



## BĀJARVĀN

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**BĀJARVĀN**, a town in the medieval Islamic province of Mūgān (q.v.), i.e., the area southwest of the Caspian Sea and south of the Kor (Kura) and Aras (Araxes; qq.v.) rivers. Its site is unknown, but it must have lain in what is now the extreme northeastern tip of the modern Iranian province of Azarbaijan, to the south of the Aras (the modern frontier with the Azarbaijan SSR) and in the *Ḳorūslūdāg* region, for the medieval geographers place it 20 *farsaks* north of Ardabīl and 4 *farsaks* north of Barzand, the other main town of Mūgān.

It was apparently the chief town of Mūgān, if Maqdesī's (Moqaddasī's) *madīnat Mūgān*, which he says was verdant and fertile, is to be identified with Bājarvān; but by Mostawfī's time (8th/14th century) both Bājarvān and Barzand were mere villages. Bājarvān seems to have played little part in history, except that in 112/730, during Hešām's caliphate, the invading Khazars besieged it, but were repulsed by the Arab general Sa'īd b. 'Amr Ḥarašī (Ebn al-Atīr, V, pp. 161-62; D. M. Dunlop, *History of the Jewish Khazars*, Princeton, 1954, pp. 72-74); and it must have witnessed fighting during the movement of Bābak and the *Ḳorramīya* (qq.v.), whose fortress of Baḏḏ (q.v.) lay very near. Bājarvān did, however, have a place in popular legend, which identified it with the village (*qarya*) mentioned in the Qur'ān (18:77), where Moses and the "Green Prophet" *Ḳeẓr* (or *Ḳaẓer*) were refused food during their journey to the confluence of the two seas and where the "Water of Life," *'ayn al-ḥayāt*, was located (Ya'qūb, *Boldān* I, p. 454).



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Maqdesī (Moqaddasī), p. 378.

*Nozhat al-qolūb*, p. 90; tr. Le Strange, pp. 91-92.

Le Strange, *Lands*, pp. 175-76, 230-31.

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