

foot of a regular conical mound called Pell-i-tufengi, or "gun-hill," an intimation of the visits of hunters.

Kal-i-Nasir-Khan is the name of an open arena in the valley (2661 feet), which contains two small sheets of kevir, several dry shallow furrows, and an abundance of shrubs and bushes. Tamarisks form regular thickets, and several way-marks are erected of their dry stems, like those in Central Asia. Afterwards, the path ascends gently up a bed of sand, with a bottom in some places wet and treacherous, where it is necessary to see that the camels do not get into yielding ground.

Behind us towers the proud grand Kuh-i-margho, dominating all the country, and all this confusion of small ridges and backs, ruins and fragments of hills which makes the Bahabad desert so different from the wide decided character of the Tebbes depression. We often cross small shallow furrows, and the ground is sometimes white with salt. It is therefore not strange that Sengab-i-lakuri, a natural rock basin at the foot of a knoll, has salt water. It collects water from all directions after rain, and carries the salt down into the ground. The basin is 6 feet deep.

After crossing the small Lakuri ridge we come out again into flat country, where the ground consists partly of muddy flats, but on the whole ascend south-westwards, from which direction a main furrow descends. The country is completely desert, monotonous, melancholy, and bare, akin to the form of desert Persians call *lut*. Before us to the south-west there is something that looks in the sunshine like a point with luxuriant vegetation running out into a silvery white lake. It seems as though we were coming to an oasis, but we soon find that there is only a small dark hilly spur ending in a kevir flat. Here there are no oases, but all is bare and lifeless.

Far to the left the Naibend group is again prominent, a beacon to guide us on our way, a goal of our hopes, where in a few days we shall find juicy palms and good water. Also our old acquaintances, Kuh-i-shuturi and Kuh-i-jemal, are seen in pale shades of pink, with a border of snow against the blue background of the sky.

The flat expanses of kevir show signs of flooding, but