SOCIAL AND HISTORICAL PROBLEMS OF THE ‘ANAZEH TRIBES.

ORIGIN

The name

The ‘Anazeh 1) is the name of a group of tribes who claim descent from a common ancestor. It is said that their original name was ‘Amir 2), but that they adopted the name ‘Anazeh after their ancestor killed a man with the short spear called ‘anazah). Some hold, and others emphatically deny, that the name is connected with ‘anaz, the word for a goat 4). ‘Anazeh also denotes an animal, apparently a kind of weasel. (The) nisba al’an(a)zi or “man of an’(a)za” is sometimes confused with the word derived from ‘anaz. Other tribes of the same name are ‘Anazeh b. ‘Amr b. Afsa and ‘Anazeh b. ‘Amr b. Awf 5).

The genealogy of the tribe in question is ‘Anazeh b. Rabl’ah.

‘Anz—Patriarch of the ‘Anazeh

Both the name of ‘Anz, patriarch of the ‘Anazeh, and the name of the tribe itself, are derived from the word meaning “goat” 9).

We have some notes concerning a letter addressed by the Prophet to ‘Ubadah b. al-Ahayab, the ‘Anzite. That letter says:

Je te nomme gouverneur de ton peuple parmi ceux sur qui s’est exercé mon autorité et celle des descendants de ton père. Celui donc qui entendra la lecture de mon écrit qui voici, s’il ne s’y conforme pas n’aura droit a aucun secours de Dieu 7).

‘Anz, the she goat, and the tribe of ‘Anz (C. 12) are said by Bakri (j4.12) to be so named because threads of their respective ancestors were sharp like that of a goat. That the tribe claimed a physical likeness to its totem (?) is a usual characteristic. The ‘Anz are reckoned to Wa’il, but as Hamdani found them in Goras, they are perhaps not different from the ‘Anz (7.12), who are closely akin to the group of tribes that worshipped there. As Asad connection is blunted to Azd before a medial, so ‘Anz would be sharpened to ‘An after the sharp liquid.

The great tribe of ‘Anazeh (A. 6) seems also to be a goat-tribe and also properly ‘Anazeh, as Ibn Habib writes the name. That their own traditions make them so appears in Doughty’s travels.

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1) Singular ‘Anizi. There is also a plural form: ‘Anûz (Lotimer (1908), II, p. 83); “el-‘Anûz, the ‘Anazeh Bedouin nation” (Doughty (1888), II, p. 64); “‘Anûz means a small group consisting of a few tents belonging to one of the ‘Anazeh tribes” (Northern Nogd (1928), p. 94); ‘Anazeh or ‘Anaz (Handbook of Arabia (1920), I, General, p. 45); ‘Anazeh (Bell, Gertrude Lowthian: Syria, The Desert and the Sown (London, 1928), pp. 24, 25, 65, 127, 152, 171, 197; ‘Anez (Oppenheim, Baron Max von.: Tell Halaf. A New Culture in Oldest Mesopotamia (London and New York ?), p. 18.

2) ‘Amir —.

3) EB, p. 346.

4) EB, p. 346.

5) Belonging to the Kaza group. Comp.: Wustenfeld: Registrar zu den genealogischen Tabellen der arabischen Stämme und Familien (1853), p. 82; Belonging to the Ghassan (Wustenfeld, I, Band, p. 82).

6) Doughty, p. 94; Comp.: Handbook of Hedjaz (1916), pp. 28-29.

7) Hamidullah, pp. 96 (207) — Au chef de la tribu de ‘Anz).
Their god was So'air, a name which Robertson Smith "cannot but suspect to be a corruption of Sho'air the hirsute goat-god"\(^1\). But a passage of Yakut\(^2\) which would seem at first to support this by reporting goats are the sacrificial victims at the shrine, is corrupt, and as corrected by Fleischer proves nothing for the Robertson Smith theory\(^3\).

We have, according to modern investigators, the following information gathered from Bedouin informants among the ‘Anazeh themselves: ‘Anaz or Annaz—Brother of Ma’az.

**Table I. ‘Anaz or Annaz descendants.**

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{‘ANAZ} \\
\text{or ANNAZ} \\
- \text{Brother Ma’az} \\
\end{array}
\]

Source: Tribus (1943), p. 78.

\textit{Ma’az — brother of ‘Anaz}

Ma’az is the brother of ‘Anaz, patriarch of the ‘Anazeh. The significance in both names is “goat”\(^4\).

**Table II. The genealogy of the Ma’az.**

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{MA’AZ} \\
\text{‘Aṭiyyeh} \quad \text{‘Agailan} \\
\text{Hamais} \\
\end{array}
\]


According to Doughty, the Ma’az are “Fathers of the Ismaelite nation Annezv, greatest of all Arabian ashirats\(^6\) that now are, and Maazy”\(^7\).

\textit{RABI’AH}

\textit{Father of Wāṭil}

According to Doughty “Rabia is father of Wayil, patriarch of the Annezy”\(^8\). To the Rabi’ah group\(^9\) belonged the ‘Anazeh and the closely related Asad, who

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1) Fleischer.
2) Yakut, II, 94.11.
3) Smith, Robertson: Kinship and Marriage in Early Arabia (1885), pp. 199-200.
4) Doughty, p. 94; Comp.: Handbook of Hejaz (1916), pp. 28-29.
5) Ancestor of the Beni ‘Aṭiyyeh.
7) Doughty, I, p. 229.