

The Indian »Ho« as well as the Chinese, the Ganges and the Huang-ho, both are here supposed to have their sources in the K'un-lun, an idea which very much reminds us of the old European maps where the K'un-lun, Transhimalaya and Himalaya, the whole of the Tibetan highlands, are pressed together as if only one single range separated India from Central Asia. It is, however, possible though not probable, that the author of the Kua-ti-chi, somewhat in the same way as ROBERT SHAW, regards the whole massif of Tibetan mountains as one single system.

Even so late as 1824 when the *Hsi-yü-shu-tao-chi* was published, a Chinese author found it difficult quite to abandon the old belief regarding the situation of the real source of the *Yellow river*:

Von der ersten Behauptung der alten Bücher der Ch'in (Ts'in), welche den ‚Fluß‘ aus dem K'un-lun hervorkommen, aber die Lage desselben unerwähnt läßt, die von dem ‚ho‘ sagt, er fließe verborgen, ohne zu erwähnen, wo er aus dieser Verborgenheit wieder hervortritt, kam man bis zu den Worten der Geschichte der Han, in denen zuerst die Rede davon ist, daß die Quelle aus dem *Ts'ung-ling* komme, in Yü-t'ien (Khotan) sich unter der Erde verliere und im Süden aus dem *Chi-shih* hervortrete, womit man die erste Quelle des Ho erlangt hatte, um die wichtigere Quelle zu verlieren.<sup>1</sup>

#### 4. THE ROADS OVER THE TS'UNG-LING.

Regarding the roads which in the days of the Han dynasty connected east and west over the Ts'ung-ling or Onion Passes, the Annals note that they go out from the barriers *Yü-men* 玉門 and *Yang* 陽 (W. from Tun-huang). Then according to CHAVANNES' translation it is said:

A partir de Chan-chan (au Sud du Lop-nor) pour franchir les Ts'ong-ling (Pamirs) et pour sortir dans les divers royaumes d'Occident, il y a deux routes: celle qui va parallèlement aux montagnes et qui suit le Fleuve pour se diriger vers l'Ouest et arriver à So-kiu (Yarkand), est la route du Sud. Cette route du Sud franchit à l'Ouest les Ts'ongling (Pamir) et débouche dans les royaumes des Ta Yue-tche (Indo-scythes) et de Ngan-si (Parthes). La route du Nord est celle qui partant de la cour royale antérieure de Kiu-che (Tourfan), longe les montagnes du Nord, suit le Fleuve et, allant vers l'Ouest, débouche à Sou-le (Kachgar); plus à l'Ouest, la route du Nord franchit les Ts'ong-ling (Pamirs) et débouche à Ta-yuan (Ura-töpä), dans le K'ang-kiu (Samarkand, Tashkent etc.) et chez les Yents'ai (Alains).<sup>2</sup>

But if we turn our attention from this general description of roads to the dates regarding the separate Kingdoms, we find that during the Han dynasty not only two but even four roads were known crossing the *Ts'ung-ling*. HERRMANN has proved their much greater importance then than now. The Tarim and the Sir-darya were joined by the road viâ Terek-davan, but the roads to the countries on the Oxus, and to the ancient city of *Kien-shih* or Bactria (?) were still more frequented. Most important of all was the comparatively easy road from *Su-lo* or Kashgar to *Kien-shih* crossing the Pamir and being a part of the great road between China and Rome. The principal road between Eastern Turkistan and North-western India (Gandhāra) was in its beginning the same as the one which went from *Pi-shan* to *Kien-shih*, and which in the neighbourhood of the source of the Oxus,

<sup>1</sup> KARL HIMLY, Ein chinesisches Werk über das westliche Innerasien. Ethnolog. Notizblatt, Vol. III, Heft 2, Berlin 1902, p. 74.

<sup>2</sup> Les pays d'occident d'après le Heou Han chou. T'oung pao, Série II, Vol. VIII, 1907, p. 169 et seq.