

CHAPTER XIII.

MANASAROVAR AND SURROUNDING REGIONS IN TIBETAN WORKS.

I am a perfect stranger to Tibetan literature and all I can do in order to give a vague idea of how Tibetan books deal with our regions is to insert in this chapter a few quotations from the translations of different scholars. The geography of these works is of no greater value than that of the Puranas and other Indian works, for in both cases the simple and sound reality, so admirably described by the Chinese, is hidden by tales and poetry.¹

Dr. BERTHOLD LAUFER has published an article under the heading: *Über ein tibetisches Geschichtswerk der Bonpo.*² This work was found in Tibet by SARAT CHANDRA DAS. It deals with the origin of the Bon religion, its founder, and its decline, which came to an end with the death of King gLan dar ma. In the following passage Dr. Laufer shows us the part which in this work is played by the Manasarovar and Kailas:

Interessant ist die Anspielung auf das Râmâyana. Es wird erzählt, dass der Schneeberg Tise und der Manasarovarasee in „Ol mo luñ riñ in Persien gewesen seien; von dem in Tibet befindlichen Tise sagt Saskya Pañḍita, dass der Affenkönig Halumandha von dem Schneeberg Tise im Lande Persien ein Stück abgebrochen, mitgeschleppt, ins Land der Bod geschleudert und so den Tise gemacht habe. Halumandha, dessen Reich als Halumadhai spreui gliñ bezeichnet wird, ist Hanumân, der Affenfürst des Râmâyana. Offenbar spielt unsere Stelle auf die Erzählung im 6. Buche (Yuddhakâṇḍa) des indischen Epos an, in der Hanumân, um die vier Heilkräuter zu holen, zum Berge Kailâsa fliegt, und da sich diese verstecken, den ganzen Berg ausreisst und mitbringt.

¹ Professor ALBERT GRÜNWEDEL of Berlin had the great kindness to read proofs of this chapter and to add many important improvements. He has advised me to follow the orthography of Doctor Laufer and has provided me with a list of names where the transcriptions are entered. In later chapters of this work I have not followed any special system of orthography for Tibetan names, but simply write them phonetically. I have been advised to do so by Professor Grünwedel, Professor Wiklund of Uppsala, and Doctor Herrmann.

² T'oung pao Série II, Vol. II, 1901, p. 24 et seq.