

The name *Tong*, pronounced *Tung*, signifies »narrow passage«, though *tong* also means »frozen«. We continued a little farther to the village of *Kandalaksh* and were received in the house of the *ming-bashi*, who had to provide us with *suchis* or watermen for the passage of *Raskan-darya*. Most of them lived in this village.

In *Tong* and *Kandalaksh* the river was called simply *Darya*, or sometimes *Tongning-daryasi*. The name *Raskan*, or *Raskam* as it is pronounced in *Tong*, is in use higher up the river, where also the name *Sarafshan* is heard. The *Taghdumbash-darya* or *Shinde River* joins the main river a long way lower down. In the summer the latter is swollen to enormous size and cannot be crossed. People who have to go to *Yarkand*, therefore travel only in autumn, winter or early spring. In the winter the river is said to be covered with very solid ice. Three days journey is calculated for a man on horseback to *Yarkand*. From *Tong* there is no direct road to *Kashgar*; one has to take the road by *Yarkand*, or by *Yaka-arik* and *Kök-rabat* as I did.

The *Tong River* is also said to be very swollen during the summer and occasionally cannot be crossed. They say it is a *yava-su* or wild water. After strong rains the bed becomes filled with muddy water in a few hours. As a rule the amount of rain is not very great. More than half a foot of snow rarely falls in the winter.

At *Tong* a tributary valley enters from S. S. W. It has a road leading to the village of *Kichik-Tong* of some 30 houses. This road crosses a pass which is very difficult and can only be used by men on foot. It was already said to be covered with snow. *Kichik-Tong* is said to be at the same distance from *Raskan-darya* as is *Tong*, and in a valley of the same size as the *Tong* valley which also joins the *Raskan-darya*. The river of *Kichik-Tong* obviously comes from a pass of the same importance as *Kandahar-davan*, and in the same range as it.

On September 23rd we had 4 km. eastwards to the river, and then on and along the river 2 km. N. N. W. to the next camp. At the river I found an altitude of 1,994 m., and, at the camp, *Kuruk-langar*, which is situated some 25 or 30 m. above the river, 2,013 m.

Riding down to *Raskan-darya* we passed the villages *Kengerabun* and *Kurug-bagh*. The *Tong River* is crossed several times amongst large blocks in its bed. At the mouth, to the left, the crystalline schist stands in 55° S. 50° W. The *Tong* valley is much narrower than the *Raskan* valley, and the roar and rush of the tributary is much louder than that of the compact and mighty mass of the main river. Both to the south and the north the *Raskan* valley presents magnificent views. The river has cut down its furrow deep between wild, steep mountains, the ramifications and slopes of which are seen in picturesque perspectives both upwards and downwards. The water has a greenish colour but is not quite clear. The