

Account of the Panjkora Valley, and of Lower and Upper Káshkár, by Rajah Khan, of Cabool. Translated by Major R. LEECH, C.B., Late Political Agent, Candahar, at whose request it was drawn up in 1840.*

Panjkora is inhabited by Maleezai Eesafzais, who are divided into two sub-divisions. One extending from the commencement of the valley of Panjkora to Ousheree, called Osai; the other is called Sihsadah. The chief is a Paindah-khel.

Grain is at all times eight times cheaper than at Cabool; fruits are plentiful, as are herds and flocks. There are several iron mines. Merchants from Pesháwar frequent the country.

The following are the villages of Panjkora to the west of the river. Shagoolee darrah, Taimoor-galah darrah, Rabat-i-Mahammad khan darrah, Kavaneé darrah, Malahkand valley, (darrah) of Tormang, valley of Karoo, Nahag darrah, Ousheeree darrah, Zarakhel darrah, Bor-Ousheeree darrah, Dral darrah.

To the east of the river, the valley of Harhang (shrine of Ghazee Sahab), valley of Shoooh, (river of Bajour falls into the Panjkora).

Baba khels, formerly under Aslam khan, now under Ghazan khan.

Valley of Maidan, valley of Panjkora, valley of Shamoor-gurh, valleys of Thankee and Doodba enter this.

Barahwal, under Mahammad Alee khan, (an iron mine here).

Bar Panjkora, Ghundee Chakgatin, Arota Seen (river), Deer, Panakot, Kashkaree, Doobandai, Kheer, dependent on Deer.

These valleys have all streams. One river, from Bajour, which is to the west of the Panjkora range, falls into the Panjkora river through the valley of Shoooh. The river of Panjkora runs from north to south.

Villages of the valley of Shagoolee. Kazrah, Shahee khels, under Zardad khan; Kotkai, Shahee khels, under Hyder khan; Gadee, Paindah khels, under Sadulla khan, brother of Ghazan khan; Haraon, Shahee khels, under Masoom khan; Shagoolee, Noor khels, under Aiyooob khan.

Valley of Timoor-galahs. Timoor-galah Noor khels, under Sardar

* This man also under my instructions visited most of the Turkistan, states and gained a quantity of information regarding the Siahposh Cafers. His notes are in my possession.

khan; Khoonkoh, Noor khels, under Mahsin and Ghafar; Mayan Mandah, Sahabzadabs, under Mahsin and Ghafar; Datooh, Akhund khels, Charpherah, Nasradeen khels, under Mahammad khan; Shahr, Nasradeen khels, under Sarwar Myan.

Valley of Rabat. Samrai, Paindah khels, under Gul khan; Rabat, Nasradeen khels, under Muhabat khan; Kanjalah, Myan khels, under Agha Sahab.

Valley of Kavnee. Walkhah, Paindah khels, 1000 houses; Malakhand, mixed tribes, 1000 houses.

Valley of Tormang. Akhqram, Painsa khels, under Agad Rahman; Doodba, Painsa khels, under Sher Alee.

Valley of Karoo. Inhabited by Taroozais and Eesafzais.

Valley of Nhag. Nhag-Painsa khels, under Chiragh Shah; Wadee-Painsa khels, under Bazoo; Jaghakinj, Gadhai khels, under Allaiyar khan; Darooja-Sultan khels, under Sayad Ameer.

Valley of Oosheeree. Oosheeree Sultan khels, under Kaza Abdu Rahman; Beebeeyawarah Painsa khels, under Abdulla Khan; Kandeekan, Myan khels, under Sayad Adam, Kakazin, Myan khel; Jahar-Sultan khels, under Mahammad Hawefa; Jaharalmas Painsa khels, under Zareef khan; Tar-pitar Painsa khel, under Hujoom khan.

Bar Oosheeree Valley. Oosheeree, Painsa khels, under Awar Shah khan; Barkand Myan khels, Kareemdad, descendent of Akhund Darveza; Damazar, Painsa khels, Ahmad khan; Palam, Painsa khels, Fazal Shah; Samkot, Painsa khels, Sher Zeman; Batil Myan khels, Khairulla Myan; Nashtamil, Goorkhavee, Habeebee, Painsa khels, Myan Nazeem; Kamangar Noor khels, under Hakeeb.

