

night, marching north-eastwards. The glittering stars struggled in vain to pierce the darkness, but I enjoyed the night journey, for every quarter of an hour that passed the air became cooler as the night marched gradually over the earth. I sat dreaming and meditating; it was May 13, half a year to a day since I had left Trebizond. Turkish Armenia, Persia, Seistan, and Baluchistan lay behind me, and now only India and Kashmir separated me from Tibet.

We cross several canals with water; I cannot see much of them, but I recognize them from a distance owing to the croaking serenade of the frogs. I am spared this night the dance of gnats, but my face and hands are swollen and burn like fire. The night is quiet; dogs bark and horses neigh in the distance.

Now my steed halts, and Mustapha Khan says that we have arrived; this is Nushki, but all is dark and still. We unload our animals, and in a quarter of an hour I am asleep in the waiting-room of the railway station.

Next morning I bade farewell to my honest Baluchis, who had served me so well and faithfully, put Riza in an ordinary compartment, and took my seat in one of a better class. How strange to hear again the steam whistle of the engine after half a year of the immense solitude of the desert!

Mustapha Khan and the other men remain on the platform and watch us till we disappear round the first corner. A rise begins at once, and the engine has all the difficulty in the world to draw the train along, and it seems as though it might stop at any moment and roll back. This is not owing to the gradient, but to the grasshoppers which are crushed on the rails, so that these are smeared with grease. This terrible plague has extended to Keshingi, and everywhere the people are engaged in saving their grain.

At the last-named station were Major Benn and his amiable and excellent wife to greet me and present me with a splendid breakfast basket. The train was allowed to stop a while that we might talk, but I was ashamed of my appearance, for my costume was not suited for a lady's