

is undeniably interesting, as a matter of curiosity, to know that the village of Yunsi has the same name as the prophet Jonah, and that he, according to the local tradition, was here cast up on shore by the whale; that the panels of the doors of the Jandak fort are said to have been made from the wreckage of a vessel which navigated the Kevir Sea; and that Husseinan, with several other places on the margin of the Kevir, are supposed to have been harbour towns. But these legends have no scientific value, and no conclusions can be drawn from them. Probably they have sprung up solely owing to the indisputable resemblance of the Kevir basin to an enclosed sea. In this connection I may again mention that the Persians almost always denote the kevir border, that is, the boundary between firm ground of gravel or sand and the treacherous kevir, by the term *leb-i-kevir*.

It would be very useful if we had more detailed information about Vaughan's shells. But, granted that they really indicate the position of the former Kevir lake, we know that they were found at a height of 100 to 200 feet. The average height of the Kevir margin, according to four observations taken by myself and calculated out by Dr. Nils Ekholm, all from the southern edge of the Kevir, is 2411 feet. The lowest point I measured in the interior of the Kevir had an absolute height of 2247 feet. The difference of height from the edge to the lowest point is, then, 164 feet, and if now we take the mean of Vaughan's 100 to 200 feet we get 150 feet, or about the same. When the inland sea reached up to the point where he found the shells, it must have had a maximum depth of about 300 feet.

Of the vertical section of the Persian basins Blanford says: "The margins of the plains usually consist of a long slope composed of gravel and boulders, and with a surface inclination of  $1^{\circ}$  to  $3^{\circ}$ . Such slopes often extend to a distance of from 5 to 10 miles from the base of the hills bounding the plain, the difference in level between the top and bottom of the incline being frequently 2000 feet or even more." Here then Blanford allows a fall of the detritus fan of 2000 feet for 10 miles at most. He might