



The transferred sacral geography of Mt Meru (Kailash)

Bettina Zeisler, Tübingen – Leh, Lata

ਕ੍ਰਿਤਪਾਇਦਕਾ ਗਤਿਸ਼ੁਖਿ ਸਾਹਮਣੇ
ਸੁਧਾਰਨ ਕੈਂਚ ਪਵਿਤ੍ਰ ਗਤਿਸ਼ੁਖਿ॥

ਗੈਤਾ ਬੀਨ ਅਤੇ ਮੁੰਡੂ (ਗੁਰੂ ਗ੍ਰੰਥ ਸਾਹਿਬ)



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ବ୍ୟାବ୍ଧିକୀ

ଯୁଦ୍ଧକଷ୍ଟାଶ୍ରୀଯାମଣ୍ଡଳ

I. The high division (or lord, *yabgu*)
of the country's rivers

Or

The main watershed

ཡිග' ຂ' ອද' ສດ' ພිග' ແීද' ພද' ອද' ດා ພුඛ ອද' ອුද' ດී ພිද' ພුඛ
ກධ' ເශ්‍රී ພුඛ' ພිග' ດී ດිග' ຖේ॥ ຕිර' ອු' ອා ອද' ອුද' ດී ອෑ
ත් ຂෙන' ມ' ສුම' ອවිද' ສ' ອි' ຕ' ສද' ສ' ດී ດිග' ຖේ॥

In Old Tibetan documents, we find the designation ‘The high divide(r) (or lord, *yabgu*) of the country’s rivers’ for the country of Zhangzhung, which is roughly equal to ‘The main watershed’. This is, because three great rivers take their origin in the vicinity of Mt Kailash.

ਪ੍ਰਾਣਤਮਾਕਸਾ ਮਿਦਵਾਘਦ ਧਰਾਘਰ ਗੁਨਸਾਲੁਦਸਾ ਪ੍ਰਿ
Brah-
maputra ਪ੍ਰਿਤਮਨ ਰੀਤੁ ਸ਼ੁਭ ਸ਼ੁਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਿਤਮ
ਦਵਦਾ ਸਤਲੇਜ ਪ੍ਰਿਤਮਨ ਰੀਤੁ ਸ਼ੁਭ ਸ਼ੁਦਾ ਸ਼ੁਦਾ ਸ਼ੁਦਾ
ਅਨੁਦਾ ਸ਼ੁਦਾ ਸ਼ੁਦਾ ਸ਼ੁਦਾ ਸ਼ੁਦਾ ਸ਼ੁਦਾ ਸ਼ੁਦਾ
ਅਨੁਦਾ ਸ਼ੁਦਾ ਸ਼ੁਦਾ ਸ਼ੁਦਾ ਸ਼ੁਦਾ ਸ਼ੁਦਾ ਸ਼ੁਦਾ ਸ਼ੁਦਾ

These are: the Brahmaputra in the east, the Satlej in the southwest, and the Indus in the north. Since all of them take their origin at or near Mt. Kailash, the latter might be called the ‘water divider’ or watershed, hence the Old Tibetan expression.

ହେତୁ ନାମି ପଦାର୍ଥ ଯଦୁ କୁର୍ଦ୍ଧବ ବିନିଷ୍ଟ ନାମି ପଦାର୍ଥ ॥ ତିର୍ଯ୍ୟକ

ଶ୍ରୀ ଯଦୁ କୁର୍ଦ୍ଧବ ବିନିଷ୍ଟ ନାମି ପଦାର୍ଥ ॥ Karnali ଶ୍ରୀ ଯଦୁ କୁର୍ଦ୍ଧବ ବିନିଷ୍ଟ
ନାମି ପଦାର୍ଥ ॥ ଶ୍ରୀ ଯଦୁ କୁର୍ଦ୍ଧବ ବିନିଷ୍ଟ ନାମି ପଦାର୍ଥ ॥
ଅନ୍ତର୍ଗତ ନାମି ପଦାର୍ଥ ॥

In Buddhist texts, however, one can read about a four-river template. That is, the Karnali is added as a fourth river and counted as the Gaṅgā. But the real source of the Gaṅgā is to be found much further west.

गीर्हसंक्षिप्तिर्वद्यन्दिक्षुष्यद्विमासमवैरिक्षय
संक्षिप्तिर्वद्यर्त्तमा॥ इति॒प्र॒त्युत्तमा॒भृत्य॒प्र॒त्युत्तमा॒
र्त्तमा॥ इति॒प्र॒त्युत्तमा॒क्षुत्तमा॒क्षुत्तमा॒यद्विमासमवैरिक्षय
भृत्य॒प्र॒त्युत्तमा॥ इति॒प्र॒त्युत्तमा॒स्मिन्द्विमासमवैरिक्षय
यद्विमासमवैरिक्षय॥

Furthermore, the four rivers and the associated animals
are given quite differently in different texts.

For example, the peacock might be located in the north
and the Gaṅgā might be found in the west or in the
east. One can actually get quite confused!

The reason is, that Mt Meru and the rivers had been originally located at quite a different place. Only later did they get translocated from the original place to present-day Mṇahris or Guge.

શાન્તિસાધની
રાજ્યાધ્યક્ષીની દેશાંગ
અભિનાની રાજ્યકુરુ

II. The ‘Roof of the World’
Zhangzhung of Persia

ਤੇਵੇਂ ਅਨੇਕ ਦੇਵਤਾਵਾਂ ਸਹਿਤ ਪ੍ਰਾਣੀਆਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਮੁੱਲਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਆਪਣੀ ਸਾਡੀਅਤ ਅਤੇ ਸ਼ਾਨਦਾਰੀ ਦੀ ਸ਼ਾਮਲ ਹੈ। ਜਿਸ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਡੀਅਤ ਅਤੇ ਸ਼ਾਨਦਾਰੀ ਦੀ ਸ਼ਾਮਲ ਹੈ, ਉਥੋਂ ਪ੍ਰਾਣੀਆਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਮੁੱਲਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਆਪਣੀ ਸਾਡੀਅਤ ਅਤੇ ਸ਼ਾਨਦਾਰੀ ਦੀ ਸ਼ਾਮਲ ਹੈ।

How can I say this? Well, in some pre-Sronjbrtsan Sgampo non-Tibetan Buddhist documents, such as the report of the Chinese pilgrim Xuanzang (ca. 640), one finds the following scheme (most probably from the Abhidharmakośa):

ਇੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਹ ਘੁਣਾਤਨ ਕ੍ਰਿਮਾ | ਸਿੰਦਰ ਪੀ

କୁଷମାଦିତ୍ୟାନ୍ତିର୍ବାହିନୀ ପରାମର୍ଶିତ୍ୱରେ ପରାମର୍ଶିତ୍ୱରେ

ଶ୍ରୀରାମକ୍ଷେତ୍ର

ੴ ਯਤਨ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਿੰਘ ਕੁਲ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਦੇਵ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ॥

North: Sītā (Tarim) Lion

West: Pakṣu (Oxus) Horse

East: Gaṅgā Bull

South: Sindhu (Gilgit-Indus) Elephant

But there are again inconsistencies: How can the source of the Sitā or Tarim be directly north of the Kailash? And how can the source of the Gaṅgā be east of the Kailash?

