



ARSANJĀN

ARSANJĀN, a small town in Fārs on the northeastern fringes of the Zagros mountain massif. It is situated 30 miles to the east of Persepolis and 55 miles northeast of Shiraz; to its southeast lies Lake Nīrīz. There do not seem to be any mentions of Arsanjān in the older classical Arabic and Persian geographers, although Ḥamdallāh Mostawfī mentions villages in the region of Ābāda, including Ḳabraz, modern Ḳabrīz, 9 miles to the southwest of Arsanjān (*Nozhat al-qolūb*, ed. Le Strange, p. 123, tr. idem, p. 121).

It is now administratively the chef-lieu of the *baḳš* of Zarqān, in the *šahrestān* of Shiraz, in the *ostān* of Fārs. In about 1950 it had a population of 5,000. Local production of cereals, fruit, and opium poppies is by means of *qanāt* irrigation, and there is also some carpet-weaving (see Razmārā, *Farhang* VII, p. 9). The districts of Arsanjān and Kamīn form the summer quarters (*yeylāqs*) of the Persian-speaking nomadic tribe of the Bāšeri, one of the component tribes of the Ḳamsa confederation; see A. K. S. Lambton, *Landlord and Peasant in Persia*, London, 1953, p. 159, and F. Barth, *Nomads of Persia. The Basseri Tribe of the Khamseh Confederacy*, Oslo, 1961.

(C. E. Bosworth)