

run from Jandak to Husseinan and from Khur to Turut. It does not, perhaps, need to be more than 3 to 6 feet above the rest of the Kevir in order to afford caravans a sufficiently safe passage.

To the west of Jandak stands a small hill, Kuh-i-berench, where copper is said to occur, but the valuable metal is not extracted because there is no one who understands the work. To the district of Jandak belong twenty-three insignificant hamlets, almost all lying to the south of the main town.

The camels promised were led in good time up to our tents, but they were thin and small, and did not seem able to bear a hard journey, and therefore they were rejected at once. Just at the right moment appeared another man, who declared that he had six stout camels, of which I could select the best four. If he did not lead me across the desert and back in ten days, I should not have to pay a single kran of the 30 tuman agreed upon. He also requested that I would provide fodder for the camels.

We had, therefore, to remain another day, and really two days' rest was not at all too much before such an undertaking. The worst was that a change to bad weather seemed to be coming. With a northerly wind the sky was much overcast, and late in the evening a fine drizzle fell. The barometer fell, and the temperature was higher than usual, 31.8° in the night.

The black dog did his best to keep us awake. He stood by the hour barking at his own echo from the walls of Jandak, and it was vain to hope that one side or the other would grow weary. The dog was indefatigable, and the echo must always have the last word. Either the dog must be driven away or the walls must be torn down if we were to have any rest. Melodiously rang the bells in the night when the last caravan that had arrived set out on its long journey through the desert.

In the night and morning it snowed and rained by turns, and all day long the sky was covered with dense clouds. If they discharged themselves the desert would soon become quite impassable, the men of Jandak said. After a short but heavy downpour the upper surface of the desert becomes so smooth and slippery that the camels