

others, also of considerable size, on either side. In the side walls there were many niches with images, either standing or sitting. Between them there were smaller images and various ornaments carved out on a level with the surface of the rock. The side walls of a couple of grottoes were decorated with very small images reproduced by the hundred. A large ledge of the rock was decorated with a huge sitting image with several giants standing on either side along the side of the mountain. An immense Buddha was also enthroned on another ledge. In one of the bigger arches one of these large Chinese idols with side figures of painted clay had been put up in front of the back wall. It was all very similar to the arches and remains of paintings seen in the Turfan district, but here every image and every ornament was carved in the wall of rock — often very artistically. The work done is incredible. In one grotto there were inscriptions in Chinese. Some of the arches were blackened by the soot from fires and many of the statues had lost their heads or a limb. Primitive stairs, worn smooth, and handles in the side of the rock indicated that at some time in the dim past this place must have been a greatly frequented shrine for pilgrims. This is said not to be the case any longer.

On the way back I paid a short visit to Kwangti chuang, a famous temple, where the head of the god of war is supposed to be buried. His body lies in the province of Shansi. The temple is unusually clean and beautiful. It consists of three parallel main buildings standing behind each other and a couple of smaller ones in front and in its innermost part a stone wall that encloses the place where the head is supposed to be buried. There are a couple of »peilu», many monuments and a couple of stone lions in front of the wall. A broad path, paved with stone slabs and adorned with beautifully carved stone balustrades leads from the entrance up to the main temple. The image of the god of war is enthroned there in colossal size with two enormous, wildly grinning heyduks in front of it. A couple of white, quadrangular, stove-like urns of white marble for burning incense are placed in front of the next temple. The image sitting in this temple is of rather smaller size, but has four terrifying heyduks. In the third temple the god sits in a richly sculptured palanquin, holding a sword in his outstretched hands. The whole group of buildings with several side-buildings and many old cedars is enclosed by a wall. A celebrated holy mountain, Sian shan, with many temples lies about 160 li to the E of the town.

Honan-fu, formerly called »Lo yang tie», is said to have been founded during the Chow dynasty, when it was the capital of the empire. It is said to have consisted of three fortresses that enclosed the space from the present town to the other bank of the river. 72 bridges led across the Luo ho. Ruins of old bridges, built like the one we crossed yesterday, are still visible on its bank. The so-called imperial town is supposed to have stood on the site of the present town. The missionaries told me that in digging a well remains of buildings and human bones had been found at a depth of 12 feet. — There is a legend that the capital was moved, because it was discovered that the site was not worthy to be the residence of a powerful imperial house, for there are hills of löss to the N, while to the S there are granite mountains, and this was interpreted as indicating that the Emperor had but a soft and weak support, while in front of him stood a strong, impenetrable mountain.

In the town I met, quite unexpectedly, a numerous Swedish colony, this time Swedes