

where they dig and sift gold during only forty days of the year owing to the excessive cold. Other gold mines of Tibet are in Champa. T.R.

Mirzá Hydar and Iskandar, the son of Sáid, with four thousand men led the advance, and proceeding by the direct route arrived at Nubra in *Safar* 938 H. = 1532 A.D. From this they sent off parties in all directions to convert to Islám, or to slay the recusants. They took the fort of Maryol, which was held by two Chiefs called Lacca Choghdán and Basámkol.

The cold here was intense. From this Iskandar was hastily recalled owing to the alarming illness of his father from *dam* = "breath" on the Dolpá road from Khutan. On arrival at Nubra, however, Sáid recovered, and with a thousand men turned off to winter at Báltí. Iskandar, meanwhile, rejoining Mirzá Hydar, pushed on by the Zojí Pass, where he quickly routed its four hundred defenders, to winter in Kashmír.

Bahrám Toc, the Ruler of Báltí, submitted to Sáid who at once took possession of the town, located his troops in its houses, killed the men, seized the women, and till spring waged a destructive guerilla all over the country to Maryol. During the same time Iskandar subjugated Káshmír, and married the daughter of Muhammad Sháh its King.

In the spring both parties met in Maryol. From here Sáid sent Iskandar and Mirzá Hydar, with two thousand men, to destroy the idol city of Aorsáng (or as it is colloquially pronounced Aocháng or Ucháng), which was the *cabla'* or Jerusalem of the Khitáy, and himself set out on his return to Yárkand by the Sácrí Pass into Nubra. On rising from this to the highland of the Karákoram Pass, Sáid was again taken ill with *dam*, and, though hurried along to get across the difficult parts as quickly as possible, died at a stage only four days short of the place where the *dam* is no longer felt. The spot, I may here note, is marked by the name Daulat Beg Uldi = "The Lord of the State died." It is the stage directly to the south of the Karákoram Pass, and is 16,400 feet above the sea. Sáid died at the end of 939 H., aged forty-six years, having reigned twenty. On the arrival of the corpse, Syad Muhammad Mirzá, who had repaired to the capital from his government at Káshghar on first intimation of the King's death, performed the funeral rites, and, with a strong party of nobles in support, assumed the government pending the return of Iskandar.

But Rashíd at the same time coming from Aksú, seized Syad Muhammad on the first day of the new year 940 H., and slew him over his father's grave where the unsuspecting minister had come to express the usual condolence. He then mounted the throne himself, and, sending off his agents to Káshghar, executed all the family of his victim, and confiscated his property.

Iskandar and Mirzá Hydar, meanwhile, had penetrated twenty marches towards Aorsáng, and on the 1st *Safar*, having defeated the Champa Tibetans at Báryáng, captured great booty in cattle and sheep. They ravaged the country around for several months, and on the 1st *Muharram* 940 H., the day on which Rashíd killed Syad Muhammad, were attacked in a narrow defile by Kárdom and the Hindú army and defeated with considerable loss; Hydar's brother, 'Abdulla, being amongst the slain.

From Maryol this expeditionary force marched altogether two months towards Aorsáng. In one month they came to the forts of Nok and Labok on the shore of a lake forty *farsakh* in circuit. Here they lost nearly all their horses from the fatal effects of *dam*, and the army had to proceed on foot with great difficulty and loss to Támluc, whence is fourteen days' journey to Bangála. At Támluc horses enough to mount ninety men were seized, and the army then advanced four days' march to Askarof, whence is a journey of twenty days to Aorsáng. From this they were forced to retire owing to the exhaustion and inefficiency of the troops. From Támluc to Maryol is twenty stages. In two stages they came to Koko, and there levied a contribution of three thousand *mithcál* of gold from the people.