




PREM SINGH JINA



CULTURAL HERITAGE OF
LADAKH
HIMALAYA



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Prem Singh Jina



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Preface

Cultural Heritage of Ladakh narrates the old Dard and Buddhist Cultures of Ladakh. Once it was long and almost inaccessible to the outside world, being relatively isolated among its high mountains and often politically closed off. Therefore, it had closed relationship with Tibet after 10th century. In 1959 Chinese invaded, and occupied the same. Ladakh, however, fortunate to preserve the Buddhist Culture under Mahayani tradition till today. In the present monograph I have endeavoured to high-light some important cultural treasures of Dards and Buddhists. I hope my this effort will fulfil the basic requirements of Research scholars teachers and tourists of the world, who want to know about the same.

Prem Singh Jina

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PART-I

1

Village Dictionary of Ladakh

In Ladakh maximum villages are pronounced in Tibetan language. They are named after an old tradition or on the importance of the concern places. Here follows the details :

Achinathang: It is a part of Skurbuchan and derived by two Bodhi words 'Achina' and 'Thang', which means 'At the foot of mountain' and 'Plain area' respectively. Therefore, it is a village situated at the foot of mountain.¹

Lat. 33°31'

Long. 76°43'

Achinathang is a neat village on the right bank of the Indus river, situated on a plateau of river-alluvium, 200 feet above the water. Near the village we can see some shallow pits, which are said belong to Baltis who were gold washers, dug gold from the pits, later carried down to waterside to wash the same.²

At Achinathang the Indus valley begins to be rather less confined. The road along it is such that one can ride, bellow this valley narrows considerably, thus is damaged often by falling rocks and debris.³

Agham or Ugham: It may also pronounce as Agyam. Here follows the details :

Lat. 34°18'

Long. 77°54'

Lat. 10°500'

It is a village in the Nubra sub-division of Leh district, situated on the left bank of the Shyok river, at the junction

of the Digar stream. In olden days it was considered the Third march from Leh about 31.5 miles from Leh on the winter route by the Karakoram pass to Yarkand.⁴ Thus, after crossing Shyok river one may reach Agyam, which is about 03 hours on foot journey. It has 09 Buddhist houses and 110 big animals viz. horse, yak etc.

Alchi:

Lat. 34°14'

Long. 77°14'

Locals believe that the name of village derived from the Drigung Ka'gyud's main deity Apchi in the following way:

Apchi pa va ≥ Apchi pa

Apchi pa ≥ Abchi

Abchi ≥ Alchi

Thus, Alchi is the corrupted form of Apchi pava. Some scholars say it is corrupted from Aachik⁵. In olden days one famous artist lived in the above village, people called him 'Aba chik' which latter corrupted to the present name in the following way:

Aba chik pe yul ≥ Aba chik pe

Aba chik pe ≥ Aba chik

Aba chik ≥ Aa chik

Aa chik ≥ Al chik

Al chik ≥ Alchi

Alchi is situated at the left bank of Indus river, was under the Kardari of Saspol.⁶ In olden day a common trek passes through this village to Zanskar via the Strakspir pass, which was open for traffic from 15 th June every year.⁷

Amdi: It is two hour journey from Khema in Nubra sub-division of Leh district. During summer Tangyar villagers

come here with their animals for grazing. They have four or five houses.

Aranu: It is situated in Nubra sub-division of Leh district, has 30-35 Buddhist houses and about two hour bus journey from Nyungstet.

