

of wood across the chasms and precipices, after going 500 li or so, we arrive at the country of Po-lu-lo (Bolor).

PO-LU-LO (BOLOR.)

The country of Po-lu-lo⁴⁰ is about 4000 li in circuit; it stands in the midst of the great Snowy Mountains. It is long from east to west, and narrow from north to south. It produces wheat and pulse, gold and silver. Thanks to the quantity of gold, the country is rich in supplies. The climate is continually cold. The people are rough and rude in character; there is little humanity or justice with them; and as for politeness, such a thing has not been heard of. They are coarse and despicable in appearance, and wear clothes made of wool. Their letters are nearly like those of India, their language somewhat different. There are about a hundred *saṅghā-rāmas* in the country, with something like a thousand priests, who show no great zeal for learning, and are careless in their moral conduct. Leaving this country and returning to U-to-kia-han-cha (Uḍakhāṇḍa),⁴¹

⁴⁰ According to Cunningham, Bolor is the modern Balti, Baltistān, or Little Tibet (*Anc. Geog. of India*, p. 84). Marco Polo also mentions a country called Bolor, but he places it E.N.E. from the Pamir plateau (Yule's *Marco Polo*, vol. i. p. 187). Bolor may have included both Balti and the mountains adjoining the southern margin of Pamir. Indeed the Chinese included Chitral to the northern boundary of Swāt under this term (Yule). Sung Yun refers to this country (*Buddhist Pilgrims*, p. 187). For other references see Yule (*op. cit.*, p. 188). Although Hwui-lih says nothing about this visit to Bolor, yet the use of the symbol *king* shows that Hiuen Tsiang personally visited the country. Marco Polo says of the people, "they are indeed an evil race." He also calls them "savage idolaters" (*op. cit.*, chap. xxxii.). Ptolemy (*Geog.*, lib. vi. c. 13, 3) places the Βελται

at the foot of the Imaus mountains, in Little Tibet or Baltistān. This district was noted for its gold in very early times (conf. Herodotus, lib. iii. cc. 102, 105; Strabo, lib. ii. c. 1, 9; lib. xv. c. 1, 37; Arrian, *Anab. Alex.*, lib. v. c. 4; *Indika*, c. 5; and *Ind. Ant.*, vol. iv. pp. 225 ff.

⁴¹ There seems little doubt that this should be identified with Ohind or Wahand on the right bank of the Indus, about 16 miles above Atak Albirūnī calls it Wayhand, the capital of Kandahār (Gandhāra). V. St. Martin, *Mém.*, u. s., p. 310; Lassen, *Ind. Alt.*, vol. ii. p. 474 n.; Reinaud, *Fragm. Arab. et Pers.*, p. 114; *Mém. sur l'Inde*, pp. 196, 276; Court, *J. A. S. Ben.*, vol. v. p. 395; Cunningham, *ib.*, vol. xvii. p. 130, and *Anc. Geog.*, pp. 55 f.; Benfey, *Indien*, p. 115; Elliot, *Hist. Ind.*, vol. i. pp. 48, 63, 445; vol. ii. pp. 28, 33, 150, 426, 438 f.; and *ante*, p. 114, n. 108.