

In this short extract the *Ts'ung-ling* is not mentioned. Nor is it mentioned in the narrative of the ambassador, who, in 1220, was sent by the emperor of the *Chin* (Kin) *dynasty* to Chingis Khan. He is said to have taken the road of Bolor-tagh to Herat. Another narrative from the same time is written by a minister¹ who accompanied CHINGIS KHAN on his campaign 1219—1225 to the countries in the West. His data are sufficient to determine the great military road that joined Mongolia with the West, and which was used by the Mongol armies. According to this minister the conqueror brought his army the same way that Ch'ang-ch'un had travelled over the Chinese *Altai* and the *Black Irtish*.

In the same year or 1220, another traveller, WU-KU-SUN² 吾吉孫, vice-president of the Board of Rites, »proceeded along the northern border of the Hsia empire³, crossed the Liu-sha desert⁴, passed over the *Ts'ung-ling* mountains, arrived in the *Hsi-yü* (Western countries), and was presented to the emperor (Chinghiz)». He had travelled seven or eight thousand li before he »arrived at a mountain. East of it all rivers flow to the east; west of it they run to the west». Here *Ts'ung-ling* is obviously meant to be the mountains west of *Kashgar*.

The courier CH'ANG-TE 常德, who in 1259 was sent by the Mongol Khan MANGU from the capital *Karakorum* through Central Asia to *Persia*, were Mangu's brother HULAGU reigned, followed the northern road to *Samarkand*. »He crossed the river *Hu-ch'ien* (Sir-darya). The people said that the sources of this river run out from the great mountain in the south. This mountain, which produces an abundance of *yü* (jade), is supposed to be the *K'un-lun*».⁵ Later on in his narrative he mentions *Kashmir*, but the name *Ts'ung-ling* he does not mention at all.

5. WORKS OF THE MING PERIOD.

Although the *Ming dynasty* (1368—1644 A. D.) had given up political and diplomatic relations with the West, the commercial intercourse with the countries of Islam still remained so considerable that the *Ts'ung-ling* as a mountain passage was not forgotten.

To begin with, a few remarks in the *Ming-shih*, *i. e.* History of the Ming, should be noticed. Of *Khotan*, for instance, it is said⁶:

Im Süden lehnt es sich in 200 li Entfernung an den *Ts'ung-ling*; im Nordosten ist es 6300 li vom *Chia-yü-kuan* 嘉峪關 (Sperrtor der Mauer bei Su-chou) entfernt. Im allgemeinen kann man sagen, daß *Samarkand* 撒馬兒罕, der mächtigste Staat im Süden vom *Ts'ung-ling* ist, *Khotan* der mächtigste Staat im Norden Östlich von der Stadt ist der Fluß des weißen Nephrits (*Yurung-kash-darya*), westlich der des grünen Nephrits, noch mehr im Westen der des schwarzen Nephrits (*Kara-kash-darya*). Ihre Quellen sind im *K'un-lun-Gebirge*.

Thus we find that after the Sung period the opinions have hardly changed. While the *K'un-lun* is regarded as the source region of the *Khotan River*, the *Ts'ung-ling* is looked upon as the next elevation south or south-west of *Khotan*. If in this connection the *Ming-shih* places the regions of *Samarkand* not west but south of the *Ts'ung-ling*,

¹ Chinesische Reisende des Mittelalters nach West-Asien. Petermanns Mitteilungen, 1875, Bd. 21, p. 372 et seq.

² Med. researches etc., p. 9 et seq.

³ Loc. cit., p. 25 et seq.

⁴ Ordos and Kansu according to Bretschneider.

⁵ Moving sand, see also above p. 17.

⁶ *Ming-shih*, book 332, p. 18. Cf. ABEL RÉMUSAT, Op. cit., p. 106 et seq.; BRETSCHNEIDER, Op. cit., Vol. II, p. 249.