

Ibn Huokul's account of KHORASAN,—translated by Major W. ANDERSON, Bengal Artillery.

KHORASAN

Is the name of a large country divided into districts. On the East it is bounded by Seestan and India, I have already given in my map of Seestan those portions of Ghoor which are near and belong to Seestan, but the entire country is considered Indian. I have included the districts of the Khuluj tribes in Cabul. While Wakan and those places to the south of Khotul are also Indian.

To the West lie the deserts inhabited by the Goz tribes and the country of Joorjan.

To the North extends Mawarolnuhr and a portion of the Tork kingdom south of Khotul.

To the South are situated the desert of Fars and Koomis.

But I have added Koomis to the map of Duelum, Joorjan, Teberestan, Rue, and Kuzween, and of them formed a separate division.

I have included Khotul with Mawarolnuhr, as lying between the Wukhshab and Khurab, and also Kharism, because it is beyond the river and its capital nearer to Bokhara than to Khorasan.

This country to the east is enclosed by a line sweeping along the desert of Fars and Herat and Ghoor, to Ghuznee; joined by a line from Koomis to Furawuh making nearly a square. Thence, along the confines of Joorjan and the Caspian to Kharism, embracing the inhabited places.

In the various aggregations and divisions of Khorasan the chief places are, Neeshapoor, Merv, Herat, Bulk.

The minor subdivisions are, Koohistan, Toos, Nesa, Abeewurd, Surukhs, Esfezar, Pooshung, Badghues, Gunj—Rostak, Mervrood, Joozjan, Bameeyan, Tokharestan, Zum, Amol. Kharism I will describe with Mawarolnuhr, as its capital is beyond the river, and nearer to that country than to Persian Khorasan.

I have not separated Neeshapoor, but have detailed under it all the various subdivisions, at the same time I have separated Tokharestan from Bulk, as, although commonly joined in name, their description and revenue accounts are kept separate.

These arrangements only involve some care in the table of routes, and in the map, as it is necessary to introduce so many places under the one map of Khorasan.

NEESHAPPOOR was known as Eeran-Shuhr, it is situated in a level country with houses built of unburnt brick, placed at a distance from each other, the city covers a square fursukh, having a town, fort and ramparts—both the town and fort contain a large population. The Jama Musjed is in the suburbs at a place called the Cantonments. The Government house is situated on a plain called the Prison-square, near the Jail, at a distance of a fursukh from the Musjed, it was built by Omur bin Lues.

The fort has two gates, and the town four.

The Rasulkunturuh or bridge gate.

The Mokufful or closed gate.

The Kohundez or fort gate.

The Deze-Mushkan.

The fort is distinct from the town, but the ramparts enclose both; these last have gates, that leading to Urak and Joorjan is the Kobab, that on the Bulkh, Merve and Mawarolnuhr road is the Jubul or mountain gate; the entrance on the Fars and Kohistan road is the Huozol Eyaz gate; while on the Toos and Nesa road are several gates, as the Sookhtuh and Sere Sheereen.

The bazars are outside the town and the fort in the suburbs, the best is known as the Great-square and the second as the Small-square, from the great square the bazars extend to the east as far as the Musjed, and to the west they join the smaller square—to the south they extend to the tomb of the two Husuens, and to the north the streets end at the Bridge. The smaller square is near the prison and Government house.

The water is chiefly taken from kareez running near the habitations and it flows from the houses and waters the gardens inside and outside the city. They have also a large river called the Wade Sughawur. Several towns and villages are irrigated from its waters which run from this Wadee, nor is there any larger river.

In the whole of Khorasan there is no more extensive or salubrious city than Neeshapoor.

The weavers manufacture stuffs of cotton and of silk which are

so plentiful and good as to be exported to all countries of Moslems and of Kafers.

Neeshapoor possesses extensive districts and populous towns, as Boozjan, Malun called Kesrajerd, Khaemund, Suloomul, Sungan, Zoozun, Kunduz, Tersheez, Janruwan, Azad-war, Khushuogerd, Buhmunabad, Muzneyan, Subzwar, Rewaduh, Mehrjan, Esfurayun, Khuer Khan, Zurmuluh, and if Toos be included, there may be added Radgan, Taburoon, Burooghoor and Nookan.

Toos contains the tomb of Ulee the son of Moosa Reza, on whom be peace, also the sepulchre of Haroonul-rusheed; the tomb of the former is distant from the town about four fursukhs, in a village called Sunabad. The latter is at Nookan. Turquoises are extensively found in the hills near Neeshapoor and Toos, and earthen-ware is exported.

MERV, known as Merve Shah Juhan, is a very ancient place, the fort is considered to have been built by Tuhmoorus, while the old city was founded by Zool Kurnuen; it is situated on a level plain far from any hills; the soil is saline and very sandy, while the houses are of unburnt bricks. The place contains three Jama Musjeds—the oldest being the Musjed built inside the place on the first introduction of Eslam called the Muhan next is the Musjed Uteek at the city gate chiefly occupied by the traditionists; the third is the Musjed of Makhan. They consider this last Musjed, the bazars and the Government house to have been built by Abo Moslem. The Government house is in front of this Musjed and contains an arched room built by Abo Moslem under which he used to sit—and to this day the Umeers of Merv assemble under it; it is built of bricks and mortar, and covers a square of fifty-five cubits.

This doomed room has four doors, each opening into a vestibule ornamented over the entrances with sculptured representations of large fish, and in front of each vestibule is a square open court. The fort is as large as the city, but now in ruins, it is built on an elevated mound which has a kareez cut into it from which the water runs to this day; and sometimes vegetables and melons are cultivated on it.

Originally the bazars were at the gate of the city near the Ateek musjed, but in the days of Abo Moslem, they were removed to Makhan, they are cleaner than the bazars of other cities.

The Eedgah is situated in the division called Rasulmuedan near the square of Abee Jehem, and is surrounded on all sides by houses and buildings. The situation is between Makhan and the canal of Hormuz Kuruh. The streets of the city have four canals—among them is the canal above mentioned—on which are built many of the houses of the city, it enters the walls from the direction of a place called Serjosh.

Hosuen bin Taher erected many of these buildings, and wished to remove the bazars and Government house to this position. The inhabitants of the quarter of the city called Ras ol Shabae use this water, in this division, resides the family of Shuekh ol Juleel Abu fuzl Mohummud, the son of Obuedallah.

Another canal is called the Makhan; on it is the Government house, the bazars, the musjed Hadeesan, the jail and house of the family of Abee Lukhum the slave of Abee Moeet. In which house is a dome, round the interior of which is written the declaration of election to the Khulafut of the family of Abbas, the cupola stands to this day.

Another canal is called the Zoruk—it flows to the gate of the city and its water is used by the people, on it is the Uteek musjed, and lower down is the house of the family of Khaleel ben Uhmud ben Hemad, the Governor of Bokhara.

Next is the canal of Usudee Khorasanee, which waters the Muhuluh of the Sunjar gate, Burmahan and other quarters; on this canal was the house of the Murzban of Merv.

Such are the canals on which are placed the various divisions of Merv with their buildings, a wall surrounds all these four canals with the houses; a second wall surrounds the city and the various villages and is known as the wall of Raae, of it remains are now to be seen.

The interior city has four gates.

The first leading to the Jama-Musjed is called the Sharsan.

The Homa, the Sunjar, the Malun, the Dure Mushkan leading to Bokhara, near which was the residence and the mint of Mamoon during the period he lived at Merv, previous to his being elected to the Khulufut.

Merv has one chief river rising under Bameyan from which are cut

all the above-mentioned canals irrigating the lands, it is called the Morghab or waters of Merv, some think the name is taken from that of the spring where the river rises, named Morghab ; others, that the derivation is from Murgh Ajmuh, the pasture of reeds.

This river flows to Merv rood and its villages and then enters Merv Shahjuhan at Goo Geen between Khoozan and Kurshee—the bunds are placed at the village of Zoruk where the water is thrown off into the canals—by boards having holes equalizing the division of the water to all parties, so that if any person takes more or less than his right destruction overtakes his crops. There is an officer placed in charge of the water who is even a greater man than the Walee of Muoonuh.

I have understood that ten thousand men find employment on this river. Merv was the cantonment of a large force in the early days of Eslam ; and the district was the place which determined the possession of Persia, to the followers of Mohummud, for Yezdegerd the last king of Persia was killed in a mill on the canal of Zoruk. From this quarter arose the call to the Khulufut of the Abbas family. In the house of the children of Aboo Lukhum Olmoet was this celebrated call, written round a dome ; but now hardly to be read. From this city went forth Mamoon to contend for the Khulufut with his brother Mohummud bin Zobueduh. Many bestowers of the Khulufut resided in this city.

The best penmen of Erak and Khorasan, the most celebrated theological lawyers and masters of ethics are of Merv, I have determined that my book should be a mere abstract, and hence have excluded those celebrated men, whose histories may be found in works on the subject. I have not detailed men and things which perhaps should have been mentioned.

In the days of the Persian dynasty, the most renowned of physicians and of accomplished performers came from Eranshuhr ; as Burzooyuh, the first of doctors, and Barbod, the chief of singers and of musical performers.

The provisions are better than in any other portion of Khorasan, the bread in particular is finer and better tasted—while of its dried fruits and raisins, a large exportation takes place to other countries. Much is said of the productions of Herat and the plenty in other

countries; but the delicacy and flavour of Merv productions are superior. Of its fruits the melon is large and is exported to Erak; but I am not sure if it is carried to other countries.

As to the city, the cleanliness, the beauty of the place, the arrangement of the divisions and of the houses, the windings of the canals, the vineyards, the marked difference of the people of the bazars from those of other places, all stamp the superiority of Merv over other parts of Khorasan. On its deserts flourish the Turunj-been which is carried over the world, as also are its fabrics of silk and its raw silk. But I have heard that the original source of the silk-worm is Jorjan and Tuberestan, whence it was brought long ago to Merv.

Raw Silk is now exported from Merv road to Tuberestan, also the superior cotton called the Leyun cotton, and ready made sheets.

Merv possesses several ancient traditionist musjeds. Merv road has two. Keshmehun, Hoormuz Kuruh, Seenuj, Khuzukh, Khuruk Shooshukan have each one house of prayer.

HERAT.—This is the name of a city having various districts, among its towns are Malun, Jusan, Serteyan, Oobuh, Marabad, Pashtan, Korookh, Chesht, Esfezar, Udruskun, Gowazan, Kooshuk, Khorasanabad.

Esfezar is the name of a district containing the four towns I have mentioned.

Herat is surrounded by walls, with plenty of water, and a large population, it has also suburbs, and contains a fort and Jama Musjed, but the Government house is outside the walls at a place called Khorasanabad about one-third of a fursukh from the city on the road to Pooshung lying to the westward. The houses are erected from unbaked bricks, and each side of the city measures about half a fursukh.

