

Here we enter the valley of *Ütshe*, where a ploughed field at an abandoned hut gets its irrigation-water from a little brook. A few minutes later we camp at the little village of *Bäldir*, where only one household lived. The Yus-bashi of the place had some 50 households spread in the valleys around under his dominion. He owned cattle, sheep, goats and donkeys. In the winter he settles down on the *Ütshe River* at its confluence with the *Shinde River*, which is the continuation of the *Taghdumbash-darya*. At the confluence is the village *Bäldir* proper. The name was said to apply to the whole region as well. The name of the pass was *Särghak*. Another pass, *Chosh-bel*, was said to have a road joining the *Ütshe* valley lower down. Higher up the river was a place called *Ütshe*. Wheat and barley are grown. The winter is cold, but there is little snow and not much wind. During the warm season the usual wind comes from the region of *Mus-tagh-ata*. The high mountains are a protection against other winds. A good deal of rain falls, more at *Ütshe* than at *Bäldir*. Wolves, foxes and wild goats live in the region. At the confluence there are groves of willows and poplar trees.

From our camp we could get a vague idea of the confluence to the N. 10° E. There the *Taghdumbash-darya* is called *Shinde*, and in a deep-cut, wild gorge the river cuts through the range we have just crossed. From the village *Bäldir* proper at the confluence, there is no road in any direction except the one from Upper *Bäldir* and *Ütshe*.

The next day, September 17th, we made a short march of only 9 km. S. E. up the valley to *Ütshe* where the altitude is 3,237 m., a rise of 120 m. at a rate of 1:75. The brook, about 2 cub. m. of perfectly clear water per second, is often crossed. The valley is of moderate size, not broad. In its background, S. E., a mighty, snowy range is visible. Along the right side are considerable erosion terraces, often with a vertical side.

*Tar-bûsh* is a little village of two or three huts in a broader part of the valley. The houses, built of clay and stone and with a roof of wood, are like the Persian, and often have a *bala-khaneh*. In the fields the harvest had just been gathered.

Above the mill *Khan-kelide*, the valley becomes narrower and has mighty erosion terraces on the top of which our road sometimes runs. Sometimes the solid rock consisting of crystalline schist in 59° S. 10° W. is visible. Still higher up the valley widens out into a regular plain with nearly level, swampy ground and several small villages of a few houses of clay and stone, and some black tents. Great flocks of yaks, sheep, goats, white cows and donkeys were grazing amongst the excellent grass. The brook crosses this plain which is called *Tang-ab*. Mighty mountains rise all around.

The little village where we camped is called *Vacha*; above it is *Ütshe*. The population is Tajik. At *Vacha* they lived in black tents. During the winter several