

the summer. The desert has not a single general depression in its midst, but several separated basins, one of them being that into which the Kal-mura enters to form its swamp. He believes that the streams of Kal-dasgun, Kal-lada, and Pir-hajat also form such sheets. Furthermore, he believes in the existence of salt swamps south of Kuh-i-gugird and in the middle of the Rig-i-jin, where he says he saw a large sheet of water in September 1890. Vaughan found that Kuh-i-gugird, which starts from near Siah-kuh, runs through the whole desert up to Husseinan, and so he depicts this low range of hills on his map. This ridge, then, skirts on the south the kevir basin, which is situated south of Semnan, just as low hilly country bounds the kevir basin, to which I made an excursion south of Gushe in the year 1890.

In May 1891 Vaughan followed the river of Ispahan, the Sende-rud, to the salt lake into which it discharges, and which is called Gar-khaneh, or "abode of cows," owing to the excellent grazing. He says that the lake is 25 miles long from east to west, and 20 to 30 from north to south. Three shore lines are discernible at heights of 8, 6, and 1 feet respectively. Between the last and the present water-line is a belt 30 feet broad of soft yielding clay. The lake is very shallow and the water excessively salt. Its southern part is said to dry up in summer, when large sheets of salt are exposed. The northern part seems always to hold water. Vaughan correctly points out that in this lake is observed an intermediate stage through which the great Kevir has passed.

During my sojourn in Turut I collected a quantity of details about the road I should have to take eastwards round the great Kevir, in case I was prevented by rain from travelling through the salt desert to Khur. I repeat them here, for one reason, because most of the names given me are absent from Vaughan's maps in the *Geographical Journal*, which may indicate that several roads run along the margin of the desert, and only touch one another at certain springs. Avel-ahiyá is identical with Vaughan's Abul Haiyea, Gudar-i-dobor with his Chashma Dubor, and Dest-gerdun with his Dasgirdun.