Anley: In Tibetan language it is equivalent Vamle. 'Vam' is the symbole of tantra 'Ae-vam' or kalachakra tantra.⁸

In general speaking it spells as 'Hanle'

Lat, 32° 47'

Long 79° 04'

Elev, 14, 276'

This village is situated on the left bank of the Hanle river. There is a fine monastery, built on the summit of a steep hill which rises abruptly out of the plain. Once this monastery had a large animal population.⁹

Hanle has about 6 or 8 miles diameter pasture ground. Several streams are very tortuous and sluggish, wind over its surface. These are frequently 3 feet or more in depth, contain multitudes of small fish, a species of carp. The surface of plain is saline, where not swampy, covered with coarse grasses. It is very uneven, being covered with knolls. In some parts there are extensive patches of doma (Tib. furze).¹⁰

The streams all converage to a point at the north-east and of the plain and uniting into one, continue their course down an open velley a northerly direction towards the Indus. It can scarcely be doubted that it had at one time been a lake, which had gradually silted up.¹¹

Basgo: In Tibetan language equivalent Bamgo. It is derived by two Tibetan words 'Bam' and 'go' (or mgo) meaning 'cow' and 'head' respectively. Today it is corrupted from 'Bamgo' in the following in the due course of time.

Bam-mgo ≥ Bamgo

Bamgo ≥ Bazgo

a small collection of stone-wall enclosures to protect the traveller and his cattle from the icy blasts that blew down from the Saser pass. The Shyok river is forded opposite the camp.¹⁴

Burtsi:

Lat. 35° 10'

Long. 75° 05'

Elev. 16, 000'

It was a halting place on the Karakoram route to Yarkand, between Bulak-i-murghai and Kizil Angiu, on the Dipsang plain.¹⁵

Burtsi:

Lat. 36° 05'

Long. 99° 12'

It was a halting place of Hayward's route by the Changchenmo valley, about 30 miles from Nischu and 24 miles from Kizil Gilga, north-west of Tso-Thang.¹⁶

Chati (Tib. Tse-ti) It is four hour bus journey from Leh in Nubra, has 25 Bauddhist houses, 300 goats and sheep, and about 20 yaks.

Chiron: It is one hour joureny from Tegar in Nubra sub-division of Leh district.

Changga (Tib. byang dg'a): It is 3 km from Karu. One can reach here after crossing Karu bridge near Leh, has 40 Buddhist houses.

Chanagundor Piliskimbo:

Lat. 34° 36'

Long. 76° 08'

Elve. 8, 675'

This village has about 80 muslim houses on the right bank of the Dras river, on the road from Srinagar to Leh, situated between Tashgam and Kargil. It is about 127 miles from Leh. According to Bellow:

“Travellers going to Baltistan halt here or at Krikitchu, on the opposite bank. The village stands on a high bank of granite boulders. There is a little cultivation. It is Piliskimbo

by the Tartars. The journey from Tashgam to Kargil is generally done in one march.¹⁷

Charak:

Lat. 34° 24'

Long. 76° 32'

It is a small village on Leh-Srinagar road, situated at the west end of the Namik La between Mulbec and Kharbu, 84 miles from Leh.¹⁸

Charasa (Tib, ca-ra-sa):

Lat. 34° 40'

Long. 77° 37'

It is situated in Nubra sub-division of Leh district, on the right bank of the Nubra river, and the most conspicuous place in Nubra. At one time it was the most important place, here lived the hereditary rulers of Nubra who ruled under the raja of Ladakh. The houses of Charasa are built on an isolated steep-faced rock, composed of hard porphyry which stands up away from the mountain-side; it is some 200 yards long and 150 feet high. All the upper part of it covered with white buildings: The loftiest of them is the monastery; they were formerly dependended by a wall of which parts still remain-running along the rock at varying intervals, and flanked by towers, with the exception of lamas. The people of the village live on the rock in winter only; for summer they have other dwellings scattered about by their fields, but for warmth in winter they crowd to their old fortress. Here the buildings are crowded so close together. The space occupied is so completely, roofed over-pathways and all that when filled with human beings and with cattle, it must indeed be warm. It has 40 Buddhist families one can reach here after crossing a bridge over Nubra river, sometime this river is also called by locals as Siacan. It is well connected by road, has one hour bus journey from Panamik and has about 110 cattle in which horse population is comparatevely more than other animals.¹⁹

Some historians believe that the original name of Charasa was lchakrasa, which means, 'A place where iron ore is found'. In fact there are two settlements e.g. Chamschen and Charasa, later under the last J&K Govt. settlement they were taken under one name as 'Charasa'. Thus the name of the village corrupted from lchakrasa in the following manner.

