



GOWRAK

GOWRAK, a Kurdish tribe in northwestern Persia. It is an offshoot of the Mokri tribe (Tābāni, p. 74) and is divided into three branches: (1) The Gowrak-e Mahā-bād, or Gowrak-e Mokri, who dwell in twenty-four villages near the sources of the Tatavu river, in the *dehestān* of Gowrak, south of Mahābād (Minorsky, p. 188). Their number was estimated at 2,000 families in 1933 (Kayhān, *Jogrāfiā* II, p. 109) and at 3,100 families in 1342 Š./1963-64 (Komisiun-e melli, I, p. 123). The few who are still nomadic spend the summers in the Kuh-e Sarān, on meadows which belong to the Pirān tribe (Komisiun-e melli, I, p. 123). Because the boundary between the territories of the Gowrak-e Mahābād and the Mangur is ill-defined, there have been constant disputes, and even wars, between the two tribes (Tābāni, p. 75). (2) The Gowrak-e Sardašt, who dwell on the wooded spurs of the Kortak range, in the *dehestān* of Sardašt near the Iraqi border (Komisiun-e Melli, I, p. 123; Minorsky, p. 188). According to Minorsky, they occupy over 100 villages, but this number seems to be highly exaggerated. (3) The Gowrak-e Saqqez, who live northwest of Saqqez. Their number was estimated at 750 families (Komisiun-e melli, I, p. 126). The Gowrak are Sunnite and speak Kurdish (Komisiun-e Melli, I, pp. 123, 126).



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