

Historical monuments

Ismoil Samoniy mausoleum



The external composition of the mausoleum seems rather simple, a hemisphere atop a cube. Burnt brick is used as a building material. All four facades are identical. The unusually beautiful brickwork of the walls gives the building a sort of delicate lightness.

According to a legend, Ismail Samani had ruled for more than 40 years even after his death. That legend also says that when people wanted justice, they came to his mausoleum, prayed and put their statements on his grave. The next day they would receive the answer and their problems were solved immediately.



[...click here to return to the main page...](#)

Ismail Samani

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Idealized modern portrait of Ismail Samani, founder and emperor of the [Tajik Samanid Empire](#), a [Persian dynasty](#) based in Central Asia.

Isma'il ibn Ahmad (d. November [907](#)) was the [Samanid](#) amir of Transoxiana ([892](#)-907) and [Khorasan](#) (900-907). His reign saw the emergence of the Samanids as a powerful force. He was the son of [Ahmad ibn Asad](#).

During his brother [Nasr's](#) reign, Isma'il was sent to take control of [Bukhara](#), which had been devastated by looting on the part of forces from [Khwarazm](#). The citizens of the city welcomed Isma'il, seeing him as someone who could bring stability.



Statue of Isma'il Samani in [Dushanbe](#), [Tajikistan](#)

Soon afterwards, a disagreement over where tax money should be distributed caused a falling out between Nasr and Isma'il. A struggle ensued, in which Isma'il proved victorious. Although he took effective control of the state, he did not formally overthrow his brother, instead remaining in Bukhara. He did so because Nasr had been the one whom the [Caliph](#) had given the formal investiture of [Transoxiana](#) to; in the caliph's eyes, Nasr was the only legitimate ruler of the region. Furthermore, the [Saffarids](#) of [Sistan](#) had claims on Transoxiana; the overthrow of Nasr would have given the Saffarids a pretext for invading. Isma'il therefore continued to formally recognize Nasr as ruler until the latter's death in August of [892](#), at which point he officially took power.

Isma'il was active to the north and east, steadily spreading Samanid influence. In [893](#) he took the city of [Talas](#), the capital of the Qarluq Turks. It was probably in that same year that he also brought an end to the [Ustrushana](#) dynasty. During his reign he subjugated numerous regional states to the east, directly incorporating some within his boundaries and retaining the local rulers of others as vassals. Khwarazm to the north was partitioned; the southern part remained autonomous under its Afrigid rulers, while the northern part was governed by a Samanid official. Another campaign in [903](#) further secured the Samanid boundaries. These campaigns kept the heart of his state safe from [Turkish](#) raids, and allowed [Muslim](#) missionaries to expand their activities in the region.

Even after Nasr's death, the caliph had still not formally recognized his rule in Bukhara. As a result, the Saffarid ruler '[Amr](#)' himself asked the caliph for the investiture of Transoxiana. [Al-Mu'tadid](#), who allegedly hoped that a conflict between the Samanids and the Saffarids would result in the destruction of both, granted this request in [898](#). 'Amr then marched up north with an army. The two sides fought, often to the south of the [Oxus](#), until in the spring of 900 'Amr was captured by the Samanids. Isma'il wished to ransom him to the Saffarids, but they refused, so he sent 'Amr to the caliph, who then invested Isma'il with Khurasan, [Tabaristan](#), [Ray](#), and [Isfahan](#).

Isma'il decided to take advantage of the caliph's grant by sending an army to Tabaristan, which was then controlled by the [Zaydid Muhammad ibn Zaid](#). The Samanid army defeated and killed Muhammad, but then Isma'il's general Muhammad ibn Harun revolted. In [901](#) Isma'il led an army into Tabaristan, forcing Muhammad to flee to [Dailam](#). The Samanids therefore gained control of the region.

Although Isma'il continued to send gifts to the caliph, as was customary, he neither paid tribute or taxes. For all intents and purposes he was an independent ruler, although he never took any title higher than that of *amir*.

After a long sickness Isma'il died in 907 and was succeeded by his son [Ahmad](#).

[\[edit\]](#) References

- R. N. Frye (1975). *The Cambridge History of Iran, Volume Four: From the Arab Invasion to the Saljuqs*. [ISBN 0-521-20093-8](#)