lchakrasa ≥ Chakrasa

Chkrasa ≥ Charasa

Chiktan

Lat. 34° 30'

Long. 76° 34'

The name of the village is derived after the collection of villages as 'Chiktan'. It is a part of Kargil has settlemente at the bottom of Kanji valley contains about 600 houses. The inhabitants are Muslims. Rajas Rasanpur and Hasan Khan lived here.²⁰

Chilling: It is said that during 10th century many Kashmiri artists came Ladakh along with Lotsava Rinchen Zangpo. They latter employed for decorating Buddhist temples and 'Tsokhor'. In due course of time some of them settled down in Chilling. Kashmiri people are called 'Khatsepa', later pronounced as Khatseling, means 'Kashmiri place', the same gradually corrupted to the present name 'chilling' in the following way.

Khatsepa ling ≥ Trepaling

Trepaling ≥ Chipaling

Chipaling ≥ Chilling

Chamrey: It is pronounced as 'Chemray' or 'Chemre'. Once was under the Kardari or collectorate of Ladakh province. In these days Chamrey, Kharu, Igu Nagla, Shara, and Sakti were included in one group. Chamrey and Sakti

then had about 150 houses. The cash revenue was collected Rs 4,000/—, besides taxes in kind.²¹

According to some Ladakhi scholar Chamrey can spelled as lchi-thi, means throne of an importan person. Sometime Ladakhi called it 'Che-bde' means neat toun²²

Choglamsar: The village is situated at 8 km from Leh town. It is Buddhist dominant, has one gonpa and monsque.

In Bodhi language it is spelled as lcog-lam-gsar. The name of choglamsar village is derived from two Budhi words 'lcog-yog' and 'lam' means 'winded' and 'pass'. Therefore via Choglamsar two circular passes go to Leh—One through Spituk to Leh other through Sabu to Leh. Some say it is derived from 'Kyoklamsar' words 'Kyok', 'lam' and 'Sar' which means 'Turn', 'path' and 'place'. In brief choglamsar means a place where path turns to various directions to Leh town.²³

Besides, it is also derived from 'Chok' and 'Tsal' which means 'Tent' and 'Garden' respectively.²⁴

Choglamsar was also famous for Chokse (i.e. Ladakhi table). Therefore, it is also known as choksel; a place of 'Chokse'.

Chamshen: The name of this village is derived from Chambachenmo, which means a village where one big 'Chamba' or 'Matreya' (or Future Buddha) on a rock is engraved.²⁵

Chang-ga: This village is 3 km from Karu near Hemis monastery in Leh district. It has 30 Buddhist houses. Moorroft called it 'Chunga'.

It has following geographical details :

Lat. 33° 57'

Long. 77° 46'

Thus, Changa village is situated at left bank of the Indus between Marselang and Leh.²⁶

Chumathang

Lat. 33° 22'

Long. 78° 25'

Elev. 13, 600'

It is situated on the right bank of the Indus below the junction of the Puga rivulet, there is one hot spring. The temperature of this hot spring water was recorded by H. Strachey about 170°F. Once it was under the Hemis Kardari.²⁷

Some people believe that the name of this village is derived by two Bodhi words 'Chu' and 'Thang' means 'Water' (or River) and 'Plain'. As the village is situated on the bank of Indus river along the big plain, called 'Chumathang'.²⁸

Some say it is derived from 'chu' and 'khol', which means 'Water' and 'Boiling' or a place of hot spring.

Chushul:

Lat. 33° 35'

Long. 78° 43'

Elev. 14, 200'

A large village of about 100 houses with Government store house, Government High school, Committee Hall. It is situated about 10 miles south of the Pangong lake. Between Chushul and Pangong lake, we can see hot springs which possess medical properties. The temperature of spring water recorded about 96°F, and has neither taste nor smell. There are two routes here to Nima Mud on the Indus.²⁹

1. The eastern one via eastern Chushul Valley and Tsaka La
2. The western route via the Chushul and Thato (or Nurpa) passes.

