

silent as they prowl about the town, its streets, and gardens.

Next day the air had cleared and there was no wind. The hill, therefore, stood out clear and distinct, and the massive at the foot of which Naibend lies was plainly visible. I made daily excursions in the town to draw and photograph, and a faithful troop of inquisitive people attended me, from whom I selected my types. We made another visit to the fortress. When newly erected it must have been an imposing object, but it was badly built from the first and of poor material, and therefore it is already in ruins, and one has to scramble over heaps of fallen masonry in the corridors and passages to reach the castle yards with their usual pishtaks or portals. In one of these courts grow a few palms, well sheltered from wind and weather. From time to time we heard the mournful cry, "Ya Hussein, ya Hussein," from the tekkieh, but we did not visit it, for the plays during the ten days are very similar, and every day the lamentable death of Hussein on the plains outside Kerbela comes a little nearer.

A nightingale lives in my garden, and sits every evening and night in one of the nearest palms, charming my ear with its song. It is the *bulbul* so frequently sung of by Persian minstrels, and the howl of the jackals presents a striking contrast to its melody. My bulbul seems to consider that it is its duty to keep me company, for when I return from my avocations in the dark room it is always in one of the palms above my tent, singing unweariedly.

On March 3 I rode out again to Imamsadeh Sultan Hussein Riza, which I had only hurriedly inspected before. It stands so grandly on a mound outside the town far from its noise and frivolity, and has only the desert for its neighbour. But, like everything else in Persia, it speaks of decay and neglect. The Persians think that money can be better spent than in preserving the old monumental buildings.

This shrine consists of a long extended conglomeration in which two large and several small cupolas rise between