

AN EXPERIMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF BLACK AND RED WARE POTTERY

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Black and Red Ware pottery is found in proto-historic archaeological contexts in the Indian region including Sri Lanka. These pottery wares were used in Sri Lanka from the 10th century BC to the 3rd century AD. Archaeological studies have confirmed that these vessels were produced in ancient times for burial rituals and various domestic uses. This experimental archaeology of the technique used in the creation of this pottery, which features a black interior and red exterior, was conducted through research. This BRW pottery ware, which was used in this country two thousand five hundred years ago, was recreated and studies were conducted on its burning technology. In this research, it was clear that the composition of the clay used for the creation of Black and Red Ware is important for the finish of the pottery. The percentage of sand in the clay used to create these pots was about twenty percent, which prevents the pottery from bursting and increases the strength of the pottery. In the design of the body of this pottery, its thickness should be determined according to the utility. Prepared pottery is kiln-dried before firing to completely remove water vapor. The kiln set up for firing the pottery was heated with sticks. The steam-removed pot was filled completely with a tenth and then placed inside the kiln, and the fire was lit on top of the folded pot. Since the amount of oxygen inside the pot is reduced due to placing the pot in the hand and lighting it on fire, the combustion causes the pot to turn black due to more carbon binding inside it. Also, during the combustion of the wood piled on the surface of the bowls, it could be recognized that the outside of the bowl became red because the bowl received good oxygen. The archaeological research of this experiment enabled the production of time-bleached pottery with a fine finish, which enabled the identification of the ancient firing technique.

Keywords: Black and red ware, production technique, reconstruction, experiment

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