

mount to a small saddle in the valley. Before we come to it we have done enough for the day, and encamp in the wilderness. The rock all around is a compact limestone. The absolute height is 3599 feet.

The two sick camels are piteously thin, and the sores on their dewlaps will not heal. They have also sores on the inner sides of their feet, which graze each other as they walk, and have to be bandaged. But at any rate they can boast of a ravenous appetite, and if they can but rest a while they will quite recover. They are spared as much as possible, and carry very light loads.

The temperature sank in the night to 21.9° , and when we set out at eight o'clock as usual, it was still so cool in the north-west wind that we had to walk to keep ourselves at all warm. Immediately beyond the camp we come to the small threshold of the longitudinal valley, from which a new view unfolds itself over a richly clothed steppe and over the higher parts of Kuh-i-Jandak, which were seen at a distance on yesterday's journey. After a time we come to Hauz-i-penj, or "Five-Basin," so called because from this little reservoir it is 5 farsakh to Jandak, though these farsakh are shorter than usual. The water collects under a mud cupola after rain in a small walled-in oblong basin; it is turbid, but quite sweet and cool; a hut is built beside it. The longitudinal valley here runs from west-north-west to east-south-east, and it soon appears that the saddle we have just crossed is a secondary watershed, for the ground still rises in the direction of our route. Here a broad drainage channel runs down the middle of the valley and continues east and east-south-east, and is said to debouch into a southern bay of the salt desert situated farther to the east, which is called Kevir-i-Khur and Kevir-i-Merijun; we shall hereafter make a closer acquaintance with it. In fact, we are now on a peninsula of the firm sand which runs northwards out into the mud lake of the Kevir.

After another secondary saddle we again see Kuh-i-nigu on the left, and pass a small isolated limestone elevation on the same side. Beyond a higher saddle (3917 feet), more trying to the camels, we come again to a *hauz*