Valley of Dral. Dependent on, and tributary to, Ghazan khan.

Valley of Hurhang. Desolate beyond the villages of the Zyarat.

Valley of Shook. Having villages and gardens on each bank of the Bajour river.

The Baba khels were formerly under their own chief, Aslam khan. Ten years ago, Ghazan khan subdued them.

In the valley of Maidan, is Kheemah Shahee khels, under Baroon, and many other villages. The inhabitants are more formidable than those of the other valleys.

Valley of Panjkora. Bar Panjkora, Sultan khels, Sher Alee; Kooz Panjkora, Sultan khels, Pagal; Patao, Sultan khels, Mardan.

Valley of Shamoor Gurh. Shamoor Gurh, Paindah khels, no chief; Geer, Paindah khels, Allaiyar khan; Amlooknar ryots, Paindah khels; Jublak ryots, Paindah khels.

Barahwal, belonging to Mahammad Alee khan, included in, but not tributary to Panjkora; an iron mine of long existence.

The following villages are marts for merchandize.

Surkhal, Loorkhal, Deer, Barahwal. The chief of this valley of Panjkora is Ghazan khan, son of Kasam khan, son of Zafar khan, son of Ghulam khan, son of Akhund Ilyas, whose descendants are distinguished from other Paindah khels, as Akhund kor, (kor-house.)

Akhund Ilyas, was a holy man who had two sons, Aooob and Ismail, he lived in the time of Aurungzebe.

Aiyooob was a domestic in the household of the governor of Cabool, and after a long period of faithful service, got leave to return to his native country, accompanied by four tradesmen, (one goldsmith, one carpenter, one huntsman and one mason.)

Mulla Ilyas told his sons, he had only one sword, and one kajkol, (vessel in which beggars receive their alms,) to bequeath them, and told them to choose; Ismail chose the kajkol, and his descendants are religious recluses and beggars; Aiyooob chose the sword, and his descendants are rulers.

Kasem khan had three sons, Azad khan, Ghazan khan, and Sadulla khan, their mothers being Eesafzai.

In the time of Shah Mahmood, Azad khan killed his father, in return for which Sadulla khan killed his brother; Ghazan khan, with the assistance of Shah Kater got the country, to this day the same friendship exists with the Chatrar nation.

This year, in the month of Muharam, the brothers had a fight, losing between them twenty-four killed and wounded.

Herds and flocks are not taxed, but three rupees a year is taken from each house.

They are friendly to the Lahore government, and exchange presents.

Just now an elephant has been sent by the Lahore government, and in return they send iron, honey, or hill horses, through Sultan Mahammad khan.

They are continually sending to Peshawar Ceskaree slaves for the governor.

From Oosheeree further to the north they have a measure called *uganee*, equal in weight to three charaks of Panjkora, (five Panjkora seers, four Cabool seers). Animals, sheep, buffaloes, &c. are plentiful and cheap.

In Koonachteer they make yellow soap of oil, where they are all oil pressers. The whole Nobistan as far as Hujkoom is supplied from this.

Panjkora is in length four stages, and in breadth one stage. There are four iron mines, and three of antimony, (white, red, and black).

From Maidan valley to the west, is the road to Bajour. From Barrahwah there is another. From Oosheeree to the east is a road to Swat; from Karoo Darrah to the east, is a road to Swat; from Timurgalah and Katgalah viâ Talesh to the south-east, is the road to Ashnaghar and Peshawar, a gun-road, the only one into Panjkora. Sultan Mahammad Khan has several times been in it.

Talash is a district of the Goosafzais included in Panjkora, but without the valley, it is very fertile, grain being often exported thence to Peshawar. There are remains of buildings like towers, in which are stones of a cubit length, on which are Greek (?) characters.

The following are the villages of Talash;—Bagh, Shaha khels, Ghulam Shah; Shamsee khan, Shaha khels, Shah Afzal khan, Gumbatee, Shaha khels, Shah Afzal khan, Amlook Darah, ryots.

Muchoo, Noor khels under Ghazan khan; Bajooroo, Noor and Shahee khels. Shah Afzal khan; Kamangar; the inhabitants are all bow-makers, whence the name.

Deer is the boundary of the snow and rain.

The river of Panjkora takes its rise at Laspoor, the commencement of the hilly country of Kashkar.

