



Ḳ̲v̲ĀJAVAND

Ḳ̲v̲ĀJAVAND, a Kurdish tribe in the Caspian province of Māzandarān. According to L. S. Fortescue, the tribe “was originally brought from Garrūs and Kurdistān by Nādir Shāh. A part returned to their native country at the end of the reign of Karīm Khān Zand, and were brought back by Āghā Muhammad Khān Kājār, to keep down the turbulent inhabitants of these districts” (p. 317). According to Hyacinth Louis Rabino, the Siyāhserāni, Šarafvand and Šāhsavand clans live in the district of Kojur southeast of Nowšahr; the Garrusi, Kordestāni and Kākāvand clans live in the district of Pul, southwest of Nowšahr; and the Sangzorāli, Malāmiri, Kermānšāhi, and Turk live in the district of Kalā-rostāq southwest of Nowšahr (p. 441). Grigorii Melgunof, who traveled in Māzandarān in the 1860s, wrote (p. 216) that there were also Ḳ̲v̲ājavand in the district of Saḳtesar (the present-day Rāmsar). According to Fortescue, in 1920 the Ḳ̲v̲ājavand of Kojur numbered 1,000 households, those of Pul 1,400 households, and those of Kalā-rostāq 1,500 households (p. 317).

Rabino tells us that, while a small branch of the Ḳ̲v̲ājavand tribe, numbering 100 families, remained Sunni, the rest of the tribe converted to Shi‘ism. But he adds that most of the tribesmen have become ‘Ali-Elāhis (or ‘Ali-Allāhis, see [AHL-E ḤAQQ](#)), venerating ‘Abd-al- ‘Aẓim Mirzā of Kermānšāh. As a whole, he also wrote, the Ḳ̲v̲ājavand “are hated by the other inhabitants of these parts, not only on account of their religion, but principally because they occupy the best ‘yailaks’ [summer pastures] of the district” (p. 441).

According to Fortescue, Ḳ̲v̲ājavand tribal levies “were usually sent for duty at Astarābād against the Turkomāns” (p. 317). But Ḳ̲v̲ājavand warriors apparently



also participated in the campaigns of ‘Abbās Mirzā against the Russians in Northwestern Persia in the early 1800s, and they distinguished themselves particularly in a Persian counterattack in the vicinity of Naḳčevān in 1808. According to ‘Abd-al-Razzāq Donboli, ‘Abbās Mirzā, “along with his ever-victorious guards, the divisions of Chehar Duli and Khajewand, having drawn the sword of triumph, charged the Russians ... and many heads of Russian chiefs ornamented their spears” (Brydges, p. 349).

Because Moḥammad-Wali Khan Sepahdār-e Tonokāboni (Sepahsālār-e A‘zam) had seized some of their lands, the K̄vĀjavand were staunch royalists during the Persian Revolution of 1906-1909, some tribal warriors forming part of the military retinue of Moḥammad ‘Ali Shah in Tehran (Fortescue, p. 318).

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