

ceived distinct traces of a *sil-su*, or »sudden torrent», having poured down to the lake after rain, and this would of course render the water locally fresher. The natives assert, that the Külük-saj does not get down to the lake. But this is doubtful; at all events the Usun-schor is to be regarded as the terminal lake in the basin of the Külük-saj. Hence there exists a very striking homology between the Mandarlik-saj and the Kala-köl on the one hand and between the Külük-saj and the Usun-schor on the other.

After passing, though at a great distance to the north-north-east, a mountain spur, behind which lay the little spring and pool that we saw on the 8th July 1900, as also to the north-east the mountainous parts of the Akato-tagh which we traversed at the same time, we proceeded in a south-east direction, ascending towards a point where another glen, coming from the south-west, unites with our glen. This side-glen is said to lead up to the regions around the Ghopur-alik. From the point of junction it will therefore run east-north-east, and consequently continues in practically a straight line with the side-glen, that is to say parallel with the bedding of the schists. From the south comes yet another side-glen, which starts from an easy pass giving access to Bagh-tokaj. This is the route that is formerly said to have been chosen by the Mongol pilgrims who came from the north and were on their way to Tibet. Up to that point our glen was rather narrow and inclosed between steep cliffs, but beyond it the country became more open and the surface-features more rounded. Shortly after that we reached a flat, comfortable pass (alt., 3154 m.), without a name, and then went down the gentle slope on its eastern face, having low mountain-spurs on both sides of us, though at a great distance. From the pass our direction was east-south-east, and the surface was virtually level, soft soil, with a thin sprinkling of schistose gravel on the top; it was thickly marked with the footprints of kulans. After crossing over our former route, namely that which we followed down to the Tschimen-köl, we reached a rather deeply incised rainwater channel, containing a large quantity of drift-sand. It runs towards the south-east, and so enters the Tschimen valley. With the southern spurs of the Akato-tagh coming close down to us on the left, we continued towards the east-south-east, and thus gradually drew away from the mountains. The surface consisted of barren detritus, furrowed by shallow watercourses running towards the south-east. When we at length reached the belt of vegetation and the kamisch, the surface seemed to be perfectly level. However it soon turned soft and moist, lumpy and full of holes, with any quantity of small dry round pits, containing salt and surrounded by tiny ramparts of earth. We made Camp XCVI by the side of a freshwater brook, or rather beside a long sheet of ice, which was derived originally from springs and stretched towards the north-east. This is the extreme upper part of the Kurghan-saj (alt., 3002 m.), which goes on past Tasch-uj to Temirlik. On its way it picks up several spring-fed rivulets, and so gradually increases in size. Here we obtained access to water and grazing, but found no fuel.

On the shore of the Usun-schor, just east of Camp XCV, we had schist and conglomerate alternating, both severely weathered; the dip was 36° towards the S. 35° W. Opposite to the little rocky island in the lake, we had, at 77° S., a hard black crystalline schist alternating with a black argillaceous schist, laminated as thin