



BĒṬ SELŌḲ

BĒṬ SELŌḲ, “house of Seleucos,” abbreviation of Karkā ǧ^e Bēṭ Selōḳ, “fortress of the house of Seleucos,” the capital city (modern Kirkuk) of the district of **Bēṭ Garmē** in Iraq. The main source for its early history is the sixth-century Syriac account of the martyrs of Karkā ǧ^e Bēṭ Selōḳ, according to which it was founded by the Assyrian ruler, Sardanā (Sardanapalus), and after Sargon built a palace there it was called Karkā ǧ^e Sargōn. The town was refounded by Seleucos Nicator or his son Antiochos (see **antiochus i**), who rebuilt the wall and the palace and settled five well-known families from Istakhr (Eṣṭakr) there, where he gave them land and vineyards, together with people from other places. There were seventy-two streets, twelve of which were named after well-known families, while others were named after crafts. During the Parthian period the city was included in the kingdom of **Adiabene**, and Christianity arrived there in the second century in the person of a refugee bishop called Tuqrītā (Theocritos). The ruler of this city is said to have helped Ardašīr I overthrow the Parthians, and in the twentieth year of Šāpūr I (ca. 260) two missionary disciples of Mani, Addai and Abzakīyā, began to make Manichean converts there. In the fourth century, conflict among Christians, Manicheans, and Zoroastrians at Karkā contributed to the persecution of Christians there and to executions by the *mauhpatā* (*mōbad*) Ādur-Gušnasp. In 558 there were a *rad* and a chief of the Magians (*árkhōn tōn mágōn*, *arkhimagos*) at Karkā. The Christian see (Nestorian by the sixth century) of Karkā ǧ^e Bēṭ Selōḳ, attested in 410, 424, 486, 497, 544, 605, 644, and ca. 740, was the metropolitan bishopric of Bēṭ Garmē.



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