

no marks to show the way in this dreary clay land, where the driftsand is apparently scattered about capriciously, but really arranged in an orderly system. Hassan takes his chance, and notices all the distant hills he recognizes, whither he thinks he may be able in some way to conduct us. At one o'clock the thermometer marks 70.9° , though the sky is covered with thin clouds; there is a cool breeze from that blessed Khorasan, the air is clear, all outlines and colours are distinct, and Kuh-i-shuturi and Kuh-i-jemal are seen faintly but quite plainly, and I long to see them sink below the horizon.

We force our way through a narrow belt of troublesome dunes, all steep to the south-south-east, turning among them in zigzags, and cutting off points and corners. The camels struggle up their shifting slopes and slip and slide down the other side. But soon the train emerges on to hard ground, which, however, is also tiring owing to the innumerable furrows which start from Kuh-i-chekab, and run on northwards. Such a radiating collection of trenches and ravines converges to a huge furrow which cuts Takt-i-Nadiri or Nadir's Throne right in two. One of them is quite 25 feet deep, and we can only descend into the deep corridor by a steep side furrow, and have a long search on the other side for a way out where it is possible for the camels to climb up again.

In the next ravine we make ourselves at home for the night (2976 feet). Through the gap in the Nadir hill is seen the kevir expanse, whither all the furrows in the district make their way, and in the distance there is a glimpse of Kuh-i-margho, which like Kuh-i-shuturi and Kuh-i-jemal is only an elevation in one and the same chain. To the south-west the low Chekab range stands in deep shadow below the sun. To the north-east rises a hill called Kuh-i-serd or the "cold hill."

The next day's march leads us along the foot of the Chekab hill and over its detritus slope cut up by innumerable trenches, an exceedingly difficult and tiring country. And these trenches, where we have to climb up and down, are sometimes 30 feet deep and 100 yards broad, sometimes small and insignificant, and they are collected into