

In addition, the emperor gave them 140,000 horses, oxen and sheep over and above the 120,000 they had already received in Sinkiang. Further, they were given 20,000 chin of tea as well as grain, cotton, cloths, yurts etc. to a value of 200,000 taels.

The precious imperial seals they had received under the Ming dynasty were returned to the emperor, who in exchange gave them Manchu seals.

Finally, the Chinese annals relate how destiny led a branch of the Torgut tribe to the Edsen-gol, giving the genealogy with Old Testament-like thoroughness and dryness from generation to generation right down to the chief who was the first at this river. Thus, we are told that HU URLUK's son SHUKER TAIJI had several sons, and that the fourth of them, NAMU JELUNG, had a son NACHAR MAMOT, who was thus a cousin of the previously mentioned AYUKA. In the year 1704 NACHAR MAMOT's son ARABJUR betook himself through the Dzungar territory on his way to Tibet to visit and speak with the DALAI LAMA, whom he evidently wished to beg for aid. The Dzungar chief TSEVANG RAPDAN was at that time on a hostile footing with AYUKA, so that ARABJUR could not return in security, and he therefore took his way to the Suchow district in Kansu. From here he sent a messenger to the emperor, declaring his willingness to enter the service of the Son of Heaven. The emperor gave him the district of Syrtun (Sirtun), a lake and the surrounding country, situated to the south-west of Suchow.

In the year 1716 ARABJUR offered to enlist in the emperor's army. As it was always a part of the policy of the Manchu emperors to bind the Mongols to China with the strongest possible bands, ARABJUR's request was granted. The emperor then commissioned him with five hundred men from his tribe to undertake an expedition to the west to look for the lake Gas, situated two hundred li from Lop-nor. (In point of fact, Gas — or Ghash — lies a good 400 li to the south-east of Lop-nor.)

ARABJUR stayed on the shores of this lake with his tribe and died there. From the emperor he had received the title Kuhan Beise. His son and successor DANCHUNG went in person to Peking to offer his duty to the emperor, and received on that occasion the title of Dola Beile.

In 1731 a spirit of discontent seems to have been rife among the Torguts at Lake Gas. Several chiefs went over with their troops to the Dzungars, and DANCHUNG no longer felt himself secure against these neighbours. He wished to exchange his old pastures for new. He therefore addressed himself to the governor of Kansu and Shensi, CHIA LANG-A, who allotted to him and his Torguts certain districts in the Nan-shan. These were called Alak, Altai and Taibushi, and thither migrated this tough and wandering tribe, that seemed unable to find any spot on earth to call permanently their own.

Nor did they stay for long in the Nan-shan, for the emperor soon allotted to them