

the south, where thunder rumbles, a storm is gathering. The height is 1808 feet.

South and south-west a bright light-yellow outline comes in sight; it is the *rigistan* or sandy desert. It lies exposed to sunshine while we are in shadow, and beyond Kuh-i-Malek Siah there is a gleam as of a small sunset. Some drops of rain fall, coming from the south, where a stump of rainbow is visible, and to the right of our route rain must be pelting down. At five o'clock comes the expected storm rushing up from the south-west with light clouds and streaks of sand and soil sweeping over the ground. A pleasant coolness is felt. The air grows thicker, and the view of the distant hills to the west and over the adjacent desert to the south disappears, and then comes a heavy shower which only lasts a few seconds and makes the stones on the ground shine for a while.

At the frontier pillar No. 14, which is much damaged by wind, we turn westwards to avoid a belt of sand. To the north-west we can hear the hissing sound of pattering rain, and before us we see a shining surface which is said to be freshly fallen rain-water. We steer our course in that direction and encamp on the shore of a very small lake, which has a few minutes before come pouring down from heaven (1745 feet). Irregular and shallow, it was more like a swamp in a shallow hollow among the tamarisks, but the place was attractive, and the rain-sprinkled needles emitted a pleasant odour from the luxuriant jungle. After the refreshing douche the air was brisk and cool, and a curious steam rose from the water, forming a veil over the ground, through which the tamarisks looked like spectres. Thunder growled for three hours more, but the storm withdrew to the north.

Late in the evening the Baluchis sit around great flaming fires looking like Beduins with their white costumes and copper faces. The dromedaries form dark shapes against the firelight, and the tamarisk copses are brightly lighted by the flames. A striking and fantastic scene!

A strange night before April 22. I had scarcely fallen asleep before a roaring, rushing noise was heard in the south as of a tumultuous waterfall, and two minutes later came