

also common. When I remark that the former wind is evidently the more prevalent, judging from the orientation of the dunes, I am told that they turn their *ruh* or face to the west after strong easterly winds. Regarding the routes in the district I am informed that it is 50 farsakh to Ispahan and 8 to Anarek, which contains 100 houses, but has no cultivation, the supply of spring water being insufficient; Anarek therefore lives by camel-breeding, and owns between 2000 and 3000 of these animals.

Two paths lead to Jandak, the southern through Chupunun and Hauz-i-penj, the northern through Chaghib, Chuchegun, Cha-dash, Cha-nigu, Bo-nigu, Charabi, and Gez-essun; the latter is 3 farsakh shorter, but for the most part it runs up and down over dunes and through offshoots from the Kevir. I chose the former, which was dotted on maps, and therefore had probably not been traversed by a European. Five and 6 farsakh to the north of Alem are two wells, Cha-berghu and Chagudar-hash, which have salt water, but are available for camels which are accustomed to it.

After the men, for some unknown purpose, had bought two foxskins from Haji Hassan we bade farewell to the old man, and on the morning of January 23 set off to the east-south-east, slowly ascending over slopes of pebbles and sand between small basins and ridges of the Alem hill. Before us Kuh-i-nekhlek rears his steep, rugged, and bare summit of rock, and the slopes that fall in sharply marked lines from the hill's crest are shaded in dark violet. To the north the sandy desert stretches as far as we can see in the bright clear weather, and still farther one fancies one can see the dead salt desert, the home of silence and desolation. Following closely the eastern side of the undulations, small dunes have been piled up here, for we are now moving along a swell in the ground which falls to the north, south, and west. To the right we have the central mass of the hill, and it soon appears that we cross only its extreme offshoots into the desert.

We are in a hollow, and to the left stretches a piece of sand desert, a small field of more or less overgrown dunes, and a dry furrow cuts through the land to the north,