



BANĪ ʾTOROF

BANĪ ʾTOROF (Banu Turuf), a large Shiʿite Arab tribe of Howayza (Ḥawīza) district in Kūzestān, mostly sedentary, centered north of Howayza between Sūsangerd and Bostān (Besaytīn). In the early years of this century their population was put at 20,000 (Lorimer, *Gazetteer* II, p. 119), and in the 1930s at 8,000 families. They are organized in two sections, the slightly larger Bayt Saʿīd and the Bayt Şayyāḥ, a division which tradition attributes to a feud between brothers (Oppenheim, IV, pp. 24, 27-38; *Persia*, pp. 378-79; Field, p. 199). They trace their lineage to the ʾṬayyeʿ tribe, and are related to the Banī ʾTorof of Hendīya (near Najaf) in Iraq.

Their history is obscure until the 1850s, when they are mentioned as a small group of *meʿdān* (marsh Arabs) under the patronage of the **Banī Lām**. Later in the century they were flourishing northeast of the Hawr al-Ḥawīza, along the new course of the Karḡa as far as Sūsangerd, still living partly as *meʿdān*, raising buffalo, cows, and sheep, cultivating rice, barley, and wheat, and attracting clients. By the 1890s the Banī ʾTorof had grown strong enough to throw off the rule of the Shaikh of Howayza and deal directly with the government of Nāṣer-al-Dīn Shah. In 1906 it took an Iranian army to force them to pay taxes. During the Constitutional Revolution, Shaikh Ḳaṣʿal of the Banī Kaʿb acquired the right to their taxes and drew on their manpower to advance his own ambitions (Oppenheim, IV, pp. 39-40; Kasrawī, pp. 139, 233, 235; ʿAzzāwī, IV, pp. 190-91). During World War I they joined the Turks against the British forces occupying Ahvāz, and suffered when the Ottoman army withdrew and the British delivered them to Ḳaṣʿal. In 1924, when Ḳaṣʿal broke



with Tehran, the Țorof rebelled against him and all other authority; in 1928 they stormed the tax office in Howayza, killed the director, and demanded the removal of Iranian officials. They were finally dispersed by government forces using aircraft.

Thereafter, some BanĪ Țorof emigrated to twelve new villages centered on ȚamĪdiya in the Nahr Hāšem district, where for some time they exercised a hegemony over the BanĪ Ka'b and BanĪ Lām residents before being absorbed by them (Oppenheim, IV, pp. 40-41).

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