The city has four gateways, that to the north on the Neeshapoor road is called the Erak, that on the road to Bulkh is named Kepchak. The gateway leading to Seestan is known by the name of Feroozabad, while that leading to Ghoor the Khoshuk. The doors are all of wood except the Erak which is covered with iron, at each entrance is a bazar for the use of the inhabitants of the neighbouring quarter of the city. Water runs through the towns and suburbs,

the fort has also four entrances opposite to, and known by the names of, the gates of the city.

Outside the fort runs a wall on each side, to the height of a man, and about thirty paces in breadth.

The Jama Musjed is in the centre of the city surrounded by bazars, while to the west of it is placed the jail. In all Khorasan, Seestan, Mavarulnahr and the Jubal districts, there does not exist to the present time a better frequented Musjed than the one of Herat. Next in estimation is that of Bulkh, then the musjed of Seestan.

This Herat Musjed is much frequented by a large body of the profession learned in matters of religion, the congregation conduct themselves after the customs prevailing in Syria, and have a religious discourse read on each Friday's assembly.

Herat is a grand halting place between Fars and Khorasan, also a central mart for these countries as well as for Seestan.

On the road to Bulkh about half a fursukh from the city there is a hill rising from the plain lying between Herat and Esfezar, it produces neither wood nor grass but merely stones for mills and floors. On the summit of this hill stood a fire temple called *Sershak*; between it and the city is a Christian church.

No water nor any gardens exist until you reach the canal of the city near the gate, which is crossed by a bridge; beyond this canal there is neither garden nor water.

Near all the gates irrigation being obtainable, gardens are numerous—the most populous is the Feroozabad gateway. The river of this district rises at the Robate Gorwan, and as it flows from Ghoor to Herat, many canals are cut from it as follows:

CANALS.	VILLAGES WATERED.
Perwan,	Huwadushtuk. [Odwan.
Malun,.....	Kowashan, Seyawashan, Malun, Teezan,
Ulanjan,	Koosnan.
Kheyaban,	Sulbuh.
Kumburak,	Kookan.
Ghoorwan,	Zeeruk.
Tooneyan,	Ghooryan Kurugurd.
Subkur,	Ghazurwan and Feroozabad.
Unjeel,	The city of Herat and the gardens on the Seestan road.

Next to Herat the largest towns are Korookh and Oobuh, from the former are exported large quantities of raisins, of which the particular sort called zubeeb tayufee is also excellent at Malun.

Kurookh is a small place inhabited by a Khowarej population. The Musjed is located in the quarter belonging to the Seyuds, the houses are of unburnt bricks, the place itself is among the mountains, about a fursukh square filled with gardens, running water, trees, and populous villages.

Oobuh—the population is of the established Sonnee sect, the place is about the size of Kurookh with gardens, water and houses of unburnt bricks.

Malun is smaller than Kurookh, but covered with gardens containing water and plenty of grapes, always well peopled.

Jusan contains few trees and is less than Malun in size, the people are of the established sect.

Serteyan, the population is Khowarij, the place less in size than Malun, contains water and a few gardens, corn being more cultivated than fruit, as the situation is among the hills.

Marabad is a place less than Malun, contains many gardens and much water, rice is exported largely.

Pashtan is less than Malun, much grain cultivation, but few gardens exist, although water is plentiful.

Esfezar contains four towns, the largest being Kowashan which is less in size than Khorookh, but contains many gardens. Kowazan, Kooshuk, Edreskun, the other three places, are nearly equal in size, with water and gardens.

The district of Esfezar extends about four marches in length by one in breadth, it is highly populous, contains but little level land and has one difficult pass called Kashkan, this is inhabited by Khowarej families—while the population of the large towns is of the established sect.

POOSHUNG, its chief towns are Khushruo Gerd, Berkurduh, Koosweeyuh, Koh.

Pooshung is the largest and about the extent of half Herat; it is situated on a plain distant about two fursukhs from the range which passes Herat, the houses are level constructed much as those of Herat; water and trees are plentiful, one species called the *Urrur*

is superior to that produced in any other district of Khorasan, and is exported in large quantities. The water is supplied from the Herat rood, a river which flows on to a place called Surukhs, unless when the water is turned off below that place, in which year it is not obtainable so low down its bed. Pooshung is surrounded by a wall and a ditch, having three entrances.

The Ulee gate on the Neeshapoor road, the Herat and the Kohestan on their respective roads.

The next town is Koosweyuh, in size about one third of Pooshung, containing water and a few gardens with houses of unburnt brick.

Khusruo Gerd abounds in gardens and water but is less in size than Koosweyuh—Berkurduh is still smaller with some water; the inhabitants are breeders of cattle and not agriculturists. Koh is equal to Berkurduh, has both cultivation and irrigation.

BADGHUES, contains the towns of Jubul-ul-fezut, Koh, Koghunabad, Best, Jadoo, Kaburoon, Kalyoos, Dehestan; the Sultan resides at Koghunabad; the largest and most populous place of these is Dehestan which is about half the size of Pooshung, with houses built of clay; the country contains much lead. The town is among the hills of little water and few gardens and no grapes, its cultivation depends on rain, similar to which are Koh and Jubul-ul-fezut of which the two former is the largest place, the latter is on a hill containing mines of silver not worked from the absence of fire wood, the former, Koh, is on a plain.

Koghunabad, Best, Jadoo possess gardens, water and upland cultivation, but Kaburoon and Kalyoos are without gardens or running streams, their water being obtained from ponds and wells. The inhabitants are agriculturists as well as breeders of cattle. Jubul-ul-fezut is situated on the road leading from Herat to Surukhs. The population of Badghues is all of the established sonnee sect, except that of Hujestan, and the village of Uhmud bin Abdallah who are all Khowarej.

GUNJ ROSTAK is a district of which Buen is a town, as also Kuef and Bugshoor, the Soltan resides at Buen which is the largest place in the district and greater than Pooshung, to which place Bugshoor is about equal; Kuef is less than half Bugshoor; Buen and Kuef possess plenty of water, gardens and grapes, but the houses are of

clay. The water of Bugshoor is from ponds and wells, the place being situated on a plain: its cultivation is small, chiefly upland; but the situation is healthy and salubrious. All these places are on the road to Mervrood.

MERVROOD—one of the towns is Kusre Ukhnuf, another Duruh, the largest being Mervrood. This place is smaller than Pooshung, it has the advantage of a large river which flows on to Merv-Shajiehan; on the river are many gardens containing plenty of grapes, the air and soil are salubrious.

Kusre Ukhnuf is situated one journey on the road to Bulkh. Duruh is on the road to Unbar at the distance of four fursukhs. Kusre Ukhnuf abounds in water, gardens, grapes and fine fruits. Duruh is watered by the Merv-rood which divides the town, and is crossed by a bridge: it abounds in gardens of grapes and fruits. Mervrood is about an arrow's flight from the river. Talkan is about the size of Mervrood with running water, and a few gardens, its houses like those of Mervrood are built of clay, than which place it is more healthy.

Mervrood is situated at a distance of three fursukhs from hills to the west, and of two from those to the east. Talkan is in the hills and has villages round it.

Faryab—is in size less than Talkan, but exceeds it in water and gardens, its houses are built of clay.

Joozjan is the name of a district, of which Yahoodeyah is a town, as also are Shuburghan, Undkhod, Usluj, Kundderem, Unbar, San. Of these Unbar is the largest, being more extensive than Mervrood, it is the residence of the Sultan and situated among the hills—having gardens, water and vines, but houses of clay. San is a place of no extent, with gardens and water, its chief fruits are walnuts, being among the hills.

Yahoodeyah is more extensive than San, but of the same description. Kundderem abounds in vines, walnuts and water. Shuburghan has running water, agriculture exceeds horticulture, but it is of greater extent than Kundderem. Murshan equals in size Yahoodeyah.

Seerokh is a town. Undkhod a small one on the plains having seven villages attached to it, containing houses of the Koord popu-

lation, who are breeders of cattle and camels, and also they manufacture hair numuds. Khorasan is supplied with leather from the districts of Joozjan, which are also very fruitful.

Shuburghan is one march to the north of Unbar. To reach Yahoodeyah from Shuburghan it is necessary to go to Unbar, thence to Yahoodeyah. From Shuburghan to Undkhod two marches to the north. From Shuburghan to Kunderem, four marches, viz. three to the river and one march beyond it.

GHORJESTAN or GHORJULSHAR has two towns, Busheer and Soormeen, both equal in size, but neither constitutes the residence of the Sultan; the Shar to whom this kingdom belongs, resides in the hills at a place called Gungan, the country has water and gardens in plenty, and much rice is exported from it. Large quantities of raisins are produced in Soormeen. Busheer is one march from Duruh of Mervrood.

Mutlugh is an arrow's flight from the river of Mervrood to the East. From Busheer to Soormeen is one march to the south among the hills.

Ghoor is a country of infidels, which I include in the country of Eslam, because there live some Mohummudans in it. The country is one of springs, gardens and rivers, very fertile. Towards the east in early days was a tribe which professed Eslam, but were not Mohummudans in heart.

Ghoor is bounded by the districts of Herat, Furrh, Zumeendawur, the Robot Gorwan in the country of Kureeghoon, Ghorgestan, back to Herat; all of which districts are inhabited by Mohummudans, hence have I mentioned Ghoor as in the very centre of Eslam.

Surukhs is a city between Neeshapoor and Merv—situated on a level plain; river water only reaches it in particular years, and is not permanent, being the excess of the water of the Herat river. Its cultivation requires no irrigation. The city is about half the size of Merv, populous and salubrious, the neighbourhood consists chiefly of pasture-lands round a few villages, the main wealth being camels. The town is a centre of traffic for the surrounding districts of Khorasan. The mills are turned by cattle, the water being from wells; the houses are built of clay.

Nesa is a town equal in size to Surukhs, cultivated, irrigated and

having plenty of gardens. Water runs through the houses, and the streets are clean. It has many large thriving villages, being situated on outskirts of the mountains.

Furawuh is a frontier post on the deserts of the Ghoz tribe of Turks ; it is separated from all villages, but has a Jama-musjed, and is the station for a guard moving to a great distance for the protection of the people. The place is a Robat with no villages, and no population near it. A spring runs through the place. There exist neither gardens nor cultivation, except a little pulse on the spring. The guard is under the strength of one thousand men.

THE KOHESTAN of Khorasan lies near the desert of Fars, there is no town of the name, but one is called Kaen, of which the dependencies are Jonabad, Tubus called Geeluk, Khoar, Tubus known as Museena.

Kaen is equal in size to Surukhs, it has houses of clay, with a citadel surrounded by a ditch, also a Jama-musjed, and a government-house in the citadel ; its water is derived from springs, with a few gardens, and villages far separated, the climate is cold.

Tubus is inferior to Kaen in size, the temperature is warm and dates appear ; the place is surrounded by a wall, but has no fort, its houses are of clay and its waters derived from kareez ; its dates are larger than those of Kaen.