ਉਤੁਰਾਂ ਸਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਅਦਾਤੇ॥

ਦੁ਷ਾਵਾਧਸਾਂਤ੍ਰਾਂ
ਹਾ

ਪ੍ਰਤਾਗਸਾਨ੍ਹਾਂ
ਖੁਦਾਂ

ਵੱਡਾਂ ਸਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ
ਖੁਦਾਂ ਕੇਵਾ

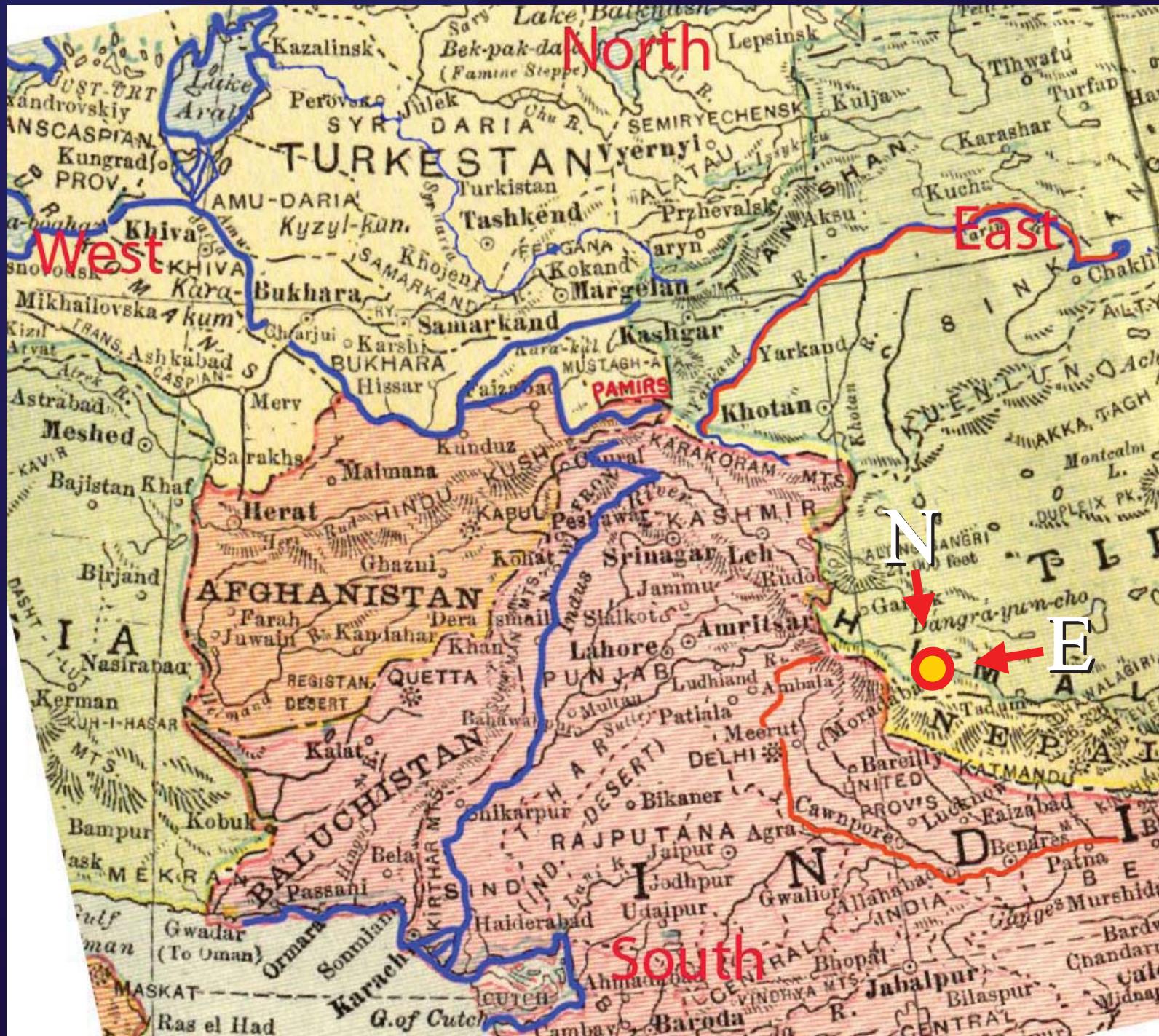
ਦੰਘਦਾਲਾਮਾਵਤ੍ਰਾਂ
ਏਨ੍ਹਿਦਾਨ੍ਹਾਂ
ਕੁਣਾਵਸਨਾਂ
ਦੰਘਦਾਨ੍ਹਾਂ

North: Sitā (Tarim) Lion

West: Pakṣu (Oxus) Horse

East: Gaṅgā Bull

South: Sindhu (Gilgit-Indus) Elephant



गङ्गादेव विद्युत्सदस्ति निरुपकर्मणा देवद्विषयम् प्रभा
विद्युत्सदिकर्त्ता ॥ ग्रन्थविघ्नद्यस्ति निरुपकर्मणा दे-
वद्विद्युत्सदिकर्त्ता ॥ ग्रन्थिकृष्णविद्युत्सदिकर्मणा द
विद्युत्सदिकर्त्ता ॥ ग्रन्थिकृष्णविद्युत्सदिकर्मणा द
विद्युत्सदिकर्त्ता ॥ ग्रन्थिकृष्णविद्युत्सदिकर्मणा द
विद्युत्सदिकर्त्ता ॥

It is quite apparent that the Gaṅgā does not flow east of the Kailash, its real sources are west to it. Even the Karnali would not flow in its east, but in its south. The centre of the four rivers would lie somewhere in Ladakh, not to far from Leh. Could it be Stok Glacier?



ଶ୍ରୀମତୀଯଦ୍ରିକ୍ଷୁଣୁନ୍ଦିତେ ପାତ୍ରମାଣିକ୍ୟରେ ଅଧିକାରୀ ହେଲା
ଯଦ୍ରିକ୍ସନ୍ତିକୁ ପାତ୍ରମାଣିକ୍ୟରେ ଅଧିକାରୀ ହେଲା
ଶ୍ରୀକୃତ୍ସନ୍ତିକୁ ପାତ୍ରମାଣିକ୍ୟରେ ଅଧିକାରୀ ହେଲା
ଏମିତି ପାତ୍ରମାଣିକ୍ୟରେ ଅଧିକାରୀ ହେଲା
ଏମିତି ପାତ୍ରମାଣିକ୍ୟରେ ଅଧିକାରୀ ହେଲା
ଏମିତି ପାତ୍ରମାଣିକ୍ୟରେ ଅଧିକାରୀ ହେଲା

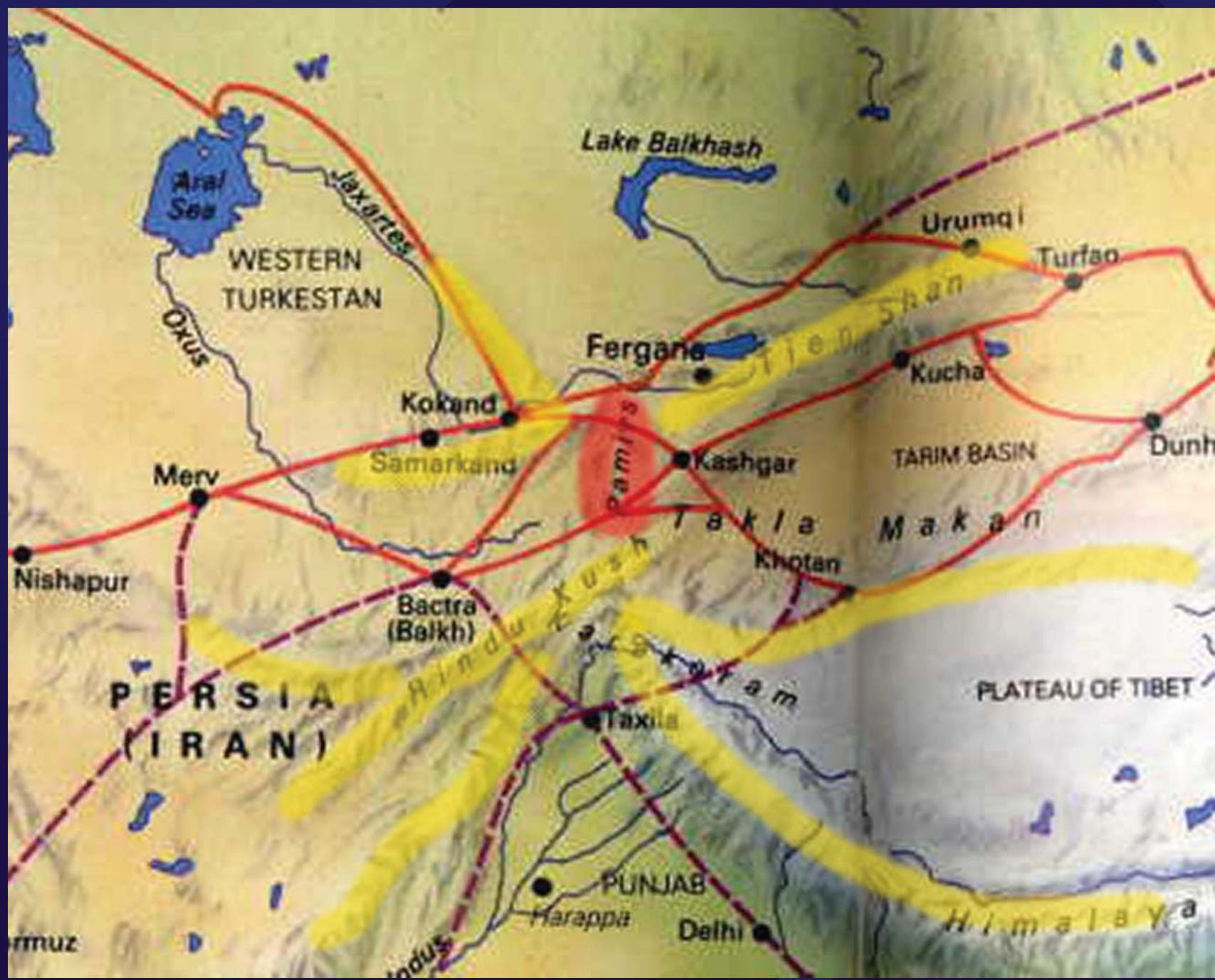
There is no evidence, however, that Mt Meru/ Kailash was ever located near Leh. Thus, the two rivers of the north and east must have been known differently in earlier times.

