



BĀJALĀN

BĀJALĀN, a Kurdish tribe which has settled in the *dehestāns* of Qūratū, Dohāb and Jagarlū in the *šahrestān* of Qaṣr-e Šīrīn, on the Iraqi border (Kayhān, *Joḡrāfiā* II, p. 60). According to H. C. Rawlinson, the tribe moved from the Mosul area to the Dohāb area in the eighteenth century ("Notes on a March from Zohāb . . . to Kirmānshāh," *JRGS* 9, 1839, p. 107). Its link to the Mosul area is confirmed by the existence of a group of Bājalān villages a few miles northeast of that city (C. J. Edmonds, *Kurds, Turks and Arabs*, London, 1957, p. 10, n. 1).

One of the most prominent leaders of the Bājalāns was 'Abd-Allāh Khan, who served as pasha of Dohāb for the Ottoman government during the mid-1700s. In the spring of 1167/1754, he fought against Moḡammad Khan Zand when the latter occupied the Kermānshāh region (J. R. Perry, *Karīm Khan Zand*, Chicago, 1979, pp. 55, 184). In late 1188/early 1775, Naẓar-'Alī Khan Zand, who had been dispatched by Karīm Khan to reestablish Zand hegemony over Kurdistan, defeated 'Abd-Allāh Khan near Kānaqīn, slaughtering 2,000 of his men and seizing 120,000 head of livestock (*ibid.*, p. 187). The Bājalāns became embroiled in the civil wars which were unleashed by the death of Karīm Khan Zand in 1779, but played only a marginally important role in them (see E. Beer, ed., *Das Tārīkh-i Zendīje des Ibn 'Abd el-Kerīm 'Alī Riẓā von Šīrāz*, Leiden, 1888, p. 19; Nāmī Eṣfahānī, *Tārīk-eGītīgošā*, Tehran, 1317 Š./1938-39, p. 242; H. J. Brydges, *The Dynasty of the Kajars*, London, 1833, pp. 48, 58, 141).

The Bājalān lands became a permanent part of Iranian territory when Moḡammad-'Alī Mīrzā, the governor of Kermānshāh, occupied the Dohāb



region in 1222/1807-08 (Rawlinson, op. cit., p. 26). The last notable leader of the Bājalān tribe was ‘Azīz Khan Šojā‘-al-Mamālek, who reached the peak of his influence during the last two decades of the nineteenth century. Around 1882, he was summoned to Isfahan by Z̄ell-al-Solṭān and was entrusted with the mission of guarding the marches in the vicinity of Qaṣr-e Šīrīn. Upon his return to western Iran, he built a fort at Qūratū on the Dohāb river and established several villages for his sons and other relatives. Toward the end of his rule, a feud erupted between his family and the family of his brother, Kālifa A‘zam Khan, in which two of the sons of each were killed. As a result of this feud, the tribe rapidly disintegrated following ‘Azīz Khan’s death in November, 1903 (H. L. Rabino, “Kermanchah,” *RMM* 38, 1920, p. 20).

The Bājalān population was estimated at 2,000 families by Rawlinson (op. cit., p. 107), at 600 families by Rabino (op. cit., p. 20) and at 1,300 families by M. Mardūk (*Tārīḳ-e Mardūk*, Tehran, n.d, I, p. 78). According to Mardūk, some 70 families of Bājalāns have migrated to the Qazvīn region.

The Bājalān tribe is composed of the following branches (*tīras*): Jomūr, Qāzānlū, Šīrāvand, Ḥājīlār Ġarībāvand, and Dandāvand (E. B. Soane, *To Mesopotamia and Kurdistan in Disguise*, London, 1912, p. 407). According to Mardūk, the Jomūrs and Qāzānlūs are of Lak origin (op. cit., p. 78).

The Bājalāni dialect belongs to the [Gūrāni](#) group.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Given in the text. See also D. N. MacKenzie in *ET*² I, pp. 887-88.

Search terms:

□□□□□□ bajalan baajalaan