Khoar is in size less than Tubus, and near to Khost. The Jama-musjed is at Khoar ; the houses are of clay with no fortifications or fort. The gardens are few and water from kareez—indeed the want of water is excessive ; the people are cattle-breeders, the place being situated on the borders of the desert with no gardens.

Jonabad is greater than Khoar—the houses are of clay—villages and gardens exist with water from kareez. Tubus Geeluk is larger than Jonabad, there is water from kareez, and villages and gardens, and houses of clay. There exist the remains of an old fortification now in ruins, but a fort is standing. Dates are found in Kohestan, Tubus, and those places which I have mentioned as of cold climate. I have well examined all of them. The population is scanty as in other parts of Khorasan. On the confines of the district is a desert inhabited by Koords, who are breeders of cattle, as camels and sheep. On the boundaries towards Neeshapoor is found an earth which is exported for use, but not for food to distant countries.

I know of no large rivers in the Kohestan; they manufacture a species of earthen-ware which is taken to other places; also cloth of silk and cotton mixed, also much thread—but nothing else of value.

BULKH, to which belong Tokharestan, Khotul, Punjheer, Budukhsan, Bameeyan.

Tokharestan contains Kholum, Sumunjan, Bughlan, Sukulkund, Wurwageer, Urhun, Raween, Talkan, Eshkemes, Zuwa, Seræ Asem, Chesht, Indurab, Muzur, Gah.

Khotul contains Holawerd and Lawakund, towns of Wukhsh, Karteel, Ulyan, Huleel, Sekundurah, Meel, Undecharagh, Roostak Neel, sometimes Khotul is joined to the districts of Mawazlnuhr.

Bameeyan contains Bameeyan, Lushghorkund, Segawund, Kabul, Nujruo, Perwan, Ghuznee, Punjheer.

Budukhsan has a capital of the same name and is the country of Abu ul Futuh.

Bulkh lies on a plain about four fursukhs from the nearest hills called the Guz. The city has walls and ramparts with a Musjed ul Jama in the centre of the city surrounded by bazars, between which live the people. The length of the city is about half a fursukh, the houses are of clay. The gateways are called Nuo Bahar, Rukhnuh, Hudeed, Hindoo, Yuhood, Shustbund, Yuhya. A canal called Rohaneen enters the ramparts at the Nuo Bahar gateway: it is capable of turning ten mills, and irrigates as far as the village called Seyahgerd.

The gateways are surrounded by gardens and vineyards, the walls have no ditch and are built of clay.

Tokharestan; the largest place is Talkan, situated on a plain at an arrow's flight from the hills, it possesses a large canal with gardens and vineyards, being about one-third the size of Bulk; next in extent is Wurwageer and then Indurab which is situated in a gorge of the hills; it is a mart for the silver found in the mines of Jaryanuh and Punjheer; two rivers flow in this district called the Indurab and Kasan; vines and fruit-trees are plentiful. All the other places of Tokharestan are much of the same magnitude, but all less than Talkan. Wurwageer and Indurab are at the heads of springs containing fruit-trees, much cultivation, and a large population.

The towns of Khotul are all well supplied with springs, trees and population, they are all situated on plains, except Sekundurah.

The Jubal or hill-districts of Khotul are all mountainous, except about Wukhsh.

The large towns of Khotul are Meel, Ulyan, Huleel; the Sultan resides at the last named place. Khotul is situated between the streams Wukhsh and the river of Budukshan, which is also called Khurab. Near this district flow many streams which all unite a little above Termez near Kobadayan and form the great river called Juehoon.

Meel is about the size of Indurabuh, Huleel less—the houses of both are built of clay, but the walls of Meel are of stone and mortar. Two districts of the Kafirs called Wukhan and Gharan are adjoining.

Budukshan is less than Meel in size, it has many villages, vineyards, a large population and cultivation with plenty of water,—being situated on the river Khurab flowing to the West. Khotul exports large numbers of cattle; and produces abundance of lapis lazuli and rubies from mines in the hills. Musk is imported by the road of Wakhan from Tubbut.

Punjheer is a place in the hills inhabited by ten thousand men chiefly robbers and thieves. There are streams and gardens but no cultivation.

Jaryanuh is a smaller place than Punjheer,—both contain mines of silver and houses for the men employed in the mines, they have no gardens or cultivation. The river of Punjheer runs through the district of that name, then flows into Jaryanuh, and passing Perwan, enters India.

Bameeyan, its city is about half the size of Bulkh. This district is called Sheer Bameeyan; the town is without walls built on a hill, a rivulet flows through it into Ghorgestan—fruits are imported, it having no gardens. There is no town near at hand situated on the hills except Bameeyan.

GUZNEE has no gardens but a stream flows near it; none of the places under Bulkh are more rich or more commercial than Guznee, which is a mart of India.

KABUL has a strong fort of one entrance, in which reside Mohummadans; with suburbs in which reside Hindoos. It is settled, that

the king has no right to the kingdom unless he is residing at Kabul on attaining it—should he be at a distance, he does not obtain the power until returning to Kabul. This city is also a grand emporium of Indian produce. Bulkh produces the Bactrian camel, superior to those of any other district, also oranges, water-lilies and sugar-cane, which are products of warm climates, but no dates. Snow falls in the neighbourhood. Nugruo, Segawund and Kabul are warm climates but still produce no dates.

GHOOR is surrounded on all sides by Mohummudan countries, but the inhabitants are infidels, except a few who pass for Mohummudans.

The country is of mountains; their language is different from the Persian language; the earth is fruitful in crops, cattle and flocks. I have admitted it into Khorasan, because it is surrounded on three sides by this country, one boundary is Seestan.

Most of the slaves from Ghoor are carried to Herat or Seestan or in those directions. At the back of Ghoor, stretches a range of mountains reaching to Bameeyan, Punjheer and Wakhan.

It then passes into Mawazolnuhr crossing Sar and Shash, and concluding in the country of the Khurgheez.

This range from beginning to end contains mines of silver and of lead. The most pure comes from the country of the Kherkheez, Ferghanah and Shash; but the best obtainable in Mohummudan countries is from Punjheer and its dependencies.

I will sketch the banks of the Juehoon and Kharism in my account of Mawazolnuhr.

Amol and Zum are two places of equal size on the banks of the Juehoon, having running water, gardens and cultivation. Amol is the point of meeting of the various roads from Khorasan. Zum is less populous than Amol, it is also a well known ferry. These places are surrounded by the desert which extends from Bulkh to the sea of Kharism—the soil is chiefly sandy, with no springs, only a few ponds and wells for water and pasture-lands. This desert reaches back to Merv from Amol. A similar one also separates these districts from Kharism and the countries of the Ghoz tribes. Wells are dug and much cattle are produced, but the best breed of camels in Khorasan is from Surukhs and Bulkh. The sheep are mostly imported from the Ghoz districts, from Ghoor and from Khuluj.

In Khorasan are found abundance of cattle, slaves, food, clothing and all that is necessary for man.

Marches.

From Koomis the first district of

Neeshapoor	To the banks of the Juehoon,	23
„ Neeshapoor	„ Esferayun the second district of Neeshapoor, ...	5
„ Neeshapoor	„ Boozjan,	4
„ Boozjan	„ Pooshunj,	4
„ Pooshunj	„ Herat,	1
„ Herat	„ Esfezar,	3
„ Esfezar	„ Duruh, the last district of Herat,	2
„ Duruh	„ Seestan,days	7
„ Esferayun	„ Duruh,.....	19
„ Neeshapoor	„ Toos,	3
„ Neeshapoor	„ Nesa,	6
„ Nesa	„ Furawuh,.....	4
„ Neeshapoor	„ Kaen of Kohestan,.....	9
„ Kaen	„ Herat,	8
„ Merv	„ Mervrood,	6
„ Merv	„ Herat,	12
„ Merv	„ Abeewurd,	6
„ Abeewurd	„ Nesa,	4
„ Herat	„ Mervrood on the Bulk road	6
„ Herat	„ Surukhs,	5
„ Bulk	„ Mervrood,	12
„ Bulk	„ the border of the desert to Termez,	2
„ Bulk	„ Endurabuh,.....	9
„ Bulk	„ Bameeyan,	10
„ Bameeyan	„ Guznee,	8
„ Bulk	„ Budukshan,.....	13
„ Bulk	„ the border of the desert on the road to Khotul at a place called Eeluh,	3

Khorasan extends in latitude from Budukshan lying on the Juehooon to the lake of Kharism.

From Budukshan	To Termez on the river,	13
„ Termez	„ Zum,	5
„ Zum	„ Amol,	4
„ Amol	„ the capital of Kharism, ...	13
„ The capital	„ the lake of Kharism,	6

I have thus stated the distances between the well known cities, I now proceed to the towns situated in each district.

NEESHAPPOOR.

„ Neeshapoor	„ Boozjan,	4
„ Boozjan	„ Malun called Kisrajerd on the left of the road from Herat to Neeshapoor, ...	1
„ Malun	„ Khaemun,	1
„ Khaemun	„ Sungan,	1
„ Sungan	„ Jonabad,	2
„ Jonabad	„ Kaen,	2
„ Suloomul is situated two days to the left of Sungan,		2
„ Suloomul	„ Zoozan,	1
„ Zoozan	„ Kaen,	3
„ Neeshapoor	„ Tersheez,	4
„ Tersheez	„ Kunduz,	1
„ Kunduz	„ Jonabad,	2
„ Jonabad	„ Kaen,	2
„ Neeshapoor	„ Khushruogerd,	4
„ Subzwar is two fursukh from Khushruogerd.		
„ Khushruogerd	„ Buhmunabad,long	1
„ Buhmunabad	„ Moobedan on the road to Koomis fursukh,	1
„ Neeshapoor,	„ Janruwan,	1
„ Janruwan,	„ Mehrjan,	2
„ Mehrjan	„ Esferayun,	2
„ Buhmunabad	„ Azadwar,	1
„ Azadwar	„ Reewaduh,	1
„ Reewaduh	„ Mehrjan,	2

MERV.

From Merv	To Keshmehun,	march	1
„ Keshmehun	„ Hormuz-Kuruh, near it, is the road leading over the desert to Kharism, fursukh,		1

Pashtan lies in front of Hormuz-Kuruh at a fursukh from the road. Seenuj is situated one march from the city between the grand road, and the Surukhs road. Khuzukh is a place six fursukhs from the city, one fursukh in front of Zoruk on the desert.

Mervzum is situated four fursukhs from the city on the desert.

Dundafkun is one march from the city on the road to Surukhs. Kurshee lies four marches from Merv on the desert.

Khuruk, three fursukhs from the city between the road to Surukhs and Abewurd.

Shooshukan lies at a distance of a fursukh from Khuruk.

HERAT.

