

some fragments from the rock *in situ* and brought them away. They consisted of a sort of soft fibrous stone which can be twisted into the shape of a wick, and when saturated with oil will burn almost for ever.\* From the Fatíla stone he went two miles further down the river to the village of Pigish, the furthest point reached by him. At this point the *Oxus*, which from Ishkashim, a distance of about 100 miles, had been flowing due north, takes a sudden bend to the west, and going in that direction for a few miles turns apparently to the north.

The Roshán territory is divided into three districts—the Wámur on the right bank embracing the upper portion of the *Oxus* valley, and containing about 800 houses. The district of Pa-e-Khoja lies on the left bank of the *Oxus*, below the turn to the west before alluded to, and is said to contain about 1,000 houses. It is at a long day's journey below Wámur. This district is inhabited by *Khojahs*† who pay no tribute, but give their services as soldiers in time of war. The third district is that of Bartang,‡ which lies up the river of that name, and is said to contain about 500 houses. The direct approach to this district from the Panjah valley is very difficult, owing to the precipitous defiles through which the river passes; so that the most frequented road between Wámur and Sirich Fort, the chief place of the Bartang district, lies by the somewhat roundabout way of the Ghund valley.

The Múnshi gives the following particulars about Shighnán:—

"The country of Shighnán and Roshán is sometimes called *Zuján* (or two-lived); its climate and water being so good that a man on entering the district is said to have come into possession of two lives. The inhabitants state that their country is called *Lubnán* in the *Gulistan* of Sheikh Sádi of Shiraz, and that it is by this name that their country is known in Persia. Sheikh Sádi writes that 'there is one good Mussulman in *Lubnán*' (*Ek-i-az-Sulhai Lubnán*)."

"In time of war, the two countries combined can produce 7,000 armed men, which allowing three men from each two houses would give a present total of about 4,500 for the number of houses in Shighnán and Roshán together."

*Zoroastrians*  
"The family of the Shah-i-Shighnán originally came from Persia. The first arrival from that country (said to have taken place about from 500 to 700 years ago) was the '*Shah-i-Khamosh*,' who was a Syud and a fakir. The country was at that time in the hands of the *Zerdushtis*, a very powerful and learned race. The Shah commenced to teach these people the *Korán*. There were already at this time Mussulmen in the neighbouring country of Darwáz, A.H. 665, and on the arrival of the Shah-i-Khamosh many people flocked thence into Shighnán. In about ten years' time he had converted large numbers of the people, and a civil war commenced which ended in the Shah-i-Khamosh wresting the kingdom from Kahakah, the then Governor of Shighnán and Roshán, under the *Zerdushtis*, the seat of whose Government was in Balkh. After another ten years the whole of the people were converted to the Shiah religion. The tomb of Shah-i-Khamosh now exists at Bar Panjah. Every Thursday people meet to worship there."

"The Chinese during their occupation of Kashghar used to pay to the surrounding countries a kind of subsidy, in return for which the States to whom the payments were made used to guarantee to keep the roads open, and safe for merchants. For this service the Shah-i-Shighnán used to receive an annual payment of ten *Yamboos*;§ the ruler of Sarikol used to receive six; the Kanjudis four; and the ruler of Wakhán three."

"At one period it is said that Wakhán and Darwaz and all the surrounding States were under the rule of the King of Shighnán."

The Múnshí did not succeed in bringing back much information about the course of the *Oxus* below Wámur. The furthest point down the river reached by him was Pigish, a village

\* Probably *asbestos*.

† *i.e.*, whose ancestors are Syuds on one side only.

‡ Or "Above the Narrows."

§ A yamboo is a large piece of silver valued about Rupees 170 or seventeen pounds sterling.