

is visible and in the SE the large villages of Lukchun. We turned NE and soon after N into a gorge, from which a river issued, 3 fathoms wide and 0.25 m deep. About 1 1/2 miles from the parting of the roads we passed the Lamjin aghiz oasis with only a few houses. On the left at the end of the village lies the Mazar of the Seven Sisters and half-way up the mountains some veins of coal. The mountains on either side of the gorge are mostly composed of a conglomerate in red or tinged with red. A little grass grows close to the river, otherwise there is no vegetation. The road is very sandy. 40 metres from the village we passed a fairly large block of stone in which Buddha figures had been carved in relief in various positions, unfortunately also completely dilapidated. Just beyond there are fields, willows, poplars and grass along the river. There was a solitary house on the left. About 2/3 of a mile beyond, a side-gorge opened up on the left in a NNW direction. At the bottom of it there was an extensive and populated area — the oasis of Lamjin.

The road, still very sandy, led into the valley. We passed through a tunnel, 20—30 yards long, dug in a sand-hill, and found ourselves once more on a firm road leading between tilled fields and shady trees to the Lamjin bazaar. The distance covered to-day was about 15 1/2 miles. The road is quite passable for wheeled traffic, though at the beginning of the gorge it goes for a mile or two over very deep sand. It crosses the river several times. The bottom is firm and the ascents and descents present no difficulties. In the oasis of Lamjin we reached the large arbah road that leads over Subashi and Singim to Turfan.

In the Lamjin oasis there are about 10,000 mou of fields with 270 houses and 600 adult inhabitants. The bazaar is insignificant. There are about 15 shops, of which only 9 are open. The worldly welfare of the population is attended to by 1 Shang-ja, 1 mirab and 1 keize (assistant to the Shang-ja), while their spiritual welfare is looked after by an ahun, subordinated to the äläm ahun in Lukchun. (There is a similar äläm ahun in Turfan and there are said to be others in all the large centres in which a Mohammedan population predominates.) The oasis contains a factory for dressing cotton, 18 water-mills, 8 primitive presses for pressing kunsjut oil. Wheat (5—10 fold yield), gaolyan (8—15), American cotton (2—2 1/2), tobacco (100), kunsjut (10) and barley (5—10) are grown; but principally wheat, gaolyan and cotton. The annual cotton crop amounts to 50—60,000 djin. The grain crop does not suffice for the population which has to buy supplies from Khando, Singim and Kucheng. Cotton and tobacco are sold. There is said to be a good deal of livestock in the oasis.

*October 3rd.* The Lamjin oasis is 2 1/4 miles from the bazaar. On the right, close to the road there are houses and trees belonging to the village of Tchuankr, situated on the same river from the north as the considerably larger village of Khando, the southern part of which lies near the road. This part of the village, which forms a large S with the river further N, consists of small oases separated by barren patches. The road over Kok Yar and Builuk dawan to Morokho starts from Khando. At a short distance from the oasis the sandy ground is covered with a thin layer of gravel that makes it fairly firm.

3 1/2 miles from the edge of the oasis the plain, which had so far been level and slightly inclined to the south, became uneven and formed sand-hills or very low disconnected