

The three source-branches which Ritter means are: the northern branch passing Misar, the Tirtapuri branch, and the branch which comes from Rawan-hrad. Otherwise, Ritter seems to leave the hydrographical question open.¹

On his second journey to the interior of unknown Asia, Moorcroft got more reliable information and personal knowledge about the upper Indus. During his residence in Leh he writes: »This was the river of Lé, the Yuma, or Sinh Kha bab, which may be considered as the main branch of the Indus, flowing from the province of Gardokh.»² And at the same time he hoped that the discovery of the source of the Satlej should not be far off, as he says he has obtained news from Mr Gerard of his intention to follow the Satlej, if permitted, to its source, and then return and join him in Ladakh.³ In connection with his rather good general description of Ladakh he again says of the Indus: »The river that may be regarded as the most striking and important feature in the geography of Ladakh, is the great eastern branch of the Indus, or, as termed in the country, the Sinh-kha-bab, the river that rises from the lion's mouth, in reference to the Tibetan notion, borrowed perhaps from the Hindus, of the origin of four great rivers from the mouths of as many animals; as the Indus from the lion's mouth; the Ganges, Mab-cha-kha-bab, from that of the peacock; the Satlej, Lang-chin-kha-bab, from that of the elephant; and the Ster-chuk-kha-bab, or river of Tibet, from the mouth of the horse. The Sinh-kha-bab rises in the Kan-re, Kangri or Kantesi mountains, the Kailasa of the Hindus, and after traversing the country of Chan-than in a direction from south-east to north-west, enters Ladakh on its eastern, and follows the same course to its western frontier.»⁴

¹ »Dieser westliche, grössere See, sollte mit dem östlichen, kleinern, dem Mapang, die jetzt beide niedrigen Wasserstand hatten, communiciren. Doch fehlte Moorcroft die Zeit, diese bedeutenden Seen selbst zu umreisen, und hierüber, vollständigen Bericht zu ertheilen . . .» As he only touched the northern side of the two lakes, RITTER seems to think it possible that some communication might have existed further south.

² H. H. WILSON'S edition of MOORCROFT'S Travels 1819—1825. London 1841. Vol. I, p. 236.

³ Ibidem p. 252.

⁴ Ibidem p. 261.