

made into lumps. It is transported on elephants to the Ta-shī (on the coast); the Ta-shī load it upon their ships for barter against other goods in San-fo-ts'i: and it is for this reason that the incense is commonly collected at San-fo-ts'i [the three ports of the Hadhranaut coast].

“When the foreign merchants come to that place to trade, the Customs authorities, according to the relative strength of its fragrance, distinguish thirteen classes of incense. Of these, the very best is called *kién-hiang*, or ‘picked incense’: it is round and of the size of the end of a finger; it is commonly called *ti-ju* or ‘dripping milk.’ The second quality is called *p'ing ju*, or ‘potted milk,’ and its colour is inferior to that of the ‘picked incense.’ The next quality is called *p'ing hiang*, or ‘potted incense,’ so called, they say, owing to its being prized so much at the time of gathering, that it is placed in pots (*p'ing*). In this *p'ing hiang* (variety of frankincense) there are three grades, superior, medium and inferior. The next quality is called *tai-hiang*, or ‘bag incense’; thus called, they say, because at the time of gathering, it is merely put into bags; it is also divided into three qualities, like the *p'ing hiang*.

“The next kind is the *ju-t'a*; it consists of incense mixed with gravel.

“The next kind is the *heï-t'a*, because its colour is black. The next kind is the *shui-shï-heï-t'a*, because it consists of incense which has been ‘water damaged,’ the aroma turned, and the colour spoiled while on board ship.

“Mixed incense of various qualities and consisting of broken pieces is called *chö-siau* (‘cut-up’); when passed through a sieve and made into dust, it is called *ch'an-mo* (‘powder’). The above are the various varieties of frankincense.”