

Gumbaz and Tughlān-shahr, and known as *Bāzār-dasht*, still retains the remains of shops built in rows and of sun-dried bricks, showing that the spot was once occupied by a Bāzār.

In connexion with the reminiscences of Persian lore just mentioned, it may be pointed out that the name *Varshadeh*, used as an old designation of Tāsh-kurghān by the inhabitants speaking Sarīkolī, also clearly bears the stamp of Irānian origin.

Apart from the capital we find two more localities specified in Hsüan-tsang's account of Sarīkol. One of these, 'a great rocky scarp' with two rock chambers, in each of which an Arhat was shown plunged in complete ecstasy, yet with his body undecayed in spite of long centuries, cannot be identified. It is described as situated some 300 li to the south-east of the city, and may, therefore, be looked for among the high ranges which are drained by the Vacha river, the nearest affluent of the Tāsh-kurghān river from the south-east.

Sacred sites  
named by  
Hsüan-  
tsang.

The other locality was a hospice for travellers, or *Punyaśālā*, which the pilgrim reached after leaving the capital towards the north-east and marching for 200 li across mountains and along precipices<sup>18</sup>. It is described as being situated in 'a space comprising some hundred *ch'ing* (thousand Chinese acres), in the midst of the four mountains belonging to the eastern chain of the Ts'ung-ling mountains'. 'In this, both during summer and winter, there fall down piles of snow; the cold winds and icy storms rage. The ground, impregnated with salt, produces no crops, there are no trees, and nothing but scrubby underwood. Even at the time of the great heat the wind and the snow continue. Scarcely have travellers entered this region when they find themselves surrounded by vapour from the snow<sup>19</sup>. Merchant caravans, in coming and going, suffer severely in these difficult and dangerous spots.'

Hsüan-tsang then relates 'an old story' how once a great troop of merchants, with thousands of followers and camels, perished here by wind and snow. An Arhat of Chieh-p'an-t'o, having failed to rescue them in time, collected all the precious objects left behind by the caravan and constructed a house, in which he accumulated ample stores. He also bought land in the neighbouring territories, and with its proceeds provided houses in the bordering towns for the accommodation of travellers.

Taking into account the direction of the pilgrim's route after leaving Tāsh-kurghān and the distance indicated, it is clear that the position of the hospice must be identified with the Chichiklik plateau, a broad elevated valley, which the main route from Sarīkol towards Kāshgar and Yarkand crosses at a distance of two marches from Tāsh-kurghān. Chichiklik is the point which all travellers in the above direction must traverse by whatever passes (Yangi-Dawān, Yambulak, or Chichiklik-Dawān) they may surmount the second of the great mountain ranges which radiate southwards from Muztāgh-Ata. A reference to the detailed account of this much-frequented route given by Sir D. Forsyth's Mission<sup>20</sup>, or to Lord Curzon's Map of the Pāmirs, will illustrate this remark.

Chichiklik  
plateau.

The important position of Chichiklik, as the natural halting-place between the passes leading over the first and second of those ranges, and its high elevation, explain the provision of a hospice at this point. Though I have not been able to trace any exact observation as to the height of Chichiklik, it may safely be concluded from Colonel Trotter's description and the elevations ascertained for the passes by which it is approached on either side (Kök-moinak Pass, 15,670 feet, to south-west, and the almost imperceptible watershed to the north-east, 14,480 feet)<sup>21</sup>, that the

<sup>18</sup> See Julien, *Mémoires*, ii. p. 215; Beal, *Si-yu-ki*, ii. p. 303.

<sup>19</sup> Julien has 'au milieu des vapeurs et des nuages'.

<sup>20</sup> Compare *Yarkand Mission Report*, pp. 267, 433.

<sup>21</sup> See *Yarkand Mission Report*, pp. 267, 357 sq.