

A winding passage between the dunes afforded us an excellent path ; it had been made by some powerful flood from the hills, and by its side throve copses of luxuriant saxaul, with soft, drooping, beautiful green tufts. These children of the desert are charming in the great solitude, and their verdure harmonizes well with the yellow sea of sand around them. We rested in the shadow of the densest thicket. The dromedaries had to graze a while, and we gave them all the water remaining in the skins.

Here begins again the slowly rising slope of detritus which we cross diagonally to the south-south-east. The country is monotonous enough, and the hours pass slowly. But the dromedaries keep up a good pace, swinging their long shanks. The rolling motion is easier when I have a rider in the front seat ; when I am alone my dromedary jolts me more.

The dark gravel is heated by the sun, and when the northerly breeze passes over it it is warmed. Sometimes we are surrounded by air as hot as though it came straight out of an oven. Far to the east-south-east new hills crop up on the horizon.

At three o'clock we cross the frontier between Afghanistan and Baluchistan. It is marked by a small stone cairn. At the rapid pace we keep up all day we cover long distances, and at length we see the mound at the base of which the spring of Kirtaka comes out of the ground (3278 feet). Nevengk is down at one of the basins drinking, and young Riza comes running up quite animated, calling out, *Salaam aleikum*.

They are models, these bungalows on the English road through Afghanistan ; they are friendly, shady refuges for weary desert travellers, who long for their shelter like Alpine wanderers for an inn. All are built on the same plan, so the same house seems to be with one all the way. Owing to a colonnade, the sun never reaches the front. At right angles to this a passage runs right through the middle of the house. To the right there is a large room for servants, to the left one for sahibs. The latter is furnished with a table, two chairs, a comfortable easy-chair of the kind used on vessels in tropical seas, and a bedstead. There