

Wakhi, Ghajab Beg, who had brought the Colonel's message and who introduced himself as the 'Karaul Beg,' or chief of the local frontier guards, had plentiful details to relate about all the arrangements made weeks before to receive and help me onwards. So the spirits rose rapidly in my camp, while I felt more grateful than ever for H.M. the King of Afghanistan's friendly permission which had opened to me the easiest route to the Oxus. When to cross the open saddle of the Baroghil required such special help, how could I have hoped to get my worn-out Chitral transport over the far higher Khora-bhort Pass and the glacier barriers between it and the Yarkhun Valley—the route I should have had to attempt in the absence of such formal permission!