

surrounding them. There are sharp-edged ridges and crests with steep passes between; never continuous, always interrupted and without any clear orographical order. Near *Camp CCXCVI*, the living rock was reddish brown crystalline limestone, which continued the whole way to and on the pass, and was followed, near *Camp CCXCVII*, by grey mica-sandstone.

We followed the erosion bed of the valley, the bottom of which consisted of fine gravel and very fine red sand. Higher up the ground is barren. From both sides tributary valleys join the main valley, some of them considerable and bounded by high mountains. At one place in the beginning of the march, three stones betrayed an old fireplace, where probably wanderers from *Shahidullah* had camped.

The pass is visible in front of us, and the ascent becomes more steep. The threshold is flat and easy, the barren soil consists of soft fine material. To the S. E., a very wild and irregular yellowish pink range is seen reminding one very much of the range we had seen the year before on the southern shore of *Lake Lighten*. Orographically, it may be the same range, though, of course, it is interrupted for a long way. There is no doubt that ever since *Camp CCLXXXVII*, we had followed one single latitudinal valley of tectonic origin, which is traversed by the erosion valley of the *Kara-kash* at nearly right angles, and which, farther east, is continued in the enormous valley I had followed in 1906, and where the lakes of *Aksai-chin*, *Lake Lighten* and others are situated. Here in its western part this valley is, however, at a greater altitude, is narrower, and has more undulated ground.

From the pass, we have a clear view not of level and easy ground as usual in latitudinal valleys, but of an oblong basin stretching E. S. E., bounded on the south by comparatively mighty and rocky mountains, on the west by the threshold on which we stood, on the east by a new threshold which we crossed the next day, and on the north by a mountain range which is pierced by a valley in which all the watercourses of this basin gather. The joint affluent of the basin is probably a tributary to the *Kara-kash*. The slope down from the pass is steep; we follow the bed of the watercourse which is filled with gravel and has no ice. The nearest hills consist of loose, fine, red material. Where it emerges into the basin there is grass growing on the slopes exposed to the south, and there was snow in the furrow where we camped. No wild animals were to be seen, only some sparse dung of wild yak and kyang. From *Camp CCXCVII*, Pan. 387, Tab. 68, was sketched, showing the wild and rugged mountains to the east and S. E. To the S. 62° E., is the way up to the next pass.

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