

From only one crossing from Ngangtse-tso to Sela-la over this labyrinth of low mountains it is impossible to get a clear idea of the orography. It is so much the easier to understand the hydrography. For there is only one river system, namely that of the Tagrak-tsangpo, receiving a great number of tributaries from both sides, those from the left side being the greatest, depending on the fact that the principal valley, Naong-Tagrak, runs to the N.W. Thus we have found, that all brooks running north from the Pabla range join the Naong-tsangpo. Some of them have the same name as the particular part of the Pabla, from where they originate. For instance, the Bupchung comes from Bupchung-ri, and Bupchen from Bupchen-ri. Both these, as well as Kelung-tsangpo and several others more or less parallel to them are deep, narrow transverse valleys on the northern side of the Pabla. The brook which starts from the very saddle of Sela-la receives many small tributaries from a range on its right or northern side, which must be a ramification from the principal range. The Serpo-tsungé also sends some furrows to it. To the S.E. Sele-nang goes down and is soon joined by the Sangra-palhé, which is more considerable.

From a hydrographical point of view the Pabla range is of great importance as a boundary between the plateau land to the north, i. e. the land of the central lakes without outlet to the sea, and, on the south, the drainage area of the Tsangpo. The southern water-parting of the Ngangtse-tso is therefore at a great distance from the lake, whereas the western, northern and eastern water-partings are very near the lake. From this point of view the Ngangtse basin resembles the Selling-tso basin, where the Sa-chu-tsangpo comes from far away and the rest of the water-parting is quite close to the lake.

Other watercourses we have touched, the Titak, Chakti and Chapkar, are quite insignificant, as compared with Tagrak-tsangpo. On five of our eight crossings we shall find the same arrangement: a river originating from the Transhimalayan water-parting and running north to a salt lake situated in the lake depression at the northern foot of the system.

The *climate* in the mountains between Ngangtse-tso and Pabla is very raw, cold and inhospitable in January; almost always wind and heavy clouds, but very little snow. Only the heights round Sela-la were covered with patches of snow at the end of January, but only in depressions and ravines had it accumulated more considerably. It never caused any obstacles to traffic, and it hardly ever occurs that the passes are closed by snow.

The mountains are rich in water, springs and brooks, which all remain hard frozen during the winter. A traveller coming from Chang-tang will at once notice the great difference in this respect; he has traversed a very dry country, where water is often a great rarity and he enters a region, where brooks and springs are to be found in every valley. At the end of January the ice of Tagrak-tsangpo was said to remain 3 months more or to the end of April. The melting of the ice in spring