



ḤĀJĪ 'ALILU

ḤĀJĪ 'ALILU, a Turkic tribe of Persian Azarbaijan. Its main branch lives north of Varzaqān and Ahar, in Qarājadāg (Arasbārān); another branch dwells in the vicinity of Marāga. In 1960, both branches were still nomadic. The summer quarters of the Ḥāji 'Alilu of Qarājadāg were in the subdistricts (*dehestān*) of Dezmār and Uzumdel; their winter quarters were in the subdistricts of Keyvān and Garmāduz. The summer quarters of the Ḥāji 'Alilu of Marāga were in the Kuh-e Sahand; their winter quarters were on the eastern shores of Lake Urmia, from Gogān (northwest of Azaršahr) to the delta of the Jaḡatu/Zarrinarud River. The clans (*tira*) of the Ḥāji 'Alilu of Qarājadāg are: Qarākānlu, Tarākema, Yāḡbastelu, Moqaddam, Uzbek Moqaddam, Ganjalu, Qarābāḡlu, Čāreklu, Madadlu, Pir 'Alilu, Zeynbeglu, Kangarlu, and Qarādāḡlu. The clans of the Ḥāji 'Alilu of Marāga are: Ināllu, Zargar, Yāḡbastelu, and Došmāllu (Oberling, pp. 71, 72 and 75). According to Lady Sheil, the Ḥāji 'Alilu tribe comprised some 800 families in 1849 (p. 396).

At least some of the Ḥāji 'Alilu clans lived north of the Aras River before the wars with Russia in the early 19th century, and indeed the names Ganjalu and Qarābāḡlu do suggest a past association with that region (Oberling, p. 72). It is said that the Ḥāji 'Alilu distinguished themselves during these conflicts and that the chief of the tribe, Asad-Allāh Solṭān, lost as many as nine sons fighting for Persia (Mojtahedi, II, pp. 56-57). After the Treaty of Turkamānčāy in 1828, 'Abbās Mirzā (q.v.) invited the Ḥāji 'Alilu who inhabited the region north of the Araxes, along with many other Turkic nomads of Qarābāḡ, to move south of the new border with Russia, and offered them new pastures (Oberling, p. 72).



The Ḥāji 'Alilu played an important role in the Persian Constitutional Revolution of 1906-11 (q.v.). Their chief, Sām Khan Amir(-e) Aršad, and his brother, Moḥammad Ḥosayn Khan Sardār(-e) 'Ašāyer, supported the Constitutionalists. In the winter of 1288 Š./1909-10, they helped Ep'rem (Yeprem) Khan (q.v.) crush the Čalabiānlu (q.v.) and their allies, who, under the leadership of Raḥim Khan, had been the major supporters of the deposed Moḥammad-'Ali Shah in his bid to regain the Qajar throne. After the execution of Raḥim Khan in Tabriz, in September 1911, Amir (-e) Aršad filled the power vacuum left by him. He extended his influence as far as Khoy, and, for ten years held sway over a vast area north of Tabriz, Varzaqān and Ahar. But in 1300 Š./1921-22, when the governor-general of Azarbaijan, Moḵber-al-Salṭana, sent him with a force of approximately 1,000 tribal warriors and 1,500 gendarmes on a campaign against the insurgent Kurdish rebel leader, Esmā'il Āqā Simqo Šakāk, he was killed in the village of Tasuj, near Marand. He was succeeded as chief by Sardār(-e) 'Ašāyer. However, with the emergence of Reżā Khan (the future Reżā Shah), the influence of the Ḥāji 'Alilu in northern Persian Azarbaijan quickly waned. In 1301 Š./ 1922-23, Sardār(-e) 'Ašāyer was arrested and his private army disbanded, thus putting an end to Ḥāji 'Alilu hegemony in Qarājadāg.

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