From Herat	To Esfezar, contains 4 places already mentioned, each less than one march in extent,		3
„ Herat	„ Malun,		$\frac{1}{2}$
„ Herat	„ Kurooj,		3
„ Herat	„ Pooshung,		1
„ Pooshung	„ Koh, two fursukhs on the left of the Neeshapoor road,		4
„ Pooshung	„ Burkurduh,		2
„ Burkurduh	„ Khushruogerd,		2
„ Khushruogerd	„ Zoozun,		1
„ Herat	„ Pashtan of Herat,		$\frac{1}{2}$
„ Pashtan	„ Jusan,	easy	1
„ Jusan	„ Serteeyan,		1
„ Serteeyan	„ Marabad,	easy	1
„ Marabad	„ Oobuh,	easy	1
„ Oobuh	„ Chesht,		2

From Chesht the country of Ghoor commences.

„ Herat	„ Buenuh,	2
„ Buenuh	„ Kuef,	1
„ Kuef	„ Bugshoor,	1

BULKH.

„ Bulkh	„ Kholum,	2
„ Kholum	„ Wurwageer,	2
„ Wurwageer	„ Talkan,	2
„ Talkan	„ Budukshan,	7
„ Kholum,	„ Sumunjan,	2
„ Sumunjan	„ Endurab,	5
„ Endurabuh	„ Jaryanuh,	3
„ Jaryanuh	„ Punjheer,	1
„ Punjheer	„ Perwan,	2
„ Bulkh	„ Buglan,	6
Two marches to Sumunjan then	Bughlan,	2
„ Bulkh,	„ Mudur,	2
„ Mudur	„ Kah,	1
„ Kah	„ Bameyan,	3
„ Bulkh	„ Shuboorgan,	3
„ Shuboorgan	„ Faryab,	3
„ Faryab	„ Talkan,	3
„ Talkan	„ Mervrood,	3

KOHESTAN.

„ Kaen	„ Zoozun,	3
„ Kaen	„ Tubbus Meseena,	2
„ Kaen	„ Koor,	1
„ Koor	„ Khoost,	fursukhs 2
„ Kaen	„ Tubbus,	marches 3

NOTES.

NEESHAPoor.

The glory of Neeshapoor must indeed have faded away. According to Fraser, hardly a trace remains of the various neighbouring cities passing under this name, unless perhaps mounds of debris with two shrines of Mohummudan saints can be so termed. The trade has entirely vanished, and now consists in the traffic of the turquoise

found in the mines—the circuit of the present wall is 4000 paces, the population under 20,000 souls, the entire revenue being estimated at a lac of Tomans.

In the Nozhut-ul-Koloob it is stated, that Shahpoor ben Ardesheer in renovating this city carried on the ancient custom of laying out cities on the form of some animal, or visible article; in this case, the squares of the chess-board were adopted. Bulk subsequently assumed the position of capital of Khorasan, until Omur ben Lues restored this dignity to Neeshapoor. One of the numerous new cities had the name of Shadbagh—it was destroyed by an earthquake in A. H. 679, after this arose the present town which has been absorbed in the modern Mushud. Every book contains long descriptions of the beauties and delights of the springs and gardens of Neeshapoor.

Boozjan or Boochgan, on the high road to Herat at a distance of 38 fursukhs from Neeshapoor according to the Nozhut-ul-Koloob. *The Bezkh* of Burne's map (?) also noted as a district of Jam. Four roads take off from this place; to Herat, Kaen, Surukhs, and Bakhurz.

Khaemund, doubtful. Burne's Map exhibits Kahmah near the required position.

Suloomul doubtful. Salama of the Maps?

Sungan. Sungoon of the Maps—mentioned by Christie, a place in Zawuh.

Zoozan is noted on Burne's Map, but too far to the north of the position required. The interpolation of places by correct European latitudes and longitudes, among locations from native authorities has this effect of transposing positions. All places connected, require to be reduced in the same ratio of the newly determined place.

Tersheez was visited by Forster, who says the old capital was called Sultan Abad, of small compass surrounded by a wall.

Dure Mushkan, a fort of this name between Neeshapoor and Subzwar is mentioned in the Nadir Namuh.

Azadwar is noted as eight fursukhs from Jajerm, the first march on the road to Neeshapoor.

Khushruogerd is noticed by Fraser, a fort of great antiquity with delapidated minars and extensive ruins.

Buhmunabad Map.

Muzneyan, Muzeenoon of Fraser, a place surrounded by extensive ruins.

Subzwar is the central town of a district known as Beehuk ; found by Fraser a field of ruins, with the tombs of several saints of Eslam alone preserved, said to have been built by Sasan ben Buhman.

Rewaduh, probably the Rewat of the Maps.

Esfurayun, a district thirty or forty miles N. E. of Subzwar, both names are now used in common. The Nozhut-ul-Koloob mentions a large stone vase of four yards in diameter as a curiosity.

Khuer Khan very doubtful, unless it be Khur or Khuer Shah twenty miles from Azadwar on the road to Neeshapoor, a place of the district of Joweeruh once a portion of Beehuk.

Zurmuluh unknown and doubtful.

Toos, is recorded by Fraser as exhibiting a large area of debris surrounded by walls yet standing. The name and indeed the city are ascribed to Toos ben Nuozur. This city has been ever celebrated as the birth or resting-place of men of talents or of piety. The poet Ferdousee, and numerous Mohummudan saints are buried within its walls.

Radgan seen by Fraser about forty-three miles W. by N. of Mushud.

Taburoon, Burooghoor, Nookan, Sunabad.—The modern town of Mushud, now a place of pilgrimage, has entirely arisen on the proceeds of the shrine ; it must occupy the position of the Sunabad mentioned, the little detail given by our author of the shrine with the absence of all mention of the tomb of Ferdousee at Toos, point to a date prior to which the work must have been written.

MERV.

We have some account of this place in the travels of Sir Alexander Burnes and party. They arrived at the river thirty miles below the city and found it a fine stream, eighty yards wide, five feet deep. The country between the Oxus and this point having been a dry arid plain. But round the town of Merv were scattered for miles the remains of ancient forts and villages, with the marks of extensive cultivation ; when this existed, the waters of the river were nearly exhausted for irrigation. The houses of the villages and

towns were all of un-burnt bricks, the population resided chiefly in black felt tents; a few families of Jews were found in several of the larger places.

The country continued to rise in level from the Oxus until reaching Surukhs—a ruined town of mud houses under a fort on a hillock of no importance. The population had changed from the fixed habits of towns to the wandering propensities of the tents. The distance was calculated as 125 miles from the Charjoe ferry of the Oxus to Merv, and 68 thence to Surukhs. The waters of Surukhs are from a river called Tejend, rising in the hills lying to the North of Neeshapoor and hence unlikely to be joined by a river like the Hureerood coming from the opposite direction on the South side of the range. The lands about Surukhs were considered to be fertile to an extraordinary degree: the place was able to send forth 4000 horsemen. All the splendour narrated by our Arabian author had disappeared before the ravages of the contending Tatar and Tork tribes. The clay-built houses had melted away under snow and rain, the canals were choked up, the fields affording precarious subsistence to wandering hordes of Toorecomun robbers. From Surukhs to Mushud was considered 64 miles. Capt. Abbott gives to the lands of Merv 2,400 square miles, a population of 60,000 Toorkoman families, paying two lacs of rupees per annum, revenue.

Kurshee, is here distinguished from the Kurshee of Bokhara and is given in the Nozhut-ul-Koloob as four marches or twenty-five fursukhs from Merv.

Walee Maoonuh. The only point of comparison I can reach is this—on the Huj road to Mecca exists a celebrated well, called the Bere Maoonuh, on the waters of which the pilgrims much depend, hence the Meerab or Canal Master of Merv may be considered as of equal importance to the owner of this well.

Arched Room.—This place is mentioned in the Nozhut-ul-Koloob.

Mamoon.—Merv was also the capital, subsequently, of the Seljook dynasty.

Surukhs is given in the Nozhut-ol-Koloob as founded by Afraseyab, and watered by a continuation of the rivers, both of Herat and Toos. The extraordinary fecundity of the soil is extolled, that one mun would return one hundred muns, and either from the roots or

the scattered seed, thirty more could be collected in the following season.

HERAT.

The city has been altered since this description was written, the names of the gates, of the canals, and of the villages given in the translation are such as I believe to be intended and to be correct, I have compared them with the names given in many books. Marabad is the Marwan of the Map.

Esfezar—Arthur Conolly mentions Kooshuk as a small fort situated in a fertile plain of twenty miles in breadth.

Subzwar is a town of one thousand houses.

Pooshung was the capital of the family of Taher, which for several generations was all-powerful in Khorasan. The Nozhut-ul-Koloob contains Kooswee, Khushruogird, and Burooh as its subdivisions, the second I adopt and the latter may have connection with Burkurduh. But Mohun Lal mentions Furuhabad to the South of Khaff, which is about the requisite position, and points to Furuhgerd as the correct reading, perhaps Ferhadgerd.

Kooswee was passed by Arthur Conolly in ruins, at seventy miles from Herat. It was once a place of importance and stood a long siege from Jungeez Khan.

Urur, one dictionary offers the Surv or cypress-tree for this word.

Hureerood, it appears to be settled, that this river does not run so far as to reach Surukhs; and its junction with the Tajend to be a misconception, or at any rate doubtful, as the country rises from Herat towards Mushud.

Badghues—the readings with the exception of Koh are nearly all confirmed by the Nozhut-ul-Koloob. The district is an extensive one to the North of Herat.

Hujestan is noted in a history of Herat.

Gunjrostak appears to form a large division of country lying between Badghues and the Moorghab river.

Bughshoor.—The Nozhut-ul-Kolook has Buhreshoor in the required position—which is about the Awsharuh of Wyld's map. Native authority is in favour of Bughshoor—I incline to Buhreshoor.

Buen and Kuef are unknown.

MERVROOD appears never to have been visited, hence many of the subdivisions cannot be identified.

Ukhnuf bin Kues—a celebrated Arab leader of early period, the place is identified in the Nozhut-ul-Koloob at three fursukhs from Mervrood.

Talkan lies 18 fursukhs east of Merv, yet this meanly mentioned place took the entire army of Junguez Khan seven months to capture.

Faryab stands at 40 fursukhs East of Merv on the Bulkh road.

JOOZJAN is a large district between Merv-road and Bulk round Muemoonuh as a centre.

Unbar, we have a place in Ezzut Allah, and on the maps, and constantly mentioned by horse-dealers, Ulmar, which may be the Unbar indicated by the text; and the Humber of Wyld's map.

Yahoodeyuh, a large body of Jews are known to have accompanied the armies of Seleucus, and to have been settled near Merv; this Yahoodeyuh may constitute their location.

GHOEGESTAN; it was a most difficult affair to reach the meaning of this sentence, but I find it mentioned in the fourth volume of the Roozut-ul-sufa that the people of Ghorgestan called their kings, Shar, even as Torks use Khan, and Hindus Rae. I can offer no confirmations of my readings, except that Wyld's map contains a place called Soormeen though not quite in the position required.

Nesa, Furawuh, are known by name but not identified.

