

is only 19 km. A good bit above the ruins we passed an insignificant hollow, which my guides suggested had once been an artificial arik, for carrying water from the Budschentü-bulak to the old town of Jing-pen.

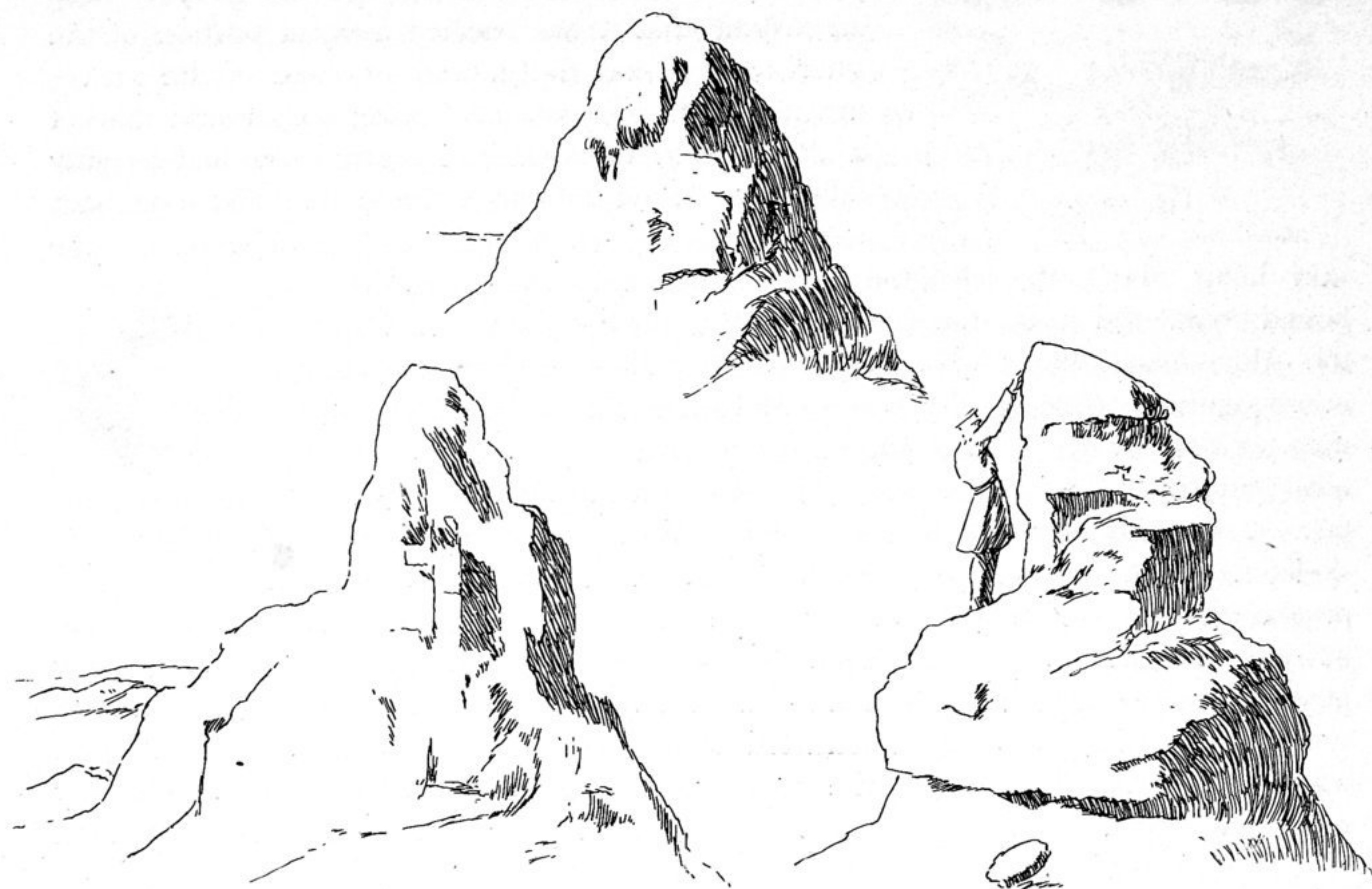


Fig. 29. THE TORAS AT JING-PEN.

The surviving ruins, which are not very remarkable, stretched in the direction in which we were travelling, so that by riding south-south-west I was able to see them all. The first ruin was a *tora*, or »clay tower», 14.50 m. in circumference at the base and 4.5 m. high, and in shape resembling a smaller cylinder superimposed upon a larger one. The second *tora* was like a bee-hive in shape, and likewise 4.5 m. in height. Both towers, like all the other ruins here, were built of sun-dried clay, after first being shaped, when moist, in rectangular frames either as cubical or as flat bricks, after the pattern and method still employed in East Turkestan. The perishable material was seriously decayed, and worn away by the wind and the drift-sand. Next came a *ghuristan*, or »burial-place», standing on the right bank of the dry bed; it contained some 30 graves, all arranged in the Mussulman fashion, with the feet pointing south and the head towards the north, while the face was turned towards *keble* (Mecca). Each grave was covered with a gravestone of the



Fig. 30 a. RUINS AT JING-PEN.