

much as possible, because it is considered lumpy and tiring even in good weather. If the weather is uncertain, a caravan that is going from Khur to Turut prefers to take the roundabout way through Jandak to Husseinan or Peyestan. From Hauz-i-Haji-Ramazan there is a direct road to Khur, passing the following wells: Shur-cha, Cha-no, Cha-deras, Sovor, Cha-dager, Ser-i-gudar-i-kherite, Hauz-i-seh-farsakh, Cha-i-gokun, Abbasabad, Shur-ab, Hizer, and Khur.

Thus we spent the long hours as best we could. Our neighbours baked wheaten bread on a girdle over a hole in the ground in which a fire was made, and when the batch was ready they offered us two warm rolls. In return they were invited to tea in our den, and related their experiences in the Kevir, while the pipe made its rounds. Outside the shades of evening gathered, and we went early to rest.

The temperature sank to 18.9° , and I was awakened next morning by the ring of bells—it was the Yezd caravan returning from Jandak with the intention of remaining here through the day, loading up in the small hours, and beginning the desert stage before the sun was up. They would then be able to traverse the most dangerous parts of the southern Kevir in daylight, and it would be a decided advantage to see where they trod, since the upper layer was in all probability as slippery as ice. Ali Murat also was with them; his four camels had eaten and drunk, and now carried the reinforcement of provisions we wanted, as well as two sacks of water. All was well in the main camp, and Mirza wrote in his letter of reply that they intended to stay a day longer in Jandak, since we had been so long delayed.

The large Yezd caravan presented a fine and richly coloured spectacle, encamping on the level ground between the vaults of the cisterns. The bales were stacked up in pairs, so that they could be conveniently hoisted on to the camels, when these were made to kneel between their loads. Now the animals lay in groups of six round their heaps of chopped straw, and it was a pleasure to see their excellent appetite. A strange and impressive sight