



BĀḲARZ

BĀḲARZ or Govāḳarz, a district of the medieval Islamic province of Qūhestān/Qohestān (q.v.) in Khorasan, lying to the west of the middle, northerly-flowing course of the Harīrūd, with K̲vāf on its west, Jām on its north, Pūšang on its east and the desert on its south. A popular etymology derived its name from *bād-harza* “place where the wind blows.”

The medieval geographers describe Bāḳarz as a fertile region, mainly irrigated by *qanāts*, producing fruit, cereals, and a famed variety of fruit syrup. Its chief urban center was Mālīn (local pronunciation, Mālān), noted for a special type of “long,” presumably ellipsoid, melon, and possibly to be identified with the modern Šahr-e Now in the district of the Khorasan *ostān* still known as Bāḳarz today.

In the period of the Arab conquests, when Yazdegerd III was being pursued to his final fate, ‘Abd-Allāh b. ‘Āmer b. Korayz (q.v.) deputed ‘Omayr b. Aḥmad Yaškorī to occupy Qūhestān (31/651-52); but according to Balāḳorī, it was actually Yazīd Jorašī who conquered by force Zām or Jām, Bāḳarz, and Jovayn of Nišāpūr. The garrisons of both Qūhestān and Sīstān to its south were certainly subsequently manned mainly by Arab tribesmen of Bakr b. Wā’el (of which Yaškor were a component; Balāḳorī, *Fotūḥ*, p. 403, tr. P. K. Hitti, and F. C. Murgotten, *The Origins of the Islamic State*, Columbia Studies in History, Economics and Public Law 68/1-2, New York, 1916-24, pt. 2, p. 160; Ebn al-Aṭīr (repr.), III, p. 124). In the early ‘Abbasid period, Bāḳarz, like Khorasan in general, was badly affected by the prolonged Kharijite revolt of Ḥamza b. Ḃdarak, and at one point, in 181/797, the son of the governor of Khorasan ‘Alī



b. ʿĪsā b. Māhān managed to inflict a defeat, only however temporary in its effects, on Ḥamza at Bāḳarz (Ebn al-Aṭīr, VI, pp. 150-51). Bāḳarz is mentioned sporadically in the sources up to the Mongol invasions and beyond. Thus, in the warfare between the K̄vārazmšāh Tekeš and his brother Solṭānšāh over possession of Khorasan, the former at one point, in 583/1187, made over possession of Jām, Bāḳarz and Zīr-e Pol (unidentified) to Solṭānšāh (Jovaynī, tr. Boyle, I, p. 298). Bāḳarz is still described as a flourishing area under the Timurids. Thereafter it is less frequently mentioned, although Curzon mentions the districts of Jām, Bāḳarz, and K̄vāf as being under the governorship of a magnate of Arab descent, one Noṣrat-al-Molk toward the end of the nineteenth century (*Persian Question* I, p. 199).

Medieval Bāḳarz was notable also in that it produced the Saljuq official and noted literary anthologist ʿAlī b. Ḥasan Bāḳarzī (d. 462/1075; q.v.) and the Sufi Shaikh Sayf al-Dīn Bāḳarzi (d. 646/1248 or shortly thereafter).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

See also Maqdesī (Moqaddasī), p. 319 n. c. Yāqūt, *Boldān* (Beirut) I, p. 316, V, p. 44.

Nozhat al-qolūb, p. 153; tr. Le Strange, p. 151.

Le Strange, *Lands*, p. 357.

D. Krawulsky, *Iran. Das Reich der Ilḥāne: Eine topographisch-historische Studie*, Wiesbaden, 1978, p. 70.

Idem, *Ḥorāsān zur Timuridenzeit nach dem Tārīḫ-e Ḥāfez-e Abrū (verf. 817-823 h.) I: Edition und Einleitung*, Wiesbaden, 1982, pp. 37-38.

Search terms:

□□□□ bakarz baakarz