



*The Appag Khoja mosque
near Turfan.*

carefully preserved as valuable mementos by the humorous owner of this popular resort, a boastful and swaggering Sart. The inn belongs to the village of Qara Khoja with slightly over 1,000 houses, situated on an arm of the river Uluk or Tchong su. Qara Khoja possesses 28 water-mills and a mill for kunsjut oil; in Astana there are 2 water-mills and in Avat 1.

To-day I visited the ruined city again, this time under the guidance of an excellent cicerone, my host. He took me to all the buildings that had attracted my attention yesterday. It looked as if everything had been searched and examined by former expeditions. There are fertile fields among the ruins and the gaolyan is in ear just now. It may take years, but certainly some day the fields will swallow up the last remnants of this once large and powerful city.

From Idygot shahr we rode to Astana, where there is an interesting, massive ruin with small, vaulted holes running outside it in 3 storeys. Practically nothing remains of the decorative paintings.

October 1st. Early this morning we rode in a cold, penetrating north wind to Murtuk and Singim
Toyuk Aghiz. The former, in particular, is still worth a visit in spite of all the destruction it has
village. suffered. The very badly damaged wall paintings (entirely broken off for large expanses) still give an idea of what there was here in days gone by.

We left in the afternoon, which was easy thanks to the arbahs that had come yesterday. Having ridden for 7 or 8 miles through a barren desert we reached the village of Toyuk.

October 2nd. Early this morning we paid a visit to the »7 brothers' mazar», situated on the mountain
Lamjin slope N of the village. The entrance to the cave in which they lie is said to be guarded by
village. a dog wrapped, as they are, in eternal sleep. Nothing is visible except a mosque comparatively richly decorated with carpets, banners, curtains etc. Opposite the entrance there