

On quitting the city you ride on for seven days, always finding towns, villages, and handsome dwelling-houses, so that it is very pleasant travelling; and there is excellent sport also to be had by the way in hunting and hawking. When you have ridden those seven days over a plain country, you come to a great mountain; and when you have got to the top of the pass you find a great descent which occupies some two days to go down. All along you find a variety and abundance of fruits; and in former days there were plenty of inhabited places on the road, but now there are none; and you meet with only a few people looking after their cattle at pasture. From the city of Kerman to this descent the cold in winter is so great that you can scarcely abide it, even with a great quantity of clothing.⁶

NOTE I.—Kerman is mentioned by Ptolemy, and also by Ammianus amongst the cities of the country so called (*Carmania*): “*inter quas nitet Carmana omnium mater.*” (XXIII. 6.)

M. Pauthier's supposition that *Sirjan* was in Polo's time the capital, is incorrect. (See *N. et E.* XIV. 208, 290.) Our Author's Kerman is the city still so called; and its proper name would seem to have been *Kuwáshír*. (See *Reinaud, Mém. sur l'Inde*, 171; also *Sprenger P. and R. R.* 77.) According to Khanikoff it is 5535 feet above the sea.

Kerman, on the fall of the Beni Búya Dynasty, in the middle of the 11th century, came into the hands of a branch of the Seljukian Turks, who retained it till the conquests of the Kings of Khwarizm, which just preceded the Mongol invasion. In 1226 the Amir Borák, a Kara Khitai, who was governor on behalf of Jaláluddin of Khwarizm, became independent under the title of Kutlugh Sultan. [He died in 1234.] The Mongols allowed this family to retain the immediate authority, and at the time when Polo returned from China the representative of the house was a lady known as the *Pádishah Khátún* [who reigned from 1291], the wife successively of the Ilkhans Abaka and Kaikhatu; an ambitious, clever, and masterful woman, who put her own brother Siyurgutmish to death as a rival, and was herself, after the decease of Kaikhatu, put to death by her brother's widow and daughter [1294]. The Dynasty continued, nominally at least, to the reign of the Ilkhan Khodabanda (1304-13), when it was extinguished. [See Major Sykes' *Persia*, chaps. v. and xxiii.]

Kerman was a Nestorian see, under the Metropolitan of Fars. (*Ilch. passim*; *Weil*, III. 454; *Lequien*, II. 1256.)

[“There is some confusion with regard to the names of Kerman both as a town and as a province or kingdom. We have the names Kerman, Kuwáshír, Bardshír. I should say the original name of the whole country was Kerman, the ancient *Karmania*. A province of this was called *Kúreh-i-Ardeshír*, which, being contracted, became *Kuwáshír*, and is spoken of as the province in which *Ardeshír Bábekán*, the first Sassanian monarch, resided. A part of *Kúreh-i-Ardeshír* was called *Bardshír*, or