The eastern path is better route for trek. A route also leads from here along the Pangong lake and via Tankse to Leh striking the Changchenmo route at Lukung.³⁰

There is another route to Tankse and Leh via Kongta la and Lungchu valley.³¹

Close to Chushul is the narrowest part of the Pangong lake, which is easily crossed by masak rafts; this is the shortest road to the Changchenmo valley. A road also leads from here across Changthang to Polu and Khoten; this was the route traversed by Pandit A.K.³² In olden days the frontier near Chushul was very carefully watched by men from Rudok, who were jealous of Europeans entering in their territory.³³

Local scholars believe that once chushul was under water, as a result it is derived by two Bodhi words by 'Chu' and 'Shul' means 'water' and 'residue'. Therefore, it came into existence after drying up the lake.³⁴

Chushot: It was under the Ladakh Kardari or collectorate, consists three parts the lower, middle and upper. Here follows the details :

- (i) **Chushot Gongma:** This is the upper part. In Ladakhi language Gongma means upper portion or low land of the region.
- (ii) **Chushot Shama:** The middle part is called Chushot Shama.
- (iii) **Chushot Yogma:** The last or lower part of the village is called Chushot Yogma

Chushot is named after two Bodhi words 'Chu' and 'Shot' means 'water' and 'low land'. As this village is situated along the bank of Indus river at low land, called Chushot. It is Shia muslim dominant village in Leh district, about 10 km far away from Leh town.

Da (or Dah): In Tibetan language equivalent 'Arrow'. It is said in olden days when Dards started settling along the Indus banks in Ladakh, their hero 'Gil Singhe' shot arrow, which struck a rock in the above village and went into several metres inside. Therefore, on the direction of his hero, Dards settled down there and named after 'Arrow' or 'Da' as Dah. Besides, one more story is said that once the ancestors of Dards had organised annual festival at the

upper portion of Indus gorge. During function Devis and Devatas were dancing with a Devi, unfortunately one Dard did nonsense activities with Devatas. Thereafter, Devatas decided that they would not stay with them and asked to go to the place where shot arrow had fallen. Dards then settled down there.³⁵

Here follows geographical details :

Lat. 34° 37'

Long. 76° 33'

Elev. 9, 690'

Dah village is a frontier part of Ladakh, situated on the right of the Indus below Hanu Yogma. There is a fort which was built to protect the inhabitants from the Balti raiders. Here Buddhist Dards have colony.³⁶

Dras

Lat. 34° 26'

Long. 75° 49'

Elev. 10, 144'

It is situated on the left bank of the Dras river. Traders and English explorers from Sunamarg used to take halt at Dras, the second march after crossing the Zoji-la pass, on the route from Srinagar to Leh, 15 miles from Matayan and the same distance from Tashgam the next march. In short Dras has a collection of 50—60 hamlets dispersed over the inequalities.³⁷

It is the second coldest place of the world and highest show fall place of Purig. This is owing: "To the great depression in the Himalaya, at the head of the Dras river, which allows the constantly humid vapours of Kashmir to pass to the north of the mountainins, where they become condensed by the cold, and are precipitated in rain or snow, according to the season of the year."

Dras area extends from Zoji-la to Chanagund, near Kargil. It is a collection a half a dozen hamlets dispersed over the inequalities of a spacious basin in these close set hills. There was a small square fort in Dras with bastions at each corner and over the entrance wall was 20' high; garrison had one Jemadar and ten sepoy; the fort was commanded within one km. It was in a fair state of repair. It had a garrison of fifty men, and adjoining was a Tehsil or Collectorate of the Thandar of Dras region. There was a telegraph line from Dras to Skardu, a single wire carried on poles without insulators. The Skardu wire followed the Dras, Suru and Indus rivers, there used to be telegraphic communication between Dras and Srinagar, but the snow on upper part of the Sind valley, and from there to Dras, destroyed the line frequently. As a result telegrams were sent by hand between Dras and Sonamarg.³⁸