KOHESTAN.—Jonabad, is the Arabised form of Goonabad, a town said to have been constructed by a son of Goodurz. It is defended by a fort on an eminence.

Tubus called Geeluk appears to be the Tubus of Wyld's map to the West of Kaen, it is said in the Nozhut-ul-Koloob to be seven days' march from Yezd, a distance which Captain Christie covered in that time, and calls about 145 miles—this traveller skirted the district of Kohestan, and indicates the want of water, the deserts of sand, but no absolute deficiency of supplies.

Kaen is put down as a large city of a warm climate, and very fruitful, in Lat. 33° 40'; the inhabitants are very warlike and possessing, each man, instruments of war.

A more modern work gives the subdivisions of Kohestan as Choon, Toon, Tubus, Dushtebeyaz, Neyarjan, Moomenabad, Shakhuen, Jonabad, Zeerkoh, Peeshawur.

This district became the centre of the noted sect or tribe of Esmaeeluh or Mulaheduh; the assassins of European story.

BULKH.

Bulkh is considered to be the capital of the ancient Bactria. In Moslem history, this city has ever been highly celebrated, even called the Paradise of the world. The old ramparts and castle, went by the name of the Hindoo fort, it was destroyed by Ukhnuf ben Kues, a new city then arose under the order of Abco-Moslem the governor of Khorasan. On the high road of contending armies, its vicissitudes have been numerous; it now lies under the ban of "ruin and decay with no remains of interest beyond its name." The numerous gates mentioned, will be of the fort and of the town. The designation to the hills of Koo, is a fragment probably of Hindoo Koosh—or may be Gor or Guz the last I take as the valley of the Bulkhab is called Guz.

Sumungan, according to Moorcroft is now designated Uebuk—"the first view of Uebuk was rather imposing, presenting a castle on an insulated eminence"—it proved to be in ruins, but to possess some claims indicative of its antiquity.

Wurwageer is doubtful, by the distance and bearing, it would fall near the position of the modern Kundooz in the direct line from Bulkh to Budukshan.

Shuboorgan is mentioned by Marco Polo.

Wukhsh, the arch type of Oxus is apparently beyond the river of that name, lying N. W. from the stream at no great distance.

Khotul.—The Khotlan of the maps, is a large district lying on the bend of the Oxus above Budukshan, near the spot marked Durwaz—the town of the name is mentioned in the Nozhut-ul-Koloob as an important place but in ruins.

Khuryab has a local authority attached, as Khurgeez the wandering tribes of the steppes of the Poshte Khur of the Pameer range.

Budukshan is a well understood district, the Balashan of Marco Polo.

Talkan is "a small place under a fort of no importance," perhaps four hundred houses.

Eshkemesk is probably the Scassem of Polo, but Wood places an

Eshkashem to the East of Fuezabad, which better answers the position required by the Venetian.

Budukshan town, according to Wood, "hardly a vestige remains of the modern capital, Fuezabad" which once occupied a commanding position on the left bank of the Koksha or Khur river.

Wakan is clearly the Vokan of Polo, whose description is most wonderfully authenticated at a distance of six centuries by the highly interesting narrative of Capt. Wood of the Indian Navy—a companion of Burnes.

Gharan is mentioned by Wood as the district of the ruby mines, which are located on the South face of the mountains of Shughnoon, the Sikinan of Polo who also notices the same fact.

Rubies.—Budukshan has ever been celebrated for the rubies and lapis lazuli of its mines.

Jaryanuh—I adopt in preference to Haryanuh, on the authority of Wood, who mentions the district and village of I-angheran at the South end of the Perwan and Punjheer valleys.

Punjheer, exactly as described by Wood, and has not improved since the days of our Arabian author, except perhaps in population, as the former gentleman considers the valley could turn out 10,000 armed men. The fort of Khawak captured by Timoor is situated near the top of the pass.

Bameeyan.—The reader is rather surprised to find no mention of the celebrated idols cut in the hill-side.

Kabul.—The fort with one entrance is probably that now known as the Akabeen or upper fort of Kabul, now but little used, being the enclosed summit of the range which would otherwise command the modern fort.

Lushghorkund is most likely the modern Lhoghur.

Ghor, is now occupied by Huzaruhs who speak very pure Persian. Sar of Torkestan is doubtful.

Ghoz tribes, they were located on the sources of the Utturuk river.

Most of my readings are acknowledged by men of Bokhara to be such as they have heard mentioned, but several names are extremely doubtful as Sukulkund, Wurwageer, Undechuragh and others.

واما خراسان

فانها يشتمل على كور وهو اسم الاقليم والذي يحيط بها من شوقيها نواحي
 مسجستان وبلد الهند لانا ضمنا الى مسجستان ما يتصل بها من ظهر الغور كله
 الى الهند وجعلنا ديار جالغ في حدود كابل وفرحان في ظهر الجبل كله وغير
 ذلك من نواحي وغربها مفازة غزنة ونواحي جرجان وشما ليها ما وراء النهر
 وشي من بلد البرل على ظهر الختل وجنوبها مفازة فارس وقومس وضمنا
 قومس الى نواحي الديلم مع جرجان وطبرستان والرى وقزوين وما يتصل بها
 وجعلنا ذلك كله اقليما وضمنا الختل الى ما وراء النهر لانها بين نهر وخشتار
 وحوبار وضمنا خوارزم الى ما وراء النهر لان مدينتها ما وراء النهر وهي اقرب
 الى بخارا منها الى مدن خراسان وبخراسان فيما يلي المشرق زفقة فيما بين
 مفازة فارس وبين هرات والغور الى غزنة ولها زفقة في المغرب من حد قومس
 الى ان يتصل بنواحي فرارة وفيفص هاتان الزفتان عن تريع سائر خراسان
 وفيها من حد جرجان وبحرا لجر الى خوارزم

تقويس على العمارة وهذه صورة خراسان

واما كور خراسان التي تجمع على الاعمال وتفرق فان اعظمها نيشاپور
 ومرو وهرات وبلخ وبخراسان كور دونها في الكبر فمنها قوهستان وطوس ونسا
 وايديورد وسرخس واسفرار وبوسخ وبذعس وكخرساق ومرورد و جرجان
 والباميان وطحارستان والزيم وامل *

واما خوارزم فانها نذكرها فيما وراء النهر لان مدينتها وراء النهر وهي الى
 مدن ما وراء النهر على السميت اقرب منها الى مدن خراسان ونسانور كور لم
 نفردها لانها مجموعة اليها والاعمال سنذكرها في صفة نيشاپور وافرنا طحارستان
 عن بلخ وان كانت مجموعة اليها لانها مفردة في الذكر والدواوين فيقال بلخ
 وطحارستان وليس في تفریقنا هذه الكور وجمعها درك اكبر من اسانها وتاليقها
 في الصور ومعرفه مكان كل شى منها في صورة خراسان فاما نيشاپور فهي ابر
 سهر وهي مدينة في ارض سهله ابنيته طين وهي مفترشة البنا ومقدار
 عرضها نحو فرسخ في فرسخ ولها مدينة وقهندر ورض وقهندرها ومدينتها
 عامرتان ومسجد جامعها في الرض بمكان يعرف بالمعسكر ودار الامارة بمكان يعرف
 بميدان الحسن والحسين عند دار الامارة وبين الحبس ودار الامارة وبين المسجد

الجامع نحو فرسخ ودارالامارة من بناء عمر بن الليث والقهنذر با بان وللمدينة اربعة ابواب احدها يعرف بباب راس القنطرة والثانى بباب معقل والثالث باب القهنذر والرابع قنطرة در منكين وقهنذرها خارج عن مدينتها ويحيط بالمدينة والقهنذر جميعا الربض وللربض ابواب فاما الباب الذى يخرج منه الى العراق وجرجان فانه يعرف بباب القباب والباب الذى يخرج منه الى بلخ و مرو وما وراء النهر يعرف بباب حبل والثانى الذى يخرج منه الى فارس وقوهستان فانه يعرف بباب احوص اباز والباب الذى يخرج منه الى طوس ونساء عدة ابواب فمنها باب سوخته و باب يعرف بسر شيرين وغيرهما *

واما اسواقها فانها خارج من المدينة والقهنذر فى الربض واعظم اسواقها سوقان احدهما يعرف بالمربعة الكبيرة والاخر بالمربعة الصغيرة واذا اخذت من المربعة الكبيرة نحو المشرق بالسوق يمتد الى ان تجاوز مسجد الجامع واذا اخذت من المربعة نحو المغرب بالسوق يمتد الى ان تجاوز المربعة الصغيرة واذا اخذت من المربعة نحو الجنوب فالسوق يمتد الى قرب مقابر الحسينين ويمتد السوق من المربعة فى شمالها حتى ينتهى الى راس القنطرة والمربعة الصغيرة بقرب ميدان الحسينين جنب دارالامارة واكبر مياهما قنى تخرج تحت مساكنهم ويظهر خارج البلد فى ضياعهم وبها قنى يظهر فى البلد وتجرى فى دورهم وبساتينهم داخل البلد وخارجا عنه ولهم نهر كبير يعرف بوادى سغادر يسقى منه بعض البلد ورساتيق كثيرة وعلى هذا الوادى ثوام وليس لهم فى البلد نهر اعظم منه *

وليس بخراسان مدينة هواء اولا اكبر من نيشاپور ويرتفع منها من اصناف ثياب القطن والابريسم ما ينقل الى سائر بلدان الاسلام وبعض بلاد الشرك لكثرتها وجودتها *

ولنيشاپور حدود واسعة ورساتيق عامرة وبها مدن منها النورنجان وماء ان المعروف بكراجر وحاتمذ وسلومل ومكان وزوزن وكندز و برسير و حان را ان وازادوار وخسروكرد ونهمناناد وسا دوار ومرسان وديواذة و سحرجان واسفراس و جنرحان و رزبله و ان جمعنا طوس الى نيشاپور فمن مدنها الرابكان والطابران و بز و عور و النوفان التى بها قبر على ابن موسي الرضا عليهما السلام وقبر هارون الرشيد ومنها يرتفع الجرام وقبر

الرضا من المدينة على نحو ربع فرسخ بقرية يقال لها سابار وفي جبال
نيسابور وطوس يكون الفروزم و اما مرو فانها تعرف بمرو والشاهجان وهي
قديمة البنا يقال ان قهندرها من بنا طهمورث وان المدينة قديمة من بنادى
القرنين وهي فى ارض مستوية بعيدة عن الجبال لا يرى منها جبل وليس
فى شى من حدودها جبل وارضها سبخة كثيرة الرمال وبنيتها طين وفيها
ثلاثة مساجد الجماعات اما اول مسجد اقيمت فيه الجمعة فمسجد بنى داخل
المدينة فى اول الاسلام فلما كثر الاسلام بنى المسجد المعروف بمسجد
العتيق على باب المدينة ويصلى فيه اهل الحديث ونزلت الجماعات فى
المسجد الاول ويعرف بمسجد بني ماهان ثم بنى بعد ذلك المسجد الذى
على ماهان ويذكر ان ذلك المسجد والسوق ودار الامارة من بنا ابي مسلم
و دار الامارة على ظهر هذا المسجد وفى هذه الدار قبة بناها ابو مسلم كان
يجلس فيها والى هذه الغاية يجلس فى هذه القبة امراء مرو وهي قبة من
آجرو سعة هذه القبة لم يذكر المساحة ومنص لها من داخل نيبه السطح
و للقبه اربعة ابواب كل باب الى الوان سمك كل الوان *

