

transport of goods are also important means of livelihood. The village owns 3000 sheep and 600 camels, besides a number of asses and mules, but only a single horse. There are no horned cattle; fowls are kept in all the courtyards. In winter the camels are for the most part released from work, but at other times they are employed in caravans to Shiraz, Yezd, Shahrud, Teheran, Sebsevar, Meshed, Ispahan, and Tebbes. The most numerous caravans, which travel from Yezd and other places in the south to Semnan, Damghan, and Shahrud, pass through Jandak. Almost every day some caravan sets out from Jandak to cross the Kevir, and when the traffic is most lively between 100 and 200 camels may be counted in the day. Most seem to travel in the cold season, though it is easier to cross the Kevir in summer, when there is little or no precipitation, and the surface of the ground is dry, but the heat is unbearable, and the well water salter than at other times. For two days past the caravan traffic had somewhat fallen off, but this day and the preceding small parties had passed Jandak, two for Shahrud and one for Anarek.

The north-going caravans are usually laden with cloth, cotton and wool, henna and other dye-stuffs, Indian tea, cinnamon, pepper and other spices, etc. Those travelling in the opposite direction carry sugar, naphtha, oil, Russian cloth, iron, and various groceries to Yezd. Jandak is, indeed, the centre of a very great and important caravan traffic between northern and southern Persia, and is therefore less cut off from the outer world than Tebbes, for example. Jandak is connected with Khur by a direct road, 17 farsakh long, through the villages Pish-i-gesu, Cha-nu, Seri-i-gudar, and Abbasabad. Like Husseinan on the northern edge of the Kevir, Jandak is a halting-place and point of departure on the southern side for caravans on the way to the desert. They are like coast towns on a landlocked sea. A caravan going north is glad to rest a day or two in Jandak, and does not set out till the weather seems settled, and then hurries on as fast as possible to reach Husseinan safely. And caravans which reach Jandak from the north give themselves a rest after