

becomes broader and the lower slopes of the mountains more and more covered with earth and detritus. Both to the north and south the valley is bounded by mighty mountain ridges covered with snow, from which short and steep side-valleys enter.

A little beyond half way we have three valleys in front of us. The one to the left or S. W. is *Kichik-Buru-kös*; the one in the middle *Ulug-art*, coming from the pass of that name; and the one to the right or N. W. comes from *Ayag-art*, *Yaman-sara*, *Chimgan* and *Chicheklik*. The brook from *Kichik-Buru-kös* is dark grey, nearly black, whilst that of the two other valleys is yellowish grey. As the water earlier in the day had been clear, it obviously had rained in the course of the day. Mighty terraces are seen in all three valleys. In the background of the *Yaman-sara* valley, high snowy mountains were to be seen.

A very heavy rain mixed with hail and snow began, and continued the rest of the day. The lower *aul* of *Ulug-art*, at which we camped, was situated on the top of the right side terrace which was very high and steep, affording a splendid view of the valley and its brook gradually rising after the rain. The whole landscape was now white from snow and hail.

The *aul* consisted of two *kara-ui* or tents; one inhabited by Kipchaks, the other by Naimans. They only pass the summer here; in the winter they, and all other Kirgizes of the region, go down to places where the valleys open into the plain. In the direction of the pass, six tents were said still to be pitched. In the winter it is impossible to live here on account of the great amount of snow. The summer has a kind of regular valley-wind blowing at day-time from the pass, and during the night from the plain.

At *Kichik-Buru-kös* three tents were pitched, and at *Chong-Buru-kös* near *Urugumá* there were four. In the *Yaman-sara* valley they estimated twelve or thirteen tents of the Naiman tribe. Through the *Yaman-sara* valley a road leads up to *Chicheklik* and *Ayag-art*. The latter was said to be very comfortable and easy; it leads to the *Alai* valley, whereas the *Ulug-art* leads to *Sarikol*.

As the snowfall continued, the Kirgizes said that the *Ulug-art* might become closed for the season. The road of *Yaman-sara* could be used in this case. But the pass *Chicheklik* in its upper reaches was said to be very difficult even for men on foot. So far as I could make out, this pass has to be crossed before one comes to the *Ayag-art*. *Chimgan* is a *yeilak* and valley on the road to *Ayag-art*.

However, a Kirgiz warned us regarding *Ayag-art*, as the valley going down from its western side joins the *Markan-su*, which, in case of sunshine, becomes very swollen, and has to be crossed five times. Also it has a very strong current. The importance of *Ulug-art* lies in its possibility in the summer when other passes leading to *Markan-su* and *Gez-darya* may be difficult. Finally a Kirgiz promised to take us over *Ulug-art*, and we therefore, July 16th, rode a little bit up to the *Upper*