



BĒṬ GARMĒ

BĒṬ GARMĒ, a region and province in northeastern Iraq named after a people, possibly a Persian tribe, called Garamaioi by Ptolemy, Garmaḳāyē by early Syriac writers, Garamīkān (*glmykn*), adjective Garamīkčān (*glmykc'n*) in Middle Iranian, Garmakan in Armenian, and Jarāmeqa in Arabic. Streck identified them with the Gurumu of cuneiform sources. This region, also called Garamīk in Middle Iranian and Bājarmā in Arabic, lay southeast of the Lesser Zāb, southwest of the mountains of Šahrazūr, northeast of the Tigris and the Jabal Ḥamrīn (Ṭūr Ūrūk in Syriac sources), although sometimes including Rādān southwest of the Jabal Ḥamrīn, and northwest of the Dīāla, and Serwān rivers. This province and its subkings are considered to be the continuation of the Assyrian kingdom after its conquest by the Medes in the History of Karkā d^e Bēt Selōk, which was its capital city. The inscription of Narseh I (r. 993-302) at Paikuli (par. 32) recounts how the nobles of Āsōristān, Garamīkān, and Syārzūr gathered at Hāyān ī Nīkatrā (i.e., Syriac Nīqātōr-Āwānā, modern Benkodra; see Henning, pp. 519-22) to meet with Narseh and persuade him to accept the kingship. A Sasanian administrative seal of the accountant (*hamarkar*) of Garmakan and Nōt-Ardašīr suggests that these two provinces were combined, probably under the later Sasanians. After 'Otba b. Farḳad crossed Bājarmā from Takrīt to Šahrazūr during the Muslim conquest, this district survived as an administrative unit (*kūra*) in Islamic administration. Bēt Garmē is also attested as a Christian (Nestorian by the sixth century) metropolitanate under the see of Karkā with suffragan bishops of Šahrqart, Lašōm, Arīwan, Radanī, and Ḥarbagelal in 410 (these are later subject to change), 486, 544, 554, 585, under Mār Ammeh I (644-47), Šliwa Zeḳā (714-28),



and in 780. With the ruin of the city of Karkā between 832 and 833, the metropolitanate moved to Šahrazūr and continues to be attested until the early fourteenth century, the last reference being in 1318. There were also about three Jacobite bishoprics in Bēt Garmē in 629.

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