

always easy to understand the pronunciation of the herdsmen; the language is altered in their mouths, they say *o* instead of *ab* and *saus* instead of *sebs*, and Mirza has to translate the names they cite into proper Persian. Still, by these means we extend our knowledge of the country, though in most cases it is impossible to insert the names in the map with any degree of accuracy. The herdsman we fell in with at Cheshme-i-dom knew of 28 springs north and south of the small range we had skirted during the day, and near Kuh-i-busurgi.

Regarding the climate, we learned that it is considered much warmer than at Kuh-i-nakshir, though the distance is so short. This seems to indicate that the Kevir is a climatic boundary, as we shall also find farther east. Thus, for example, there had been no snow this year at Dom; the heavy snowstorm we had experienced a few days before had not extended so far; even in winter the precipitation takes the form of rain, and if it does snow occasionally, the sheet disappears very quickly.

The flocks of sheep now grazing at Dom belonged to an *iliat* chieftain, Mad Buluch; they counted 400 head. A herd of 200 camels belonged to the *ketkhoda* of Mehabad, of whom we had already heard, and who is evidently a man of property. Of these, 100 camels had foals which would remain three years with their mothers, and then be gradually trained to carry loads. A certain number of young animals are taken yearly from the stock of camels and drafted off to the caravans. The herd is brought to Dom in the middle of October, where it grazes for eight months, and then in the warm season of the year is moved to Bakhtiari, that is, the part of Luristan inhabited by Bakhtiari. Mehabad, near Ispahan, which we have heard of several times, seems to be a place where cattle-breeding is highly developed; its inhabitants own 7000 camels, which, as a rule, work only one year and rest the next. The same town has also 100,000 sheep.

We sat outside my tent and looked northwards over the Kevir, and we saw the boundary of the firm land with its peninsulas, points, and small holms, and its ragged edge along the shore of the mud lake. All these projections