If one looks at a map, one can see that the Pamirs form a kind of X, the so called ‘Pamir knot’.



ਏਹੁ ਪਾਸੁ ਦੀ ਘਰ ਵਿਅਤਾ ਹੋਇ ਰਾਸ਼ਨ ਕੇ ਬੇਚ ਮਨ ਕੀਤੀ ਸ੍ਰੁਤੀ। ਪਾਸ ਲੈਂਦੀ
ਘਰ ਵਿਅਤਾ ਗੁਰੂ ਭਾਗ ਘਰ ਦੇ ਰਿਖਾਂ ਵਿਅਤਾ ਪਾਸ ਵਿਅਤਾ ਮਨ ਕੁਝ ਹੈ ਵਾਧਾ
ਬੇਚ ਮਨ ਕੀਤੀ ਸ੍ਰੁਤੀ। ਲੈਂਦੀ ਗੁਪਤ ਵਿਅਤਾ ਹੋਇ ਗੁਪਤ ਬੇਚ ਮਨ ਕੀਤੀ
ਸ੍ਰੁਤੀ। ਗੁਪਤ ਗੁਪਤ ਏਹੁ ਦੀ ਘਰ ਵਿਅਤਾ ਜਾਂ ਵੈ ਬੇਚ ਮਨ ਕੀਤੀ ਸ੍ਰੁਤੀ।
ਘਰ ਦੀ ਸ੍ਰੁਤੀ ਸ੍ਰੁਤੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਕੁਝ ਕੁਝ ਵਿਅਤਾ ਘਰ ਦੀ ਸ੍ਰੁਤੀ।

The northeastern arm is formed by the **Tienshan** range, the southeastern branches are formed by the **Kunlun** and the **Karakoram-Himalayan** ranges, the southwestern arm is formed by the **Hindukūsh**, and the western and northwestern branches are formed by the **Alay** mountains and other smaller chains.



द्वियन् अथा तीव्रम् एकम् द्वितीयम् एकम् तीर्थम् शीर्षा
प्रसारम् शीर्षम् तु गंगा ॥ त्रितीयम् शीर्षम् शीर्षम् तीर्थम् शीर्षम्
गंगा ॥ त्रिचतुर्थम् शीर्षम् शीर्षम् तीर्थम् शीर्षम् तीर्थम् शीर्षम्
कृष्णा ॥ प्रथम् शीर्षम् शीर्षम् शीर्षम् तीर्थम् शीर्षम् तीर्थम् शीर्षम्
कृष्णा ॥ क्षेत्रम् शीर्षम् शीर्षम् शीर्षम् तीर्थम् शीर्षम् तीर्थम् शीर्षम्
कृष्णा ॥

Between these arms flow four great rivers in approximately the four cardinal directions: the Tarim (Sītā) in the east, the Sindhu (the source of which was earlier thought to be in Gilgit) in the south, the Oxus (Amu Darya) in the west, the Jaxartes (Sir Darya) in the north. Each river flows into a different sea or salt lake.





The Oxus used to flow into the Caspian Sea through a course known as Uzboy. Only part of the water reached the Aral Sea. Somewhat before the left arm turns off from the present course, there is a narrow gorge, known earlier in Arabic sources also as the ‘Gate of the Lion’s Mouth’.



The Tarim actually ends up in the Lop Nor, but in early times, people had thought that from this salt lake, the river would flow underground, below the Kunlun mountains and would reappear as the Yellow River and thus end up in the Chinese eastern ocean.



ର୍ଦ୍ଧିକ୍ଷେତ୍ରାମରିବୁଦ୍ଧାଯାନ୍ତରିକ୍ଷିତ୍ସୁର୍ଯ୍ୟନାମରିବୁ
ହୀନୀଶିଖିତ୍ସନ୍ତମରିକ୍ଷିତ୍ସୁର୍ଯ୍ୟନାମରିବୁର୍କଣିତ୍ସନ୍ତମରିବୁ
କୁର୍ମାମରିବୁର୍କଣିତ୍ସନ୍ତମରିବୁର୍କଣିତ୍ସନ୍ତମରିବୁ
ର୍ଦ୍ଧିକ୍ଷେତ୍ରାମରିବୁର୍କଣିତ୍ସନ୍ତମରିବୁର୍କଣିତ୍ସନ୍ତମରିବୁ
ଏକ୍ଷିତ୍ସନ୍ତମରିବୁର୍କଣିତ୍ସନ୍ତମରିବୁର୍କଣିତ୍ସନ୍ତମରିବୁ

In any case, the original template covered much of the Aryan, that is Indo-Iranian speaking, world, and except for the Indian section it represented the Iranian world. The template might have been invented by the Iranian elites to illustrate their claim to ‘universal’ rulership.

କୁଳମୀଷାଶାତ୍ରୁଯାତ୍ରିମିଦୁନ୍ତକୀତ୍ତଶ୍ଵରାଜ୍ୟାଧିକାରୀ
ପାତାଦ୍ୱାରା ତିଣଙ୍ଗକୁଣ୍ଡଳୀଶ୍ଵରାଜ୍ୟକୀଷାହିଁ ଯଦ୍ବାସିତ୍ତୁ ପଦଦ୍ଵାରା
କୁଣ୍ଡଳୀଶ୍ଵରାଜ୍ୟକୀଷାହିଁ ରିକ୍ରୁମିଣିଲାଲା

At some time, however, the Gaṅgā became very precious for the Indians and they conceptualised her in the place of the Tarim, while the Tarim was conceptualised in the place of the Jaxartes.



藏
蘇
烏
拉
藏

藏
蘇
烏
拉
藏

藏
蘇
烏
拉
藏

III: The centre of the world

Zhangzhung of Tibet

ଶକ୍ତିରେତର୍କଷଦ୍ୟାମା ଶିଶୁରେତିମାପିଶାଶିଶୁରେତି
ଶୁଭାହିନୀ କୃତ୍ତିରେତିଶାପଦଶାଵଦାତ୍ତତ୍ତ୍ଵରେତିଶାହିନୀ
ଶବ୍ଦିଶ୍ଵରାହିନୀରୁଷା|| ରିତାରତନଶ୍ଵରମଦିକୃତ୍ତିରେତିମଦା
ମଦାତ୍ତିଶ୍ଵରାହିନୀଧାମା|| ଅର୍ଥମନ୍ତରତିଶ୍ଵରମଦାଶ୍ଵରାହିନୀ
ରିତାରତା||

And this lead to a gradual relocation of Meru towards the east and then to an adaptation to the geographical situation further east, that is, to a replacement of the rivers. Confusion arose, as one tried to keep the old river names, but at the same time tried to match these names with those of the rivers of the new template.

ਪੁਤ੍ਰਦਾਸੀਨੂ| ਸਿਦਾਤੇ॥

ਕੁ਷ਾਗ੍ਰਾਨੂ| ਹੈ॥

ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਸਾਨੂ| ਸੂਦਾਵੰਡੀ॥

ਗੁਣਸੀਨੂ| ਖੁਦਾਕੇਵਾ॥

North: Sitā (Tarim) Lion

West: Pakṣu (Oxus) Horse

East: Gaṅgā Bull

South: Sindhu (Gilgit-Indus) Elephant

କୁର୍ମାର୍ଥପଦ୍ମନାଭ

સેવા > સુપર

ଶ୍ରୀ ମହାତ୍ମା ଗାଁନ୍ଦିରା > ଶ୍ରୀ ପାତ୍ରକାନ୍ତା

ଶ୍ରୀମଦ୍ଭଗବତ

Same rivers, but the wrong animals (*Mdohdus*)

Lion > Peacock

Horse

Bull > Elephant

Elephant > Bull

କୃତ୍ସନ୍ଦର୍ଭାବମାତ୍ରା ହତ୍ୟାକୀ

ଘ୍ରାଣ

ଶ୍ରୀମଦ୍ଭଗବତ୍ (ଶତା)

ନାରାଦ୍ଜା

ଶିତ୍ତଶିତ୍ତ

Changing rivers I (*Rgyalrabs Bongyi hbyungnas*):

Oxus

Yellow River

Naradzana (?)

Siti-Situ (Tarim? Sindhu? Gaṅgā?)

শুম্সদ্বিষণ্কুর্দিৰ্গ্ৰে মাঘদ্বিষণ্কুৰ্দি শুৰণাৰ্থী শান্তদ্বিমিদ
নৈৰুৰ্ণৰ্ণা॥ নেশান্তদ্বিষণ্কুৰ্দি পুৰণাৰ্থী মুৰণাৰ্থী নৈৰুৰ্ণৰ্ণা
হৃষ্টুম্বুৰ্ণৰ্ণা পুঁৰ্ণদ্বিষণ্কুৰ্দি পুৰণাৰ্থী মুৰণাৰ্থী
নৈৰুৰ্ণৰ্ণা পুঁৰ্ণদ্বিষণ্কুৰ্দি পুৰণাৰ্থী মুৰণাৰ্থী।
নৈৰুৰ্ণৰ্ণা পুঁৰ্ণদ্বিষণ্কুৰ্দি পুৰণাৰ্থী মুৰণাৰ্থী শুম্সদ্বিষণ্কুৰ্দি
শুৰণাৰ্থী

Gyimšan or Kyimšan represents Chinese Jincheng, a place near Lanzhou. It is the place up to which the second Chinese princess to be married to a Tibetan emperor was escorted, and her Tibetan name was derived from this place. The upper course of the Yellow River passes Lanzhou.

