



## ĀZARŠAHR

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**ĀZARŠAHR** (or DEHKĀRAQĀN; in the local Azeri Turkish: Tokargān), a town and a district (*baḡš*) of the *šahrestān* of Tabrīz, bounded on the north and east by the district of Oskū, on the south by the sub-district (*dehestān*) of Sarājū, and on the west by Lake Urmia (Razmārā, *Farhang* IV, p. 226). The old name Dehkāraqān was changed to Āzaršahr in the early Pahlavi period, only to be officially reinstated later (M. J. Maškūr, *Naẓar-ī be tāriḡ-e Ādarbāyjān*, Tehran, 1349 Š./1971, p. 27). It comprises four sub-districts with forty-eight villages: Āzaršahr (19 villages, 1,787 households, 10,229 inhabitants), Širāmīn (9 villages, 1,336 households, 7,139 inhabitants), Gāvgān (19 villages, 2,188 households, 12,042 inhabitants), and Mamaqān (1 village, 1,427 households, 7,290 inhabitants) (*ibid.*, pp. 434, 509, 519). The eastern part of the Āzaršahr district is mountainous, reaching up to the slopes of Sahand-kūh (3,722 m/12,211 ft), and enjoys a salubrious climate. The western part is flat land extending along the eastern shore of Lake Urmia, where the summers tend to be hot. Irrigation for the district's numerous farms and gardens is provided by the Dehkāraqān and Īška (Bārīk) rivers, as well as underground channels (*qanāts*), natural springs, and deep wells.

The administrative center of the district is the town of Āzaršahr, situated at 45° 85' 39" east longitude and 37° 46' 15" north latitude at an elevation of 1,468 m/4,816 ft above sea level. It stands on the main highway from Tabrīz to Marāḡa, lying some 54 km southwest of Tabrīz. According to the 1345 Š./1966 census (*Ḳoṣūṣīyat-e asāsī-e šahrhā-ye Īrān*, Tehran, 1350 Š./1971), the population of the town numbers 15,318 persons, the majority of whom are



engaged in agriculture and small businesses.

Āzaršahr is an old town, referred to by early sources as Dākarraqān (Ṭabarī, III, p. 1380; Eṣṭakrī, pp. 181, 190, 194; Ebn Ḥawqal, pp. 333, 336, 345; tr. Kramers, pp. 326, 329, 339; Ebn Kordādbeh, p. 120; Moqaddasī, pp. 51, 374), Karraqān (Moqaddasī, p. 383), and Deh al-Karraqān (Qodāma b. Ja‘far, BGA, p. 213). Both *Ḥodūd al-‘ālam* (tr. Minorsky, p. 143) and Moqaddasī (p. 374) mention it as a part of Armenia although it lay only two stages from Marāḡa and only nine leagues to the southwest of Tabrīz, both of them historically and geographically parts of Azarbaijan. Yāqūt (II, p. 636) calls it Deh-Naḳīrjān and derives the name from that of Naḳīrjān, the treasurer of Kosrow (II?). Ḥamdallāh Mostawfī (mid-8th/14th century), who calls it Dehḳvāraqān (Dehḳvāarakān in Rašīd-al-dīn Fazlallah’s *Tārīḳ-emobāarak-e Ġāzānī*, ed. K. Yahn, London, 1940, p. 94), refers to it as a small town with eight dependent villages and speaks of the abundance of its gardens and grape-arbors, and extols the excellent grains, cotton, and fruits produced there. The people of Āzaršahr were fair-complexioned and belonged to the Shafī‘ite sect of Sunni Islam; its total revenue assessment was 23,600 dinars (*Nozhat al-qolūb*, p. 86).

The district of Āzaršahr contains a number of monuments and sites of historical interest, the most important being Tappa-ye Pīr-e Qaṭrān, Tappa-ye Moṣallā, the cemetery of Pīr-e Ḥayrān, the Čārsū and Rūmīān mosques, the Meḥrāb mosque of Āzaršahr, the ancient cave and burial sites at Bādāmyār and Tūrāmīn, the mosque of Tūrāmīn, the Awlīā’ mausoleum in the village of Qāzī Jahān, the mausoleum of Pīr-e Jāber, etc. (‘A. ‘A. Kārang, *Āṭār-e tāriḳī-e šahrestān-e Tabrīz I*, Tabrīz, 1351 Š./1972, pp. 470-514).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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See also Le Strange, *Lands*, p. 164.

Kayhān, *Joḡrāfiā* I, p. 80; II, p. 155; III, pp. 119, 156, 157.

Markwart, *Ērānšahr*, p. 24.

*Search terms:*



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