



ABARKĀVĀN

ABARKĀVĀN, late Sasanian name of Qešm (q.v.) island in the Straits of Hormoz. It occurs in this form (Balaḡorī, *Fotūḥ*, p. 386) and as Abarkāfān (*Nozhat al-qolūb*, p. 186), Barkāvān (Ebn Ḥawqal, p. 183; Ebn al-Aṭīr, III, p. 41), Banū Kāvān (Masʿūdī, *Morūj* I, p. 240; Ebn al-Balkī, pp. 113-14), etc. (For a more ancient name of the island, see Brokt; see also Lāft.) The form of the name may be compared with those of **Abarqobād**, Abar Šahrīār (Ebn Ḥawqal, p. 300), and Bar Bābak (Ebn Ḳordāḡbeh, p. 197). “Kāvān” indeed occurs as a personal name (Yāqūt, II, p. 80) and would mean in Middle Persian “of the lineage of Kāva.” Perhaps the name survives in the form Dargāhān/Dargavān, which designates a village on the island’s north shore, thirteen miles west of Qešm city (Kayhān, *Joḡrafīā* I, p. 105; J. G. Lorimer, *Gazetteer of the Persian Gulf, ‘Omān and Central Arabia* II B, Calcutta, 1908, p.1552).

According to Eṣṭakrī and, following him, Ebn Ḥawqal (loc. cit.), Abarkāvān fell within the *kūra* of Ardašīr Ḳorra in Fārs province. In 23/643-44 the Arab governor of Baḡrayn and ‘Omān, ‘Oṭmān b. Abu’l-‘Asī Ṭaqafī, sent an army to invade the island; it was largely made up of the **Abd-al-qays** tribe (Balaḡorī, *Fotūḥ*, pp. 386, 391). There the *marzbān* of Kermān put up a defense with a small force but was killed. The Muslims then proceeded to invade southern Iran, landing at Tavvāj.

Abarkāvān was prosperous during the early Islamic period; it had a thriving town and many villages with productive fields, date palms, and other fruit trees. The town was an active maritime-trade center (and a source of sweet water for ships). The mosque built by the Arab conquerors was still standing



in 333/944-45 (*Hodūd al-‘ālam*, p.20; tr. Minorsky, pp. 57-58; Mas‘ūdī, loc. cit.; cf. *The Travels of Pedro Teixeira*, tr. W. F. Sinclair, London, 1902, pp. 19-20). Toward the end of the Omayyad period the island was a Kharejite stronghold. By Yāqūt’s time (d. A.D. 1229) much of the island’s former glory had departed; no one could tell him its exact location (Yāqūt, IV, p. 432).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

See also Ṭabarī, II, pp. 1949, 1979.

Ebn Kordādbeh, p. 62. Ebn al-Aṭīr, III, pp. 355, 451-45.

Schwarz, *Iran*, p. 84.