

the river is cold. Loud rumblings and explosions are constantly heard in the interior of the mountain, which is very high, and whose top is always covered with snow. It is called Khán Khurá Tágh, and forms the boundary between Yuldúz of the Kalmák and Zúnghár of the Kirghiz and Kazzák who are also called Jattah Moghol.

Zúnghár is also called Mogholistán, and extends from this mountain along the north slopes of Alátágh to Tashkand in the west. Khán Khurá Tágh is the western boundary of the Yuldúz territory. It has a volcano which emits smoke and vomits up streams of pebbles and hot mud. At the foot of the volcano is the Tolaman river which further on is called Koksú or "Blue Water." Tolaman is four days' journey from Kurla and three from Karásháhr; and Khán Khurá Tágh is two days' journey from Básh Ayghúr; and Tolaman is a day's journey further north. On the top of this mountain are the remains of hundreds of ovens which were used for the funeral feast of the Great Zúnghár Khán, Moghol, who died a thousand years ago, and was deposited in a box on the summit of the mountain. Beyond this mountain, to the north of Yaldúz, is the range of Boghdo Isin Ula, which is quite impassable owing to snow and glaciers. It separates Yuldúz from the Ila country. The above is what I learned from an intelligent native of Kúchá, which was formerly called Kúsán. The population of this division is reckoned at 6,000 houses, including 2,000 allotted to the city and suburbs, or at seven per house, 42,000 souls. The city itself is enclosed within fortified walls, and contains about 800 houses, and is divided into equal parts by a wall running through the length of the city. In the time of the Chinese one of these divisions was occupied by the Khitay garrison, traders, and Kalmák, and the other by the Musalmans; and in the suburbs dwelt a numerous and influential colony of Khoja priests. They took a prominent part in the overthrow of the Chinese rule, and almost all themselves perished in the ensuing conquest of the country by the Amír.

The people here in physique, character, and mode of life much resemble those of Aksú. Their farmsteads are described as models of neatness and thrift, and their orchards produce the finest apples and pears and pomegranates in the country. They are exported to all the neighbouring cities. The pears are of a peculiar excellence, of light colour, soft granular structure, and very juicy; for export each fruit is wrapped separately in paper, and packed in wood boxes, covered with felt, two of which make a horse load. The apples too are of a peculiar kind called *Múzalmá* or "Ice Apple;" their skins are semi-transparent, and the substance the same as if iced. The pomegranates are of large size and have juicy, sweet, red grains.

The rural population numbers 4,000 houses thus distributed. On the north—there is no habitation on this side of the city; the space between it and the mountains is occupied by patches of brushwood and reed grown swamp. On the west—Shamál Bágh 100, Daulat Bágh 150, Kútlúgh Orda 50, Bihisht Bágh 100, Chíní Bágh 150, Kurol 50, Tawádin 50, Fyzábád 200, and Sháhyár 400. On this side separating Kúchá from Aksú is a wide waste of clay and sand hills in the hollows of which are reeds and swamps, quite impassable during summer floods. On the south—Yuldúz Bágh 100, Ashk Sáydí 50, and Bughúr 250, on the borders of the desert on which are the wild camel, stag, and wild pig. On the east—Ūchár 30, Sáý Bágh 50, Kará Bocá 20, Yangábád 100, Uzúm 50, Mazár Bágh 150, Saksáb 20, Ashkala 30, Tora 30, Yaka Tokonáy 60, Cholábád 20, Yángi Hissár 150, Chedir 60, Súlúk Ashma 50, Chárchú 100, and Durwúl 80. These are situated on numerous little streams from the mountains; the principal of them are the rivers Zamcha, Karátál, and Shákúr. All other settlements 1,250. Total 4,000 houses.

The limits of Kúchá are from the Múzárt and Nárin rivers on the west to Durwúl on the east, and from the water-shed of the Khán Khurá Tágh range on the north to the Tárim river on the south.

*Kurla* is the next division at the foot of the Alátágh or Khán Khurá range. It is a small agricultural and pasture country more than half covered by swamps and reed marshes. Its population is reckoned at 2,000 houses, or at seven per house, 14,000 souls. The capital is an open market town of 700 houses. It is commanded by a fort built by the Amír at Sáý Bágh on the road north-east to Karáshahr, three miles from the town. The river Kálgha, a