

local belief that in such cases valuables might have been buried with the dead may account for the opening of the previously mentioned tomb structures.

All over the burial-ground of Chihil-dukhtarān fragments of glazed pottery could be picked up in plenty. Apart from fine glazed ware in shades of plain blue and green, there were pieces showing graffito designs under a green or yellow glaze (Geh. 58, 64, 66) closely resembling such decorated ware from Qal'a-i-Jamshīd and Tīz. Other glazed fragments with patterns in brown over a buff ground show a type of decoration which is represented among the medieval pottery found by me at Āwarān and Mīrī-but in Balūchistān,¹ and which appears to be related to Samarqand ware of the thirteenth to fourteenth century. Some fragments of porcellaneous ware, decorated in blue over white (Geh. 24, 34), are probably of Chinese make or else Persian ware imitated from it. There were found also pieces of good enamelled tile work, including some with blue and lustre decoration which Mr. Hobson in Appendix *A* ascribes to the fourteenth century.^{1a} From the evidence of all these ceramic remains it may safely be concluded that burials continued here down to late medieval or even more recent times.

This account of old remains at Geh may be completed by brief references to a few places visited to the south of the plateau bearing the wheat-fields and date-palm groves of the oasis. About a quarter of a mile below the junction of the two *kaurs* a terrace above the left bank of the river-bed, known as *Aspimangal*, bears remains of an enclosing wall built with rubble, and within it low debris heaps from decayed structures. The scanty pottery found supplies no clue to approximate dating. On the opposite bank the small spur of Sohrēn-dūg, the 'red hillock', shows similar stone heaps from decayed dwellings. Above it the crest of the isolated hillock of Chār-tākān is crowned with the roughly built stone walls of what obviously was a small defensive post. Here, too, no chronological data could be obtained from the scanty potsherds.

It had been my wish to make my way to Bampūr by the most direct route leading across the range in the north past Hichān and Sarhao. But Sultān Āghā Ḥusain Anṣārī, the obliging commandant of our escort, apprehended serious risks of attack, if we followed this route, from the wild Balūch nomads of Lāshār occupying those hills. He dwelt so persistently on his responsibility in the event of an encounter with the tribesmen, who had so far resisted all revenue demands of the Persian authorities, that in the end I felt obliged to agree to the move by the more devious route, leading first to Bint and thence up its river to Fanūch, by which the flank of the Lāshār tract would be turned. It was easier for me to accept the detour since previous information suggested that both Bint and Fanūch had at one time been possessed of some local resources.

¹ Cf. *Tour in Gedrosia*, pp. 131, 171, Pl. XXXIII.

^{1a} See below, p. 246.