

and I thought that if I retired to my hut for a while they would go away. But I had scarcely closed the door before the little daylight which crept in through the smoke vent of the cupola was intercepted by two inquisitive heads, and men stood persistently looking through the cracks of the door and making their remarks. "Now he is reading; now he is smoking; leave off smoking; hallo, Sa'ab, the sun shines, come out; come and give me two kran, I am poor"; and so on. And then they broke in the door and rushed in, screaming and laughing, Gulam Hussein and Ali Murat trying in vain to keep them back. As a general rule the smaller and more isolated a place is, the quieter and more peaceful are its inhabitants. In a large place, on the other hand, where they have much communication with the outer world, they are bolder and more forward.

At seven o'clock in the morning of February 9 we had a temperature of  $32.5^{\circ}$ , and a slight breeze from the south-south-west made it feel cool. Gulam Hussein had replenished our stores with mutton, bread, roghan, eggs, sugar, almonds and dates, tobacco, matches, charcoal, firewood, straw, barley and cottonseed, besides two sacks of water. No small proportion of the people of the place filled the courtyard to witness our departure, and we paid two stout fellows to keep the inquisitive crowd at a distance. But still they followed us in close groups, which did not melt away till we had left the village a little distance behind us. At last five only remained to molest us, two of them dervishes, who recited prayers over us as they walked in hopes of reward, and when we had given a kran to each they asked for more. These also gave in, but the other three hung on our heels like bloodhounds. Two of them, our hosts, had been paid already, but they wanted an extra bakshish. After we had got rid of them there was only a Seid left, but he stormed and scolded worse than the others, and asserted that as a religious dignitary, and as a Jandak man, he had a right to demand a kran as toll from every caravan which came from Jandak. If he did not receive it he would take one of the camels. Ali Murat was as obstinate in refusing, but I thought it would be well