

and their followers, next day made their appearance at Farrásh. They were welcomed and robed, and assigned a place in the fort as troops in the service of the Khoja Buzurg Khán, before whom Kichik was sent to pay his respects as to an eldest brother. P.

As before mentioned, Hamráh Khán had summoned an army from Badakhshán, which shortly after arrival at Sárígh Kúl heard of his death at the assault of Yángí Hissár. The chiefs on this consulted whether they should return empty-handed to meet the jeers of their countrymen and taunts of their wives, or advance and seek a share in the profits of war; and they decided on first offering their services to Yákúb Beg. He accepted their offer, only too glad to draw any men to his ranks, for, owing to the divided state of parties in the country, the single district of Káshghar offered but a limited field for recruiting, and sent Masúm Khán *Tora* to Sárígh Kúl to reassure the Badakhshí leaders and to bring the whole force to him at Farrásh by way of Yángí Hissár. On arrival they were feasted and robed, and quartered with the Kirghiz and Kapchák, 2,000 men altogether, who with one accord acknowledged Yákúb Beg as their leader and ruler; the first sign of the independence Yákúb Beg presently asserted, and soon after made good.

From Farrásh these new troops were shortly removed to assist in the siege of the Káshghar Yángíshahr. A few days later, about the end of July 1865, news came from Khánaric that the troops of Kúchá, Aksú, and Uch Turfán, having met at Marálbáshí, had moved on to Taghárchí, and there, in conference with the Tungání and Yárkand chiefs, had agreed to attack and destroy the Khokand invaders, to seize Káshghar and make it the capital, and then to annex Andiján. Jamáluddín Khoja of Aksú had been elected *Amíriláshkar*, and being joined by the Tungání from Yárkand with 100 *tyfú* and four large cannon had marched to Mughal Tárim and there mustered his force, 40,000 men including 1,500 Tungání. From this he had marched, with the Tungání in advance, and camped in the settlement of Khánaric; from which he threatened Yángí Hissár.

On learning this intelligence, Yákúb Beg appointed Kichik Khán *Tora* to continue the siege of Yángíshahr, and bringing Buzurg out of the city, where he was besotting himself with drugs and debauchery of the vilest, took him with a force of only 2,400 men to confront the enemy and divert attention from Yángí Hissár, and camped at two *fursakh* from the Kúchá army to conceal his strength. That night they offered prayers and sacrifices for victory, and next morning disposed their force in three divisions—Buzurg with 1,200 Badakhshí and Kirghiz in the centre, Yákúb Beg with 1,000 Kapchák and Andijání on the right, and Abdulla and Ghazi Beg *Pánsad* with only 200 Andijání and Kapchák on the left. They all now performed prayers, and then confessing and repenting their sins formally pardoned each the other's faults and offences, and then imploring victory from God mounted and went against the enemy's host.

The Kúchá army was in readiness, and the battle closed on all sides at once. Yákúb Beg was soon hard-pressed, and, wounded in two places by gun-shot, was obliged to retire a little. His Kirghiz and Kapchák, seeing this, turned and fled the field to take up a safe position four miles off. The Badakhshí now came in for the brunt of the enemy's attack, and losing a few men quickly followed with Buzurg at their head to join the other fugitives. At this critical juncture the Kúchá troops, oppressed by heat and thirst, slackened the attack to slake their parched throats at an intervening canal. Yákúb Beg seized the opportunity, whilst denouncing the cowardice of Buzurg, to rally some of his special adherents, and "applying to his wounds the ointment of the empire he aimed at," banished hesitation and cheered them to a renewal of the contest. "Victory is the gift of God," he said, "and depends not on mere numbers and arms. This is the moment for exertion. The least hesitation now, and all is lost." With these words he led them afresh to the attack, and driving the enemy from the canal, slew some hundreds as they lay on its banks exhausted by the heat and fatigue.