

or simply *ab*, or again *darya*, which signifies sea or lake. It assists greatly in explaining the origin of the great Kevir, and when one sees this *ab-i-kevir*, which, by the way, is not marked on maps of Persia, one can understand that the great Kevir must, at one time, have been in the same stage, and have contained one or more now vanished lakes.

From Rabat-gur Kuh-i-shuturi presents itself as a long range, but now we see it more and more foreshortened, till at length it looks like a single summit. The other mountain groups spread out, and almost due south a smaller hill comes into view, named Kuh-i-torosho. Kuh-i-margho is absent from the English map, and the country here is in general very inaccurately portrayed.

In the evening a yellow scorpion came walking round the mangal in my tent. It had probably been called back to life by the warmth of the fire, for it was somewhat early for this loathsome insect to wake from its sleep. Wonderful that it can find nourishment in this dry and barren ground! At any rate, it was a herald which reminded me that the time was drawing near when we must look out for the poisonous inhabitants of the ground.

When we started on March 10 we could do nothing but march south-east to the village Pervadeh, for only from there could we turn off westwards; elsewhere we should be stopped by the continuation of the lake and by wet kevir. The Seid, who let us the six camels on hire, came in at the last moment with a supply of bread carried by a seventh camel, and with him as leader we continued our wanderings over slightly uneven, pebbly ground intersected by shallow drainage furrows.

After a farsakh we came to a bay or offshoot of the kevir, here dark, there white with salt, and sometimes very wet. To judge from the camels' track it must recently have been very soft. It took us almost an hour to cross it, but when necessary one can pass all round it to the east, where it stretches up to the low, even-topped hills we have followed all the way from the neighbourhood of Tebbes, and which seem to mark the limit of the lake's extent at an earlier period.