



ČERĀM

ČERĀM or ČORŪM, a small tribal confederacy (*īl*) inhabiting the *dehestān* of Čerām, in the Kūhgīlūya region, in southwestern Persia. The residence of its chiefs is at Talgerd, some 50 kilometers northeast of Behbahān. Today the Čerāms are almost all sedentary. In 1362 Š./1983 only 786 families were nomads (*kūčrow*; Afšār, I, p. 583, citing *Sāzmān-e Barnāma o Būdja-ye Ostān-e Kūhgīlūya o Boir Aḥmad*). In the past their winter quarters were in the Belād-e Šāpūr and their summer quarters in the Raven region. In the 1300s/1890s the confederacy comprised the following tribes: Begler (the chiefs' tribe), Bonārī, Parūkūrī (or Parvčkūrī), Tārmūnī, Ḥosām Bahā'-al-Dīnī, Dīlgūn, Šayk Golbār, Goštāsb, Kamānkešī, and Masīḥšāhī (*Fasā'ī*, II, p. 273). Recent sources, such as *Bāvar* (pp. 103-05), *Žarrābī* (p. 299), and Afšār (I, pp. 583-87) differ widely as to the names of the component tribes of the Čerām.

Little is known about the history of the Čerām. The names of their tribes suggest that the confederacy is an amalgam of Turkic and Lur elements, but none of the available sources indicates when these tribes moved into the Kūhgīlūya. *Fasā'ī* (ca. 1900; loc. cit.) estimated the number of Čerām at barely 600 or 700 households; Demorgny (1913, p. 115) and Kayhān (1930s; *Joḡrāfīā* II, p. 88) at 1,000 households; *Bāvar* (1945, p. 105) at 1,200 households; *Žarrābī* (1960, p. 299) at 4,800 individuals. Afšār (1987, I, p. 583) cites two other (identical) estimates: 1,275 households in 1347 Š./1968 (*Mo'assasa-ye Ejtemā'ī-e Dānešgāh-e Tehrān*) and 1360 Š./1981 (*Sāzmān-e Omūr-e 'Ašāyer*).



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