

The details of Kuh-i-margho come into greater prominence, like those of the foregoing hills in shades of light red, no longer light blue as when we first saw it from Rabat-gur and Tebbes. But this is still the colour of Kuh-i-Naibend, on account of its great distance, and the isolated summit stands up in royal beauty, with its silver-white glittering mantle of snow.

Hauz-i-pai-gudar, or "cistern at the foot of the defile," is a name which indicates that the furrow in which it is situated comes from the saddle on the way to Duhuk. Near the cistern is also a well.

At Hauz-i-haji, which is left close to the left of the road, we have travelled 6 farsakh, and the belt of kevir on our right has come to an end, though tiny patches still lie among the tamarisks. Several muddy trenches run out here, and we can perceive that the overflowing rain-water must spread out in thin sheets and swamps. It brings down salt mingled with mud, and therefore the conditions for the formation of kevir are fulfilled. The tamarisks grow sometimes in tall bushes, sometimes quite small on hillocks of humus, 6 to 10 feet high, of exactly the same kind as in Central Asia, and as there with a framework of roots. Such a landscape, studded all over with tamarisk cones, has a very strange appearance, as though the earth's surface had broken out into warts and tumours.

At last the ground begins to rise perceptibly in the direction we are travelling towards the south-east, and therefore we have left the deepest part of the depression behind us, and accordingly must ascend to a boundary threshold if we continue on the same course; in other words we are approaching a water-parting ridge between the Tebbes basin and the great Lut to the south. After the next day's journey westwards we shall have very accurately defined the limits of the Tebbes kevir; we shall have gone round three sides of it, and only the south-western edge will remain to be determined.

The earth-heaps of the vertical shafts over a kanat lie close to one another, at intervals of 23 or 26 feet, and the road crosses an offshoot from this conduit. The oasis of Pervadeh has been in sight for good eyes from the commencement of