Demcok: It is also spelled as Demjck, in Tibetan language equivalent 'Demchok' or 'bdeychok'. It is named after Buddhist deity 'Dechok', in Sanskrit equivalent to 'Cakrasamvara'. There is a famous white hill called Lhari Karpo, which is believed to be the abode of 'Cakrasamvara'. The village 'Demcok', is situated at the border of China in Leh district.³⁹

Deskyit:

Lat. 34° 33'

Long. 77° 36'

Elev. 9, 950'

A village on the left bank of the Shyok, opposite its junction with the Nubra river. It is one of the largest villages in Nubra, and is the Sub-Division headquarter of Nubra. In olden days more than fifty houses paid taxes. Thomson remarks : "It is one of the largest villages of Nubra and contains fifty-eight houses, forty three of which pay taxes. Two smiths and two carpenters live here. The resources of the village as said to be twenty horses, fifty three horned cattle and over a thousand sheep and goats. The cultivated lands of the village lie on a sloping bank rising rather steeply out of the plain. Many apricot trees grow among the houses,

large enough to afford a shade under which a tent could be pitched here much of the plain is encrusted with soda.”⁴⁰

In 1998 I visited there, saw good cultivation, had many big apricot trees near houses, one Govt. High school one State Govt. Dairy farm, Lamdon Junior Model School and State Govt. Hospital. Today it has good market with Tourist Banglow, Assistant Commissioner’s office, good number of Double hump camels which are used for tourists. People seems me happy. ‘Deskit’ means happiness and confort.⁴¹

Digger: It is a village where people keep ‘Demo’ in large number. Demo is a female Yak. The village has good Demo population as such the name derived after ‘Digger’.⁴²

Domkhar: In olden days one ‘Khar’ or fort was built here, later it pronounced as ‘Domkhar’. This village is spread along the mountain towards high region, and popularly known as ‘Domkhar Gongma’ and ‘Domkhar Yogma’. ‘Domkhar Gongma is surrounded by high mountains, while entering in the village, there is a high chancess of stone falling on the road, ‘Domkhar Yogma’ is along the main road, has fertile land and water for irrigation. Here walnut, apricot trees can be seen in good number.

Durbuk: It is deriyed from ‘Do’ and Khook, means ‘last part of the valley and ‘Hidden portion’ . This village is located near Pela pass, can only be visible after descending from the pass, therefore known hidden village of the valley or ‘Dorkhook’, which later corrupted to the present name in the following way:

Dorkhook	≥	Dokhook
Dokhook	≥	Dubhook
Dubhook	≥	Durbook
Durbook	≥	Durbuk

Futtoksir:

Lat. 34° 04’

Long. 76° 54’

Elev. 13, 900’

The village is situated on the route Kishtwar to Leh via Zanskar, between Yelchung and Hafata, or lies north-west of the Singa La and South-east of the Sirsir La. The valley here is partially cultivated, the fields forming a narrow belt, parallel to the stream, once under Lamayuru Kardari.⁴⁴

The name of the village is derived from 'phi' and 'thosa' means 'high pasturelands along the mountain slopes' and 'Location'. Hence at the location on high altitude the village is corrupted to 'Fotoksar' as :

Futtoksir	≥	Futoksar
Futoksar	≥	Fhutoksar
Fhutoksar	≥	Fotoksar

Garkon:

Lat. 34° 37'

Long. 76° 30'

This is the border village lies on the right of the Indus river. It is most curious in its situation, consists of very narrow strips or ledges of flat watered ground, between separate stages of a great river-cliff, so that on one side is a precipitous fall of ground, while the other vertical cliff overhang the narrow fields, which receiving their radiated heat quickly, ripen their crops; even at night the place does not lose its heat. Water is led over the fields from a ravine which comes from the high mountains. Apples, apricots and mulberry are cultivated in company with cereals on the narrow space and flourish well with the combination of warmth and moist atmosphere. Nowadays tomato and grapes are also cultivated in large quantity.⁴⁵

Gera: This village is situated in Leh district and named from Skyitra which means 'Good garden' or 'A place where no water shortage' one can finds fruit, popular and willow trees in good number. The name of the village is corrupted in the following way:

