

about A. D. 642 from Badakhshān towards Khotan, through the valley of Po-mi-lo (Pamir) into Sarikol, actually traversed this Pass.¹

If we stop for a moment at the important hydrographical problem, and compare the different translations, we find that it is not quite so easy to determine whether Hsüan-chuang speaks of outflows from the lake itself, or only means that the origin of the western and eastern rivers are situated in the vicinity of the lake. In »Mémoires» ST. JULIEN translates:

A l'occident du lac, sort un large courant qui, du côté de l'ouest, arrive jusqu'aux frontières orientales du royaume de Ta-mo-si-t'ie-ti, se joint au fleuve Po-ts'ou (Vakchou-Oxus), et coule vers l'ouest. C'est pourquoi, à droite de ce lac, toutes les eaux coulent vers l'occident.²

The same passage is thus translated by BEAL:

To the west of the lake there is a large stream, which, going west, reaches so far as the eastern borders of the kingdom of Ta-mo-si-tie-ti, and there joins the river Oxus (Fo-t'su) and flows still to the west. So on this side of the lake all the streams flow westward.³

Neither the French nor the English translation admit of an outflow from the lake itself. It is only said that the large river *is* to the west of the lake, and that all rivers situated west of the lake flow to the west. But the description suits very well for the *Pamir river*, which is an effluent from Wood's lake, so much the more so as it is said to run to *Wakhān*.

In »Histoire de la vie d'Hiouen-thsang» St. Julien has:

Ce lac se partage à l'ouest, et il en sort un fleuve qui, coulant à l'ouest, arrive jusqu'aux frontières orientales du royaume de Ta-mo-si-t'ie-ti, se joint au fleuve Po-tsou, et leurs eaux coulant à l'ouest, vont se jeter dans la mer. Toutes les rivières de droit viennent aussi se réunir ensemble.⁴

Or, in Beal's translation:

From the western division of the lake proceeds a river, which, flowing to the west, reaches the eastern frontier of Ta-mo-si-tie-ti where it unites with the Oxus, and flowing westward, enters the sea. All the rivers on the right, moreover, unite together in the same way.⁵

The expression that the lake divides itself is curious, but it is obvious that the river is meant to flow out of the lake.

The hydrography to the east is more complicated. St. Julien in »Mémoires»:

A l'orient du lac, sort un large courant qui se dirige au nord-est, arrive jusqu'aux frontières occidentales du royaume de Kie-cha (Kachgar), se joint au fleuve Si-to (Sîtâ), et coule vers l'orient. C'est pourquoi, à gauche de ce lac, toutes les eaux coulent vers l'orient.⁶

Beal in »Hsi-yü-chi»:

On the east of the lake is a great stream, which, flowing north-east, reaches to the western frontiers of the country of Kie-sha, and there joins the Si-to river and flows eastward, and so all streams of the left side of the lake flow eastward.⁷

¹ Preliminary Report on a Journey of Archaeological and Topographical Exploration in Chinese Turkestan, London 1901, p. 11.

² Op. cit., III, p. 208.

³ Si-yu-ki, II, p. 298.

⁴ Histoire de la vie d'Hiouen-thsang, et de ses voyages dans l'Inde . . . par M. Stanislas Julien, Paris 1853, p. 272 et seq.

⁵ The Life of Hiuen-tsiang. By the Shaman Hwui Li, London 1911, p. 198.

⁶ Op. cit. III, p. 208.

⁷ Op. cit., p. 298.