



## FAHLĪĀN

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**FAHLĪĀN**, a rural district (*dehestān*) situated 12 km northwest of Nūrābād in the Mamassanī *šahrestān*. It consists of the plain of Fahliān and foothills. The Fahliān River irrigates the plain only, and the foothills, despite being fertile, remain uncultivated due to lack of water. Two tributaries, one of fresh water and the other brackish, merge at a place called Sar Āsiāb-e Jāvīd to form the Fahliān River, which ultimately joins the Zohra River to flow into the Persian Gulf. The brackish tributary emerges from the Došmanziārī (q.v.) district, crossing salt basins in its path, and the other tributary from the Jāvīd region. An old bridge (Pol-e Fahliān) crosses the Fahliān River (Ḥabībī, p. 426). The district produces wheat, barley, and rice.

The center of the district is the township of Fahliān, which is called Fahliān-e Bālā to distinguish it from Fahliān-e Pā'in, another village in the same district. In 1991 Fahliān-e Bālā had a population of 1,574 people (277 families) and Fahliān-e Pā'in 931 people (137 families; Sāzmān-e Barnāma, svv. "Fahliān-olyā" and "Fahliān-e soflā"). The population of the former consists of eleven Mamassanī tribal families; they are Shi'ites and speak a Lorī dialect. The Fahliān township enjoys amenities, including running water, electricity, telephone, a clinic, educational facilities from kindergarten to high school, social services, a cooperative, a police station, and a municipality (Ḥabībī, p. 195).

Numerous ancient ruins are found in the area. Around a hill called Tol-e Čogā and overlooking the river there exist ruins, locally called Emāmzāda Esmā'il, that contain pillar bases 90 cm in height resembling those of Persepolis and



belonging to the Achaemenid (q.v.) period (Moṣṭafawī, p. 136).

The name Fahliān is not mentioned in early sources. Baron Clement A. de Bode, a member of the Russian Legation at Tehran, who visited Fahliān in 1840, described it as a small town of sixty to seventy houses, with a number of subterranean canals, mills, and bathhouses. He also mentioned the remains of the town walls, the ruins of a fort on top of a small hill surrounded by date-palm trees, and water canals dug through rocks bringing water to Fahliān from a distance of fourteen miles (de Bode, tr., pp. 154; Gabriel, p. 233). Zayn-al-Ābedīn Šīrvānī, writing in 1248/1832, gives a short account of the town, estimating its population at 700 families. According to Fasā'ī (II, p. 302), in the past Fahliān had been a flourishing town with mosques, bathhouses, a school, a caravansary, a *bāzār*, date-palm trees, and orange groves.

Fahliān was ruined during the Afghan invasion of 1136/1722 and rebuilt in 1163/1749 during the government of Šāleḥ Khan Bayāt, as inscribed on the Fahliān mountain (Majīdī, pp. 85-86). Fahliān was a prosperous town in 1345/1920. Then, due to tribal unrest, the population was forced to build a fort away from the old town which now forms the township of Fahliān (Majīdī, p. 88). Fahliān was the center of a district (*baḳš*) in the *šahrestān* of Kāzerūn in 1328 Š./1949 with a population of 750 (Razmārā, *Farhang* VII, p. 166). In consequence of the 1341 Š./1962 disturbances in southern Persia and the declaration of martial law, during which the military governor of Mamassanī, Col. 'Abd-al-Ḥosayn Tažda, transferred his headquarters to Nūrābād and Mamassanī became a *šahrestān* with Nūrābād as its center, Fahliān became the center of a rural district and lost its former status (Moslemī, p. 27).

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