



GYPSY

GYPSY. Gypsies are generally referred to by the term *kowli* in Persian, seemingly a distortion of *kāboli*, i.e., coming from Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan. It is not at all certain, however, that all the groups referred to as *kowli* are authentic gypsies; nor that only the groups referred to as *kowli* should be considered as gypsies. The fact is that almost everywhere in Persia there are groups with characteristics similar to those of the Gypsies, but they are called by different names, sometimes designating their geographic or ethnic origin, sometimes their social status, and sometimes their profession. This entry will be treated in two sections:

i. *Gypsies of Persia.*

ii. *Gypsy Dialects.*