



DARRAŠŪRĪ

DARRAŠŪRĪ, one of the five major tribes of the Qašqā'ī tribal confederation (see [CONFEDERATIONS, TRIBAL](#)). According to Zīād Khan Darrašūrī, a former *kalāntar* (chief) of the tribe, whom the author interviewed in spring 1957, the name Darrašūrī comes from that of a valley, the Darra-ye Šūr (Valley of salt), in the area of the tribe's summer quarters (Oberling, p. 226). The tribe is also sometimes called Darrašūlī, however, a name that Vladimir Minorsky connected with that of the Šūl (p. 392).

According to G. F. Magee (p. 20), the Darrašūrī are descendants of a group of Qezelbāš warriors headed by a certain Ḥaydar Mīnbāšī, a subordinate of Robert Sherley, and they were assigned the region that is their present-day summer quarters by Shah 'Abbās I (r. 996-1038/1588-1629) as a reward for their bravery. The Darrašūrī are said to have joined the Qašqā'ī tribal confederation during the reign of Karīm Khan Zand (r. 1163-93/1750-79; Beck, p. 181). The tribe also contains Lur and Kurdish elements, like the Lek and Vandā *tīras* (clans), which were absorbed either when the Zand tribal confederation disintegrated in the late 18th century or when the Darrašūrī took over some of the pasturelands of the Mamasanī Lurs in western Fārs province during the 19th century.

According to Zīād Khan, the Darrašūrī tribe comprised about 8,000 families, or 35,000 individuals, in 1336 Š./1957. Lois Beck reported (p. 182) about 45,000 individuals in the 1960s. On the other hand, in 1342 Š./1963 Komīsīūn-e mellī-e Yūnesko (I, p. 144) estimated only about 5,265 families, of which only 782 had become sedentary. According to Persian government statistics, there were



about 5,169 Darrašūrī families, or 27,396 individuals, in 1360 Š./1981 (Afšār-Sīstānī, p. 626).

The Darrašūrī summer around Vardašt, southeast of Borūjen, in Isfahan province; this area is the northernmost of all Qašqā'ī summer quarters. Their winter quarters are in the *dehestān* of Māhūr-e Mīlātī, southeast of Behbahān, as well as around Kāzerūn and Lake Fāmūr, in central Fārs; winter headquarters are at Tang-e Čogān, in the Šāpūr valley.

The Darrašūrī were “the greatest horse-breeders and owners among the Qashqai” (Wilson, p. 60). It has been said that before the Pahlavi period “each family possessed an average of three or four mounts, of which one or two were well bred” (Garrod, 1946, p. 40). The policy of forced sedentarization of the nomadic tribes pursued by Rezā Shah Pahlavī (1304-20 Š./1925-41) resulted in the loss of 80-90 percent of the Darrašūrī horses (Garrod, 1946, p. 40), but, under the leadership of Zīād Khan, the tribe made a speedy recovery after World War II, though William O. Douglas’ figure of 20,000 cavalrymen (p. 145) must have been exaggerated.

According to Zīād Khan, the *tīras* of the Darrašūrī are Narre’ī, Qarreklū, Jeyrānlū, Āyeblū, Kejrātlū, Nāderlū, Āhangar, Ṭelābāzlū, Bolvardī, ‘Orojlū, Jānbāzlū, Hemmat-‘Alī Kīkā’ī, Šāvāzlū, Īmānlū, Koḍāverdīlū, ‘Abd-al-Soleymānlū, Šādeqlū, Qarā Qoānlū (or Qarā Qoyūnlū), Šāhīn Kīkā’ī, Nāšer Kīkā’ī, Dūndūlū, Qarā Gečlū, Karīmlū, Darzī, ‘Amala-ye Hoṣayn Khan, ‘Amala-ye Našr-Allāh Khan, Ṭayyeblū, Asad Kīkā’ī, Golāblū, Lek, Kezīnlū, Korbīkūš, Vandā, Gowjelū, Čaroqlū, Mešbī Sīār, Qābezlū, ‘Abu’l-Qārlū, Qarājūllū, ‘Oṭmānlū, Rostamī, and Jelāllū (Oberling, pp. 226-27). The name Qarā Qoyūnlū suggests a past association of at least some Darrašūrī with the tribal confederation and nation of that name.

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(PIERRE OBERLING)