

A quarter of an hour's ride brought the travellers from the *aghsi* of the Laj-baskan-köl to the lake itself, after which they traversed this last on the ice right away to its opposite extremity. On its shores were young poplars dotted about here and there. Towards its northern end there is a large sandy island, which appears to be of the same type as that in the Ullugh-köl. Farther south a narrow *bolta* cuts off a *kakmar* or southern basin from the northern, and in that too there is a small island. The canal which feeds the Laj-baskan from the Tarim seems also to send off an arm to the Talashti-köl, a lake situated farther to the east. In this branch there is an expansion known as the Dughulge-kök-köl; and from it the travellers reached the Talashti-köl-aghsi. The lake of this name is divided into three basins by projecting promontories which form boltas. The northern basin, the Aghis-köl, is said to lie 20 minutes' ride from the Jätim-tarim. In that locality this last name appears to be applied to the older bed of the Tschong-tarim, now for the most part abandoned. The connection between the river and the Aghis-köl seems to be of the same type as that between the Tarim and the Daschi-köl, that is to say a broad passage filled with sandy islands, the latter overgrown with vegetation. Immediately to the east Tschernoff perceived the Murabning-köl-kakmasi, probably nothing more than a part of some adjacent lake. The name given to the middle, and at the same time the largest, basin of the Talashti-köl is Ghol-köl; while the smallest basin of the three, lying farthest south, possesses no name. One piece of information given both by the text and by the map is certainly strange, namely that all over the Ghol-köl there are small islands and islets of sand, tamarisk-mounds, and clumps of kamisch, as well as here and there a solitary poplar, sticking up through the ice. I confess I never saw anything like that in any of the lakes higher up. From this we may infer that the Ghol-köl is exceedingly shallow.

Climbing over the dune-accumulation, that overhangs the eastern shore of the Ghol-köl, by a gap or saddle 3 to 4 km. across, they came to the little lake o Baschtage-köl. This lake is connected by a canal called Tömen-akin with another Aghis-köl, a lake so small that it only took them a quarter of an hour to ride across it. That brought them to a place known as Arelisch, where there is a bifurcation; there they spent the night.

On the fifteenth day they rode beside the river down to the Kemi-tschapghan-köl. The northern bank was clothed with poplar forest, but the high sand began immediately south of the river. The following names were noted — Koj-salghantogh, Kara-tschilandake-togh, Usun-kara-tschilan, Ajagh-kötörmadake-koschusch, and Jäkän-okluk on the Jätim-tarim; further Chodscha Kulluning-uj, the feeding canal of the Baschtage-köl, and the *aghsi* of the Ottak-köl. Camp was formed at Ojman-köldake-uj.

On the sixteenth day a circular tour was made from the camp just mentioned, a group of lakes being visited on the way. First they went to Jätim-tschapghan and the Tschapghan-köl, which they crossed on the ice in 18 minutes. Here only a very narrow tongue of sand separated them from the Tschong-tschapghan-kölning-aghsi. The lake of Tschong-tschapghan-köl, which they only just touched, appeared to possess its own connecting-channel with the river. A ride of a quarter of an hour across an isthmus of sand then brought them to the Begelik-köl, west of the