

now dry), and the Hwang-ho — leave the lakes in the exterior corner of the northern narrow parts of the lakes.

The Jarin-nor thus plays exactly the same part as the Manasarovar, the Saloma as the Samo-tsangpo¹, the Jagiyn-gol as the Tage-tsangpo, the channel from the Jarin-nor as the channel of Ngangga, the Orin-nor as the Rakas-tal and the Hwang-ho as the Satlej.

But in one point there is a great difference between the two pairs of lakes: the Manasarovar-Rakas-tal have suffered more from the influence of desiccation than the Jarin-nor and Orin-nor!

In length the Jagiyn-gol is superior to the Saloma, rather than inferior. As to the volume of water, the Jagiyn-gol is much bigger. The length of the latter is about 150 versts, and the fall of the valley is comparatively steep. Where the river flows between mountains the current of the water is wild and the passage is impossible; where the valley is broad and open the depth is as a rule 3 or 4 feet. During the visit of the Russian expedition it rained day and night.

The description of the lakes given by PRSHEVALSKIY some 16 years before is more valuable. He explains how the Yellow River is formed by sources and small watercourses in the Odon-tala basin, after which it flows through two rather large lakes. These are both situated at an absolute altitude of 4270 m., and are separated from one another by a rocky isthmus some 10 versts broad. They are of the same size and have a circumference of about 130 versts each. As to form, they remind one of irregular ellipses. The long axis of the Jarin-nor stretches from west to east, while the Orin-nor is oblong from north to south. »The shores are nearly everywhere mountainous and very indented, which especially is true of the southern shore of the Orin-nor where also three small islands are to be found; at the western shore of the Jarin-nor there are two. The mountains around the shores have an altitude of 120 to 180 m. above the surface of the lakes. The depth is probably not very considerable; the water is perfectly fresh. In the second half of July its temperature varied from 10,5 to 17,8°.»

»At the northern shore of the Jarin-nor some small watercourses are said to fall out, while at its western shore the Saloma or Upper Hwang-ho enters the lake which it again leaves at its eastern bay-like side, after which it pierces the separating rocky isthmus and falls in the northern (!) part of Orin-nor. This lake also receives from the S. W. the river Jagiyn-gol and from the south another hitherto nameless river (Rasboinichiya). During the summer these rivers give to the water along the shores a dirty yellowish colour. In the rest of the lakes the water is clear and

¹ It should be noticed that Kosloff regards the Saloma as the source branch of the Yellow River just as I regard the Tage-tsangpo as the source branch of the Satlej. In both cases the source branches pass through the upper lakes and continue through the channels to the lower.