



ĀSTARKĪ

ĀSTARKĪ (or AŠTARKĪ), one sub-tribe (*qabila*) of the six which presently constitute the Dūrki tribe (*ṭāyefa*) of the Haft Lang confederation (*īl*) of the Baḳtīārī people. The Āstarkī are divided into five clans (*tīra*)—Bahrāmasarī, Kovešša, Kā'ivand, Tūšmāl, and Čārborī. (There was formerly a sixth clan, the Qā'edšahī; but it detached itself and joined the Mamīvand tribe of the Čahār Lang confederation, as did some Bahrāmsarī families). Their summer and winter pastures lie in Kūzestān between the region of Jāhbolaḡ and Borborūd (in Borūjerd sub-province) and Dezful. The Āstarkīs of the Čahār Lang, according to the present writer's research, summer near Zallaqī-e Baḳtīārī and winter in the area of Dārsafīd and Ābgarmak (also in Kūzestān).

The Āstarkī are named in the *Šaraf-nāma* of Šams-al-dīn Šaraf Khan Bedlīsī (d. after 1005/1596-97) as one of the twenty-seven Kurdish and Lur tribes who returned to western Iran from Syria during the reign of Atābeg Nošrat-al-dīn Hazārasp (600-50/1203-52) of Greater Lorestān (ed. V. Velyaminov-Zernov, St. Petersburg, 1860-62, I, pp. 26-27). These peoples had previously left the Zagros region as parts of the armies of the *atābak* of Mosul 'Emād-al-dīn Zangī (521-41/1127-46) and of the Ayyubid Šalāh-al-dīn (Saladin). Having settled in Lorestān, these tribes gradually became independent of the *atābaks* and were able to form the Baḳtīārī confederacy. After the Timurid Ebrāhīm b. Šāhroḡ expelled the local dynasty in 828/1424-25, Greater Lorestān came to be known as the Baḳtīārī country ('Abd-al-Ḥosayn Khan Lesān-al-saltāna Sepehr Malek-al-mowarreḡīn, *Ḳolāšat al-a'šār fiṭa'rīḳal-Baḳtīār* [*Tārīḳ-eBaḳtīārī*], repr. Tehran, 2535 = 1355 Š./1976, p. 80). The Āstarkī led the confederacy at this



early stage; and as late as the reign of the Safavid Shah Ṭahmāsp I (930-84/1524-76), a certain Tāĵ Amīr from that tribe was the paramount chief. He was killed in battle (954/1547-48) with Amīr Khan Mūṣellū the governor of Hamadān, when the latter attempted to collect taxes in arrears. Mīr Jahāngīr Khan then became paramount chief, and the Baḳtīārī divided into two confederations (ibid., pp. 80-81). The Āstarkī declined and were incorporated within the Dūrki tribe. In this process many families were absorbed into other groupings (e.g., some clans became part of the Āl-e Ḳamīs of Ḳūzestān).