وبين يرى كل الوان صحن مربع والقهندر فى الكبر مثل مدينة الا انه
خراب وهو مرتفع وعلى ارتفاعه قد سبقت اليه قناة ماء جار الى يومنا هذا
وربما زرع عليه صاطيخ ومبا قل وغير ذلك *

واما اسواقها فانها فى القديم كانت على باب المدينة جنب المسجد
العتيق فانتقلت فى ايام ابي مسلم الى ما حان واسواقها من انظف اسواق
الامصار ومصلى العبد فى محلة راس الهيدان فى مربعه الى الجهم و
يطيف بهذا المصلى من جميع جهاته البنيان والعمارات وهو بين نهر هرمرقوة
وما حان و اربع البلد انهار معروفة فمنها نهر هرمرقوة وهو نهر عليه ابنية
كثيرة من البلد وهو مما يلى سرخس فى اول ما يدخل الداخل من سرخس
وهى ابنية كثيرة كان الحسين بن طاهر بنا فيها تلك الابنية واراد ان ينقل اليها
السوق و دار الامارة ومن هذا النهر شرب محله راس الشاهبان الذى فيه دور
الشيخ الجليل ابي الفضل محمد بن عبيد الله ومنها نهر يعرف بالماحان وعليه
دار الامارة والاسواق والمسجد الجامع المحدث والحبس وعلى هذا النهر
دارال ابي النجم مولاء ال ابي معيط وهى الدار التى فيها القبة التى صنع

فيها سواد دعوة بنى العباس والقبلة باقية الى اليوم ومنها نهر يعرف بالزريق و
 مجراه على باب المدينة ومن هذا النهر يشرب اهل المدينة سان ومن هذا
 النهر الى حياض فيها وعلى هذا النهر المسجد العتيق ومن اسفل هذا النهر
 قصورا ال خالد بن احمد بن حماد الذي كان على امانة بخارا ومنها نهر يعرف
 باسمعدي الخراساني واليه شرب محلة باب مسكان وبرماهان وغيرها وعلى
 هذا النهر كانت دور مرزبان مروفهذه انهار مرو التي عليها محال البلد و
 ابنيتهما وعلى هذه الابنية سور يحيط بها وبهذه الاربعة الانهار ويحيط بهذه
 المدينة ورساتيقيها سور اخر يشمل على جميع رساتيقيها يعرف بالراي وتري
 اثار هذا السور الى هذه الغاية وللمدينة الداخلة اربعة ابواب فمنها باب يعرف
 مهايلى مسجد الجامع و باب حمى و باب سنجار و باب يسما باب بالين و باب
 در مسكان ومن هذا الباب يخرج الى ما وراء النهر وعلى هذا الباب مسكن
 المامون و مضر به ايام مقامه بمرو الى ان انتهت الخلافة اليه ولعرو نهر
 عظيم يذشعب هذه الانهار كلها وانهار الرساتيقي منه و مبتدأه وراء الباميان
 ويعرف هذا النهر بمراعاب اى بامرو ومن الناس من يرغم ان النهر منسوب
 الى مكان يخرج منه الماء يسمى بمراعاب ومنه من يقول بزعم تفسير مرغ
 اجمه و مجرا هذا النهر على مرور روز وعليه ضياعهم واول حد هذا النهر من
 عمل مرو وكوكين بين حوران من مرو والفرسى من مرو ومقاسم هذا
 الماء من رزق قرية بها مقسم ماء مرو وقد جعل لكل محلة و منكة من هذا
 النهر نهر صغير عليه الواح خشب فيها سقب يتساوى بها الناس في تناول
 حصصهم من الماء فان زاد احد كل شرب نصيبه من الرمادة وكذلك اذا نقص
 وهولا هذا الماء امير على حدة وهو جل من والى المعونة بلغنى انه بربزق
 على هذا الماء زيادة على عشرة الاف رجل لكل واحد منهم على هذا الماء
 عمل وكانت مرو معسكر الاسلام فى اول الاسلام وفيها استقامت مملكة فارس
 للمسلمين لان يزيد جرد ملك الفرس قتل بها فى طاحونة رزق ومنها ظهرت
 دعوة بنى العباس وفى دار ال ابي النجم المعنطى صبيح سواد ليس المسودة
 وفيها جاءت المامون الخلافة و ظهر على اخيه محمد بن زبيدة ومنها عاصمة
 قواد الخلافة وكتابها بالعراق ولولا خراسان ومنها ائمة من الفقهاء واهل الادب
 معروفون ولولا انا بيانا كتابنا على التجوز وان الذى تركنا شرحه هو معروف

فى الاخبار والكتب المولفة لشرحنا من طبقات الناس و سائر ما احملنا ذكره
 و فى ايام العجم كانوا مقدمين من بين نواحى ابر شهر فى الطبع و التادب
 حتى كان طبيدهم سرز و يه مقدما على سائر اطبا العجم و ملهذهم المعروف
 بالبازيد مقدم على سائر من صنع الالكان و تعاطا الملاهى ثم هى من اطييب
 بلاد خراسان اطعمه اما خبزهم فليس بخراسان انظف خبزاً و الذطعما منه
 حتى ان اليا بس من فواكهها من الزبيب و غير ذلك متصل على سائر
 الاماكن و انما يذكر من هراة اكثره و انه يكثر فى الافاق فاما الطعم و الجودة
 فان المروزى بفضلها و من صحة فواكههم ان البطيخ يقدر و تحمل الى العراق
 ولم اعلم هذا يمكن ببلد غيره و بلدهم من النظافة و حسن التصريف و تقسم
 الابيئة و المحال فى خلال الانهار و الغروس و تميز اهل كل سوق عن غيره
 بحيث يفضل سائر مدن خراسان فى حسنه و فى مغازتها يكون الاسترغار
 الذى يحمل الى سائر الدنيا و يرتفع من مرو الابريشم و القز الكثير و بلغنى
 ان اصل الابريشم بجزان و طبرستان انما نقل فى القديم من مرو وربما
 حمل من يزدود القز منها الى طبرستان و منها يرتفع القطن الذى ينسب
 اليه القطن اللين و الثياب التى يجهز الى الافاق و بها منابر قديمة و حديثه
 فيمرو منبران و يلثمهن منبر و نهر مرفوه منبر و سبخ منبر و بحر نچ منبر و بحرق
 منبر و بالسوسقان منبر فهذه منابر مرو التى اعرفها *

اما هراة فانها اسم المدينة و لها اعمال و من مدنها مالمق و حسان
 و استر بيان و اوفه و مارابان و باسان و كروح و حشب و باستواد ادرسلن و بواران
 و كومندو خراسان و اسراد اسم الكورة لا اسم المدينة و مدنها هذه الاربعة التى
 ذكرناها و اما هراة فانها مدينة عليها سور و حوالها ماء و داخلها مدينة عامرة
 و لها رضى و فى مدينتها قلعة و مسجد الجامع و دار الامارة خارج الحصن مكان
 تعرف بخراسان ابان منقطع عن المدينة بينه و بين المدينة اقل من ثلث فرسخ
 على طريق مسج على غربي هراة و بناؤها من طين و هى مقدار نصف فرسخ
 فى نحوه و لمدينتها الداخلة اربعة ابواب الباب الذى يخرج منه الى نيشاپور
 مما يلى الشمال يسمى باب سراى و الباب الثانى الذى يخرج منه الى بلخ
 عراى يسمى باب سراى و الباب الثالث الذى يخرج منه الى سجستان يسمى
 باب فيروز اباد و الباب الذى يخرج منه الى الغور شرقى يسمى باب حسك

وابوابها من خشب غير باب سراى فانه حديد وعلى كل باب سوق يشمل مما يليه من المحال وفي داخل المدينة والربض مياة جارية وللحصن اربعة ابواب بخذاء كل باب من ابواب المدينة باب لهذا الحصن ويسمى باسم ذلك الباب وخارج الحصن جدار يطوف بالحصن كله اطول من قامة وبينهما مقدار ثلثين خطوة والمسجد الجامع من المدينة فى وسطها وحواليها اسواق والسجن على ظهر قبلة مسجد الجامع وليس بخراسان وماوراءالنهر وسجستان والجبال مسجد اعمر بالناس على دوام الايام من مسجد هراة ثم مسجد بلخ ثم مسجد سجستان فان بهذه المساجد حلق الفقهاى والناس يتزاحمون على رسم الشام والثغور وسائر المساجد بهذه الاماكن اينما ينتابها الناس فى الجمعات وهراة مطرح الكهولت من فارس الى خراسان وهى فرضة لخراسان وسجستان وفارس * والجبلى من هراة على نصف فرسخ على طريق بلخ ومحتطبهم من صفاة بينها وبين اسفرار وليس بهذا الجبل محتطب ولا مرعا وانما يرتفقون منه بالحجارة للارحنة والفرس وغير ذلك *

وعلى راس هذا الجبل بيت نار يسمى سوسك وهو معمور بينها وبين المدينة كنيسته النصرى وليس بينها وبين المدينة مياة ولا بساتين الانهر المدينة على باب المدينة يعبر بالقنطرة ثم لا يكون بعده ماء ولا خضرة وعلى سائر الابواب مياة وبساتين اعمرها باب فيروز اباد ومخرج مائهم من قرب رباط كروان فاذا خرج عن الغور الى هراة ينشعب منه انهار فمنها نهر يسمى برحوى يسمى رساق سداسك ونهر يسمى بارست سقى رساق كواسان وسواسان وما كن وميزان وروابرو نهر يسمى اذر بيجان يسقى رساق سوسان ونهر يسمى سوكوان يسقى رساق سله ونهر يسمى كراغ يسقى رساق كوكان ونهر يسمى غوسمان يسقى رساق كرك ونهر يسمى كفل يسقى رساق عويان وكربكرد ونهر يسمى فغو يسقى رساق بغاوردان وفيرد ونهر يسمى الجيز يسقى مدينة هواة *

والبساتين متصلة على طريق سجستان مقدار مرحلة واكبر مدينة بهراة بعد هراة كروج واوفه ويرتفع من كروج الكشمش الذى يجلب الى الافاق والزبيب الطائفى الذى يحمل الى الافاق معظمه يرتفع من صالن وكروج مدينة صغيرة واهلها شراة ومسجد الجامع بمحلة مدها يسمى بسيدان وبنائها طين وهى فى شعب بين جبال ودها مقدار فرسخ كلها مستديكة البساتين والمياة

