

next camp, *Kochkur-Bek-Bai*, was at 3,331 m. In a distance of 11 km. we had therefore to make the enormous descent of 1,731 m. The rate here was steep, or as 1:6.3.

Regarding the pass in front of us, its name is usually pronounced as *Kanda'r* or *Kanda'ar*. During the winter it is often impracticable on account of snow. Even at the *Rabat* there is much snow, and flocks grazing in the high valleys are sometimes lost. The region is regarded as *sarhad* or cold. The earthquake of which we had heard so much, had been felt the whole way to *Tong*. In the district of *Ütshe-Tang-ab* nearly all houses had been destroyed and only lately rebuilt. Here the shock had been very strong. In *Tong* only two or three houses had been damaged.

From the *Rabat* the ascent is steep, but regular and without difficult passages on the top of ridges and slopes. Near the pass a pool is formed every summer; it had now dried up. The snow made the ascent easier by covering the sharp-edged gravel. On a few short stretches the ground is nearly horizontal. The last bit of the ascent is very steep.

The Pass of *Kandahar* is of quite a different type than other passes we had crossed. It is sharp as a knife. At the very crest the green schist stands nearly vertical, or falling 70° N. 50° E. On the eastern side the descent is difficult and could hardly have been accomplished with laden ponies. Our luggage was carried by yaks. One has to glide down through one foot of snow on an extremely steep slope between projecting rocky teeth. It is like the *Ulug-art*. The difficult passage is, however, short, and was made in 15 minutes. Then the slope is less steep, and the gravel was covered with more snow than on the west side. It snowed even now and continued until we reached the camp.

The gravel is followed by soft wet slopes, good *yeilaks* and finally a valley, narrow between rocks and with a brook. To the right opened the tributary *Lab-dilush* without a road but with *yeilaks*. The rock was the same green schist falling N. 20° E. and nearly vertical. We camped in the narrow valley at a *rabat* consisting of a stone wall under a block, and called *Kochkur-Bek-Bai*. Here we met the Bek of *Tong*, who said that the flocks of his district in the late summer grazed on these high *yeilaks*; when the snow began they were brought back to *Tong*. *Kandahar-davan* is, if possible, also used in winter by the *Tong* people, as it is the only pass to *Sarikol* in the neighbourhood. If it is closed one has to take the long roundabout road by *Yarkand* and *Tagharma*.

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