

CHAPTER III.

AN ACCOUNT OF TWO FAKIRS.

In the *Asiatic Researches*¹ I find an article under the title »*An Account of Two Fakeers*» by *Jonathan Duncan, Esq.*, in which the sacred lake is mentioned.

One of the Fakirs was a certain PURANA POORI, then at Benares, with his arms and his hands in a fixed position above his head. He was a very intelligent man, who had been a great traveller, and, in May 1792, he gave a relation about his observations in the various countries which he had visited. Duncan gives only the principal part of his story, and has the »utmost reliance on our traveller's not designing to impose in any part of his narrative; but allowance must be made for defects of memory . . .»

We are not concerned with the beginning of his adventures. Let it suffice to say that he came to Balkh, Bokhara, Samarkand, Badakshan, Kashmir; »and from that passing over the hills towards Hindustan, he came to the Gungowtri, or 'Decent of the Ganges', where there is, he observes, a statue of Baghiratha; at which place the river may, he says, be leaped over . . .» Then he proceeded to Katmandu and into Tibet, and *viâ* Tingri to »Lahassa, and the mountain of Patala, the seat of the Delai Lama, whence he proceeded to Degurcha,² which he mentions as that of the Taishoo Lama; and then, in a journey of upwards of eighty days, reached the lake of Maun Surwur, (called in the Hindu books Mánasaróvara;) and his description of it I shall here insert in a literal translation of his own words»:

»Its circumference is of six days journey, and around it are 20 or 25 Goumaris, or 'religious stations or temples' . . . The Maun Surwur is one lake: but in the middle of it there arises, as it were, a partition wall; and the northern part is called Maun Surwur, and the southern Lunkadh, or Lunkdeh. From the Maun Surwur part issues one river, and from the Lunkadh part two rivers: The first is called Bráhma, where Puresram making Tupisya, the Bráhmaputra issued out, and took its course to the eastward; and of the two streams that issue from the Lunkadh, one is called the Surju, being the same which flows by Ayóddyà, or Oude; and the other is called Sutroodra, (or, in the Puránas, Shutudru, and vulgarly the Sutluje,)

¹ Vol. V 1807, p. 37 et seq.

² I. e. Shigatse.