

**THE LAST BREATH  
BAKHTEGHAN**  
BY  
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2021





The plateau of Iran, which is facing a severe drought crisis / 2021



" Gavkhouni " wetland, which was one of the most important Wetlands in Iran, has now completely dried up / 2021

*The plateau of Iran, an area as wide as 2500000 square kilometers is a pronounced example of the nature's mechanism for stability, a dispute over life, an effort to perceive the methods of living and an agony for survival.*

*The wetlands which occupy almost 41000 square kilometers of this plateau, play a major role in gathering the surface water of this dry stretch. These watersheds has been fed through temporary sources of water for thousands of years and this reason has led to a somewhat permanent biological system in the dry and wet eras.*

*Parallel to the lands existence, humans concomitantly accompanied nature along with its rules from thousands of years ago.*



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Nomadic woman / 2021

*Bakhtegan Wetland which is the second largest fading watershed After Urmia Lake has been a host for the "ChaharRahi" nomads for 800 years in this region. The nomads who migrate from the height of "Korehi" in the cold weather to the central islands in the watershed of Bakhtegan and leave the rough but yet phenomenal nature of this area for their summer quarters when the heat comes along.*





The hand of a nomadic woman / 2021





Traces of local motorcycle tires on the dry lakebed / 2021



One of the dozens of islands of Bakhtegan Lake / 2021

*Similar to all the watersheds of Iran, Bakhtegan wetland has been a victim to the drought and it is deteriorating. Although the situation there is somehow that there are no hopes for its survival. Like the Urmia Lake this old homeland, in the past 15 years, had no chance of rehabilitating its departed system. And now, having passed its former self it is forming a new body. Nature will form a new life and will continue with its cycle. Meanwhile, humans will suffer a great deal. The beings who has no power compared to the nature, will be subjected to watch the changes they have induced to this ancient organism without having a solution for its destruction.*



*Sooner or later, Bakhtegan ecosystem, will be a Badland. Badland in a sense that probably only a few of its local and non-local species will have the ability to cope with the new characteristics of the new land, and less will have the ability to stand. The residents of the islands and the suburb will face new existential challenges on daily basis. And the nomads, considering the major changes to their ancient lifestyle will face a difficult time every day and will be eventually forced to leave their motherland. The land in its new form will severely react to the mess; from wild sandstorms to destruction of climate and reduction of the humidity.*









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*From what has been seen, it seems that human beings have not recognized the importance of understanding the nature's language and there is no hope of them trying to make any mutual connection to it. This is where the question of "Why is it important to study the land's history for humans to be able to survive?" remains without an answer.*



Urmia lake / 2021



Bakhtegan & Tashk lake / 2021



"THE LAST BREATH : ONCE THERE WAS A LAKE" OFFICIAL FILM POSTER - 2020

*After finishing my 12 years old study on Urmia Lake, and making a documentary on this destroyed ecosystem, I have now decided to document the current situation in Bakhtegan wetland. The situation for which there might not be a solution. The situation in which, not only humans have played a major role but it's the evidential doom of the drought in Iran's plateau.*



One of the dozens of tent dwellers in Bakhtegan Islands  
The sheep are waiting for the shepherd  
2020



*Bakhtegan wetland is a horrific picture of nature's continuum as an old ecosystem and the helplessness of humans for survival. A picture of semi abandoned villages whose few inhabitants have no hope for their future. Tent dwellers -Khasham Neshinan who live in half stone/half tent Shelters- old and tired, and the youngsters who have abandoned the herds and have started working in the stone mines in the southern area of the wetland. Bakhtegan wetland is the horrid repetition of a drama, the collapse of an ecosystem on homosepians who are incapable of understanding the simple language of nature.*

