



'ABD-AL-MALEKĪ

'**ABD-AL-MALEKĪ**, a Lek tribe of Māzandarān. Long ago (possibly during the reign of Shah 'Abbās I, when many tribes were transplanted from western Iran to the northeastern marches), the 'Abd-al-Malekīs were moved from Kurdistan to the Darragaz (Moḥammadābād) area of Khorasan. There they were absorbed by the Qašqā'ī tribal confederacy when it was moved from Fārs to the Darragaz, Kalāt-e Nāderī, and Saraḵs regions by Nāder Shah. Undoubtedly, they accompanied the Qašqā'īs when Karīm Khan Zand granted Esmā'īl Khan Qašqā'ī's request to allow his tribesmen to return to Fārs, for we next find them in that province. Along with their Qašqā'ī overlords, the 'Abd-al-Malekīs fought for Loṭf-'Alī Khan Zand, contributing 250 horsemen to the Zand army. After the defeat of Loṭf-'Alī Khan, Āqā Moḥammad Khan Qājār moved the 'Abd-al-Malekīs to the district of Šahrīār, near Tehran. Some three years later, the Qajar ruler moved them to the districts of Nūr and Koḵūr, west of Āmol, in Māzandarān. Finally, about 1855, Mīrzā Āqā Khan Nūrī, the *šadr-e a'zam*, moved them towards Zāgmarz, near Sārī, to serve as a shield against the Turkomans (cf. P. Oberling, *The Qashqā'i Nomads of Fārs*, The Hague, 1975, p. 42, n.; Fasā'ī, *Fārsnāma* I, p. 234; H. L. Rabino, *Māzandarān and Astarābād*, Cambridge, 1928, p. 12; H. Field, *Contributions to the Anthropology of Iran*, Chicago, 1939, p. 167). They are now sedentary and inhabit a number of villages in the *dahestāns* of Miāndorūd and Qaraṭeqān, northeast of Sārī. They are divided into the following clans (*tīras*): Faraḥvand, Kalvand, Šayḵvand, and Zīnvand (cf. Field, *op. cit.*, p. 167). In the early 1880s, J. M. Jouannin estimated their number at five to six thousand individuals (cf. J. M. Jouannin's list of tribes in A. Dupré, *Voyage en Perse*, Paris, 1819, II, p. 461). About 1850,



Lady Sheil estimated their number at “600 tents and houses” (*Glimpses of Life and Manners in Persia*, London, 1856, p. 396). Field writes that “according to their tradition” the ‘Abd-al-Malekīs numbered 4,000 families when they reached Māzandarān but were so reduced by the climate that by 1920 there were a mere 600 families left (op. cit., p. 167). According to Rabino, in 1913 the ‘Abd-al-Malekīs still spoke Kurdish.

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