

to the Kúchá Khojas some messages from his master the Khán Khoja, they gave way, and Yákúb Beg and his party alighted in the city at quarters provided by the Governor near his own residence. Notwithstanding the good offices of Nyáz Beg, the negotiations of the Koshbegi with the Kúchá Khojas did not progress, and both they and the city chiefs studiously held aloof from him. P.

The Khutan party was to have gone on after a rest of three days, but in the interval news came of the arrival at Taghárchi of the Kúchá army, 2,000 men. On this Burhánuddín Khoja of Kúchá, who had become ruler of the city after the destruction of the Khitáy garrison, and who had been most determined in his opposition to the proposed negotiations with the Koshbegi for the acknowledgment of Buzurg Khán as sovereign, rode up to the house occupied by Yákúb Beg, and summoning him by name, shouted in a blunt, peremptory voice, "I give you quarter now. Depart safe and sound. Refuse, and I seize and cast you into prison." An angry altercation followed, and quickly merged into conflict between the attendants on both sides. The Khoja Burhánuddín was captured in the struggle, and sent prisoner to the house of Abdurrahmán Hazrát, the king elected by the Tungání at the commencement of the outbreak. His followers then quickly dispersed, and with the other Khojas went to join the force at Taghárchi, which now at once advanced against Yárkand.

On their approach next morning, Yákúb Beg came out of the city by the Cabáhat Gate on the west, and sent Abdulla with 50 men to reconnoitre the enemy; whilst he took up a position to the south, between Yángíshahr and the city. Abdulla having advanced too far to the north-west round the city walls was drawn into action with the advance of the Kúchá army. His little band fought with great bravery, and inflicted considerable loss upon their assailants till about two o'clock in the afternoon, when the Tungání in the Yángíshahr, false to their promises, issued from the fort and with 50 *tyfú* guns joined the enemy. Abdulla was now forced to beat a retreat, and fighting all the way back beat, at sunset rejoined Yákúb Beg with 20 of his men wounded.

Yákúb Beg now held a consultation with his officers, and as his whole force numbered only 200 men, it was decided to abandon their property left in the city and retreat immediately to Káshghar. Before leaving he detached Nar Muhammad *Parwánchi*, Mír Bábá *Huddáychi*, Hamdam *Pánsad*, and other Khokand officials of Sudúr Khán's party to his own side, and on arrival at Yángí Hissár he sent them on to Buzurg at Káshghar for surveillance. Meanwhile Sudúr in return plundered their abandoned property and fled the city to Khutan.

At Yángí Hissár Yákúb Beg sat down to resume the siege of the Yángíshahr there, which was still held by the Khitáy, who found some means of getting supplies from their well-wishers in the town. During three weeks of fusilading from the walls his soldiers mined the ditch, and Yákúb Beg then sent Abdulla to Káshghar to bring Buzurg with reinforcements for the assault. The reinforcements were collected in ten days, and then Buzurg Khán set out for Yángí Hissár, and on arrival there took up his residence in the old town. At this juncture news came of the arrival at Sarígh Kúl, "Yellow Defile" (the Sirikol of the maps), of a Bádakhshí army; and it was at the same time discovered that Hamráh Khán, the brother of Sáráh Khán *Mírbača* of Kúláb, who had come over as a partizan of Sadíc Beg and had joined Buzurg Khán when the Kirghiz aspirant fled to Khokand, had secretly sent a messenger to Jahándár Sháh of Bádakhshán to send him 1,000 men and he would seize Káshghar and Yángí Hissár for him, as the troops here were very few, and the new comers very unpopular.

Jahándár Sháh in consequence of this message appointed one Sadíc *Aksakál* as commandant, and Sáhíb Nazar Beg and Cútlúgh Sháh Mír as his Lieutenants, and with 1,000 men sent them to join Hamráh Khán; and they now arrived at Sarígh Kúl.

Yákúb Beg did not consider it politic at that moment to take notice of the perfidy of Hamráh Khán as he commanded a strong contingent in the besieging