



NAFAR

NAFAR, a tribe of Fārs and the Tehran region. Although of Turkic origin, the Nafar of Fārs have become a mixture of Turkic, Arab, and Lor elements. In 1861-62, the Nafar of Fārs became one of the five tribes of the **Ḳamsa** tribal confederacy (*Ilāt-e Ḳamsa*). The Nafar were so closely associated with the **Bahārlu**, already long before the two tribes joined the Ḳamsa tribal confederacy, that sometimes the two tribes would share the same *kalāntar* (chief). One of the better known of these was Ḥājji Ḥosayn Khan Nafar, who became chief of the Bahārlu and Nafar tribes during the reign of Nāder Shah (r. 1736-1747). His son, Moḥammad-Taḳī Khan, followed, in turn, by his son, 'Ali Akbar Khan, also headed both tribes (Fasā'i, II, p. 314, Fasā'i, ed. Rastgār, II, p. 1583). According to Ḥasan Fasā'i, the Nafar comprised the following sub-tribes: Bādeki, Tātemlu, Čengezi, Dulukānlu, Zamānḳānlu, Settārlu, Sanjarlu, Šuli, Ṭāṭem, Ṭā'efa-ye Jen, 'Arāqi, Qādllu, Qobādllu, Qarabājaḡlu, Qeydārlu and Lor (Fasā'i, II, p. 315; Fasā'i, ed. Rastgār, II, p. 1585).

When the Nafar of Fārs were still nomadic, their winter quarters were in the districts (*boluks*) of Dārāb and Jahrom, as well as in Lārestān, and their summer quarters were in the district of Ābāda-ye Tašk, north of lake Neyriz (Demorgny, p. 106). Some population estimates of the Nafar of Fārs are as follows: Lady Mary Leonora Sheil (1849), 850 families; Aleksandr Griorovich Tumansky (1896), 2,500 families (p. 79); Gustave Demorgny (1918), 3,500 families (p. 106); Mas'ud Kayhān (1932), 3,500 families (Vol. II, p. 87); Arthur Cecil Edwards (1953), 450 families (p. 288).

Although it was once one of the largest tribes of Fārs province, the Nafar tribe



has been steadily disintegrating. Already in the 19th century, a part of it was absorbed by the Qashqā'i tribal confederacy. During the 20th century, many more Nafar were absorbed by the Bāṣeri tribe of the Kamsa tribal confederacy (Barth, p. 85). The harsh rule of Reza Shah Pahlavi (1925-1941) further undermined the unity and cohesion of the tribe. In 1940, Rāhdār Khan, a son-in-law of the Nafar *kalāntar* Sardār Khan, and some of his men murdered 'Abd al-Ġaffār Behruz, the director of the Shiraz branch of the Bānk-e Melli (q.v.), and his entire party as they were heading for Lār in a motorcade, apparently mistaking this official for a personal enemy. After several futile attempts to apprehend Rāhdār Khan, the central government offered him a fertile tract of land near the Persian Gulf in return for a pledge on his part to refrain from any further acts of violence (personal interview with Moḥammad Khan Żarġāmi, former *kalāntar* of the Bāṣeri tribe, Shiraz, May 4, 1957). According to Oliver Garrod, by 1945 the Nafar had "sunk into a lawless rabble of a few hundred families, camped in the rocky wastes to the south of Lar, where they prey upon the few settled inhabitants who remain in this inhospitable region" (p. 44).

Today, the Nafar are scattered over a huge area in southeastern Fārs. A substantial group of them have also settled down in the district of Rāmjerd, north of Shiraz. According to Ḥosayn-'Alī Razmārā, they are Qashqā'i Nafar (VII, p. 114). But, according to Moḥammad Khan Żarġāmi, they are Bāṣeri Nafar (personal interview, Shiraz, May 4, 1957). The Nafar of Fārs are Shi'ites and speak a Western Ghuz Turkic dialect which they call *Turki*.

According to Mas'ud Kayhān, in 1932 there was also a tribe of Nafar in the Tehran region. Their winter quarters were in the district of Kāvar, south of the capital, and their summer quarters were in the Alborz mountains (Vol. II, p. 111).

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