

grey slip, fragments of coarsely painted ware like Bij. 1 (Pl. XX) were extremely rare; but pieces of fine red ware (Bij. 8) often showed burnished stripes such as I found at early historical sites in Sīstān and elsewhere. There were some fragments of roughly incised ware (Bij. 3) and a single one, Bij. 18, with blue glaze. We found no worked stones, but a few fragments of alabaster cups, a well-made bronze arrow-head (Bij. 22, Pl. X) grooved on three sides, and part of a bronze buckle. The combined evidence of these finds seemed to suggest that the site had seen prolonged occupation during historical times, but had probably been abandoned before the advent of Islām.

The same conclusion suggested itself when next morning we proceeded to visit the mound situated about a mile to the north-east of our camp at Bijnābād. It bears on its top the modern fort of Gust-i-burjān (Fig. 46) built by Samsūn Khān, uncle of a Kahnū chief still alive in exile. The mound, 22 feet high, rises within a debris-strewn piece of ground, measuring approximately 340 yards from east to west and 260 yards from north to south. To the south-east of it there stretches a still larger mound, measuring about 500 by 450 yards, and rising to a maximum height of 10–12 feet. The abundant pottery consists almost exclusively of plain ware showing slips of red, cream, buff, or greenish-grey colour. Only very few pieces with reddish-brown patterns on buff ground (Gus. 18, Pl. XX) or of red ware with burnished stripes could be found. Two or three fragments of glazed blue or green were picked up, but not a single worked stone.

About two miles to the north-north-west of Gust-i-burjān there rises within partly cultivated ground of Mizhpudān village the mound of Tump-i-Namurdi. It is 16 feet high in the centre and measures approximately 400 by 320 yards at its base. A portion of it is occupied by graves. The abundant pottery found here shows close agreement in type with that found at the mound of Bijnābād. It will hence suffice to mention that fragments of glazed ware were more frequently found here, and that a few fragments of red or buff slip ware show coarse designs in black as seen on Nam. 10 (Pl. XX). The occurrence of broken handles seems also apt to confirm the later dating.

Approximately contemporary occupation may be assumed also for two low mounds which lie close together at a distance of half a mile to the south-west of Tump-i-Namurdi, adjoining the small hamlet of Saulūyeh. The nearer mound measures about 180 yards from north-east to south-west and 220 yards across, and the other some 430 yards in diameter. Here, too, the great mass of plain pottery bears the same character as at the mounds in the Bijnābād area already described, a few painted fragments (Sau. 3, Pl. XX) showing coarse cross-hatching in brown over terra-cotta ground. At all these mounds the total absence of worked stones on the one hand and of relief-decorated ware such as