

circles round the dromedary, and vanishes. We ride past a fairly high isolated hill on the north of the road, called Kuh-i-delil. To the left the country becomes more open with sporadic hills. Here the ground dips southwards. We are, therefore, on a swell in the earth's surface which drains to the God-i-Zirre on the north and to the Hamun-i-Mashkel on the south.

The leader's welcome signal, "Here is the bungalow of Humei," we hear at last, and as soon as we have reached this haven (3287 feet) I make for the bathroom. The house is smaller than the last, but it is more occupied than usual, for a little after me comes Mr. Ogilvie from Quetta, with six soldiers and a train of twenty-five dromedaries. He is a very agreeable and excellent young man of twenty-four years who, in the quality of Great Britain's first consul in Bam, is on his way to his new post—quite a banishment, for in Bam he will be the only European.

A third traveller also was at Humei, the merchant Suliman Ji, who was carrying Indian goods to Seistan on a hundred dromedaries. He had just received a letter from Ashref Khan, warning him of the plague and stating that the inhabitants of Seistan were either dead or gone away. Ogilvie advised him to carry his goods to Bam and Kerman.

We set out later than usual on May 1. We had not gone far before I missed Nevengk, but when we called to him one of the men of the station led him up, and he followed us for a while. At a shady bush he scratched up the sand and laid himself down and took no notice when we called him. He was right; he knew best himself that he could not endure another broiling day. So I had that morning for the last time regaled him with bread and the remains of my breakfast, and the faithful dog which had come with me all the way from Kerim Khan would, I supposed, meet with new fortunes, when I sent him a farewell look.

The day's march led us through the same dreary country as before, insignificant red and dark hills of greyish-green diabase, limestone and granite, barren dunes, dark