

bit on this side, of Kuh-i-churro, a flat-topped hill which is seen to the east and has the form of the coachman's box on a hearse, a resemblance increased by its dark colour and the white streaks of snow on its flanks. If we made straight for this hill we could not help soon catching sight of a village, the site of which he indicated in a light belt on this side of the hill. Still it was careless to let the man go now that we had no water; but he assured us that we could not lose the way, for it was the main route from Cheshme-i-bolasun through Ashin to Anarek, Yezd, and Kerman, and so he vanished from sight in his tall black lambskin cap and his wide brown burnous.

From the hilly ground we go down gently to a small kevir hollow, where the ground is wet and treacherous and the camels stumble; it is crossed by a waterless furrow with a fall impossible to determine; probably, however, it runs to the south-east, where a large longitudinal valley is discernible. At the farther side of this miniature kevir lies a dead camel, which has closed its career only a couple of days before.

To the south and south-west is now displayed the Nain range, a fine but a distant and faint panorama. But it is grander and more massive than the chains we have hitherto seen, and in three places culminates in flat snow-covered swellings, but has no sharp peaks. Between us and this range evidently lies a belt of desert. Like almost all the ranges in Persia, the Nain hills run from north-west to south-east; only in Mazenderan and North-western Khorasan do they lie more nearly east and west. In Afghanistan and Baluchistan the mountains stretch from north-east to south-west. If we consider the whole of the Iran highlands we shall find that the ranges hang like garlands to the south, a configuration which is reflected in the curve of the southern coast and in the form of the Persian Gulf.

Our road is excellent and passes over level or gently rising, slightly undulating ground, where the shrubs are more scattered than among the hills. The ground is hard and bestrewn with small rounded pebbles resting on an under layer of yellow compact soil. Before us is the