



## BEH-QOBĀD

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**BEH-QOBĀD** (Mid. Pers. Vēh-Kavāt), an administrative district created by the Sasanian king Qobād I in the early sixth century along the Babylon branch of the Euphrates. It lay below [Beh-Ardašīr](#) and began where the Euphrates divided into two branches six *farsaks* (ca. 36 km) below the offtake of the Nahr Kūṭā. The Sasanian name of the district is attested on late Sasanian seals; Bābel may have been its capital; and there is a seal impression of the *mōbad* of Bābel in Vēh-Kavāt. Beh-Qobād was conquered by the Muslims in the summer of 16/637 after their victory at Qādesīya. Persian forces were defeated at Bābel and Sūrā. Since this district survived the Muslim conquest, the subdistricts of Beh-Ardašīr were temporarily added to it until 36/657. There is no convincing evidence that Beh-Qobād was a mint for either Sasanian or Arab-Sasanian coins. The earliest evidence for its division into Upper (A'lā), Middle (Awṣat), and Lower (Asfal) Beh-Qobād (Beh-Qobādāt) is in the appointments of governors by Moḳtār in 66/685, and on post-reform dirhams of Middle and Lower Beh-Qobād dated 90/708-09. In neither case are the subdistricts (*ṭasāsīj*) of these divisions (*estāns*) identified, and their Arabic-writing geographers appear to have switched the subdistricts of Upper and Middle Beh-Qobād. “Middle” (actually Upper) Beh-Qobād lay along that part of the Euphrates called the Upper Nahr Sūrā, and the subdistricts of Sūrā, Barbīsamā (Bīsmā), Bārūsamā, and Bānīqīā are attested in the 1st/7th century. By the 3rd/9th century the subdistricts of Nahr Malek and of Jobba and Bodāt were included. “Upper” (actually Middle) Beh-Qobād lay along the Lower Nahr Sūrā with the subdistricts of Bābel, Ḳoṭarnīya, Upper and Lower Fallūja (Fallūjatayn, Falālīj), and Nahrayn attested in the 1st/7th century. By the 3rd/9th century it included



‘Ayn-al-Tamr. At the time of the conquest the remaining subdistricts of Beh-Qobād in the region southeast of the Lower Nahr Sūrā consisted of Forāt Seryā, Hormozjerd, Rūdmestān, and Nestar. By the 3rd/9th century Lower Beh-Qobād appears to have been rotated to the west to include the subdistricts of Kūfa, Hīra, Saylahīn, and Forāt Bādaqlā. The entire district of Beh-Qobādāt was expected to yield 17,000 *korr* of wheat, 24,000 *korr* of barley, and over 1.6 mill dirhams in taxes in the 3rd/9th century.

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