Skyitra	≥	Gyitra
Gyitra	≥	Gitra
Gitra	≥	Gera

Gya (Tib. gya): It is 25 km from Leh, has following details

Lat. 33° 40'

Long. 77° 45'

Elev. 13, 500'

The village is situated at the left bank of the stream along the Leh-Manali highway, has 40-50 houses with a wide area of cultivation. Villagers grow wheat, barley and peas. It is one of the most elevated villages in Leh district. There are some poplar trees with a considerable size. The Runse monastery crowns a rocky hill on the opposite bank of the stream. It was a halting place on the route from Kulu to Leh, lies north of the Tagalang pass had one rest house, traders then got ration in small quantity.⁴⁶

Gyik:

Lat. 33° 33'

Long. 78° 12'

A small village on the right bank of Indus river, half way between Upshi and junction of Puga rivulet.⁴⁷

Hemi: The village is named after 'Ha' which is formed on a rock in the rivine of Hemi.⁴⁸

Hemi Shukpachan: The name of the village is derived by two Bodhi words 'Hay' and 'Shukpa' means 'Boulders' and 'Shukpa tree' (of pencil oedor). The village, therefore, has boulders and 'Shukpa trees' in large number.⁴⁹

Himya: It is situated in the middle of big boulders, and derived its name from 'Hem' and 'Nya' means 'Boulders' and 'Base'. The village is located on the base of heap of boulders, has 35 Buddhist houses.⁵⁰

Hunder: This village is in Nubra valley near Deskyit, has two monasteries, one near the stream along the road, other just above on the mountain. It is derived from the Tibetan word 'Snontar', which means first settled village, hence tribes first settled down here during their early migration to Nubra.⁵¹

Hunder Dok: This village is upper side of Hunder in Nubra valley, earlier it was used for animal grazing by the Hunder villager. Later some of the families from Hunder settled down and the village named after 'Hunder Dok'.

Igu (Tib. dbyib-dgu): This village is in Leh district on the left side of Leh-Manali high way. It is named after its nine corners, 'Iff-gu', has 60 Buddhist houses and 5 km from Karu.

Ieeg: It is in Leh district near Shara village, 10 km from Shara on the left of the main road, has 5-6 Buddhist houses.

Inca: It is derived from 'Ian' and 'tsa' means 'Located in a distance' and 'land'. This Inca means a village which is located at a far off distance. It is about 3 km from Nubra (of Siacan) river in Kincu valley in Nubra sub-division of Leh district.

Kanji: A river in Baltistan rising in about latitude $34^{\circ} 10'$ and longitude $76^{\circ} 36''$, and flowing into the Indus some 5 miles above Dah village. It is also called the Sangluna river. The portion of the valley in which Kharbu situated is wide, skirted by gently sloping hills, which at some distance on the left bank rise into high mountains, but on the right only attain a moderate elevation, Alluvium occurs, indurated into a hard conglomerate. Kanji valley forms a part of Kargil district.⁵²

The Leh-Srinagar road passes for some distance down this valley, entering by the Fotu-la pass and leaving by the Namika la, From it a branch road leads to Kanji and then into Suru by Kanji la. The another road leads down the valley to the Indus. It has the following geographical location.⁵³

Lat. $34^{\circ} 14'$

Long' $76^{\circ} 40'$

The village has 30-40 Shia muslim houses, and derived its name from 'rkan' and 'Ji' which means 'Base' and 'four'

Hence, village is situated at the base where four mountains meet.⁵⁴

Karsha:

Lat. 33° 32'

Long. 76° 58'

A village in Zanskar of Kargil district, nearly opposite 'Thonde' a few miles below the junction of the Zanskar river, with a tributary from the north. It is the largest village in Zanskar region, lies in a ravine at a considerable distance from the river, and from the steepness of the slope on which it is built, presents rather an imposing appearance the level tract between the Karsha and river is covered. with cultivation.⁵⁵

Khalsar: It is in Nubra sub-division of Leh district, has four hour journey from Leh, 25 Buddhist houses of about 150 soules, 30 horses, 14 zos, 13 ass and 120 goats & sheep.

