

From the south of the lake, through a golden elephant's mouth, proceeds the Sindhu (Sin-to)³² river; encircling the lake once, it flows into the south-western sea.

From the western side of the lake, from the mouth of a horse of lapis-lazuli, proceeds the river Vakshu (Po-tsu),³³ and encircling the lake once, it falls into the north-western sea. From the north side of the lake, through the mouth of a crystal lion, proceeds the river Sitâ (Si-to),³⁴ and encircling the lake once, it falls into the north-eastern sea.

River Hang. It was also written *Hang-kia* (Ch. Ed.)

³² Sin-to, the Sindhu or Indus; formerly written *Sin-t'au* (Ch. Ed.)

³³ The Vakshu (*Po-tsu*, formerly written *Poh-ch'a*) is the Oxus or Amu-Daria (Idrisi calls it the Wakshsh-ab), which flows from the Sarik-kul lake in the Pamir plateau, lat. 37° 27' N., long. 73° 40' E., at an elevation of about 13,950 feet. It is supplied by the melting snows of the mountains, which rise some 3500 feet higher along its southern shores. It is well called, therefore, "the cool lake" (Anavatapta). The Oxus issues from the western end of the lake, and after "a course of upwards of a thousand miles, in a direction generally north-west, it falls into the southern end of the lake Aral" (Wood). This lake Lieut. Wood intended to call Lake Victoria. Its name, Sarik-kul,— "the yellow valley"—is not recognised by later travellers, some of whom call it Kul-i-Pamir-kulân, "the lake of the Great Pamir." Wood's *Oxus*, pp. 232, 233, note 1; *Jour. R. Geog. Soc.*, vol. xl. (1870), pp. 122, 123, 449, 450, vol. xlii. p. 507, vol. xlvi. pp. 390ff., vol. xlviii. p. 34, vol. xlviii. p. 221; Bretschneider, *Med. Geog.*, pp. 166 n, 167.

³⁴ The Sitâ (*Si-to*, formerly written *Si-t'o*) is probably the Yarkand river (the Zarafshan). This river rises (according to Prejevalsky) in the Karakorum mountains, at an elevation of 18,850 feet (lat. 35° 30' N. long. 77° 45' E.) It takes a north and then

a westerly course, and passing to the eastward of Lake Sarik-kul, bends to the north and finally to the east. It unites with the Kashgar and Khotan rivers, and they conjointly form the Tarim, which flows on to Lake Lob, and is there lost. The Sitâ is sometimes referred to the Jaxartes or the Sarik-kul river (*Jour. Roy. As. Soc.*, N.S., vol. vi. p. 120). In this case it is identified with the Silis of the ancients (Ukert, *Geographie der Griechen und Römer*, vol. iii. 2, p. 238). It is probably the Side named by Ktesias,— "stagnum in Indis in quo nihil innatet, omnia mergantur" (Pliny, *H. N.*, lib. xxxi. 2, 18). This agrees with the Chinese account that the Yellow River flows from the "weak water" (*Joshwai*), which is a river "fabled to issue from the foot of the Kwên-lun mountain." "It owes its name to the peculiar nature of the water, which is incapable of supporting even the weight of a feather" (Mayers, *sub voc.*) This last remark agrees curiously with the comment on *Jâtaka* xxi., referred to by Min-ayef in his *Pâli Grammar* (p. ix. Guyard's translation), which derives the name of Sidâ from *sad + ara*, adding that "the water is so subtle that the feather of a peacock cannot be supported by it, but is swallowed up" (Pâli, *stiditi*, from root *sad*, "to sink") A river Silâ is mentioned in the *Mahâbhârata* (vi. 6, sl. 219), north of Mëru. Megasthenês mentions both a fountain and river Silas which had the same peculiarity.