

Múzárt Pass. The cities to the westward of Aksú had always from their position shared a community of interests with Khokand or Andiján, anciently called Farghána (which during the time of the Moghol Khans was included in the government of Káshghar, as it was at an earlier period under the rule of the Bughra Khan family when Uzkand was the capital of one of their Princes), and the adjoining States of Máwaránahar, and in them the Khoja influence had always been greatest.

But the eastern cities on the other hand from Kúchá to Khámil had hardly felt this influence, and were from their vicinity and common interests more in unison with the Chinese. This natural tendency the Chinese authorities encouraged by a conciliating rule, and the grant of princely titles, whilst the Emperor himself, to strengthen the bonds of attachment, married a Khámil Princess.

The trading privileges enjoyed by the western towns enabled their people to maintain constant communication with their co-religionists to the west of the passes, and afforded them opportunities of intriguing with the Musalmáns there for the restoration of the Khoja rule, and the hatching of all sorts of sedition against the established government. To check the troubles and disquiet arising from this source, the Chinese in 1813 A.D. subsidized the Khan of Khokand with two hundred *yám* = £3,660 yearly to control the hostility of the Khojas, who since their conquest of the country had emigrated to his territory.

Amongst these was Sarimsak, the last descendant of the Afác family. After many years of wandering in Central Asia he settled in his old age at Khokand, to be near Káshghar, whence he derived his revenues. He was here joined by many Karátághlíc discontents from the Chinese side of the border, who complained of the oppression of the foreign rulers, the violation of their wives and daughters by the infidel, and the suppression of their religious supremacy. These grievances, coupled with the fate of the two murdered Khojas, excited universal sympathy amongst Musalmáns, and to fan it, emissaries set out from Káshghar in 1820 A.D., and spread themselves over Central Asia to enlist the aid of Islám in a *ghazá* against the *káfir* invaders.

As a first consequence Murád Beg, the Ruler of Kundúz, on the pretence of avenging the murder of the Khoja brothers on behalf of his relative, Sarimsak, conquered Badakshán, and deported its people to sicken and die in the swamps of his own country. And as a second Jahángír Khoja invaded Káshghar.

Sarimsak had three sons, Yúsuf Khoja, who lived at Bukhárá, Bahaúddín, and Jahángír who was born in 1783 A. D. On the death of Úmar Khan of Khokand in 1822 A. D., Jahángír fled from the city to the Kará Kirghiz, and plotted against Káshghar, where the devotion of the people to the Khoja interest and the weakness of the Chinese rule were well known to him. His hostility now was the commencement of those troubles which have ever since distracted the country till its conquest by the present Ruler, Amir Muhammad Yákúb Khan, Atálik Ghází.

Jahángír first enlisted the aid of Súránchí Beg, Chongbaghish Kirghiz, who merely plundered the Káshghar suburbs and was driven back. On this failure the Khoja went to the Sáyak Kirghiz of Bolor, and securing the adhesion of their Chiefs, Atantai and Tailak, made the summer resort of the Kirghiz camps on the upper course of the Nárín river his head-quarters. Here he assumed the character of a saint and miracle worker, and made many excursions against the enemy; but without much success, till at last in 1825 A.D. a small party of Chinese who had pursued his raiders to the Nárín, and plundered the country up to Fort Kurtka, were surprized in a narrow defile on their return journey and slaughtered almost to a man.

This victory was at once noised in Khokand, and emissaries were sent to raise the Uzbek, Kazzák, and Búrút Kirghiz, many of whom with Andijáni and Badakhshí adventurers flocked to the green banner of Jahánghír. In the following spring the Khoja marched against Káshghar with a considerable force under the command of 'Isa *Dádkhwáh*, lent to him as General by Muhammad Ali Khan of Khokand, and camped at Beshkirim in its northern suburbs.

The Chinese came out to attack, but were quickly routed and driven back to their citadel, whilst Jahángír entering the city amidst the acclamations of the people