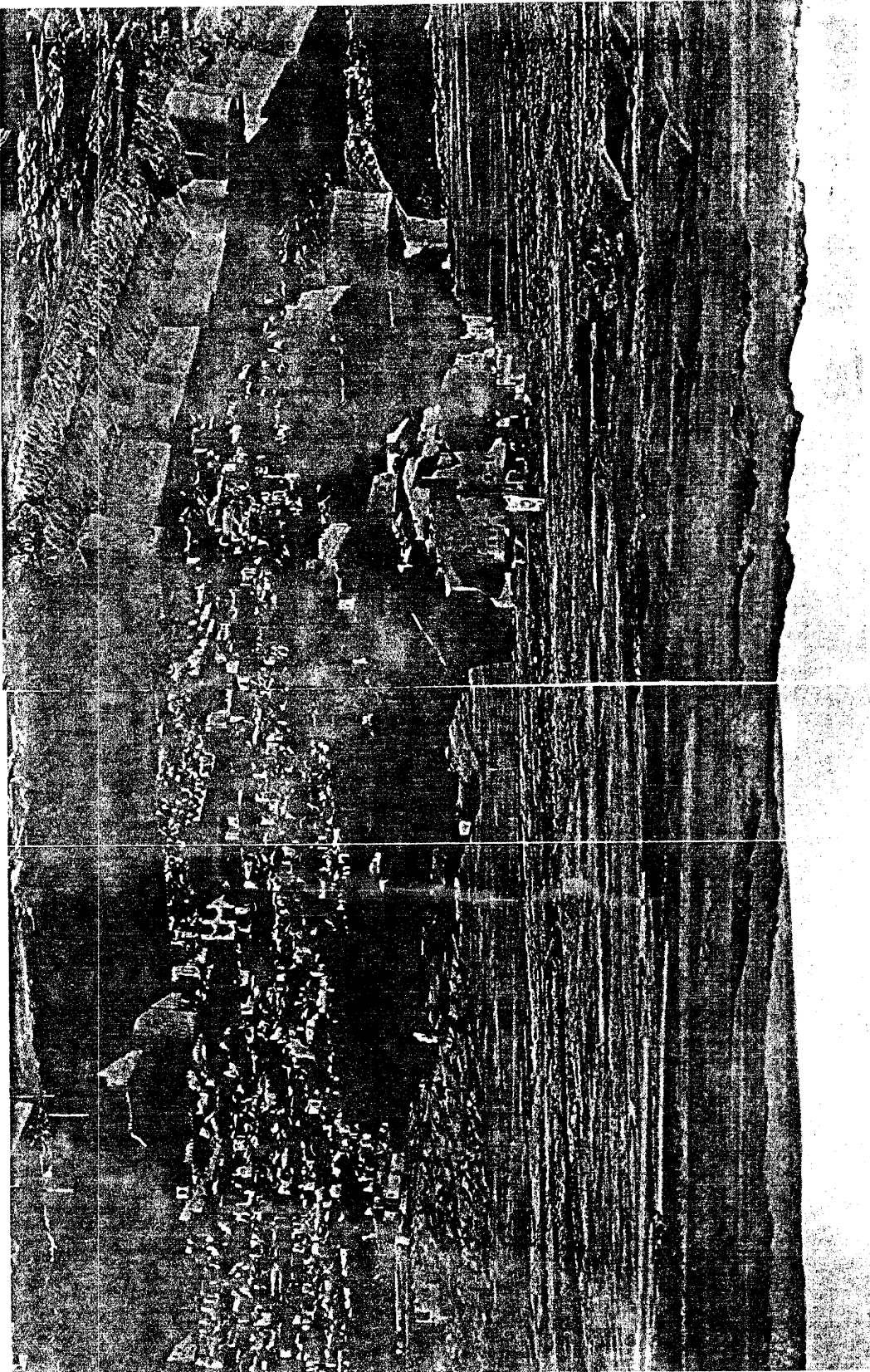




Time now their only enemy, ancient walls that once shut out Afghan hordes hug the
rains of Bam. The fortified town of sunbaked brick, abandoned in 1850 for a new city



months, the basin a lush oasis on the western edge of the Dasht-e Lut, a vast desert. Iranian
archaeologists, directed by the Queen, preserve and restore this and other monuments to the past