

early snowfall, with resulting delay in my further programme, I felt obliged to travel here rapidly. This circumstance, together with the fact that a considerable portion of this alpine territory of Bokhāra has been studied and described with care in publications readily accessible to the reader not acquainted with Russian,<sup>5</sup> will explain the succinct form in which the observations made on this part of my journey are here presented.

Ascent to  
Adūde pass.

In order to reach Yāzgulām, the valley adjoining Rōshān on the north, I chose the old route leading by the Adūde pass across the high 'Rōshān range' which strikes towards the Oxus from the Sēl-tāgh. Communication between Rōshān and Yāzgulām along the right bank of the Oxus was rendered practically impossible by a succession of formidable defiles before the construction of the Russian bridle-path a few years before my passage. The approach to the Adūde pass led past the much-frequented shrine of Shāh Tālib, with the tomb of a famous Ismailia saint, up a narrow side valley where small patches of cultivation and summer grazing grounds were met with up to an elevation of about 10,500 feet. Starting on September 28th from Shahji-shau-jai, a point about 1,000 feet higher up, we ascended with laden ponies over old moraines and struck, at a distance of about 6 miles, a gently sloping glacier fed by comparatively small névé beds to the east and west of the pass. Numerous small crevasses were encountered before the watershed on the glaciated saddle was reached at an elevation of about 14,500 feet. A fine hanging glacier descending towards it from the east was a striking feature. To the north the view extended across the range separating Yāzgulām from Wanj to the high ice-crowned peaks rising between the latter valley and Darwāz.

Descent  
towards  
Yāzgulām.

On the descent northward we had to thread our way for about four miles in a zigzag line over the glacier before we reached its present end at a large sheet of 'dead ice', overlooked by a high terminal moraine rising in front of it. Recent shrinkage of the glacier was here clearly marked. The steep descent from this point (about 13,300 feet elevation) led over a succession of old moraines down into a narrow valley filled at its bottom with a thick belt of birch trees and junipers. Beyond the junction with the Doderga valley the stream bed has cut itself an impassable cañon; winding above this along steep slopes the track brought us at about 8,700 feet elevation to the first patch of cultivation. As we made our way farther down over boulder-strewn terraces, night overtook us and necessitated a halt at the first tolerably open spot, some six miles above Matraun.

Halt at  
Matraun  
village.

On our descent next morning to this Yāzgulām village I was greeted by Bokhāra officials sent up from the Darwāz side. Their presence afforded welcome assurance of the help which Colonel Jagello's kind forethought had prepared for my farther progress. At the same time their gay flowing silk robes and swarthy faces made me realize how soon the true alpine tracts of the Upper Oxus were to be left behind. The impression was strengthened by the perceptible heat encountered in the main valley during a short halt at Matraun (5,500 feet elevation) and by the appearance of the Yāzgulām people. Their sallow faces clearly betrayed the effect of the malarial fever which prevails in the lower portion of Yāzgulām, while what I saw of their houses showed that protection from the cold of the winter was no longer the chief concern of their builders.

Past  
Yāzgulām.

Shortness of available time obliged me to push on the same day towards Wanj. Hence my notes about Yāzgulām or *Yāzdum*, as it is known to its people, can only be of the briefest. Separated from the valleys north and south by high mountain ranges, and practically inaccessible both from the east and by the cañon-like gorges of the Oxus, Yāzgulām appears to have been for a long time a kind of no-man's-land between the chiefships of Darwāz and Shughnān-Rōshān. Its inhabitants were credited with having used the advantages of this position to prey impartially,

<sup>5</sup> See in particular Rickmers, *Duab of Turkestan*, Chaps. XIII, XIV, XVII, XVIII; also Pumpelly, *Explorations in Turkestan*, ii. pp. 265 sqq.