କୃତ୍ସନ୍ଦର୍ଶନାମନୀ ଏକିଷାପାନୀ

ମୃଦୁ ଶିଦ୍ଧିମୋ

ଗନ୍ଧୀ ଶୁଦ୍ଧିକେନା

ଶୁଦ୍ଧିମନ୍ଦା (ଶୁଦ୍ଧିକୁ) ହା

ନାରଦ୍ଜା ମୁହଁ

Changing rivers II (Karmay 1998a: 105):

Oxus Lion

Gaṅgā Elephant

Yellow River Horse

Naradza (?) Peacock

କୃତ୍ସନ୍ଦର୍ଶନାମନୀ ଶୁମାଧୁରୀ

ଶିର୍ହୀ ଶିର୍ଦ୍ଦଶୀ

ଏକୁ ଶୁଦ୍ଧକେନ୍ଦ୍ରୀ

ବର୍ଷୀ ହି

ଶିର୍ହୀ ଶୁଦ୍ଧପ୍ରୀ

Changing rivers III (*Tise gnasbšad*):

Tarim Lion

Gaṅgā Elephant

Oxus Horse

Sindhu Bull

This is just the mirror image of the Indian scheme, and it seems that it is based on a drawing for a block print, where either the person drawing or the wood cutter had forgotten that when printing, the right and the left side would be inverted.

ହିଁ ଶେଷରସ ପ୍ରମଦ କେବା ମନ୍ଦିର ଦେଖିବା ଯବା ହକ୍କ ହିଁ ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରେ
ମଧ୍ୟ ଲଙ୍ଘନ ରହିଥାଏ ସର୍ବତ୍ର ମନ୍ଦିର ଦେଖିବା ଯବା ହକ୍କ
କୁରା ଦିନରେ ହିଁ ଯଦି କେବା ରହିଥାଏ ଯବା ହକ୍କ ମାତ୍ରମାତ୍ର ଯବା ହକ୍କ
କୁରା ଦିନରେ ହିଁ ଯବା ହକ୍କ ମାତ୍ରମାତ୍ର ଯବା ହକ୍କ ମାତ୍ରମାତ୍ର ଯବା ହକ୍କ
କୁରା ଦିନରେ ହିଁ ଯବା ହକ୍କ ମାତ୍ରମାତ୍ର ଯବା ହକ୍କ ମାତ୍ରମାତ୍ର ଯବା ହକ୍କ

The author of the *Tise gnasbšad* is aware of the mismatch, but tries to explain this by the assumption that all rivers start in the opposite direction, but turn round below lake Anavatapta /Manasarowar which would then push the Sitā/Tarim to the south!

ଓন্দ্ৰা

ମହାମାତ୍ରକଷେପା /

ମହାଧମା

ଓন্দ্ৰা

ନାନ୍ଦି

ନାନ୍ଦି

Oxus
Gaṅgā

ଶିର୍ହି

ଶିର୍ହି

Tarim

Sindhu

Anavatapta/
Manasarowar

Tarim

Sindhu

Oxus
Gaṅgā



ବ୍ୟାପ୍ତି

ଶିରକୁ

ବ୍ୟାପ୍ତି

ମହାମର୍ଦ୍ଦଶପା /
ମହାଧମ

ଶିରକୁ

ଶିରକୁ

Oxus
Gaṅgā

Sindhu

Oxus
Gaṅgā

Anavatapta/
Manasarowar

Tarim

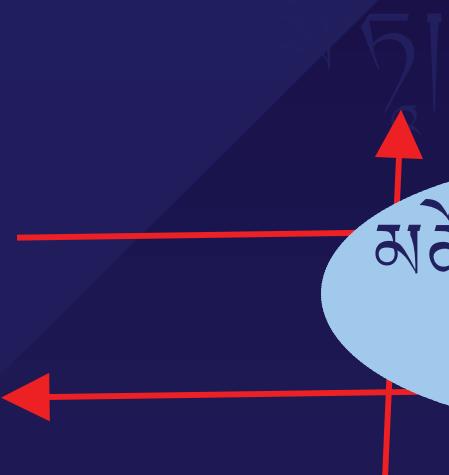
Sindhu

ମୁଣ୍ଡ

ଶିରାହୁ

ମହାମର୍ଦ୍ଦଶପା /

ମହାଧମା



Oxus
Gaṅgā

Sindhu

Tarim

ମୁଣ୍ଡ

ଶିରାହୁ

Anavatapta/
Manasarowar

ବ୍ୟାପ୍ତି

ଶିରକୁ

ମହାମର୍ଦ୍ଦଶପା /

ମହାଧମା

ବ୍ୟାପ୍ତି

ବ୍ୟାପ୍ତି

ନାନୀ

ଶିରକୁ

ଶିରକୁ

Oxus
Gaṅgā

Sindhu

Oxus
Gaṅgā

Anavatapta/
Manasarowar

Tarim

Sindhu

ଓମ୍ବା

ଶିରୀ

ଶିରୀତୁ

ଓମ୍ବା

ଶିରୀ

ଶିରୀ

ଶିରୀତୁ

ମହାମର୍ଦ୍ଦଶପା /

ମହାଧମା

ଶିରୀ

Tarim

Sindhu

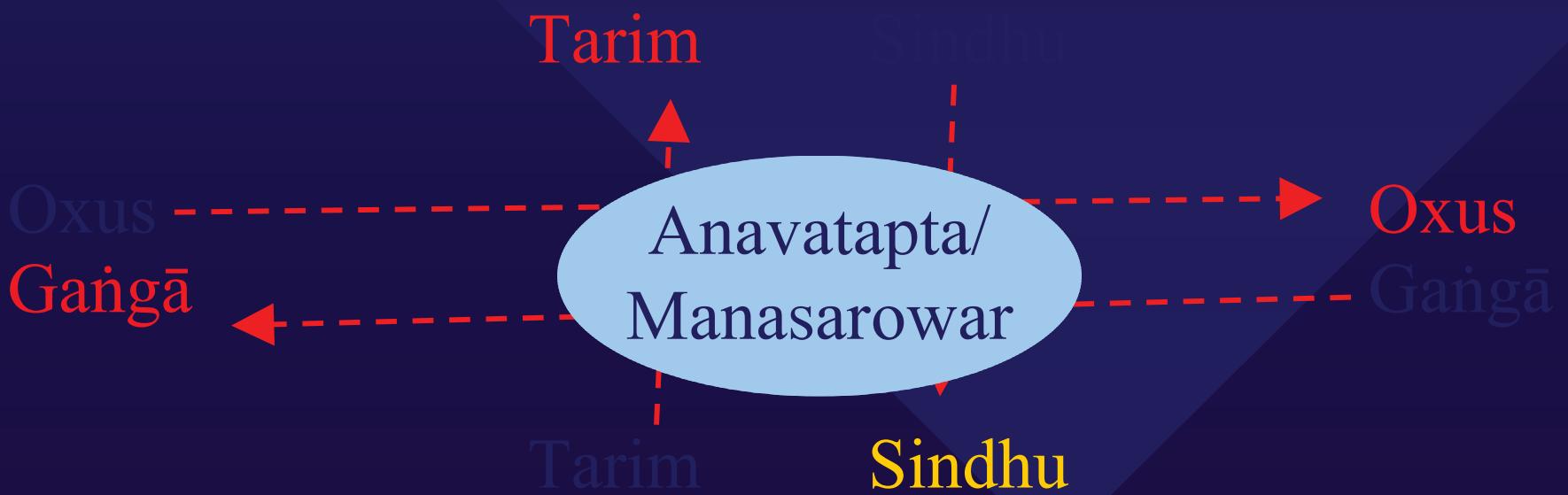
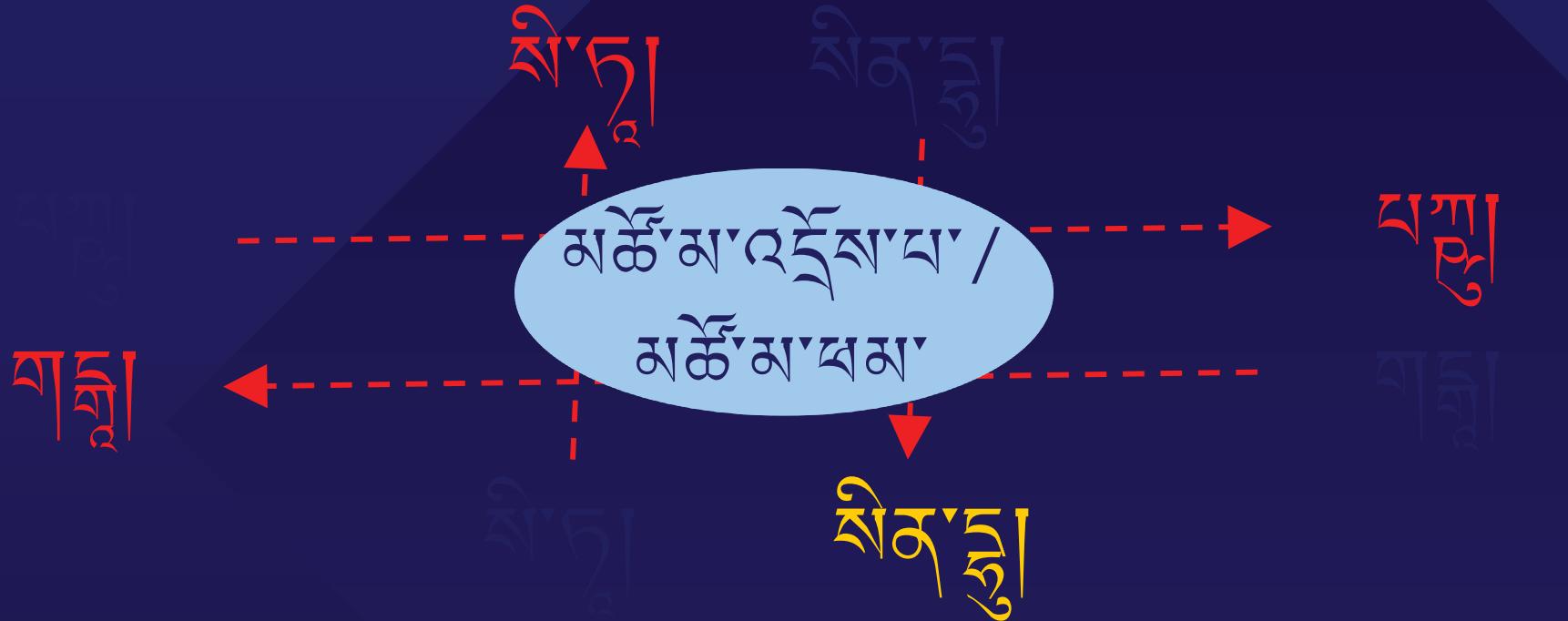
Oxus
Gaṅgā

