

regarding Kashmīr contained in his itinerary have been fully discussed by me elsewhere⁴. Wu-k'ung correctly described the kingdom of Kashmīr as enclosed on all sides by mountains forming its natural ramparts. Only three roads had been opened through them, and these were secured by gates. The road in the east, leading to T'u-fan or Tibet, corresponds plainly to the present route over the Zōjī-Lā to Ladāk and thence to Tibet. By another road, which started from 'the western gate' and went to Ch'ien-t'o-lo or Gandhāra, the route following the Jehlam river in its course to the west is clearly meant. The third road, in the north, is described as reaching into P'o-lü. Its identity with the route represented in its main direction by the present 'Gilgit Road' was beyond all doubt, even before Professor Chavannes' lucid analysis of the original Chinese records had conclusively proved that the term P'o-lü or Pu-lu applied to modern Gilgit as well as to Baltistān.

Of the territory into which that route first takes us, one important historical fact can still be established from Kalhaṇa's Chronicle. Several passages relating to events on this side of the Kashmīr frontier show plainly that the hill tract formed by the drainage area of the Upper Kiṣangaṅgā was occupied, in ancient times as now, by a population belonging to the Dard race⁵. The tenacity with which the ethnographic watershed has been here maintained during long centuries creates a reasonable presumption that the occupation by Dard tribes of the mountain territories extending north-westwards of Kashmīr up to Chitrāl and the Hindukush likewise dates back to a very early period.

The Dards
of the
Kiṣangaṅgā
Valley.

We must attach the more value to this evidence because the indications which Sanskrit texts and the works of classical geographers have preserved for us as to the early seats of the Dards (Skr. *Darad*, *Dārada*; the *Δαράδραι* of Ptolemy, *Dardae* of Pliny, &c.), are by no means as exact as we should wish. From the account given by Kalhaṇa of events among the Dards of the Kiṣangaṅgā Valley near his own time, it may be concluded that this hill tract then formed a small chiefship. The division of the territory inhabited by the Dards into a considerable number of more or less independent principalities has prevailed also during recent periods of their history, and is amply accounted for by geographical features. Mountain ranges of exceptional ruggedness, covered by eternal snows on their summit lines and culminating in some of the highest peaks of the world, render communication between the narrow valleys difficult even for the hardy hillmen who have succeeded during so many centuries in maintaining here their struggle with a harsh climate and a barren soil. Frequently the confined valleys themselves present almost equal difficulties, where they narrow to rock-bound gorges filled completely for considerable periods of the year by snow-fed rivers. The formidable nature of the mountain-barriers in this region is reflected in the notice which Ptolemy records of 'the Daradrai in whose country the mountains are of surpassing height'⁶. Nor is there need to search far in the accounts of modern travellers in order to find ample illustration of the difficulties and dangers so graphically described by the old Chinese pilgrims who made their way along the precipitous rock walls of the Dard Valleys⁷.

I have fully discussed elsewhere the results of that remarkable seclusion which Kashmīr enjoyed during a long period of its history, owing to the natural strength of its mountain

Kalhaṇa's
Daraddeśa.

⁴ See 'Notes on Ou-k'ong's account of Kaśmīr', in *Proceedings of the Imperial Academy*, Vienna, 1896, vol. cxxxv. pp. 22 sq.; also *Rājat.*, II. pp. 357 sq.

⁵ Compare, regarding the Dards and their relations with Kashmīr, my notes on *Rājat.* i. 312; vii. 911; also II.

pp. 431, 435.

⁶ See Ptolemy, *Geogr.*, VII. i. 42.

⁷ Compare Fā-hien's *Travels*, translated by Legge, p. 26; *Voyage de Song Yun*, transl. by Chavannes, p. 28; Hsüan-tsiang's *Si-yu-ki*, transl. by Beal, i. p. 134 sq.