

western one has to wait two or three days, if rain falls, till the ground becomes dry enough for the camels to travel, but on the eastern it takes five days. He says that the rain-water that flows at times northwards through the furrows we cross or follow never forms surface lakes on the Kevir, but subterranean pools with their surface only just below the ground, and therefore it is so dangerous to pass over them. The erosion furrows have double terraces, and on their tops a layer of pebbles rests on yellow and green clay.

We have been quite two hours on the march when we pass Hauz-i-deheneh, a water-reservoir in ruins. Then we keep near an erosion furrow called Rudkhaneh-i-hauz-i-deheneh, with mounds of clay 60 feet high on its left bank. Their slopes are grooved like the rind of a melon, and when the welcome sun throws a gleam of light over them they stand out sharp and bright against the northern sky, which is still steely grey and dark with clouds. In the sheltered bed grow small tamarisks on their root clumps, sometimes watered by its stream. When we leave the bed to cross its western flank at a point called Kotel, or the pass, we have come half-way, having covered 2 farsakh in three hours. The land then becomes more broken—a labyrinth of furrows between gently rounded hillocks. They gradually become smaller, the groovings disappear, the hillocks become lower as we advance northwards, the country is smoothed out and becomes more level.

To the east is seen a yellowish-red streak, a sandy expanse lying north-east of Jandak; it extends northwards to Khur-i-gez and abounds in steppe bushes, on which graze 2000 camels from Khur, Jandak, and Anarek. Their owners pay 1 or 2 kran per camel to the representative of the Crown in Jandak for the right of grazing. The wells Shur-cha, Cha-no, Cha-deras, and Ussahen are situated in this sand belt, while the following wells and springs lie in a row along the edge of the desert: Senjet, Geroven, Cheshme-gezi, Sovur, Gezu, Khormau, Chagdagher, Cha-gamber, Cha-Ibrahim-sehra, Cha-penu, Aruzun, and Khur-i-gez; of these, Sovur, Cha-penu, and Khur-i-gez are salt, the rest sweet.