

joined from the left, that is from the southern slope of the Lower Astin-tagh, by a small side-glen in which the spring of Dscho-bulak itself is situated. Another spring on the southern flank of the Lower Astin-tagh is that of Ghuletschen; its watercourse runs west and enters that of Dscho-bulak, after which the united stream breaks through the range, though not before both have been joined by several watercourses coming down off the northern slope of the Upper Astin-tagh. After piercing the range, the main glen is joined from the right by a minor glen called Maja-bulak, with a spring in its upper part; also by a second similar glen that is unnamed and possesses no spring, and by a third called Tasch-köl, in which a tiny lake is wont to remain after rain. On the left it is joined by several side-glens issuing out of the northern face of the Lower Astin-tagh, namely the Kutaslik-saj, Bilejlik-saj, Hadschughu (or Hadschögö) and Kitaj-kongan-saj, with finally the above-mentioned Musluk-saj. Here, as at Ku-schui-cha, it is characteristic, that not only the greater number of the side-glens, but also the largest, come from the south, from off the northern face of the Astin-tagh, whereas the side-glens that come from the right proceed out of a minor offshoot of that chain. The name Dscho (= Lhasa) is also significant; possibly it serves to indicate that a road once led this way towards Lhasa.

A stage farther east there appears to be a second minor glen called Dscho-bulak; this effects a junction with the gorge that leads down from the pass of Kara-davan, picking up on the way two side-glens known as Tasch-köl, both from the left. The stream which courses down this gorge is said to be very deeply trenched at the spot where it is crossed by the lower road. The great pass of Kara-davan, which this same lower road likewise crosses over, appears to be situated in a branch of the Lower Astin-tagh. All the same there exists not far away, though in the main crest, a smaller and easier pass, called Kara-davan-künäsi, from the fact that it lies open towards the sun. From these two passes a transverse glen, the Kara-davaning-saj, goes off to the east; but it does not force its way through the Lower Astin-tagh, its springs lie on the north side of the chain. It is joined from the right by the side-glens of Polat-bulak-saj and Hun-tschan-saj. In this region there actually appears to be a belt of sand spread out at the foot of the Lower Astin-tagh; Littledale's map seems indeed to hint at something of the kind, for the mountains on the right-hand side of the lowest part of Dscho-bulak are labelled »Mts sinking into Sandy Hills».

Proceeding farther east from Kara-davan we have the following side-glens, all situated in the northern face of the Lower Astin-tagh — Jangi-su, Kara-saj, Arkarlik-saj, Dole-bulak-saj, Kadschävä-saj (which also bears the descriptive name of Kamisch-bulak), Atschik-su, Toghrak-bulak, then two unnamed glens, and finally Lap-schi-tschen. All these glens are stated to terminate in the sand. The three following glens, situated between the two Kara-davan glens — Islam-tapghan-bulak, Kum-bulak, and Chodscha-schukur — possess the same rank as the sajs which I have just enumerated. The upper part of the last of the three is separated from the upper part of the eastern glen of Kara-davan by a difficult and inconvenient pass. Kum-bulak is situated, as the name implies, in a district with dunes of drift-sand; these are said to form a crescentic belt stretching between two offshoots of the