the planning process must include the following steps:

- Analyzing and evaluating the site's properties and its value, which may be aesthetic, architectural or historical, and that understanding these values and determining them is the first step to establish an integrated plan for preserving heritage.
- Documenting the site, including photos, detailed plans, and making inventories.
- Analyzing the situation or the condition in which the site is located in terms of restoration with regard to monuments and identifying reasons for setting priorities and programs for the necessary treatments.
- Developing strategies to protect the site to suit the requirements and the best methods of displaying the archaeological site to visitors, so that all of these do not reduce the importance and aesthetic value of the site.
- Collecting data, information and inventory of all studies that were done on the site in advance, as well as make a report of historical studies and previous restorations.
- Studying the current situation, urban, social and environmental studies.
- Finding a long-term management strategy to protect sites and their preservation, which includes periodic monitoring and controlling of their maintenance status, periodic evaluation of their value, state of conservation and the way they are presented to visitors.
- Strengthening capabilities in the field of preservation techniques and monitoring activities.
- Developing data in order to identify, prevent and control the factors of deterioration and regression in the site.
- Training and conducting training and training courses by specialists for agents, recording techniques (photography, diagram, electronic distance measurement, global positioning system, drawing final plans using computer aided design systems.

## **7. Conclusion:**

The appraisal stage and rehabilitation for the archaeological monuments is considered one of the most essential stages, because the restoration of monumental buildings only is not sufficient. Rather, these monuments must be re-valued by highlighting their historical value, because they have a close connection with the nationalism and national personality. As it is said (the past makes the present), because all peoples preserve the manifestations of their civilizations, past and glory, so we must also create a spirit of pride of the past and glories. Starting with ourselves, because we also have a cultural heritage that translates all civilizations and the periods that our country has gone through, and this is according to actions and measures that will enhance the process of restoring rehabilitation to these landmarks. The first objectives of this study are:

- Presenting this cultural heritage and transferring it to the public and future generations.
- The signs of the past must be understood and preserved in the form of monuments that were lost for some time, and then they should be rehabilitated.
- sensitization of the population that this cultural heritage is worthy of protection and preservation from their part because it represents a world heritage and that preserving it is a duty of all people , it is not only the responsibility of officials and specialists in the field of antiquities, but it belongs to all of us.
- Officials or the competent authorities of the region must adopt several procedures to sensitize the value of antiquities and draw attention to it, such as developing programs that serve heritage

tourism and its development and work to rehabilitate it, and this can be applied to the city of Zana Diana Viteranorum in order to restore its consideration and to sensitize its historical value.

-Working to protect this site and cultural property as a whole, as dictated by Law 98-04 relating to the protection of cultural heritage

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