

course to the method of interpolation; and even though the information that the natives give may not always be usable, still it is information that is by no means to be despised.

For instance, I was told, that the Paschalik-saj joins the valley of the Ilve-tschimen about half a day's journey, or at the most at one day's journey, from Camps XCII and XCIII. Thus their two streams, which in the vicinity of these two camps run quite close together, approach one another at an acute angle, being separated by a low spur which juts out like a wedge, the same that we crossed over by the little pass just above Camp XCII. After the confluence the river turns to the west, or perhaps to the west-south-west, and has then, at first, on its left bank the ramifications of the range which rises on the left of Paschalik, and which is indeed an offshoot or branch of the Ilve-tschimen, while on its right is the Astin-tagh. The tract in which the river bends to the west is called Davan-teve; from it a path leads to Mian (Muran), a place belonging to the neighbourhood of Kara-koschun in the lowlands. From Davan-teve the track runs to the pass of Tasch-ato (or Taschajtu = Tasch-davan or the Stony Pass). At Tamtschi on its western side there is a waterfall, which flings itself over a precipitous cliff. Then comes Säjpu-bulak, and thence one climbs up to the pass of Kil-davan, which is said to be situated in the main range of the Astin-tagh. North of this we have the region of Avras, and finally Tar-aghis, where the Mian brook issues from the mountains. From that point a track runs directly west-south-west across barren saj to Tscharklik, gradually deviating from the mountains. Even this brief oral information is sufficient to show that here also, as along the route from Tatlik-bulak to Basch-jol, the Astin-tagh is a double range, and consists really of two parallel chains. Lower down we shall find that this is also true of the range farther east all the way to Anambaruin-ula. But whilst the northern parallel chain is broken at Basch-kurghan and Tatlik-bulak, in travelling from Davan-teve one has to cross over both chains, for the breaches in them are situated west of the route in question.

It was by this route that Bonvalot and Prince Henry of Orleans travelled from Tscharklik to the Usun-schor, the same glen through the black schists that I followed when I proceeded farther up the side-glen leading to Bagh-tokaj — the route which I was told the Mongol pilgrims formerly used to travel by. Bonvalot's map also shows quite plainly, that the Astin-tagh is here double, although the mountains are not arranged in any sort of order, as I have pointed out in a previous chapter. To the Mian brook, or the lower part of the Paschalik-saj, which he forded below Tar-aghis, he gives the name of Djahan-say (Dschahan-saj). Then he proceeded up the Tchoukour-say (Tschukur-saj or the Deep Glen), which leads to Boulak-bachi (Bulak-baschi) and Kum-davan, which must be identical with Kil-davan. From it he went down to Bilaylik-say (Bilaulik-saj or the Grindstone Glen), a district clearly lying between the two chains of the Astin-tagh. Finally he crossed over the Tach-davane (Tasch-davan, probably quite as usual as Tasch-ato or even more familiar) to Davane-tay, which is identical with the above mentioned Davan-teve. Some of the other names on his map are easily recognisable, e. g. Pachalik, Guilvet Chimani (Ilve-tschimen), Mandalik (Mandarlik), and Chiamang-lay (Schia-manglaj), although his unfamiliarity with the language has led him to distort them more or