

TURKEY SHIFTS HISTORIC BATH HOUSE

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Background

In May 2017, Turkey moved the 15th century, 1,100 tonne tomb (50 feet tall and 25 feet in diameter) of Zeynel Bey, a tribal leader, also on a special platform to avoid being buried by the floodwaters.

Built in 1475 by a **Turkic ruler (Uzun Hasan)** to commemorate his son's death in battle, the domed tower was moved **from its original site in the 12,000-year-old town of Hasankeyf to a new “cultural park” over a mile away** — and over 200 feet higher in elevation on **12 May 2017**.

The costly undertaking removed the tomb from the area affected by a massive reservoir that would flood the **Tigris River Valley** when the controversial **Ilisu Dam** became operational.

the historic Zeynel Bey Mausoleum trundling to its new home in Hasankeyf, Turkey on May 12.



Shifting of Great Bath

Much of **Hasankeyf**, a city of Turkey, will be under water or risk damage in the next years because of the development of the **Ilisu Dam project**, which aims to drastically improve energy supplies for the Kurdish-dominated southeast.

- The city has the '**Artuklu Hamam**', which is reported to be at least 650 years old.
- This major historical building in the area was to be transferred to avoid being buried underwater.

Turkish authorities on 6th May 2018, conducted a hugely sensitive operation to move this centuries-old bath house weighing 1,600 tonnes to a new location to avoid being engulfed under floodwaters by a controversial dam project.

Shifting of Great Bath

- Located on the banks of the Tigris river, Hasankeyf is home to a cluster of sites from the Roman, Byzantine, pre-Ottoman and Ottoman eras.
- The Ilisu project, strongly backed by **Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan**, has also caused tensions with neighbouring **Iraq which shares the Tigris river** with **Turkey** and regards its waters as crucial for the arid regions where it flows.

Turkey and Iraq



Thanks for reading

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Courtesy:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-life/turkey-shifts-historic-bath-house/article24619072.ece>

<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/05/zeynel-bey-tomb-mausoleum-turkey-relocation-video-dam-flooding-archaeology/>