

is understood by Sarīkolīs, and is apparently a dialect of the latter's tongue. If this information should prove to be correct, our presumption in favour of the Pakhpos being another remnant of a Galcha population, formerly more widely spread, would become an established fact¹⁶.

SECTION II.—EARLY CHINESE ACCOUNTS OF SARĪKOL

The important position occupied by Sarīkol in respect of the routes leading across the Pāmīr region accounts for the ample information to be gathered from early Chinese records regarding its historical topography. The narrative of the pilgrim Hsüan-tsang, who on his return journey from India to China traversed Sarīkol, supplies most of the details. It was in his itineraries that the old name of this mountain chiefship, which the Chinese transcriptions variously render as Chieh-p'an-t'ō, Han-p'an-t'ō, &c., was first correctly identified by General A. Cunningham¹. But for a systematic review of all available data we shall find it convenient to take as a basis the official description of the territory which the T'ang Annals furnish, and which has now become accessible in M. Chavannes' translation.

This account records for the Sarīkol tract the several names *Ho-p'an-t'ō* 喝槃陀 or *Han-t'ō* 漢陀, or *K'o-koan-t'an* 渴館檀, or *K'o-lo-t'ō* 渴羅陀, and indicates its position with unmistakable clearness. The kingdom was reached by proceeding from *Su-lê* or Kāshgar to the south-west through the gorge of *Chien-mo*, which must correspond to the present Gez defile, and lay at a distance of 600 li, or approximately six days' march. This estimate agrees remarkably well with the route which leads from Tāshmalik, at the south-western edge of the Kāshgar oasis, along the Gez or Yamān-yār river, and past Muztāgh-Ata to the head of the Tagharma Valley, and which I myself followed in the opposite direction on my journey from Tāsh-kurghān to Kāshgar. *Ho-p'an-t'ō* is correctly described as being situated directly to the west of *Chu-chü-po*, which is represented by the modern Karghalik; in the north it touched the territory of *Su-lê* or Kāshgar, in the west *Hu-mi* or Wakhān, while to the north-west there adjoined the territory of *P'an-han* in which, with M. Chavannes, we may recognize Farghāna. The administrative centre of the territory lay in the middle of the Ts'ung-ling or 'Onion mountains', which are said to encircle the whole of the kingdom². This designation has been generally applied by the Chinese to the meridional range or ranges which buttress the Pāmīr region on the east³, and divide it from the Tārīm Basin. The position of the *Ho-p'an-t'ō* capital, as here marked with reference to them, fits exactly the present Tāsh-kurghān. The river *Si-to*, on which the capital is stated to have stood, can, in view of Hsüan-tsang's account to be noticed below, be no other than the river of Tāsh-kurghān.

Of the people of *Ho-p'an-t'ō* the Annals record, as already stated, that their appearance and language were identical with those of the people of Yü-t'ien or Khotan. They are further described as strong and given to violence. Murder and brigandage were alone liable to be

Sarīkol in
T'ang
Annals.

The people
of Sarīkol in
the T'ang
period.

¹⁶ It deserves to be noted that Sung Yün distinctly mentions the language and customs of the people of *Chu-chü-po* as closely resembling those of the Khotan people; see Chavannes, *Voyage de Song Yun*, p. 20. *Chu-chü-po* corresponds to the present district of Karghalik, including the valleys towards the headwaters of the Yarkand river, in which the Pakhpo settlements are found; see Chavannes, *Turcs occid.*, pp. 123 note, 311.

¹ See his paper in *J.A.S.B.*, 1848, vol. xvii, referred to by Yule, *J.R.A.S.*, 1872, 'Notes on Hwen Thsang's Account of Tokhāristān,' p. 117.

² See Chavannes, *Turcs occid.*, p. 124.

³ It will be seen below that the term *Ts'ung-ling* was used during the T'ang period as a special designation of the Sarīkol territory itself; as to the meaning and origin of the name, comp. Richthofen, *China*, i. p. 221.