

The large fragment of a vase, erroneously marked Dmn. B. 122, stands apart, inasmuch as it retains what looks like part of a loop handle and is painted with a kind of lace pattern known to me only from Diz Parōm in Makrān.⁵ The band of 'pearls' round the neck corresponds to the small ovals found below the rim of the Parōm dishes. It seems probable that this piece belongs to a later deposit. On the other hand, there can be no doubt that the large jar, Kat. 019 (Pls. VI, XXXII), worked in a very hard, dark-grey clay and incised outside with an elaborate geometric pattern, which was brought by a villager as a find from this cemetery, belongs to the same period as the painted ware. This is proved by the parts of exactly similar vessels found associated with the chalcolithic painted ware in a deep stratum at Bampūr and also at Khurāb.⁶ Dr. H. Frankfort has been kind enough to call my attention to the close resemblance shown by part of the incised design to the representation of a dwelling of wattle and plaster, with door and window, seen in the incised decoration of a steatite vessel from the early stratum of Susa.⁷ A similar design is found also on incised fragments of identical material from Bampūr (A. 161, Pl. VI; 365, Pl. VIII).

The character of the ceramic remains of Katukān and the position of the terrace on which they were found, away from water and arable ground, suggest the possibility that the site disclosed by the grave-digging of recent times is that of a prehistoric burial-ground. I must therefore regret that the difficulty created by the sanctity of the place and its continued use as a Muhammadan burial-ground, together with practical considerations due to my programme, obliged me reluctantly to abstain from trial excavations. It only remains to be mentioned that the uniform gravel surface of the plateau showed no indication of any structural remains.

Our onward march towards Aptār took us across a succession of wide torrent-beds all descending from the hill range to the east which forms the watershed towards Magas and the Mashkēl basin of Khārān. On a low hill spur crossed before reaching the wide valley in which Aptār lies I noted the scanty ruins of a small fort known as Nāṣirābād and of no great age. Below it could be traced a stretch of former cultivation which had received water from a *qanāt* now abandoned. At Aptār, too, which was reached thence after crossing numerous dry channels of the Kunāru Kaur, all cultivation at present is carried on by irrigation from *qanāts*.

No old remains were to be found within or close to the palm-girt oasis counting about 200 huts besides a ruinous fort and a few more substantial dwellings. But on proceeding thence eastward up the valley I noticed at distances

⁵ See *Tour in Gedrosia*, p. 48 sq.; Pl. III, D.P. 1, 2.

⁷ See Contenau, *Manuel d'archéologie orientale*,

⁶ Cf. above, pp. 108 sq.; also Khur. F. i. 263 i. p. 270, Fig. 169. (Pl. VI).