

visited on our journey from Balūchistān before definitely turning south to gain the coast of the Persian Gulf. A special direction was given to this move by the information received at Isfandāqeh of *tumps* resembling those seen in Jīruft to be found at Darūyi near the centre of the Bulūk tract. This indication fortunately allowed me to choose a route across ground which the Survey of India map showed as unsurveyed. It led up a wide gently sloping valley where wild pistachio and pomegranate bushes grew, to the Chorchur saddle (6,550 feet). From it a distant view opened to the rugged range overlooking Jīruft from the west and to the Kōh-i-Kalmurz dominating Rūdbār on the south. As we descended an open valley to the south-east the vegetation marking subterranean drainage grew less and the detritus slopes more broken. After covering some 24 miles we were glad to be guided, as darkness set in, to the spring of Ābīd, hidden in a rocky ravine (4,750 feet).

The next day's march took us down by a wide flood-bed traversing broad gravel slopes to the small hamlet of Sāmīk (2,800 feet), where a spring irrigates some fields and a plantation of date-palms. With much broken and utterly barren foot-hills around, the scenery typically marked our return to the Garmsīr or 'Hot Region'. Thence we turned south and, descending over a bare glaciis of Piedmont gravel, reached the thin date-palm groves of Darūyi (2,050 feet) near the bottom of the wide depression known as Bulūk. The palm groves and some fields of the hamlet receive irrigation from a *qanāt* fed by drainage from the hill chain we had descended.

The mound, or *tappa*, of Darūyi measures about 200 yards from east to west and some 88 yards across where widest. It rises to a height of 37 feet above the field-level on its north side. Potsherds of undecorated coarse ware of reddish colour or bearing a whitish-grey slip lay plentifully exposed on the slopes. Only very few painted fragments could be found, with roughly drawn simple patterns in black or brown (Dar. 2, 3; Pl. XXV) which recalled those of the 'late prehistoric' ware from certain sites of Northern Balūchistān.³ Only protracted excavation could have shown whether the mound had grown up above the remains of a chalcolithic or still earlier settlement. So much, however, seemed clear that such prolonged settled occupation as the height of the mound indicated, in times preceding *qanāt* cultivation, presupposed a regular supply of water from the flood-bed, now dry, passing Darūyi on the south or from some other surface drainage now wanting.

This conclusion was strengthened when on the morning of November 22nd I examined the mound, known as *Tappa-i-Nūrābād* (Fig. 56), situated half a mile farther west and also near the flood-bed just mentioned. Much broken by

³ See *N. Balūchistān Tour*, Pls. II, III.