

and Mahallaman, a distance of 7 farsakh, 5 of which are through the Kevir, and 2 among hillocks and knolls, probably forming part of the slopes of detritus falling to the plain of the Kevir. The eastern branch leads to Peyestan, a distance of 9 farsakh, over level ground, 8 being within the Kevir. From Peyestan it is 2 farsakh nearer to Turut, and as we had nothing to do in Husseinan, and also on the eastern route we should have the advantage of travelling in the wake of the Yezd caravan, we decided to go on with our fellow-travellers.

Round Camp 22 the surface of the ground was very slightly bestrewn with small round white stones, no larger than grains of sago, probably washed down thither at some time by an unusually large flood. In a short time we are out on the salt flat, but it is very narrow, and is crossed in a few minutes. To the west this belt seems to thin out and come to an end; the road to Husseinan does not cross any salt here. This flat is of somewhat different consistency from the former. The field has burst up into polygonal flakes, usually octagonal and 3 feet in diameter, which are separated from one another by ridges and banks of salt three-quarters of an inch high. These are white, while the rest of the ground is yellow dust and mud. The salt, also, is very dirty under the surface. Here and there, where a block has been tilted up by some side pressure, it can be seen that the salt is not much more than 4 inches thick. But under this layer there are one or two such layers, so that the whole depth amounts to about 20 inches. The salt lies on thoroughly sodden mud, but is dry on the surface. From Camp 22 the ground slopes perhaps 3 to 6 feet to the edge of the salt sea, which shows that crystallization takes place in the flat depressions of the Kevir; the drainage water collects here in the rainy season and the water evaporates, and the salt layer becomes gradually thicker and increases in course of time.

Then succeeds again ordinary kevir, sometimes dark brown, then light yellow, and then again grey. There is a passage between two conical hills to the north, called Tenge-i-rishm, through which a track leads to Guleki, Mehabad, Hassanabad, Turut, Damghan, and Shahrud.