

As shown above, several of the geographical names in the valley are Turki in spite of the Tajik population. The natives explained this by the fact that their neighbours to the east were Jagataï Turkis, and to the west Kirgizes, and that there was much communication between the two. Yakub Bek and other rulers had also been of Turkish origin. The Tajiks all speak Turki quite fluently, though Persian is their own language. The pass of *Arpa-talak* was regarded as the boundary east of which only Sunnites live. In the village of *Tong* there were six Shiah families. There is no enmity between the two sects, and they often intermarry. The Tajiks had a memory of having come from the *Sarikol*.

They preferred the rule of Yakub Bek to that of the Chinese, as he was a Mohammedan and a *padshah*. But the taxes were much heavier in his days. To the Chinese they had only to deliver a certain amount of fuel and hay. In the valley of *Tong* there were no Chinese officials. On the other hand, merchants often visit the valley with different wares. Chinese travellers to *Tash-kurgan* usually prefer the road of *Kok-moinak*.

The inhabitants of the valley are sedentary and live to a great extent from agriculture. Most of the day's march we had passed along fields of wheat or barley, watered from *ariks* at the sides of the river. Rain is common during the summer. The wind is not hard, as the valley is protected by the high mountains all around. In the winter there is much snow and it is cold, but there is any amount of fuel. Of ordinary animals they mentioned wild goat, wolf, fox, marmot, *ular* or snow-pheasant; but no bears. The *palank* or panther was said to attack even the yaks.

From *Langar* the *Tong* valley runs 13.4 km. N. E., S. E., and N. E. to our next camp *Kandalaksh*, descending to 2,102 m. or 318 m., being at a rate of 1:42. To begin with, the valley assumes the direction which is the medium of the directions of the two component valleys *Ulug-* and *Kichik-östäng*. Where the two valleys meet, the rock is granite (or perhaps syenite) in 40° N. 60° E.

The whole way down the valley is inhabited, and we pass along a series of villages; *Topabin*, *Sheik-masar*, *Barkhun*, *Belangedek*, *Turdideh*, *Shäravian*, *Sarik-yar*, *Purkshman* and finally *Tong* proper with the large, comfortable house of Mohammed Kerim Bek, the chief of *Tong*, whom we had met on his way to *Tash-kurgan*. The title and function of Bek is here hereditary.

All the villages are surrounded by fields where the harvest had been just brought in safety, and by gardens and groves. The houses are built of stone, earth and clay. There are cows and donkeys; the yaks have disappeared, and no camels are seen. The villages with the picturesque surroundings and luxuriant verdure between the high grey mountains present very pleasant and fascinating perspectives. The road runs along the river, past the irrigation canals, stone walls, houses, fields of wheat, barley, maize, »porchak», peas, melons, etc., and groves of walnut, apricot, and apple trees. Everything is said to grow here except grapes.