



## BĀWĪYA

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**BĀWĪYA**, a Shi'ite tribe of Kūzestān. They range east and south of Ahvāz, between the Kārūn and Jarrāhī rivers, to the south of Band-e Qīr and north of Māred. Estimated at 20,000 individuals in the early years of this century, of which 18,500 were nomadic, and 2,320 families in the 1930s, they were formerly camel breeders but have progressively sedentarized and diversified their livestock. They are organized in six sections with fifteen clans (Lorimer, *Gazetteer* II, pp. 119, 293-96; Oppenheim, IV, pp. 25, 90; Field, pp. 190-91; *Persia*, pp. 378-380).

They claim a proud lineage, which includes the pre-Islamic hero Mohalhel, but their early history is obscure. They apparently originated in the Banī Rabī'a of Iraq and moved into Iran in the late 10th/16th century along with the [Banī Lām](#). Their territory was immediately northwest of that of the Banī Ka'b (q.v.), with whom they have had a long association and rivalry, including occasional hostilities. In the winter of 1914-15, in common with several other of the Kūzestān tribes, they attacked the British force occupying Ahvāz, with which Shaikh Kaẓ'al of the Ka'b was in alliance. Since the late 1940s they have entirely sedentarized, in some sixty villages (Oppenheim, III, p. 356, IV, pp. 89-91).

Splinter groups of Bāwīya have dispersed among other tribes in both Iraq and Iran; there is a Bāwīya subsection of the 'Arab, a constituent tribe of the Kamsa confederacy (Azzāwī, IV, pp. 191-92; Oppenheim, IV, p. 92).



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