

Having moved north to Pisha, I sent the surveyor to follow a new route to Khotan skirting eastwards the slopes of the Tikelik-tāgh (18,780 feet),²⁰ while I myself proceeded there by the direct route, already surveyed in 1900, in order to gain time for multifarious preparations for the desert campaign of the autumn and winter. On September 15th I set out for a series of ruined sites to the north-east and east of the Khotan oasis. At the same time Rām Singh was sent off independently to the foot of the main K'un-lun range south of Keriya in order to resume his survey work where it had stopped in December 1900 near Imāmlar (Tört-Imām),²¹ and to extend his triangulation along the northern main range of the K'un-lun as far as possible eastwards.

Having gained Imāmlar *via* Keriya, Rām Singh was able to utilize for his hill survey to the south and south-east the points fixed by his triangulation of 1900 as well as a number of high peaks on the spurs above the gorges of Pölur which Captain Deasy's triangulation had determined in 1898-99.²² He then measured a base for triangulation above the hill village of Achchan further east (Sheet No. 14. D. 4.), connecting it with two of Captain Deasy's points. Information as to the determination of this base and the methods by which the triangulation there started was successfully extended to the east, first as far as Surghāk, south of Niya, and subsequently beyond Charchan to a peak in longitude $86^{\circ} 46'$ (Sheet No. 27. B. 1), will be found in Major Mason's Appendix A. The total length of new triangulation work thus accomplished by Rām Singh along the K'un-lun range extended over five degrees of longitude.

After completing archæological explorations in the desert north of the Khotan-Keriya line, partly on ground not previously surveyed, I reached the Niya oasis by October 14th. There the surveyor rejoined me from his work near Surghāk²³ and, being by chance favoured by clear atmospheric conditions was able to fix the position of the small market-town of Niya by means of triangulation from the K'un-lun. It is the first and so far only instance of an oasis on the edge of the great desert having thus been exactly located. From Niya he accompanied me to the ancient sand-buried site beyond the termination of the Niya river first visited by me in 1901. There

for Johnson's 'Naiā Khān Pass' by which he made his way over glaciers to the head of a valley containing the grazing grounds of 'Brinjā', as marked on his map to the south-east of Karanghu-tāgh, at a direct distance of some 11 miles.

Now reliable information obtained by me at Pisha and recorded in *Desert Cathay* (see i. pp. 209 sq.) makes it certain that this name 'Brinjā' is applied by the Karanghu-tāgh people to a valley which debouches on the left bank of the Yurung-kāsh some four miles above the confluence of the Kāsh river with the latter, as shown in Sheet No. 9. D. 4. The information I collected leaves no doubt that Brinjā contains good grazing grounds visited by the flocks and yaks of Karanghu-tāgh but accessible only before or after the summer months when the flood from the glaciers completely blocks the track leading up in its stream-bed. (Johnson who passed down from 'Brinjā' by September 9th, 1865, describes the road as "particularly rocky and dangerous from passing over a succession of steep and rugged lateral spurs, running down into the river from two high ranges on either side; the bed of the stream is therefore very contracted"). From Brinjā down to Karanghu-tāgh Johnson's route sketch shows fair agreement with the actual configuration of the ground as seen in Sheet No. 9. D. 4 and the above quoted photo-theodolite panoramas.

I may add in conclusion that the obstinate passive resistance which the Karanghu-tāgh people opposed both in 1900 and 1906 to my efforts at tracing Johnson's route is fully accounted for partly by the

great natural difficulties which would have to be faced on it and still more, perhaps, by the fear of the hardships and exactions to which their small settlement would be exposed if that route were re-opened for traffic. According to Johnson (see para. 11 of his above quoted report) the Yangi-dawān "was said to have been only very recently discovered by Jumā Khān, the Khotan ambassador to the British Government, who was compelled to find his way over this part of the range, because the regular road from Ilchī to Leh, *via* Sanjū and the Kārākoram pass, was in the hands of the Yārkandees, who were then at war with the people of Khotan". It was thus only desperate necessity which brought about the use of this extremely difficult route during the brief reign of the rebel ruler Hājī Halībullah (1863-66).

But there is reason to believe that it was known for centuries before to the wily hillmen as a track to be used in emergencies. Thus the difficult mountain track by which according to Mīrzā Haidar's contemporary record Abā Bakr, the dethroned tyrant of Yārkand, after passing through Karanghu-tāgh effected his escape to safety in Ladāk A. H. 920, could scarcely have been any other but the Yangi-dawān route; cf. *Tārīkh-i-Rashīdī*, transl. Elias-Ross, pp. 323 sqq., 327 sq. also Stein, *Ancient Khotan*, i. p. 130.

²⁰ See Map Sheet No. 14. A. 3, 4, B. 3, 4.

²¹ See Sheet No. 14. C. 4.

²² See Sheet No. 14. C. D. 4; also *Map of Portions of Western China and Tibet, explored by Capt. H. H. P. Deasy*. Sheet No. 4.

²³ See Sheet No. 19. B. 3.