

D'un autre côté le P. Régis nous apprend que le Tsanpou coule des environs du Lac Mapama, & que passé les mêmes frontières du Tibet il tourne au Sud-Ouest, tirant du côté du Gange; & l'opinion du pays est que le Brahmapoutren, qui va à Ascham & à Rangamati, sort du lac Mansaroar, le même que le lac Mapama: Le Tsanpou & le Brahmapoutren sont donc un seul & même fleuve.

He also points to the difference between the view of Régis and that of the Chinese map, which may be explained by the fact that the Lama explorers never went beyond Lhasa. As we know, the question of the lower course of the Brahmaputra gave rise to a struggle that had to continue until not very long ago, when it was finally settled by the Pundits.

Anquetil du Perron sums up the »geographical truths» that are represented on Tieffenthaler's Indian maps, in the following words:

»La premiere Partie de la Carte du Gagra, faite sur les lieux par des Indiens, en présentant les deux Lacs Lanka & Mansaroar, nous donne la source, jusque'ici inconnue, des trois plus grands fleuves de cette contrée; le Sardjou, qui sort du lac Lanka, & dont le cours ne se trouve sur aucune Carte Européenne; le Satloudj, qui sort du lac Mansaroar au Nord-Ouest, & coule vers le Pendjab; & le Brahmapoutren, le même que le Tsanpou, qui a sa source dans le même lac Mansaroar, à l'Est, & qui, après avoir traversé une grande partie du Tibet, tourne au Sud-Ouest, & se jette dans le Gange au dessous de Daka . . . »

He also comes to the conclusion that the lakes as well as Mount Kentaïssé must be removed some five degrees farther north than on d'Anville's general map of Tibet. And this unfortunate idea he calls: »Corrections importantes en Géographie, Découvertes même, s'il est permis de le dire, qui donnent une nouvelle face à la vaste étendue de pays que je viens de nommer.»¹

Tieffenthaler's maps give indeed a new aspect to the country round the lakes! But has geography gained by these changes? By no means! Starting from d'Anville's map, the map of Tieffenthaler is a great step backwards. One cannot even compare the two. Tieffenthaler's map is very erroneous, whereas the Lamas' map is admirable, although it is 200 years old. The Lamas were quite independent of every kind of religious prejudice, whereas the pilgrims from India under all conditions *had* to believe even what they could not see with their own eyes, namely, that the sacred river Brahmaputra began from the sacred lake, the Manasarovar, and the Gogra from its neighbour, the Rakas-tal. One can easily understand the pleasure it must have been for such a learned and able scholar as Anquetil du Perron to get hold of Tieffenthaler's documents and maps in which he had unlimited confidence, and which he calls discoveries.

Then Anquetil du Perron gives a detailed description of the course of the Gagra. He finds it very probable that the uppermost part of the river, from the lakes and down to the cataracts, is based on the description of a native from India. The rest, from the cataracts and downwards, should be Tieffenthaler's own work.

¹ Op. cit. p. 370.