

tributary of the Kaídú or Karáshahr river flows through the town, which is said to be smaller than Yangi Hissár.

Its suburbs to the west on the Kúchá road are Conghrát, Langar, and Shinághí to Durwúl; to the north-east on the Karáshahr road, Ukát, Sáy bággh, and the new fort to Lámpú-tásh hill; to the east on the road to Kúrúgh Tágh, Tuwúnkí, Chárchú, and Shánko; and to the south on the road to Kará Kochún, Cosh Arik, Tobrachí, Taskan, Doghár, Chambola, Langar, Sháh Calandar, and Uzan.

Its limits are Durwul on the west, and Básh Ayghúr, on the right bank of the Karáshahr river which comes from the Tolaman hills where coal is worked, on the east; on the north the mountains, and on the south the Tárim river to Konchí below the junction of the united stream of the Kúcha and Kúrla rivers. This is the limit eastward of the Turk tribes of Káshghar and Yárkand; and beyond the Kaídú or Karáshahr river comes the Tartar race, the Kalmak, and Khitay element in preponderance. The road from Kúrla to Karáshahr goes along the right bank of the river between it and the mountains, and beyond Dangzíl, where in a reedy marsh are the ruins of Kutýághan, crosses it to the city by boat.

*Karáshahr.*—This division occupies a valley between the Ayghúr Bulák hills to the north, (a continuation eastward of the Alátágh or Tangrí Ula range), and the Kúrúgh-tágh range of sand hills to the south. These coalesce towards the east and close the valley in that direction at Gumish Akma, about 90 miles from the city; but towards the west the valley is open and gives passage to the Kaídú river, which on issuing from the Yuldúz valley spreads over the southern portion of this basin and forms the Baghrásh Kol or lake. It is described as a long sheet of water five days' journey in length, and covered with floating islands of tall reeds amidst which the river flows, in the western end of the lake only. It is separated from the Lob District to the south by the Kurúghtágh, a wide range of sandy and gravelly ridges, amongst the hollows of which the wild horse and wild camel breed. There is a road between the lake and this range, seven days' journey from Kúrla to Ush Aktál; and there is another along its southern side, between it and Lob, a seven days' journey from Kará Kochún to Turfán. There is no habitation on either route, and the soil is sandy and marshy, and covered with great spreads of reed, and tamarisk, and poplar forest. The city of Karashahr stands near the left bank of the river to the north of the lake. Between the city and the river is the Musalman settlement of farms, and from it north-east goes the road to Turfan along a wide plain between the hills and the lake. It is about six days' journey in length, and was covered with a succession of Khitay homesteads; but these were all destroyed by the Amír, and the whole way up to Ush Aktal, a distance of fifty miles, is now a mass of ruined farms and deserted homesteads. At Kará Kizil, 20 miles beyond Ush Aktál and about the same distance from Gumish Akma where the road enters the hills, there are the ruins of an ancient city called Kará Kizil in the midst of a sandy waste. They are supposed to be the remains of the ancient Chálish or Jálish.

Karáshahr is a walled city of 1,000 houses, formerly peopled by Kalmák tribes who always lived in their *Khargáh* tents (putting their cattle into the houses) and every summer emigrated to Yuldúz. It was originally founded by the Khitay with twelve Musalmán families from Kúrla and twelve from Bughúr; and it was afterwards settled by the Kalmák of the Turgut and Koshot camps, and by traders from Kámol. Since the Amír's campaign here the city is almost entirely deserted, and all the suburbs, except the Musalman settlement on the river, are now in ruins.

The population of the division was formerly reckoned at 8,000 houses or 56,000 souls, but now, excepting the Musalman settlement of 300 houses on the river and the new fort built by the Amír, there is hardly anybody in the country. The Yuldúz Kalmák who used to camp and pasture here, and who kept up a constant communication with Lob, now seldom quit their own valley. The Yuldúz Kalmák are Turgut and Koshot. Those of Ila are Olot and Mánjhú; and amongst them are many Solon and Shiba, the offspring of a Kalmák father and Khitay mother. They are a mean and beggarly set, and wear no other clothing but a loin-clout; their language is a mongrel dialect mixed up with many Arabic words; they have no other weapons besides the bow and arrow. There are also in Ila a great many *champan*; these are enslaved criminals brought and settled here from all parts of China;