Oxus
Gaṅgā

Anavatapta/
Manasarowar

Tarim

Sindhu



ଶ୍ରୀକଷେତ୍ରାଶୀଶିନ୍ଦୁରେଖିରୁଧିରାଶ୍ରୀମତ୍ତ୍ଵପଦ୍ମିଶ୍ରମାଙ୍ଗଳୀ
ମହାଦେଵାଶ୍ରୀନ୍ଦୁରେଖିରୁଧିରାଶ୍ରୀମତ୍ତ୍ଵପଦ୍ମିଶ୍ରମାଙ୍ଗଳୀ
ମହାଦେଵାଶ୍ରୀନ୍ଦୁରେଖିରୁଧିରାଶ୍ରୀମତ୍ତ୍ଵପଦ୍ମିଶ୍ରମାଙ୍ଗଳୀ
ମହାଦେଵାଶ୍ରୀନ୍ଦୁରେଖିରୁଧିରାଶ୍ରୀମତ୍ତ୍ଵପଦ୍ମିଶ୍ରମାଙ୍ଗଳୀ

There is even an explanation for a southern Sitā: the Gaṅgā has been associated with the Sitā either directly or indirectly. In the latter case, the Gaṅgā is thought to branch off into the four major rivers, with Sitā being the eastern-most of them. Needless to say, that even this concept has been replaced by a concept where the Gaṅgā branches into five (!) more regional rivers.

କୃଷ୍ଣରାଜୁରାମଙ୍କ ବିପନ୍ନୀ

ଶିରାହୁ ଶିଦ୍ଧାମୋ

ଏହୁ ଶୁଦ୍ଧିକେନ୍ତା

ଯଦ୍ବ୍ରାହ୍ମଣଶକ୍ତିଦଶ୍ଵରୀ ବାଲ୍ମୀକି

(ମଦର୍ଦ୍ଵିଷର୍ଣ୍ଣାରଷଷ୍ଟମାମନ୍ତରା)

ଶ୍ରୀହରାମଶ୍ରୀକୃଷ୍ଣ ଏହାଶୂଦ୍ଧିକ୍ରମର୍ମା ମୁଖୀ

Changing rivers IV (*Bod-Rgya tshigmdzod chenmo!*):

Indus Lion

Gaṅgā Elephant

Brahmaputra = Oxus Horse

(flowing through Mṇahris = Satlej)

River of Purang or Gaṅgā headwaters Peacock

କୃତ୍ସନ୍ଦର୍ଶନାମନୀ ହିନ୍ଦୁମାଣୀ

ଶିର୍ହୀ ଶିଦ୍ଧିମୀ

ଯତ୍ପୂର୍ବାତ୍ମାତ୍ମାତ୍ମାତ୍ମା
ପ୍ରାଣୀ ହାତୀ

ଏହୀ ପ୍ରଦାତା

ଶିର୍ହୀ ଶିଦ୍ଧିମୀ

Changing rivers V (*Bod-Rgya English version*):

Tarim Lion

Brahmaputra = Oxus Horse

Gaṅgā Elephant

Sindhu Peacock

ଶ୍ରୀପାଣି

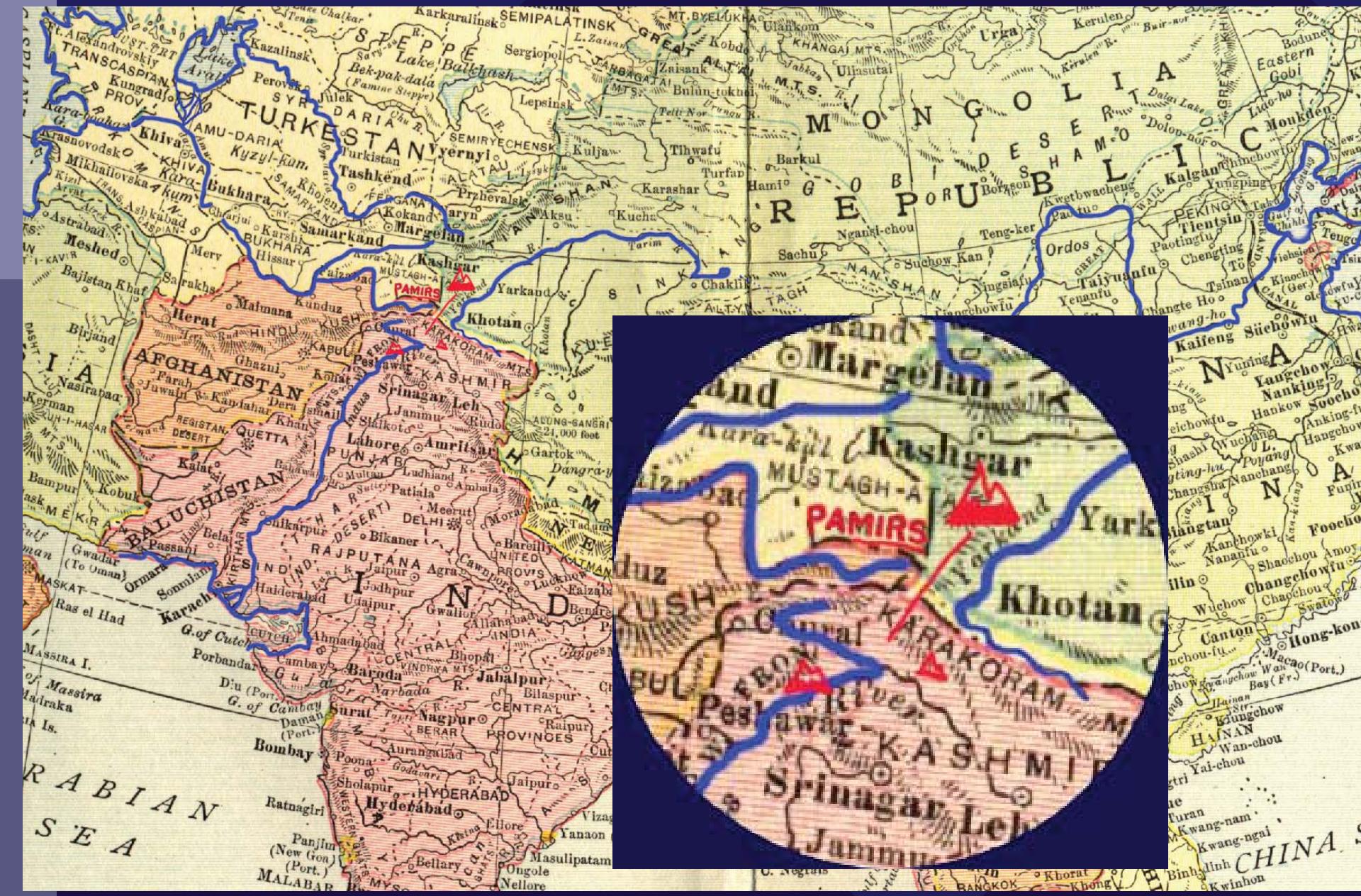
ମେଘଦୂତମାତ୍ରମିହିମିକୁଳ

IV. The wandering mountain

While the rivers keep changing like a whirling *svastika*, Mt Meru alias Kailāsa left some traces of its journey to the east:







