

From the left there goes off a deeply trenched side-glen, Chaltaning-saji, which leads up to the pass in the spur that separates the glen of Tatlik-bulak (Prschevalskij calls it Kurghan-saj) from Kurghaning-chaltasi. The road over the range is said to be three times as long as the distance between Tasch-köl and Basch-kurghan. The vegetation in Kurghaning-chaltasi is poorer than that in our glen, and consists chiefly of tamarisks and steppe-plants. This glen is broad and level, but contains water only after rain.

At Toghraklik-tokaj there is a group of a dozen toghraks, young, slender trees, the last that grow in this direction. Next comes a side-glen, Kamisch-bulakning-ajaghi, leading up to the summits on the right side of the main glen; then, after bifurcating, it continues on to two small passes, from which a descent can be made on the north to Kamisch-bulak, a spring with fresh water, and a brook which probably courses down a glen of the same rank as that we were following, and more or less parallel with it. But the brook is reported not to descend very far before it disappears among the débris. This spring is surrounded, as the name indicates, by an abundance of kamisch. The upper part of the glen of Kamisch-bulak is called Buktu, and is said to be joined by a side-glen Buktaning-aghsi.

Opposite to Kamisch-bulakning-ajaghi the glen of Tatlik-bulak sends off a side-glen to the left, that is the south; this leads up to a pass, that conducts, by means of a foot-path, down to Kurghaning-chaltasi.

Hitherto we had travelled to the east, but now the glen inclined to the south-east. Out of the schistose rock on the left side of the glen a couple of tiny springs bubbled in one place; the water had a temperature of 8°, and was very slightly brackish. The sky was clouded until noon, and the air swarmed with small tiresome mosquitoes.

In a steep and small ravine (*jilgha*), Tasch-köl, on the right side of the glen, a little pool, a so called »stone lake»; only a few square meters in extent, is wont to form after rain, though it was then perfectly dry; evidently it had not rained for a pretty long time. Immediately above Tasch-köl comes Buktaning-aghsi, a deeply trenched sideglen, which joins our glen from the right. It leads up to a pass close at hand, and forms a short cut to the road to Tung-chuan. Thus there are two small glens both bearing the name of Buktaning-aghsi both no doubt leading down from the same pass. A little higher up the long, narrow glen of Kurghan-saj, or Tatlik-bulak, comes to an end, and the country opens out at a spot where three water-courses meet from different directions, and then burst through the lower, northern chain of the Astin-tagh. To the south rises the other parallel chain, fairly imposing and extending on the whole from east to west.

Between Tatlik-bulak and Basch-kurghan I made the following geological observations. The cliff on the right side of the glen consisted almost the whole way of the same hard, dark, coarsely crystalline rock (probably granite) which I have already noted as occurring in the vicinity of Tatlik-bulak. This cliff or mountain wing itself forms a compact, sharply defined wall, of a reddish colour, with very steep slopes and a jagged, cliff-like summit. It does not rise very high above the bottom of the glen, so that the small spurs which project across it, the *coulisses* of the glen, are likewise steep and short, and the few side-ravines that exist have