

Several travellers have visited Kuh-benan in more recent times. Marco Polo's description of it runs as follows: "Cobinan is a large town. The people worship Mahomet. There is much Iron and Steel and *Ondanique*, and they make steel mirrors of great size and beauty. They also prepare both *Tutia* (a very good thing for the eyes) and *Spodium*."¹ Then follows a description of the process of manufacture. Here we need not enter into Yule's and Cordier's thorough and exhaustive notes on this paragraph. Schindler, Sykes, and others have made valuable contributions to the subject. Yule says at the same place: "We may be certain that there is now no place at Kuh-Banan deserving the title of *une cité grant*, nor is it easy to believe that there was in Polo's time." That, however, already two hundred years before his time a town actually existed there is shown by the following quotation from Makdisi: "Koh-benan is a small town with two gates and a suburb, in which there are baths and an inn; at one of the gates is the mosque. The town is closely surrounded by gardens, and there are hills near. The bazaar is small, and there is little knowledge and deep learning to be found. For two days' journeys before and after Koh-benan there are many cupola roofs and cisterns." Yakut reports that: "Ko-benan is a town in Kerman, to which the place Behabadh also belongs, where tutia is made and sold," and further: "Behabadh is a place in Kerman; here and in Ko-benan the people occupy themselves in the manufacture of tutia, an article which is sent all over the world."² Here Kuh-benan is mentioned as pursuing the same industry as Bahabad, and therefore it is probable that the two places were in close communication with each other, and that a traveller who was making for the north might easily think of taking the road from Kuh-benan to Bahabad. Tomaschek does not believe that Marco Polo travelled through Zarand when he traversed seven days' journey through the desert to Cobinan. This seems, however, a hasty conclusion, as the Venetian has just spoken of the refreshing rest half-way.

¹ Yule's *Marco Polo*, p. 128.

² Tomaschek, *Zur historischen Topographie von Persien*, vol. ii. p. 47.