

at half past seven we reached our station called Bregda <sup>is</sup> on the river Khakhar again & exactly opposite the commencement of a range of mountains on the left. Here we found our big Caravan has not yet gone & crossed the Khakhar before us. Our arrival here was very nasty and the darkness was terrible & we were all pell-mell with so much people & mules about 200 beasts. We heard that we will start again from here tonight at 3 in the morning therefore I found it useless to put up the tent etc. but only ordered a hasty dinner & slept outside on the beds & Mary slept in the tekterin. It was till 10 1/2 p.m. that I was awakened & could not sleep. At 12 the majority of the Caravan moved & started before us in order to be able to cross the river before our arrival as the crossing will surely occupy a whole day.

23<sup>rd</sup> October.

At 3 a.m. we were up & after drinking our tea we prepared to start again. At 4 1/2 a.m. we all moved & looked again a Western direction.



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but it was rather cold & I preferred to stay  
with Mary in the Fekterain & give the horses to Rajahin.  
This morning the Archbishop felt unwell &  
preferred to travel from El Rajda at day light, as  
he is in a carriage he will surely catch us in the  
way. I think he is thus because yesterday he  
took a bath in the river Khakoor, he told  
me this when we dined together with him.

Indeed all of us feel very uneasy from this  
kind of hurry march, complaint of it but  
from another part it seems that Mr. Robinson  
wants to reach Mossoul in 7 days but I do  
never agree with this as we will be dead!  
Nearly all our march was near the banks of  
the river. At noon exactly weighted suddenly on  
coming down from a hill, the fort of Jurdarain  
& our station El Shaddadi, we dismounted  
between the rocks, the heat & dust. A part  
of the big caravan which left us at midnight  
is still here as the manner of crossing in a  
single Shoktoor or boat is absolutely fearful of  
not dreadful to the extreme. The boat 3 or 4 yards  
& 2 large & the only means with which all  
the caravans have to cross to the other side.