

comprises no remains of inlaid glass bangles such as were recovered at pre-historic sites.⁵

The ruined site which I have just briefly described, and which may conveniently be called after the village of Behkird, is undoubtedly that of the city which the early Arab geographers mention under the name of *Jīruft*, as the chief place of the whole district still called after it. Among the notices extracted and translated in Dr. Schwarz's very helpful work *Iran im Mittelalter*⁶ the following may briefly be reproduced here. Iṣṭakhrī notes of the city of Jīruft that 'it is two miles long, a chief mart for the trade of Khorāsān and Sijistān. The amenities of the cold and the warm land are here combined: there are to be had here snow⁷ and fresh dates, walnuts and lemons. Water is taken by the people from the Dīwrūd.⁸ Jīruft is very fertile, its fields are artificially irrigated.' Muqaddasī calls Jīruft 'the pleasantest of the provincial capitals, a treasury of fruits and cereals'. He expatiates on the amenities of the town and its environs, on its good bāzārs and baths, but also refers to its excessive heat, local diseases, mosquitoes and snakes. 'The town is fortified and has four gates. . . . The chief mosque is situated on the outskirts of the town, near the gate towards Bam, far away from the bāzārs; it is built with bricks and plaster. Drinking water is obtained from a river which sends its water through the streets and bāzārs, has a rapid flow and could work twenty mills. The city is larger than Iṣṭakhr. For the building of houses mud is used, for foundation walls stone.⁹ Snow [for the cooling of drinks] is brought from a distance. . . . The country outside the town is exceptionally pleasant.' As Yāqūt repeating the descriptive details of older geographers refers to Jīruft as a 'great and important' place, it may be concluded that the town was still flourishing at the beginning of the thirteenth century.

Conditions had sadly changed after the Mongol conquest of Persia; for there can be no doubt that it is the site of the Arab geographers' Jīruft to which Marco Polo refers when he describes his passage through 'the city called *Camadi*' on his journey from Kermān to Hormuz about A.D. 1272. After describing the route which must have taken him from Kermān past Rāyīn and across the high range of Sardūyeh down the valley of the Rūd-i-shōr, the great Venetian relates: 'After you have ridden down hill those two days you find yourself in a vast plain, and at the beginning thereof there is a city called *Camadi* which formerly was a great and noble place, but now is of little consequence, for the Tartars in their incursions have several times ravaged it. The plain whereof I speak is a very hot

⁵ Cf. above, pp. 109, 128, 129.

⁶ See pp. 240 sqq.

⁷ Persian officials stationed about Jīruft still get snow readily brought from Jabal Bāriz.

⁸ For this designation of the Halil Rūd, cf. Schwarz, *loc. cit.*, p. 215.

⁹ For the correctness of this statement, see above, p. 152.