

The kevir then passes into yellow clay with a flat surface, where a few meagre plants grow on conical elevations, and at the base of these driftsand is often heaped up. Strips of fine, water-borne pebbles are often spread over the clay, forming the outermost offshoots from the screes on the hills.

By ten o'clock it felt burning hot, and we longed for the cooling breezes which sometimes came down from the north-west, and yet the temperature rose above  $63^{\circ}$ ; but the sky was perfectly clear, and the sun, lord of spring and summer, gave us a foretaste of his might. Every day we should fall more and more into his power, and our only reward would be to see the landscape slowly change its form and aspect. New ranges and summits rise above the horizon in front of us, while the old disappear in the dim distance. Kuh-i-shuturi appears still more contracted and insignificant, and the western hills, which we crossed at Rabat-gur, vanish one after another and run together into a vague contour.

Now the ground is hard again, and here and there a tamarisk grows. A stone marks the point where we have come to the end of the second farsakh, and whence a path turns off south-westwards to cross the kevir to Bahabad; it is used only when it is impossible to cross the river at Fahanunch, but now it is considered impracticable, because the kevir farther out is wet and slippery. To the south-south-west appears the mirror of another lake, probably only a continuation of the *ab-i-kevir*, and an interval of flat mud may divide the two sheets of water. This new surface, which seems to lie at the foot of Kuh-i-torosh, is remarkable for its deep blue colour.

The road runs over three distinct furrows, 6 to 10 feet deep, making south-west for the adjacent edge of the kevir. They come from the highlands of Kuh-i-jemal, and are probably delta arms of one and the same channel. Around them the country is quite undulating.

Hauz-i-kaffe is a cistern covered in with a vault of mud, and now full of good fresh water. An enterprising man keeps a small booth here, where a glass of tea, dried fruit, and a kalian can be got.