



BANĪ SĀLA

BANĪ SĀLA (not to be confused with the Āl Bū Šāleḥ of southern Iraq), a Shiʿite Arab tribe of Howayza (Ḥawīza) district in Kūzestān. Their territory, centered on Šowayb, extends some 25 miles along the banks of the Karḡa river southwest of Ahvāz as far as Šeyḡ Moḡammad and into the Tigris-Karḡa marshes (*Persia*, pp. 378-79). Their numbers were estimated earlier this century at 15,000 (Lorimer, *Gazetteer* II, pp. 123, 1654-55) or 2,100 families (Field, p. 199). Once camel breeders, they are now mostly settled cultivators and stockbreeders, but include marsh men (*meʿdān*; notably the Ḥalāf section, ca. 800 huts) and nomads (esp. the Ḥamūdī section, 400 tents). The latter spend winter and spring on the plains away from the river. The Banī Sāla originated from the Ṭayyeʿ tribe, or by other accounts from Tamīm (ʿAzzāwī, IV, pp. 194), and in the 12th/18th and 13th/19th centuries were subjects of the Montafeg confederacy (Oppenheim, IV, pp. 34).

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