

fast gar nichts bekannt ist, und es zu einer wahren Terra incognita gehört, so wird gewöhnlich wenn vom Tübet im Allgemeinen die Rede ist, nur diese südliche Zone gemeint.»¹

Here Ritter points out the parallelism or the divergence towards the east. He recognizes the abundance of morphological detail and knows that the space between the principal ranges is filled up by secondary ranges. He regards the interior of Tibet as divided into two plateau-lands, Katchi or Khor Katchi in the north and Tibet Proper in the south, and the line of division is marked by a central gathering of mountain ranges, the western part of which is the Gangdisri, whereas the eastern part is the Dzang-mountains. The northern half he populates with Hor or Khor tribes of Mongolian origin, the southern is »the third Tibet» of the natives. This view should later on be adopted by one or two geographers, who perhaps, in a quite independent way, arrived at the same conclusion as Ritter; at any rate they do not quote him as their authority. Ritter, however, calls the northern region a »true terra incognita», and therefore he only believed it was inhabited by Mongol tribes. In reality the Gangdisri-Dzang or Transhimalayan system cannot be a boundary between nomads and sedentary, and still less between Mongols and Tibetans. For there are some temples and villages north of the system and many nomads south of it. Its great importance consists in its being a water-parting between the lakes of the plateau-land and the Tsangpo-Brahmaputra.

Thus we find that Ritter, although he made very little or no use of d'Anville, and only built up his geographical conclusions on Klaproth's translations, was perfectly persuaded of the existence of a long continuous range north of the Tsangpo. He was also a sufficiently sharp and perspicacious geographer to understand that the considerable tributaries of the Tsangpo, of which the Chinese texts spoke, could hardly be fed and rise in anything except high mountains. And as the Chinese texts directly described the Kailas, the Dzang range and the Nien-chen-tang-la, Ritter thought that an uninterrupted range must obviously exist north of the Tsangpo valley. His whole conception is Chinese, his sources we have quoted above; he only digested and brought order into the dry, matter-of-fact description of the Chinese and formed their material into a modern, scientific system of geographical morphology.

According to the *Wei-Tsang-t'u-chih* he places Kailas in the N.E. of the province of Ngari, and connects the four animal mountains with it, those of the Horse, Elephant, Lion and Peacock, and says that they stretch a distance of 48 geogr. miles or 800 li, — »bis zu dem Hochgebirge von Nga-ri — das ist also die sonst gänzlich unbekante Nordkette.»² This »Northern range» is the Gangdisri-Dzang-Nien-chen-tang-la or Transhimalaya, which Ritter, in 1834, regarded as »wholly unknown». As Ritter absorbed every ounce of geographical knowledge of his time,

¹ Op. cit. Band III, Berlin 1834, p. 173.

² Op. cit. p. 219.