From Deer to Kashkar, viâ the Pass of Doobandai, a night is spent in the road.

Kashkar is an extensive fertile country, to the north of Panjkora, thickly inhabited by a prosperous class of people; by religion, Sunnee Mahommadans: their nation is called *Chatrar*.

There are two Kashkars, upper and lower; the lower was under Shah Kator; the upper under Malik Aman formerly; they are now dead, and have been succeeded by their sons, who rule together. They are independent, having their subjects under such subjection as to sell them like animals.

Wheat and rice are plentifully produced. The men dress in two or three choghas of the kind sold in Cabool, and the women dress in a loose garb like the women of Cashmeer.

There are two sons of Shah Kator, one named Mehtar, and the other Tajamal Shah, who is the ruler. The revenue is not fixed, $\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ is taken in kind. They do not take ready money, but barter for Peshawar goods.

Slaves are cheaper at Kashkar than any where else, viz. 100 rupees each (a girl or a boy.) 200 or 300 are yearly exported via Dardu and Badakhshan to Turkistan.

The following are the principal towns of Lower Kashkar.

Laspoor, to the east; Daroosh to the north; Dral Pooreet, to the north; Daroosh to the south; Ashreet; Ashreet, to the north; Pooreet to the east; Daroosh; Daroosh is situated in the centre of Kashkar.

Bedlooree, to the north; Daroosh, to the south; Hujkoom; Daroosh is the capital of Shah Kator, on the east of the river of Kashkar, on a slight eminence, containing 2000 houses of stone and mud. There is a wooden bridge across the river; most of the villages are to the north, east and west.

Every one within four kos is obliged to have his case settled by the ruler.

The Kashkar language approaches to the Persian. The imports to Kashkar, are salt, which is very valuable, Peshawar cloths, and cheap chintz and pedlary. Iron from Panjkora, goor, medicines, matchlocks, swords, and copper utensils.

The exports from Kashkar are raw silk to Turkistan, known in Cabool as Karah Kashkaree; and Shalakees from two rupees to twenty rupees the piece.

The finest silk is called Poodpat, and the coarsest Narinjpoor, and wool choghas from one rupee to twenty rupees, the sleeves of which are larger than the arms, and when on the sleeves are creased.

The slaves are very handsome. They use measures and not weights. They amount to 12,000 matchlockmen, (the matchlocks having a fork rest) and notwithstanding the scarcity of powder and lead, are excellent marksmen.

Ten thousand Kamozi Cafers who are situated to the north of Katar and Kampar, pay tribute to Shah Kator; they are very obedient subjects, and, unlike other Kohistanees, they do not rob.

Upper Kashkar under Malik Aman, is called Shighnan. The people are Sheeah Musulmans, who know nothing of their sect, beyond the name. They pray and fast with the Sunnees of lower Kashkar.

The horses are better than in the country of Shah Kator.

The principal places of Shighnan are Mastooj, the capital of Gouhar Aman Padshah, formerly; now under the son of Malik Aman; to the south is Daroosh; to the east Hujkoom; to the south of which is Shootee.

From Daroosh, via the Pass of Soori to Mastooj, two nights are spent on the road, infested by Cafers in the summer. The road is a gun-one. Guns can go throughout the country of both Kashkars beyond Daroosh, but up to that the road is difficult for laden horses.

Shighit to the north, and Shighnan to the east, are included in Kashkar, but under a separate rule.

From Shighnan to Shighit are five stages. The Cooner river passes to the west of Mastooj, and takes its rise in the lake of Neel. Beyond Mastooj, water runs to the north.

On the Assam Petroleum Beds (in a letter to Major JENKINS, communicated by him.) By Capt. P. S. HANNAY.

Mr. Piddington having supplied me with a specimen of Asphalte rock from Pyremont, I have taken some trouble in trying to find something of the kind amongst the numerous coal strata and bituminous springs which abound in the neighbourhood of this place, but as yet have not been successful in finding a calcareous Asphalte, which the specimen furnished appears to be, and this may be accounted for, probably, by the absence of anything like a pure limestone rock, existing with the carboniferous strata which is visible.

I have however the pleasure to send you a few specimens of the earthy Asphalte and indurated sandy Asphalte, found in and lying over the Petroleum beds, near a spot which I dare say you recollect as