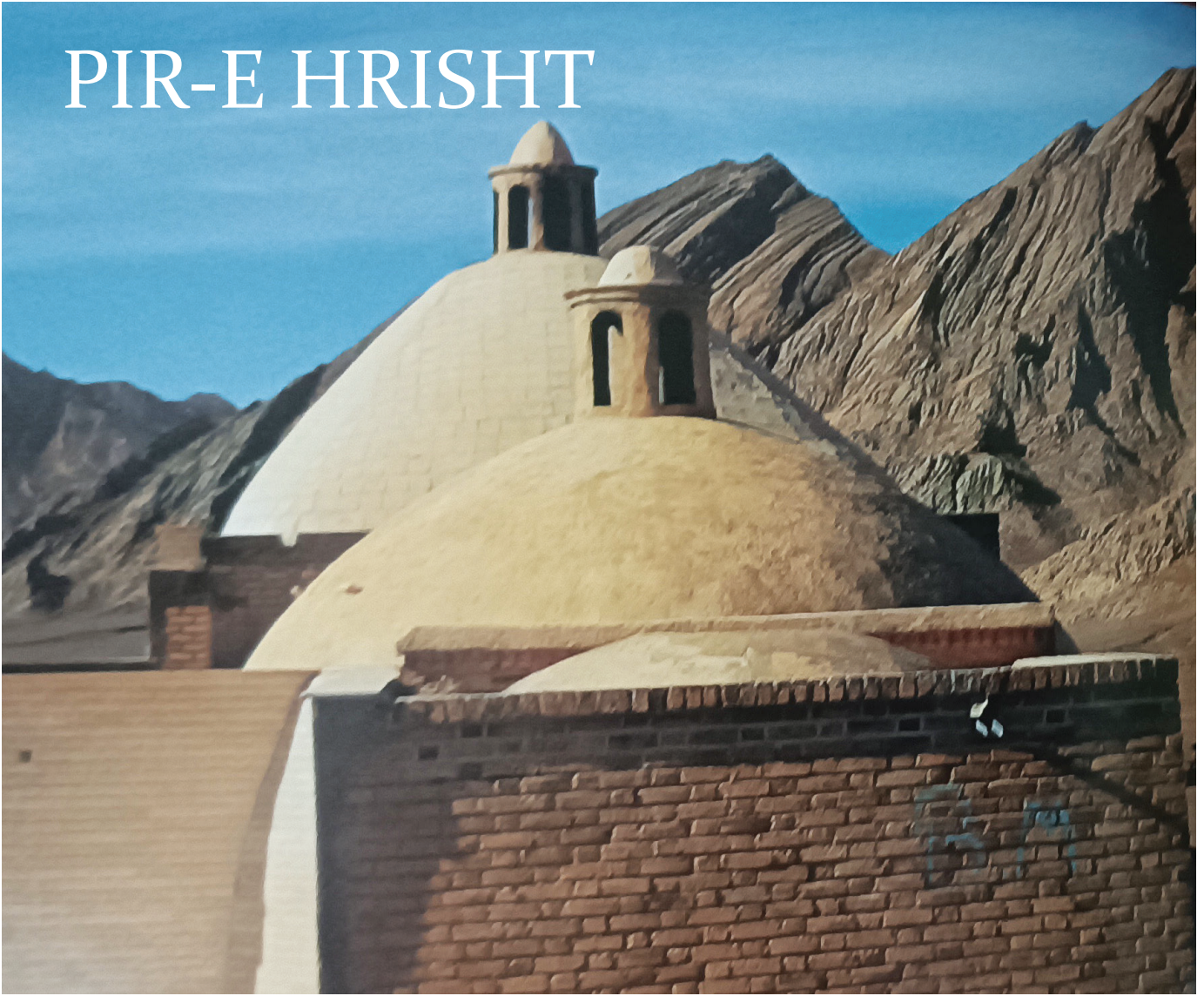


PIR-E HRISHT



Pir-E Hrisht is built in memory of royal governess Morvarid in the town of Ardakan 90 kms northwest of Yazd city.

Near the town of Ardakan 90 km northwest of Yazd city is the sacred shrine of *Pir-e-Hrisht*. It is dedicated to the royal governess Morvarid and a royal baby she was charged with looking after. Again with the Arab conquerors chasing her she fled with the baby towards the mountains and when her capture was inevitable like the others she prayed to the mountains which opened and allowed her to be taken in.

The Yazdi villagers tell the story of a family travelling in the area who while resting fell asleep. Unknown to them their child wandered away and could not be found when they woke up. Terrified, they searched for the child all over for hours. The sun was setting soon and they feared that in the cold desert night the child may not survive. In course of time, they found the child standing near their original resting place. The child told them that a beautiful lady called Morvarid had found her and brought her back. The father realised who she was and built a shrine in her honour. Even today the sacred rock which opened to allow her to enter the depths of the mountain, can still be seen. Some say it has taken the form of Morvarid cradling and shielding the royal baby.