



BĀZRANGĪ

BĀZRANGĪ, the family name of a dynasty of petty rulers in Fārs from whom Sāsān, the eponymous ancestor of the Sasanians, took a wife called Rāmbehešt, according to Ṭabarī (I, p. 814). At that time, he continues, the king of Ešākr was a man of the Bāzrangīs (Bāzranjī) called Jūzehr (or Jozehr; Pers. Gōčehr). Ṭabarī further says that Gōčehr, who lived in the town of Bayzā' in Fārs had a eunuch Tīrī whom he made *argbed*, the chief official, of Dārābgerd and later, at the request of Pāpak, the son of the latter, Ardašīr, was sent to Tīrī to be educated and then Ardašīr succeeded Tīrī in his office. After a number of local conquests Ardašīr wrote to his father to revolt against Gōčehr, which Pāpak did, killing Gōčehr and taking his throne (*ibid.*, pp. 815-16). This is the last we hear of Gōčehr or the Bāzrangī family. Other notices of Bāzrangī in later Arabic or Persian sources are all taken from Ṭabarī. No coins with either the name Gōčehr or Bāzrangī have been found and no additional information about this dynasty is found in other sources. Wikander's suggestion that Bāzrang is a title rather than a name, with an etymology meaning "holding a mace," or "possessing miraculous power," is unproven. Other occurrences of the word Bāzrang refer to a geographical district in the mountainous Boir Aḥmadī area where the Šīrīn and Šādkān rivers have their origin (Ešākrī, pp. 112, 119, 136; Ebn Ḥawqal, pp. 275, 288, tr. Kramers, pp. 271, 282; Moqaddasī, p. 448). This district may be the one in the Pahlavi text *Xusrāw ud rēdag* (par. 58) from which excellent wine or must comes (*wāzrangīk*). Today, in the Behbahān district of the province of Kūzestān, the villages upper Bāzrang and lower Bāzrang exist. According to Bahār (p. 135 n. 2) in popular folktales of Iran the word *bāzrangī* means wild person. Whether there is any connection



between the place name and other occurrences of the word is uncertain.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Given in the text. See also M.-T. Bahār, *Sabkšenāsī* I, 2nd ed., Tehran, 1337 Š./1958, p. 137 n. 2.

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Ebn Balkī, pp. 144, 152.

H. Gaube, *Die südpersische Provinz Arrağān/Küh-Gīlūyeh von der arabischen Eroberung bis zur Safawidenzeit*, Vienna, 1973, pp. 49-50.

Mostawfī, *Nozhat al-qolūb*, pp. 128, 225.

Nöldeke, *Geschichte der Perser*, p. 4 n. 1.

S. Wikander, *Der arische Männerbund*, Lund, 1938, pp. 105-06.