ଶ୍ରୀକୃଷ୍ଣାମରିତମିଳାନିକାରିତାପଦମାଧୁରିକ୍ଷଣ
ଯଦିପୁଣ୍ୟବିଷ୍ଣୁଦାରିନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶ|| ଯଦିପରାହିପାଦମ
ତିଥିଶିଖିନ୍ଦିନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶିଲାଗ୍ନାମାରିତା
ଘନିନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶମେରାଯତ୍ତା|| ରହିନିଖିନ
ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶମାରିତାମୁଖ୍ୟାଦିନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶ||

A Kailash range “lies north-east of Gilgit, south of Hunza, east of Punial, the highest peak of which is said to be Dumani or Rakaposhi” (Dani 1991: 106). Some Balti scholars at the IALS seminar in Kargil 2005 mentioned a Mt Kailash near Skardo, which may be the Mustagh pass north of Skardo.



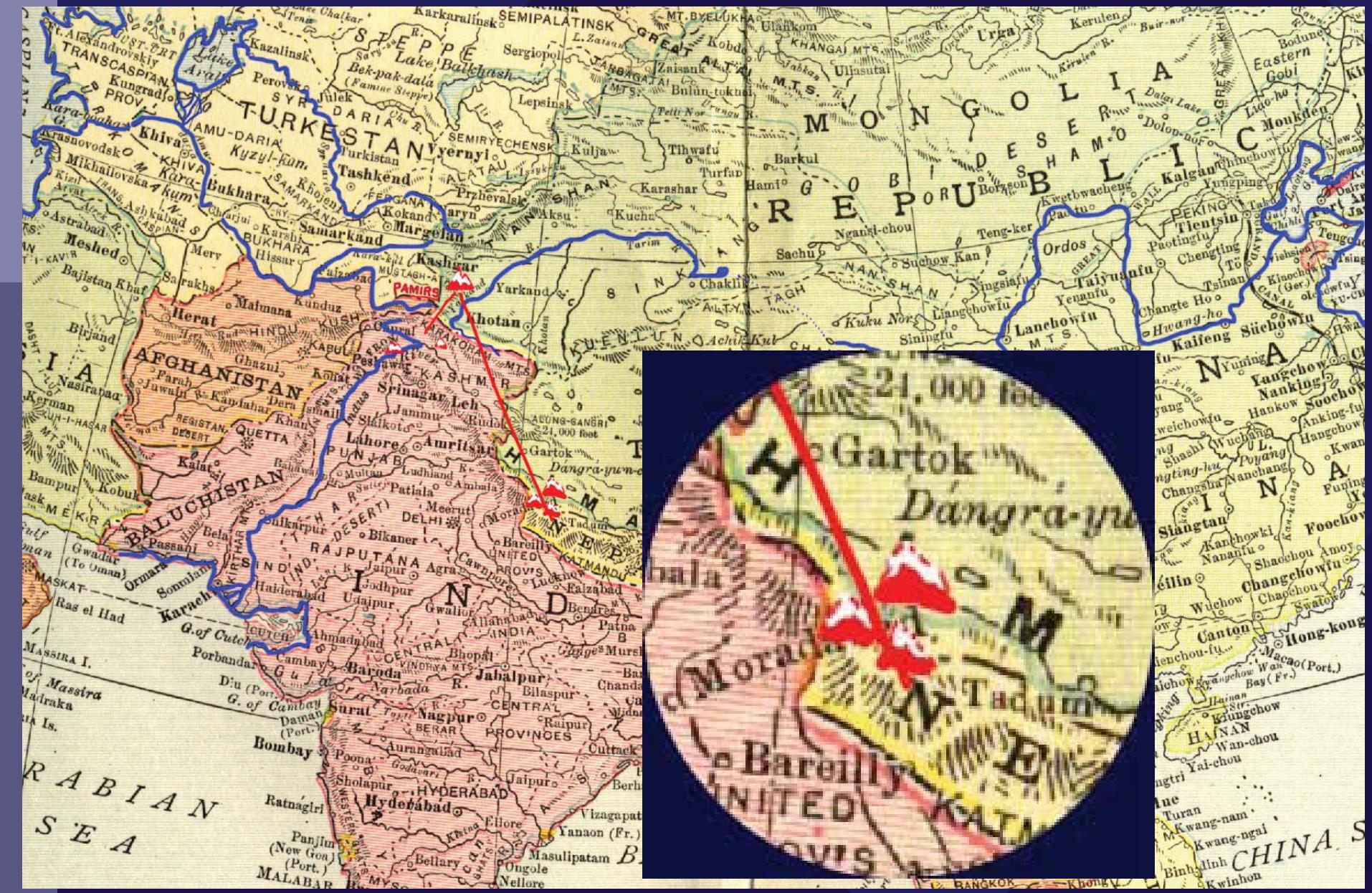
ଗୌତ୍ମାଶରିତ୍ତିକୁତ୍ତିଶାରିଶାନୀହିନ୍ଦିକୁଷପ୍ରଦାଦ୍ୟଦିକୁଳିନ୍ଦିଲ୍ଲା
 ଯଦିପ୍ରଦୁତ୍ତାବିଶ୍ଵାଣିଷ୍ଟଦିନ୍ଦିକୁର୍ତ୍ତିଶା|| ଯଦିପ୍ରଦାହିମାପାତ୍ର
 ତିଶାଶିଖାନ୍ଦିନ୍ଦିତ୍ତାବାଗୌତ୍ମାଶରିଶା
 ଷହିନ୍ଦିନ୍ଦିକୁର୍ତ୍ତିଶାମାରାଧାରାମା|| ରହିଥିଲ୍ଲା
 ହରିପ୍ରଦାଷହିନ୍ଦିନ୍ଦିମୁଖ୍ୟାବାରିନ୍ଦିର୍ବତ୍ତିଶା||

A Kailash range “lies north-east of Gilgit, south of Hunza, east of Punial, the highest peak of which is said to be Dumani or Rakaposhi” (Dani 1991: 106). Some Balti scholars at the IALS seminar in Kargil 2005 mentioned a Mt Kailash near Skardo, which may be the Mustagh pass north of Skardo.









ཤ්වාප්‍රදීජ් ගැඹුණදි ත්‍රේ ස්වාජ් මාක්ඩ් ප්‍රිත්ත් යද් ගැඹුණ
 එහි නැමුව ස්වාජ් රෝගී || මිනා මිනා ගිරික්ක් ප්‍රෙ මෙන් ත්‍රේ යුත් ප්‍රි
 ප්‍රිත්ත් ස්වාජ් පාද් || ගිරික්ක් ප්‍රිමි මුද්
 මින් ත්‍රේ ගැඹුණ දි ත්‍රේ ගැඹුණ දි ත්‍රේ
 පාද් || දි මෙන් ත්‍රේ යද් ගැඹුණ ත්‍රේ යද්
 ස්වාජ් මෙන් ත්‍රේ ||



