

yü-kin after every bath, with the intention of making it resemble the "gold body" of a Buddha.¹ Certainly they did not smear their bodies with "turmeric,"² which is used only as a dye-stuff, but with saffron. Annamese mothers rub the bodies of their infants with saffron-powder as a tonic to their skin.³

The *Ain-i Akbari*, written 1597 in Persian by Abul Fazl 'Allami (1551-1602), gives detailed information on the saffron cultivation in Kashmir,⁴ from which the following extract may be quoted: "In the village of Pāmpūr, one of the dependencies of Vihī (in Kashmir), there are fields of saffron to the extent of ten or twelve thousand *bīghas*, a sight that would enchant the most fastidious. At the close of the month of March and during all April, which is the season of cultivation, the land is plowed up and rendered soft, and each portion is prepared with the spade for planting, and the saffron bulbs are hard in the ground. In a month's time they sprout, and at the close of September, it is at its full growth, shooting up somewhat over a span. The stalk is white, and when it has sprouted to the height of a finger, one bud after another begins to flower till there are eight flowers. It has six lilac-tinted petals. Usually among six filaments, three are yellow and three ruddy. The last three yield the saffron. [There are three stamens and three stigmas in each flower, the latter yielding the saffron.] When the flowers are past, leaves appear upon the stalk. Once planted it will flower for six years in succession. The first year, the yield is small: in the second as thirty to ten. In the third year it reaches its highest point, and the bulbs are dug up. If left in the same soil, they gradually deteriorate, but if taken up, they may be profitably transplanted."

The Emperor Jahāngīr was deeply impressed by the saffron plantations of Kashmir, and left the following notes in his Memoirs:⁵—

"As the saffron was in blossom, his Majesty left the city to go to Pāmpūr, which is the only place in Kashmir where it flourishes. Every parterre, every field, was, as far as the eye could reach, covered with flowers. The stem inclines toward the ground. The flower has five petals of a violet color, and three stigmas producing saffron are found within it, and that is the purest saffron. In an ordinary year, 400

¹ *Lin wai tai ta*, Ch. 2, p. 13.

² HIRTH, *Chau Ju-kua*, p. 91.

³ PERROT and HURRIER, *Mat. méd. et pharmacopée sino-annamites*, p. 94. Cf. also MARCO POLO's observation (YULE's edition, Vol. II, p. 286) that the faces of stuffed monkeys on Java are daubed with saffron, in order to give them a manlike appearance.

⁴ Translation of H. BLOCHMANN, Vol. I, p. 84; Vol. II, p. 357.

⁵ H. M. ELLIOT, *History of India as told by Its Own Historians*, Vol. VI, p. 375