

CHAPTER XLVI.

THE TSANGPO AND THE CHAKTAK-TSANGPO.

From my Camp 167, Kyärkyä, I travelled, on May 28th, 1907, again down to the Tsangpo, and had an opportunity to see a part of the valley never described before, as both Nain Sing and Ryder travelled north of this route.

The road follows the Gyäbuk valley due south. At the first right tributary, Pungre, sandstone stands in living rock; Nakboche is a left, Chunchar a right tributary to the Pungre. Gaktsa, Mendong-kungma, and Mendong-ok are also small tributaries from the right side. On a rock on the same side are the ruins of the nunnery Yüüpar, and below it the ruins of the village of the same name; there are several ruins and abandoned cornfields in this valley, which in old times must have been well populated; there are also *chortens* and some *mani-rigmos*; the last ruin is called Chandö. A little brook goes down the valley.

Finally the perspective opens out, and the magnificent valley of the Tsangpo is again before us. From the south enters a rather great right tributary, Samdeling, joining the Tsangpo a little below the point where we reached the river. A road from Tsongka-dsong comes down the Samdeling, and therefore a ferry serves the communication over the Tsangpo; this road continues to Saka-dsong. Corn is carried on yaks from Tsongka, and paid for at Saka with salt from the north; from the Tsangpo it is only two days' journey to Tsongka.

In the corner where our road turns W.S.W. along the northern bank of the Tsangpo is a grotto with Buddha images called Tusang-tangne. The valley may be 500m. broad, and is bounded by moderate mountains mostly of soft material; the living rock is calcareous schist. Shushulung is a little valley from the north, opening to the level ground which, with a breadth of some 150m., here follows the river; there is a strip of level ground along the southern bank as well. The river flows in one strong bed, and has a 4m. high erosion terrace, at the foot of which we pass amongst grass and gravel; this terrace is often interrupted by ravines. The colour of the water is greenish, though it is muddy; the current is slow and silent, without rapids.