



‘ABD-AL-ḲĀN

‘**ABD-AL-ḲĀN**, an Arab tribe of Ḳūzestān. It was originally affiliated with the Banī Lām tribal confederacy and resided in the region of ‘Amāra, in what is today Iraq. Around 1850, it moved to Iran, along with several other Banī Lām tribes. The Ottoman government demanded the forced repatriation of these tribes, but their shaikhs sought the protection of Mollā Naṣrallāh, the *ra’īs* (chief) of the house of Mavālī, and, through his intercession, were allowed by the Iranian government to settle down permanently in Ḳūzestān. The ‘Abd-al-Ḳāns established themselves in the vicinity of Ḳayrābād in the district of Mīān Āb. There they soon prospered under the dynamic leadership of Shaikh ‘Abbās and his son, Shaikh Ḥosayn, becoming the dominant tribe of Mīān Āb. This position was officially confirmed when Shaikh Ḥosayn was given the title of *šayḵ al-mašāyek* (“shaikh of shaikhs”) of the district. But in the early years of the 20th century the tribe’s power and influence were undermined by Shaikh Ḳaḏ’al (r. 1897-1925), the paramount chief of the Ka’b tribal confederacy, who for many years held the province under his sway as the self-styled “padishah of Arabistan.” Shaikh Ḳaḏ’al attempted to break up the ‘Abd-al-Ḳān tribe by making the chiefs of the clans autonomous and by appointing Shaikh Farhān of the Āl-e Kaṭīr tribe shaikh of shaikhs of Mīān Āb. But with the defeat of Shaikh Ḳaḏ’al by Reżā Shah in 1925, the ‘Abd-al-Ḳān leaders were able to resume their rule as tribal leaders, although the title of shaikh of shaikhs was abolished.

At the close of World War II the ‘Abd-al-Ḳān tribe comprised some 450 households. It is divided into the following eleven *tīras*: Naṣīrī, Banī ‘Aqaba,



Šovaya, Bahādal, 'Obayd (or Kākāsī), Banī Tamīm, Bayt Qobāš, Šamar, Daḳīna, 'Aṭāšena, and 'Obūda.

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