والاشجار والقري العاصرة و اوفه اهل جماعة وهى بحر كروج ولها بساتين ومياه
 و بناؤها من طين وما بين اصغر من كروج وهى مشتبكة البساتين والمياه
 والكروم عاصرة جدا وحسان قليلة الاشجار وهى اصغر من مالن واهلها اهل
 جماعة واسرمان اهلها الخوارج وهى اصغر من مالن ولها مياه وبساتينهم قليلة
 والغالب عليهم الزرع دون الكروم وهى فى الجبال وما را باء كثيرة البساتين
 والمياه وهى مدينة اصغر من مالن يرفع منها ارز كثير يجلب الى النواحي *
 و ناسار مدينة اصغر من مالن ولهم زرع وهى قليلة البساتين على كثرة
 مياهها وباسفرار اربعة من المدن واكبرها كواسان وهى مدينة اصغر من كروج
 ولها ماء وبساتين كثيرة وكراران وكوسك وادر *

سلر هى متقاربة فى الكبر ولها مياه وبساتين واسفرار مقدارها ثلث
 مراحل فى مرحلة وهى كلها عاصرة ليس فى طهرانيها مفازة وباسفرار
 شعب يسمى كاشكان و فيها قرا عاصرة كلهم شراة فاما مدن اسفرار فان
 اهلها اهل جماعة واما بوشخ فان بها من المدن حوكرد وفزكرد وكوس
 وكرة و اكثرها بوشخ وهى مدينة نحو النصف من هراة وهى وهراة فى
 مستو ومن بوشخ الى الجبل نحو فرسخين وهى هذا الجبل الذى من
 هراة اليه نصف فرسخ و بناؤه من جنس بناء هراة ولهم مياه واشجار كثيرة
 وبها من اشجار العرعر ما ليس بجميع خراسان فى بلد ويحمل هذا الخشب
 الى سائر النواحي وماؤهم من نهر هراة وهو النهر الذى يخرج الى سرخس
 غير انه ينقطع الماء دون سرخس ويستعمل الا فى بعض السنة ولبوشخ
 سور و خندق و ثلاثة ابواب باب يسمى باب على نيسابور و باب هراة الى
 هراة و باب قوهستان الى قوهستان واكبر المدن بها بعد بوشخ كوسرى وهى
 مدينة لها ماء وبساتين قليلة وهى نحو الثلث من بوشخ و بناؤها من طين
 و حوكرد لها ماء وبساتين كثيرة وهى اصغر من كوسرى وفكرد اصغر من
 حوكرد ولها ماء جار وهم اصحاب سوائم وليس لهم بساتين كثيرة ولهم
 ماء جار قليل وكرة لها بساتين ومياه كثيرة وهى نحو من فزكرد فى الكبر
 واما باز عيسى فان بها من مدنها جبل الفضة وكرة وكوعناباد وبست
 و جازو و بحايرون و كالوون ودهستان والسلطان يكون مقامه بكوعناباد و
 اعمرها واكبرها دهستان و يكون نحو النصف من قوشخ و بناؤها من طين

ولهم اسراب كثيرة في الارض وهي على جبل ولهم ماء جار قليل وليست لهم بساتين ولا كروم وانما هي مناحس وكذلك كو وجبل الفضة و كو اكبر من جبل الفضة وجبل الفضة على جبل كان فيه معدن الفضة وتعطل لقضاء الحطب *

واما كرفانها في صحرا ويلوعناناد وبست وحاذوي بساتين ومياه ولهم بساحس كثيرة وكالزون وكافورن ليس لهم بساتين ولا مياه جارية وانما مياههم من الامطار والابار وهم اصحاب زروع ميالحس اصحاب اغنام وجبل الفضة على طريق سرخس من هراة وناد عبس اهل جماعة الاحمسان وقربة احمد بن عبد الله فان اهلها شرارة *

واما كح رستاق فان مدينتها بين ولها كيف *
وبغ شور والسلطان منها بين وهي اكبر هذه المدن وبين اكبر من بوشينغ وبغشور نحو فرسخ في الكبر *

وكيف نحو نصف بغشور وبين وكيف لهما مياه كثيرة جارية وبساتين وكروم وبناؤها من طين واما بغشور فانها في مغارة وهي عذى وزروعهم كلها مباحس وماؤهم من الابار وهي اخصب زروع وهي مدن صحيحة التربة والهواء وهذه المدن كلها على طريق من وروز ومن وروز بها من المدن قصر احنف و درة من وروز و اكبرها من وروز وهي اصغر من بوشينغ ولها نهر كبير وهذا النهر الجارى من الى مرو ولهم عليه بساتين وكروم كثيرة وهي طيبة التربة والهواء *

وقصر احنف على مرحلة منها على طريق بلخ و درة على طريق اسار على اربعة فراسخ وقصر احنف لهما ماء جار ولها بساتين وكروم وفواكه حسنة و درة يشق نهر من وروز وسطها وهي نصفان و بينهما قنطرة ولها بساتين وكروم وفواكه حسنة ومن مروروز الى النهر غلوة *

والطالقان مدينة نحو من مروروز في الكبر ولها مياه جارية وبساتين قليلة و بناؤها و بناء مروروز من طين وهي اصح هواء من مروروز من مروروز الى الجبل ثلاثة فراسخ فمايلي المغرب ومن جانب الجبل منه على فرسخين ممايلي المشرق *

والطالقان في جبل ولها رساتيق في الجبل *

و القارنان مدينة اصغر من الطالقان الا انها اكثر بساتين ومياها من الطالقان و بناؤها من طين و الجورجان اسم للناحية ومدينتها اليهودية * و شبورقان و انجدرستاق و مدينتها اسلمح و كندررم و انباررسار و اكرها انبار و بها مقام السلطان و هي مدينة على الجبل و هي اكبر من مروروز و لها مياة و كروم و بساتين كثيرة و بناؤها طين *

و سان مدينة صغيرة لها مياة و بساتين و الغالب على ثمارها الجوز و هي في الجبل و اليهودية اكبر من سان و لها مياة و بساتين و هي في الجبل و كندررم في الجبل و هي مدينة كثيرة الكروم و الجوز و لها مياة كثيرة *

و سورفان لها ماء جار و الغالب عليهم الزروع و بساتينهم قليلة و هي اكبر من كندررم و فرسان و هي نحو من اليهودية في الكبر و سيرج مدينة و انجد مدينة صغيرة في مفازة لها سبع قرا و بيوت لا اكراد اصحاب اغنام و ابل *

منها اصغر مدد و يرتفع من ناحية الجورجان الجلود التي تحمل الى سائر خراسان و هي عامة الخصب فمن سورفان الى انبار مرحلة في ناحية الجنوب و من سورفان الى اليهودية يحتاج ان يرجع الى مارنار من حبس ثم منها الى اليهودية مرحلة و من سورفان الى انجد مرحلتان في الشمال و من سورفان الى كندررم اربع مراحل ثلثة مراحل الى النهر و مرحلة اليها *

و عرج السار لها مدينتان احديهما تسمى بسير و الاخر اسورمين و هما متقاربتان في الكبر و ليس بهما مقام للسلطان و السار الذي ينسب اليه المملكة مقيم بقرية في الجبل تسمى بكذكان *

و هابان المدينتان لها مياة و بساتين و يرتفع من سيرارز كثير يحمل الى البلدان و يرتفع من سورمين زيب كثير يسا فربة و بين سورمين درة مروروز مرحلة و المطاع و هو من نهر مروروز على غلوة عن شرقية و من سير الى سورمين مرحلة ممايلي الجنوب و هي في الجبل *

و اما الغور فانها دار كفر و انما ذكرناه في الاسلام لان به مسلمين و هي جبال عامرة ذات عيون و بساتين و انهار و هي خصبة منيعة و في اوائلهم ممايلي المشرق قوم يظهرون الاسلام و ليسوا بالمسلمين و يحذف بالغور عمل هرة الى فرة و من فرة الى بلدي داور و من بلدي داور الى رباط كوان

من عمل ابن قريغون ومن رباط كروان الى حسان السار ومنها الى هراة
فهذا الذي يطوف بالغور كلها مسلمون وانما ذكرناها لانها في وسط الاسلام *
واما سرخس فانها مدينة بين نيشاپور و مرو وهي في ارض سهلة وليس
لها ماء جار الا في بعض السنة ولا يدوم ماوة وهو فضل مياه هراة وزروعهم
مباخس وهي مدينة على نحو النصف من مرو وهي عاصرة صحيحة التربة
والغالب على نواحيها الهراعي وهي قليلة القرا ومعظم املاكهم الجمال وهي
مطرح لخموات ما يحيط بها من مدن خراسان وماؤهم ابار و ارحيتهم على
الدواب و ابنيدها طين *

واما نسا فانه اسم المدينة وهي خصبة كثيرة المياه و البساتين وهي
في الكبر نحو سرخس ولهم مياه جارية في دورهم و سككهم نزهة جدا ولهم
رساتيق واسعة خصبة وهي في اضعاف الجبال *

و فراوة ثغرفي وجه البرية على الغزية وهي منقطعة عن القرا وفيها
منبر يقيم بها المرابطون وهي عدد يسير الا انهم يرجعون الى عدة و افرة
ينتا بها الناس وهي رباط اسمها فراوة ليس بها قرية ولا تتصل بها عمارة ولهم
عين ماء تجرى للمشرب في وسط القرية و ليست لهم بساتين ولا زروع الا اميا
قل على هذا الماء و اهلها دون الف رجل *

وقوهستان من خراسان على مغارة فارس و ليست بها مدينة بهذا الاسم
و قصبته قايين ولها من المدن ديناذد و الطسين و يعرف بكر و كوند و حور
و طبس و يعرف بطس مسارفا ما قايين فهي من الكبر نحو سرخس و بناؤها
من طين و بها قهندر و عليه خندق و مسجد الجامع و دار الامارة في القهندر
و ماؤهم من العين و بساتينهم قليلة و قراها متفرقة وهي من الصرود *
واما الطس فانها مدينة اصغر من قايين وهي من الحجر ووم و بها نخيل
و عليه حصن و لا قلعة لها و بناؤها طين و ماؤها من القني و نخيلها اكبر
من بساتين قايين *

واما جوز فانها اصغر من الطس وهي بقرب حوست و ليس بحوست
منبر و انما المنبر بجوار و بناؤها من طين و ليس لها حصن و لا قلعة و لها
بساتين قليلة و ماؤهم من القني و بها ضيق في الماء و اهلها اهل سوائم
وهي على طرف المغارة و ليس لهم بساتين *