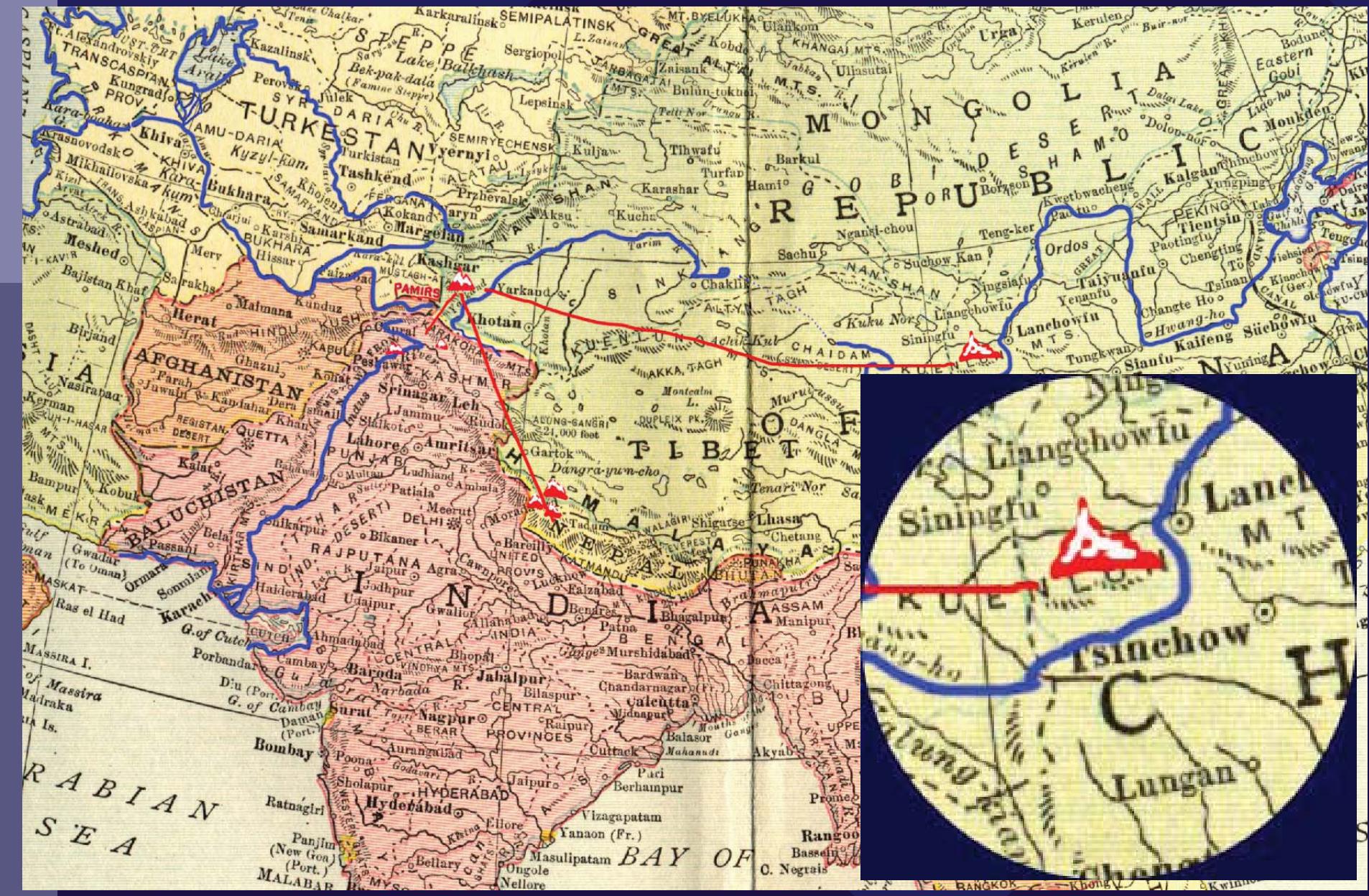
In close vicinity to the Tibetan Kailash, there are at least two more mountains in Himachal Pradesh which bear the name Kailash. One is in Kinnaur, and the Kinnauris would claim that, of course, their Kailash is the only true one (Anju Saxena, p.c.).



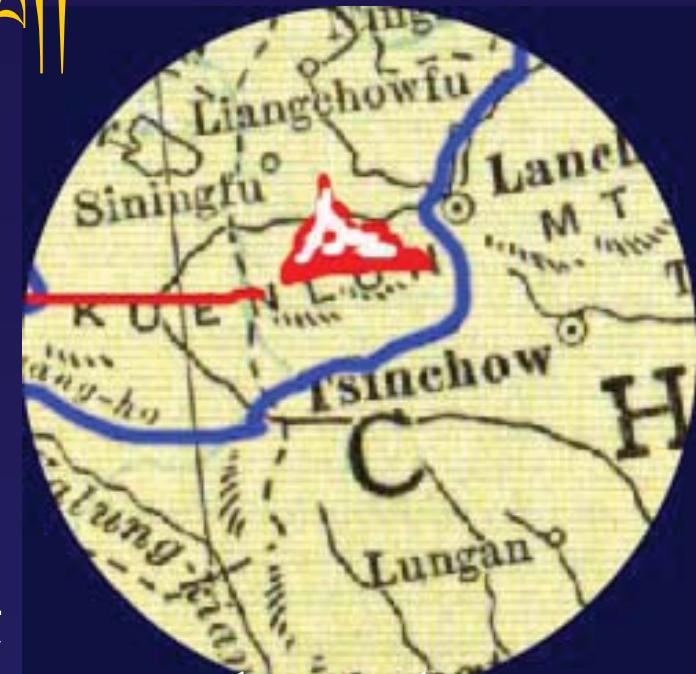
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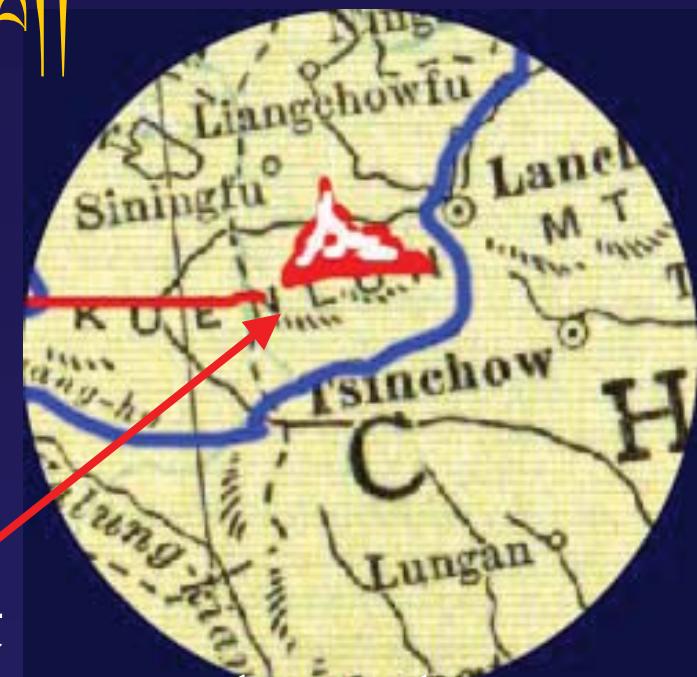


कुरुषीयिष्यकैरुद्दिव्यप्रविश्वारुद्गुरुद्विष्य
 शुभ्यद्विष्यकैरुद्गुरुद्विष्यप्रविश्वारुद्गुरुद्विष्य
 प्रविश्वारुद्गुरुद्विष्यकैरुद्गुरुद्विष्यप्रविश्वारुद्गुरुद्विष्य
 द्विष्यकैरुद्गुरुद्विष्यप्रविश्वारुद्गुरुद्विष्य
 द्विष्यप्रविश्वारुद्गुरुद्विष्यकैरुद्गुरुद्विष्य
 शुभ्यद्विष्यकैरुद्गुरुद्विष्यप्रविश्वारुद्गुरुद्विष्य



Chinese sources have shifted Mt Meru from the western end of the Kunlun, the Pamirs, to its eastern end (and along with the mountain, the geographical template of the Pamirs and the Hindu Kush, e.g. Gandhāra is relocated in Yunnan, Zahor in Bengal, Kāmarūpa in Assam, etc.).

कुरुषीयिष्यकैरुद्दिव्यप्रमित्तेगुरुत्पूर्वैप्रथा
 शुभ्यंदिक्येषा तेरुमन्त्रप्रमित्तरुहित्युपस्थि
 प्रद्युम्नद्युप्रस्त्रक्षणास्तुभ्यंदिक्येषा।
 द्विरुक्ता एव्युग्मन्त्रा विहृत्यु
 द्विरुक्ता गुरुमन्त्राणामामा
 श्वेष्यंदिक्येषा॥



Chinese sources have shifted Mt Meru from the western end of the Kunlun, the Pamirs, to its eastern end (and along with the mountain, the geographical template of the Pamirs and the Hindu Kush, e.g. Gandhāra is relocated in Yunnan, Zahor in Bengal, Kāmarūpa in Assam, etc.).







ହିନ୍ଦୁ'ମହୁଣ୍ଡା'ପରି'ଗ୍ରୟାନ୍ତା'ଶାରୀଷା'କିଷା'ମୁକ୍ତି'ଯଦ୍ବାକୁ'ତୁଳନା'ମର୍ଦ୍ଦ'ଏହ୍ୟନ୍
 ହର୍କେଶ|| ତେଣାକାରିତ୍ତିକୁ'କିମିର୍ଦ୍ଦୟଦ୍ଵାରା'ନୁହା'କାହିଁକୁରି'କ୍ଷେତ୍ରକାର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ
 କରି'ପରି'କ୍ଷେତ୍ରାଲ୍ଲେଷ'ମନ୍ଦିର'କିମିର୍ଦ୍ଦୟଦ୍ଵାରା'ଏହ୍ୟଦ୍ଵାରା'କିମିର୍ଦ୍ଦୟଦ୍ଵାରା'ଏହ୍ୟ
 ଶାରୀଷା'ଶିଥି'ପଦ୍ମରତ୍ନ'ଗ୍ରୀଭୁଷା'ନ୍ତି'ମର୍ଦ୍ଦ'ତେଣା
 ହିନ୍ଦୁ'ନାଣୀ'ମିହି'ଗର୍ଭ'ଗ୍ରୀଭୁଷା'ନ୍ତି'ମର୍ଦ୍ଦ'ତେଣା
 ହିନ୍ଦୁ'ନାନୀ'ମିହି'ଗର୍ଭ'ଗ୍ରୀଭୁଷା'ନ୍ତି'ମର୍ଦ୍ଦ'ତେଣା



Finally, a Kelasa is also found in Burma/Myanmar. I do not want to preclude that there is also one more Kailash or Meru somewhere in Indonesia or wherever Hinduism or Buddhism reached. (One might even expect, in 100 years or so a new Kailash/Meru somewhere in the U.S.)