Kung to: It is in Nubra, has about 2-3 Buddhist houses, and half an hour journey from Agyam village.

Kyung-ru: It is in Nubra, has 5-6 Buddhist houses and about one hour journey from Lhabab village.

Khemra: It is in Nubra, has 25 Buddhist houses, 1000 sheep and goats, 50 yaks, 30 horses and 50 ass, and about one hour journey from Kyung-ru.

Khardong: It is on way to Nubra valley, about 80 km from Leh town, has one Gelukpa gonpa under Shankar monastery. 95 Buddhist houses, two Primary schools, one Medical center and one Dak Banglow.

Lag zujg (Tib. lag-gzhu) It has 25 Buddhist houses and about 150 sheep goats.

Lhabab: It is in Nubra about half an hour journey from Skil-na village, has three houses. with 50 yaks.

Marselang (Tib. mar-tse-glang): It is about one km from Kulu in Leh district, has 40 Buddhist and 2-3 Muslim houses. In 1989 agitation Muslims left their houses, when

peaceful atmosphere had taken place they returned back. Here follows further details:

Lat. 33°50'

Long. 77°45'

Elev.12,200'

This is a village on the left bank of the Indus, 22 miles above Leh. It had rest house and supply depot, Near this travellers used to stay at the camping ground. There are routes from Leh to Kulu and Garo pass and has extensive cultivation on an alluvial platform on both sides of a deep ravine, through which a stream flows from the west into the Indus river. It has considerable plantation of poplar and willow on the roads up the left bank of the Indus to Upshi and up the Shang valley and over a pass to Gya.⁵⁶

Matho:

Lat. 34°0'

Long. 77°42'

A village about 150 houses, lies near the top of a sloping alluvial fan 3 miles to the left bank of Indus river. It was under the kardari of Hemis and had jagir of king of Ladakh.⁵⁷

The name of village is derived from Mangtro, which means where wheat grow in good quantity.

Meru: It is along the Leh-Manali highway,10 km from Upshi and has 15 Buddhist houses.

Mangyu: The name of this village is derived from 'Soman-rgyu', which means herbal materials for medicines. Here many herbal and aromatic plants grow along the slopes on mountains. As a result the village is known 'Mangyu'.⁵⁸

Nang (Tib. nang) It is about 25 km from Leh and 10 km from Thiksey on the left side corner, has 50 houses of about 200 soules.

Nyungstet (Tib. nyung-tet): It is in Nubra valley, 2 hours journey from Sarsoma has 55 Buddhist houses.

Panamik: It is in Nubra valley in Leh district has 40-50 Buddhist houses and one hot spring. Tourist can visit this place. It has one Tourist Rest House.

Piyucan (Tib. pi-yu-can): It is in Nubra valley, 20 minute journey from Khalsar, has 3 Buddhist houses, 20 soules and 50-60 cattle.

Puk-pho-tse (Tib. phug-po-ce): It is in Nubra, 10 miles from Panamik, has 20 Buddhist houses.

Phuktse: It is near Shara nala in Leh district, has 150 Buddhist houses.

Phu: It is situated on the upper side of Shara nala, has 50 Buddhist houses.

Romche: It is situated just below the Taglang la pass on the Leh-Mnali road, 4 km from Gya, has 10-12 Buddhist houses.

Rong pe Rong: It has one or two houses, 80 yaks and 100 sheep & goats.

Ranibagh: It is 15 km from Tarshit, has two Buddhist houses.

Rong-do (Tib rong-mdo): It is two hour bus journey from 'Tsa-ti' in Nubra, has seven houses and 50 cattle.

Shamphuk: It is in Nubra, 2 km from Hundar, has one Druk-pa monastery.

Skuru: It is 10 km from Skamphuk, has 100 houses, one gonpa, Dak Banglow, and one Higher Secondary school.

Shyang (Tib. Shang): It is in Leh district, 15 km from Marselang at the right side of Indus river, has 45 Buddhist houses.

