



AḤMADZĪ

AḤMADZĪ “descendants of Aḥmad” (sing. Aḥmadzay), a Paštō clan and tribal name. Its diverse use is one indicator of the complexity of Paštūn tribal structure. There are Aḥmadzī springing from different tribal branches and constituting ethnic groups at various levels (clans, sub-clans, tribal fractions, large families etc.) and tracing their descent to different eponymous Aḥmads, known and unknown. The confusion is sometimes compounded by the interested parties themselves, when they incorrectly claim an ethnic origin, clan affiliation, or ancestral connection that seems to have more prestige or to be more advantageous.

On the Paštō-speaking frontier of Pakistan (or “Paštūnestān”), the best-known Aḥmadzī ethnic groups are the following: (1) The Wazīr Aḥmadzī, established in southern Waziristan, who are descended from Aḥmad, son of Mūsā Darwēš, son of Wazīr, son of Solaymān, son of Kakay (or Kakī), son of Karlāṇ, and thus belong to the Karlāṇī lineage (see O. Caroe, *The Pathans, 550 B.C.-A.D. 1957*, London, 1958 [repr. 1962, 1964, etc.], p. 21). Together with the Oṭmānzī, these Aḥmadzī constitute the Mūsā Darwēš Kēl, a clan that, with the Mas‘ūd and the Gərbəz, is linked to the great [Wazīr tribe](#). They are divided into two lineages (J. W. Murray, *A Dictionary of the Pathan Tribes of the North-West Frontier of India*, Calcutta, 1899 [repr. 1910], p. 103: “left bank of Kurram river”): the Kālū Kēl, numbering 3,906 men of fighting age at the end of the 19th century (*ibid.*, p. 138), and the less important Sēn or Sayn Kēl, numbering 280 fighting men (*ibid.*, p. 175). Bellew (*An Inquiry into the Ethnography of Afghanistan*, Woking, 1891 [repr. Graz, 1973], pp. 118-19) confirms these figures, estimating that the



Aḥmadzī number 10,000 families. He also gives, for each of the two lineages, numerous names of tribal factions included in it; seventy-one for the Kālū KĒl and fifty-two for the Sēn KĒl. (2) The Solaymān KĒl Aḥmadzī, an important nomadic clan affiliated with the tribe of the Solaymān KĒl of the Ġilzī tribal federation. In the 19th century they had their winter quarters at Paharpur in the district of Dera Isma‘il Khan (Murray, *Dictionary*, p. 103). (3) The Dawtānī Aḥmadzī, a nomadic clan attached to the Lōdī confederation. Murray (*ibid.*, p. 123, s.v. Dautani) locates their winter quarters on the banks of the Indus between Kat Malana and Parca in the district of Dera Isma‘il Khan and gives the figure of 700 fighting men for all these Dawtānī, which furnishes some idea of just how small this Aḥmadzī fraction is. (4) To the south of the Gomal river Murray (*ibid.*, p. 203) localizes eight different Aḥmadzī ethnic fractions attached to different tribes: (a) In the Zhob valley: Aḥmadzī < Māmēzī < Ḥaydar KĒl < Mandō KĒl; Aḥmadzī < Solaymān KĒl < Ġilzī; Aḥmadzī < Kabalzī < Ḥasanzī < Kībzī < Sanzar KĒl < Kākaṛ. (b) In the Loralay valley: Aḥmadzī < Mālezī < Raḳawwāl < Lūnī; Aḥmadzī < Nūḥzī < Isōt < Ġorḡušt. (c) In the Bori valley in the Loralay region: Aḥmadzī < Mīrzī < ‘Alīzī < Sanzar KĒl < Kākaṛ. (d) In the Sibi region: Aḥmadzī < Lawāṇ < Pānī. (e) West of Dera Isma‘il Khan: Aḥmadzī < Mangīsī < Laharzī < Mūsā KĒl.

In Afghanistan two clans of Aḥmadzī are generally distinguished: As a branch of the Abdālī, the Aḥmadzī include the descendants of Aḥmad Shah Dorrānī, a line of descent with high prestige in Afghanistan. This line has sometimes played an important political role and attracted other Aḥmadzī in quest of more illustrious ethnic identification. The other Aḥmadzī are settled mainly in Paktīā and Lōgar. Among the lineages that have sprung from them, the most important are the ‘Īsā KĒl, the Mūsā KĒl, and the Akūṛzī (or Akūṛ KĒl). These are certainly for the most part Wazīr Aḥmadzī (see above), but it is possible that there are among them several Solaymān KĒl or even some Dawtānī who have been assimilated, as often happens with emigrants. It is frequently remarked that this clan, with its great prestige, conforms in an exemplary manner to the tenets of the Paštūnwalī, the famous code of honor of the Paštūn (see Kieffer, *Afghanica*, I, *Langues et ethnies de l’Afghanistan*, in press).



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Given in the text.