



KORA-SONNI

KORA-SONNI, a tribe in western Persian Azarbaijan. Basile Nikitine, who spells the tribe's name "Kuresinli," describes it as an only recently Kurdicized Turkic tribe (p. 116). This seems indeed to be the case, for when Lieut. –Col. Charles Stuart visited the Kora-sonni in October 1835, they were still regarded as Turks (pp. 124-25). Today, they are Sunni and speak Kurdish (Afšār-Sistāni, p. 170).

The tribe, which is now sedentary, is divided into two branches. One branch resides in the (*dehestān*) of Kora-sonni, southwest of Koy. According to the *Iran Azerbaijan Tetkik Raporu*, in the 1920s it comprised some 250 households and occupied 15 to 20 villages (pp. 48-49). According to *Irānšahr*, in 1963 it comprised some 400 households (Vol. I, p. 120). The other branch resides in the *dehestān* of Dol, southeast of Urmiya. In 1960, it occupied nine villages (Pierre Oberling, p. 66). The capital of the Kora-sonni of Koy is the village of Seylāb (Razmārā, IV, p. 416).

The *Tetkik Raporu* quotes "an authority" (otherwise unidentified) as having alleged that, whereas the Kora-sonni of Koy came from the Caucasus, those of Urmiya originated in Van and Şemdinli. It also propounds a far-fetched etymology of the name Kora-sonni, namely that it was derived from that of a blind leader who went by the name of "Kör Hasan," or "Blind Hasan" (pp. 48-49). While in the region, the author heard theories (equally implausible) to the effect that the name came from that of the Turkish city of Giresun, and that the name is a corruption of "Korāsāni," or "from Khorasan" (Oberling, p. 67).



In the early 1920s, the Kora-sonni participated in a major Kurdish uprising against the Persian government (Arfa, pp. 92-93).

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