

ring of bells was heard, when all the camels were led off north-westwards to the spring Cheshme-i-Ghasemi, 3 farsakh off, for they had to be watered. They were to be back early on the 14th, so that we could start in proper time.

However, nothing had been heard of them when I was called at the usual time, and we waited hour after hour; and it was not till afternoon that the clang of bells was heard down the vale, and Meshedi Abbas and the unsuccessful hunter Hassan returned with our fine animals, but the day was lost, and we had to spend another night at Camp 46.

My riding camel is a favourite with all, and especially with me. He comes with solemn, heavy, dignified strides right up to my tent, cleverly avoids with his nose the flick of the tent canvas and thrusts in his great head—not to see how I am or to make sure that I have not run away, but only in hope of getting a piece of bread. And he gets it at once. During the long rides he is quite a companion to me, and causes me much amusement when he tries to snatch the cap off Abbas's head or bites the hough of the camel in front of him. He must take toll of every shrub as he goes by. When the caravan halts a moment on the march he turns his big shaggy head up to me and noses about the skin-bag, in which I have always a scrap of bread handy. And when the store is finished he bites and pulls at the bag to get more. He is fond of sugar and dates, and would soon make an end of our whole supply if he only got a chance, but only small portions are offered him. Sometimes he comes and pushes his head under my arm and wants me to fondle him and pat him on the nose. He does not like to lie down and take up his rider, but when I am well up between his humps, he gets up quickly like a steel spring, and I have to be ready for the jolts if I do not wish to fly over his head.

Abbas has led him by the halter all the way from Teheran, and Abbas is the only man who does not ride. It is little trouble to him to travel 1000 miles on foot, for he is accustomed to tramp along the endless caravan