Sarsoma (Tib Sa- so-ma): It is in Nabra, half an hour bus journey from Tak-sha, has 4-5 Buddhist houses.

Stok (Tib, rtog): It is near Leh, derived its name from Bodhi word 'Tog', means 'The top of mani wheel', has one

gonpa of Gelukpa tradition. Here dethroned family of Ladakh king dynasty live.

Sakti (Tib. gres-khri): It is near Leh, derived its name by 'Ser' and 'Thi', means 'Gold' and 'Throne', In olden days one Ladakh king had gold throne at this village, thereafter it is known as 'Ser-thi', which through the ages corrupted into the present name as:

Ser-thi	≥	Sar-thi
Sar-thi	≥	Sak-thi
Sak-thi	≥	Sak-ti

Sumda: When Kashmiri artists settled down at Chilling village, a man 'Sumdo' did not get proper place at Chilling, came to the present side and settled down. Subsequently, other tribes came and started cultivation, the village then known 'Sumda' after 'Sumdo'.⁵⁹

Skurbuchan (Tib. skin-brus-chan pron. Skyurbuchan): In olden days skin (Ibex) in large number used to come here for grazing. They dug the ground during winter and eat the roots of grass. We can find many pits, dug by Ibex, called later Skurubuchan'.⁶⁰

Some say the name of the village is derived after the pulm plantation. It is said that once a brave man killed village enemy in 'Skir-mish'. Thereafter, villagers started to plant pulm fruits in memory of the brave man. The pulm tree is called 'Kham Skyur'. 'Kham' means 'fruit' and 'Skyur' means 'sour taste'. Thus 'Skurubuchan' named after 'Skyur' fruit plantation.

Skil-na: It is in Nubra valley, after travelling via Kung, we come to the above village, which has only 1-2 Bnddhist houses.⁶¹

Summur (Tib. gsum-yur): It is about 10 minuts bus journey from 'Lag-zung', has 250 Buddhist houses and a few muslim houses (ioe. 2-3 in number); has 250 zos, 30 sheep & goats and 270 other big animals.

Stang: It is not settled area, and comes under Tangyar village, where villagers send their animals for grazing.

Shara: It is in Leh district and 8 km from Upshi, has 100 Buddhist houses.

Sharmos: It is situated in Indus Valley near Shara village, has 250 Buddhist houses.

Terche: It is in Nubra valley, 2 km from Udmaru, has 40 Buddhist houses, one Primary school, one Middle school and a gonpa on the mountain.

Tangyar: It is in Nubra, has 40 Buddhist houses, half an hour journey from Amdi, has good cultivated land on the Kava hillock.

Tuna: It is 5 km from Shara, situated opposite to the shara village, has about 10-12 Buddhist houses.

Tokula: It is 3 km from Likkse at the corner of the valley, has 20 Buddhist houses.

Tarshit: It is 2 km from Likkse, situated at the right of the Indus river, can be reached by bus after crossing the river, has 30 Buddhist houses.

Tirit: It is in Nubra, has about 43 Buddhist houses, consist 50,000 sheep & goats. Near the village, there are number of pasturelands viz. Tirit Phu, Ose khar, Skoce, Phonglas Rigu Dugsa, Ishe Bande, koptar ground, Tarcokcan Sagyang etc. Here Nubra Kalon has 20 goats, 80 cows, 06 horse, 25 camels etc. King Jigmet wangchok wife was from Tirit. At present Nubra Kalon who has large portion of land, started to arrange tourist camp in this remote area. It is about 6 km from Koyam Dampa and 20 minutes bus journey from Khalsar.

Tak-sha: It is 20 minutes bus journey from Puk-po-tse, has 30-35 Buddhist houses.

Udmaru: It is 2 km. from Skuru has 30 Buddhist houses, 01 Primary School, 01 Middle School and one Dak Banglow.

Upsi (Tib'aub-shi): It is 8 km from 'Igu' situated on the left of the Leh-Manali road, has 108 Buddhist houses.

Notes and References

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