و اما ساند فانها اكبر من حوز و بناؤها من طين و لها قرا و رساتيق و ماؤها من قني و الطسن اكبر من ساند و ماؤها من القني و بناؤها طين و لها حصن خراب و ليس بها قلعة و النخيل بقوهستان بالطسن و سائر ما ذكرناه من الصرود و هذه المدن و القرا التي بقوهستان هي مشاهدة قني اعراضها مغاوز و ليس العمارة بقوهستان مشتبكة اشتباقها بسائر نواحي خراسان و في اضفاف هذه المدن مغاوز يسكنها الا كراد و اصحاب السوائم من الابل و الغنم و في حد قايين منها على يوصين مما يلي نيشاپور هذا الطين الحامى الذي عمل الى الافاق لا اكل و ليس بقوهستان فيما علمته نهر جار الا القني و الابار و يرتفع منها شئ من الكرايس يحمل الى الافاق و مسوح و تحاخ و ليس بها امتعة مرتفعة *

و اما بلخ فان الذي يتصل به طحيرستان و الختل تجهيز و بدخشان و عمل باسار و ما يتصل بها فاما مدن طحيرستان فانها حلم و مسحيان و بغلان و سكلند و ورو اكبر و ارهن و راون و الطالقان و سكمست و ورا و سراى عاصم و حسب اندراب و مدر و كاه و اما الختل فان مدنها هلاورد و لا و كند و هما مدينتا الوحش و لحاويل و يملتاب و هلتيك و سلندرة و قبدل و محاواغ *

و باورستان نيك و قد جعلت الجبل فى ماوراء النهر و اما عمل الناميان و ما يتصل بها فان مدنها البامان و يسعورفند و سكاوند و كابل و لجوا و فروان و غزنه و تجهيز هي مدينة واحدة تسمى تجهيز و بدخشان اقليم له رساتيق و مدينتها بدخشان و هي مملكة ابي الفتح *

فاما بلخ فانها مدينة فى مستو و بينها وبين اقرب الجبال اليها نحو اربعة فراسخ و يسمى جبل كرو عليها سور و عليها ربض و مسجد الجامع فى المدينة فى وسطها و اسواقها حوالى المسجد الجامع بينها وبين مسجدها معمور بالناس على دوام الايام كلها و هي نحو من نصف فرسخ فى مثله و بناؤها الطين و بها ابواب منها باب النوبهار و باب رخذه و باب حديد و باب الهندوان و باب اليهود و باب ست هن و باب لخير و لهانهر يسمى دها بين يجري فى ربضها على باب النوبهار و هونهر يدير عشرة ارحية و يسقى رساتيق الى سياه جرد و يجف بابواها كلها البساتين و الكروم و ليس على سور المدينة خندق و سور من طين و اما طحيرستان فان اكبر مدينة بها الطالقان و هي مدينة فى مستو و بينها وبين الجبل غلوة و لهانهر كبير و بساتين و كروم و مقدار

الطالقان نحو الثلث من بلخ ثم يليها في الكبرور واكبر ويلي ورواكبر في
 اكبر اندرانه وهي مدينة في شعب جبال وبها تجمع الفضة التي تقع من
 حارباة وتجهيزو بها نهران احدهما يسمى نهر اندراب و الاخر نهر كاسار
 وبها كروم و اشجار كثيرة و جميع ما بقي من مدن طخرستان متقارب
 في الكبر وهي كلها دون الطالقان وورواكبر و اندرابه وهي ذات انهار و
 اشجار و زروع كثيرة عامرة خصبة و اما مدن الختل فانها كلها ذوات
 انهار و اشجار وهي على غاية و كلها في مستو الاسكندرية فانها في جبال
 على ان الختل كلها جبال الا الوحس و اكبر مدينة بالختل ميل يليها
 هلتك و السلطان بهليل و الختل بين نهر و حساب و بين نهر و بدخشان
 و يسمى حريك و في اضعافها انهار كثيرة يجتمع كلها قبل الترمذ بقرب
 القواربان فيصير كلها جيحون و ميل يكون نحو من اندرابه و هليل اصغر
 منها و ابذية هذه المدن من طين و سور ميل من حص و حجارة يليها من
 دور الكفرو حان و كران *

و بدخشان مدينة اصغر من ميل و لها رستاق كديرة عامرة جدا خصب
 و بها كروم و انهار وهي على نهر حوبان من غربية و يكون بالختل دواب
 لذيدة تجلب الى الافاق و يرتفع من بلخشان النكازي و الارزورد و لها معادن
 في الجبال و يقع اليها مسك من طريق دخان من تبت *

و اما تجهيز فانها مدينة على جبل يشتمل على نحو عشرة الاف رجل و
 الغالب على اهلها العيث و الفساد و لهم نهر و بساتين و ليست لهم مزارع *

و اما جاريانه فانها مدينة اصغر من تجهيز و كلاهما معدن الفضة و مقابر
 اهلها على تلك المعادن و ليس بجاريانه بساتين ولا زروع و يشق وسط
 المدينة نهر تجهيز و هو نهر تجهيز و جاريانه جميعا و ينتهي الى فروار حتى
 يقع في ارض الهند و اما عمل الذاميان فان اكبر مدنها الباسان و يكون نحو
 من نصف بلخ و تنسب تلك المملكة الى شير باميان و ليس بها سور و هو
 على جبل و بين مدنها نهر كبير يقع الى غر حسان و فواكههم يجلب اليهم و
 ليس بها بساتين و ليس بذواحي الباميان مدينة على جبل سوى الباميان
 و كلها ذوات انهار و اشجار و ثمار الاغزنة فانه لابساتين لها ولهانهر و ليس
 في هذه المدن التي في نواحي بلخ اكثر مالا و تجارة من غزنة فانها قرصة الهند
 و كابل لها قلعة حصينة و اليه طريق واحد و فيها المسلمون و لها ربح به

الكفار من الهنود ويزعمون ان الشاه لا تستحق الملك الابان يعتقد انه الملك يكابل وان كان منها على بعد ولا يستحقه حتى يصل اليه فيعقد الشهادة له هناك وهي قرصة الهند ايضا ويرتفع من بلخ الذوق من البخاتي المقدمة على سائر البخت بالذواحي وبها الاترج والذيلوفر وقصب السكر وما لا يكون الا بالبلدان الحارة الا انه لا نخيل بها ويقع فيها وفي نواحيها الثلوج ولحرا وسكا ونذ وكابل حروم حارة غير انه لا نخيل بها *

واما الغور فانها جبال محيط بها من كل جانب دار الاسلام واهلها كفار الا نفر يسير مسلمون وهي جبال مزينة ولسا نهم غير لسان اهل خراسان و جبالهم خصبة كثيرة الزروع والمواشي والمراعي وادخلها في جملة خراسان لان ثلاثة من حدودها يحيط بها خراسان وحدها يلي نواحي سجستان واكثر رقيق الغور يقع الى هراة وسجستان ونواحيها ويمتد من ظهر الغور جبال في حد خراسان على حدود الباميان على التجهيز حتى يدخل بلاد حار ويفترق في ماوراء النهر الى داخل النزل على حدود لزار والسوس الى قرب خرخير وفي هذا الجبل من اوله الى اخره معادن الفضة والذهب واعزرها ما قرب من بلاد خرخير حتى ينتهي الى ماوراء النهر من فرغانة والشاش واعزرها هذه المعادن في دار الاسلام في ناحية تجهيز وما والاها *

واما سواحل جيحون و خوارزم فانا نذكره في صفة ماوراء النهر واصل وزم هما مدينتان متقاربتان في الكبر على شط جيحون ولهما ماء جارو بساتين وزرع واعمل مجمع طريق خراسان الى ماوراء النهر و خوارزم على الساحل وزم دون اصل في العمارة الا ان معبر ماوراء النهر الى خراسان ويحيط بهما جميعا مفازة تصل من حدود بلخ الى بحر خوارزم والغالب على هذه المفازة الرمال وليس بها عيون انهار الا ابار وسراع الى ان ينتهي الى طريق مرو على اصل ثم يصير بيدها وبين خوارزم و بلاد الغزنه مفاوز يقل ابارها والسوائم بها واكثر السوائم بخراسان من الابل بذاحية سرخس و بلخ فاما الغنم فان اكبرها يجلب اليهم من بلاد الغزنه ومن الغور و الخلع و بخراسان من الدواب والرقيق والاطعمة والملبوس وسائر ما يحتاج اليه ما يسعهم *

فمن اول عمل نيشاپور مما يلي قومس الى وادي جيحون على السمات

ثلاث وعشرون مرحلة من نيشاپور الى اسفراس و هو اخر عمل نيشاپور الى نيشاپور خمس مراحل و من نيشاپور الى نورجان اربع مراحل و من نورجان الى بوشينخ اربع مراحل و من بوشينخ الى هراة مرحلة و من هراة الى اسفرار ثلاث مراحل و من اسفرار الى درة و هو اخر عمل هراة مرحلتان و من درة الى سجستان سبعة ايام فمن اسفراس الى درة تسع عشرة مرحلة و من نيشاپور الى طوس ثلاث مراحل و من نيشاپور الى قاين ناسمات مراحل و من نسا الى فراوة اربع مراحل و من نيشاپور الى قاين قصبدة قوهستان نحو تسع مراحل و من قاين الى هراة نحو ثمانى مراحل و من مرو الى مرو الرودست مراحل و من مرو الى هراة اثنتا عشرة مرحلة و من هرمز الى اسوردست مراحل و منها الى نسا اربع مراحل و قد ذكرنا ما بين مرو و اصل و مرو و سرخس *

و من هراة على مرو الرود و هو طريق بلخ ست مراحل و من هراة الى سرخس خمس مراحل و قد ذكرنا الطريق من هراة الى نيشاپور و الى اخر جدها مما يلي سجستان و الى قصبدة قوهستان و الطريق من بلخ الى مرو الرود اثنا عشر يوما و من بلخ الى شط الوادي طريق الترمذ يوعان و من بلخ الى اندرابه تسع مراحل و من بلخ الى الباميان عشر مراحل و من الباميان الى غزنة نحو ثمانى مراحل و من بلخ الى بدخشان نحو ثلاث عشرة مرحلة و من بلخ الى شط الوادي على طريق الجبل بمكان يعرف بمثله ثلاث مراحل *

و اما عرض خراسان من بدخشان على بدخشان على شط وادي جيكون الى بحيرة خوارزم فمن بدخشان الى الترمذ على سمت النهر نحو ثلاث عشرة مرحلة و من مدينة خوارزم الى بحيرة خوارزم ست مراحل قد ذكرنا المسافات التى بين المدن المشهورة بخراسان و منذ ذكر لكل مدينة مشهورة جوامع من المسافات بين المدن التى فيها فاما نيشاپور فان منها الى نورجان اربع مراحل و من نورجان عن يسار الجائي من هراة الى نيشاپور على رحلة ما لن و يعرف بمالن لواخر و ليس بمالن هراة و من مالن الى حوا عن مرحلة و من حوا من الى سكان يوم و من سكان الى ساند يومان و من ساند الى قاين يومان و سكومل اذا عدلت عن يسار سكان على يومين و من سكومل الى زوزن يوم و من زوزن الى قاين ثلثة ايام *



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