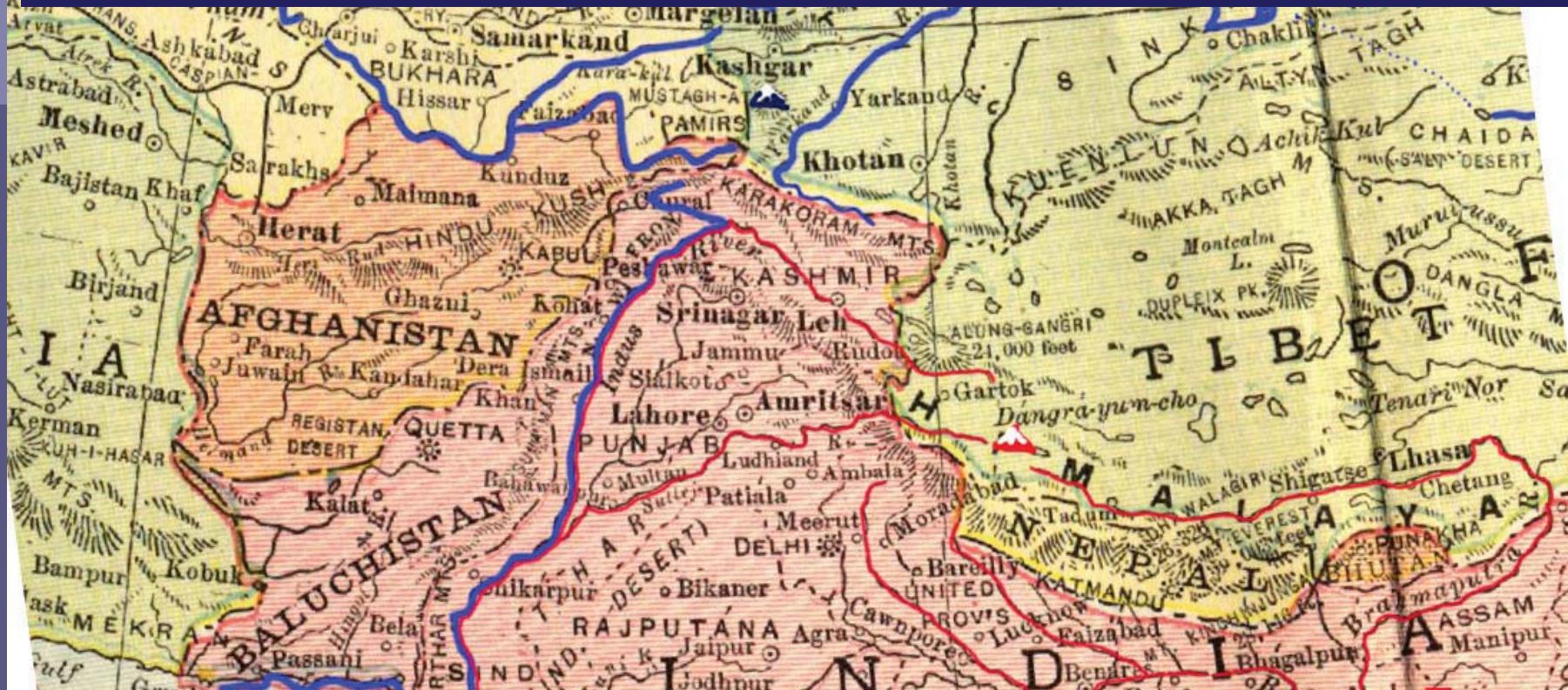
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ଶ୍ରୀମଦ୍‌ଭଗବତ୍
ମୁଦ୍ରଣ ଅଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ

V. Conclusion



ଶ୍ରୀକୃଷ୍ଣାବେଦିତାମନ୍ତରରୁ ପାଦମନ୍ତରରୁ ଏହାରୁ କିମ୍ବା
କିମ୍ବା କିମ୍ବା କିମ୍ବା କିମ୍ବା କିମ୍ବା କିମ୍ବା କିମ୍ବା

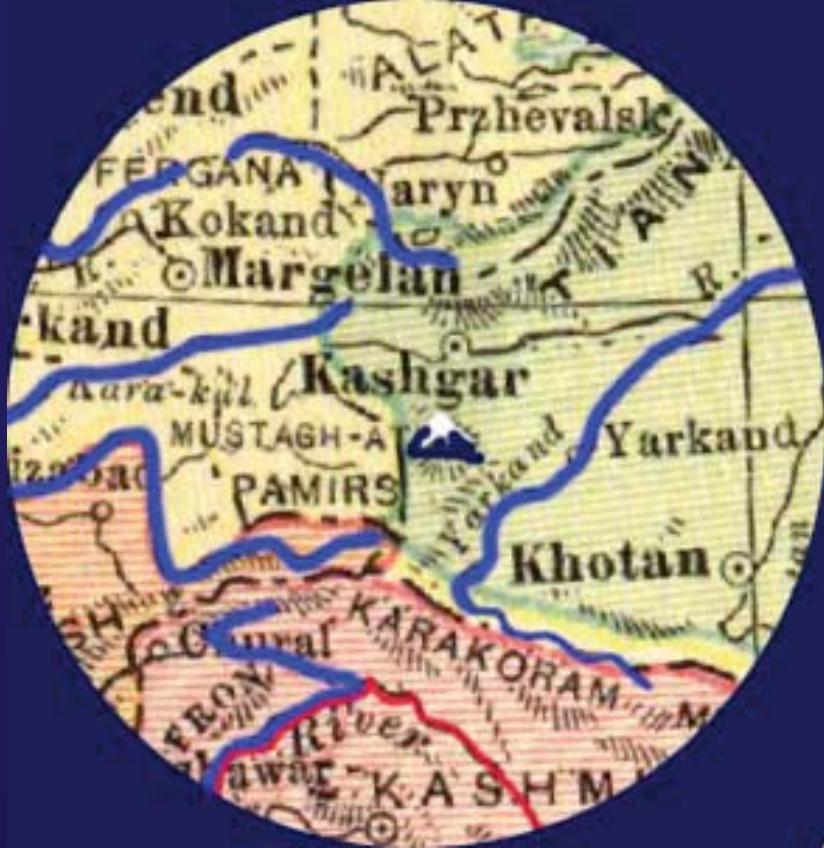


Even if the rivers are sorted out correctly, the Tibetan four-river system is much less impressive than the Pamirian model:

କୁଣ୍ଡାରିନୀକ୍ଷଣାବିଦମାତ୍ରୁଣାପାକର୍ତ୍ତାକ୍ଷୁମକ୍ଷଣାବିଦଦ
ଦ୍ୱାରାପାତାମାର୍ତ୍ତମା॥ ଅହେତୁକରଦ୍ୱାରାଶେଷେତ୍ରମାତ୍ରୁଣାପାକିଷାଗାତ୍ରମ
କ୍ଷଣାବାତ୍ରୁଣାଶାହିରାପାକିଷଦ୍ୱାରାରତ୍ନମାର୍ତ୍ତମା॥ ଯତ୍ତୁମାତ୍ରୁଣାତ୍ରୁଣା
ପାକିଷଦ୍ୱାରାକୁଣ୍ଡମାକୁଣ୍ଡମାର୍ତ୍ତମା॥ ଅହେତୁକରଦ୍ୱାରାଶେଷେଷେତ୍ରମାତ୍ରୁଣାପାକିଷାଗାତ୍ରମ
କୁଣ୍ଡମାକୁଣ୍ଡମାଶାହିରାପାକିଷଦ୍ୱାରାରତ୍ନମାର୍ତ୍ତମା॥ ତାରେତାକୁଣ୍ଡାରିକ୍ଷେତ୍ରମାତ୍ରୁଣାବିଦଦ
କୁଣ୍ଡମାକୁଣ୍ଡମାଶାହିରାପାକିଷଦ୍ୱାରାରତ୍ନମାର୍ତ୍ତମା॥

The four rivers do not flow in the cardinal directions and they do not reach four separate oceans (or salt lakes). Satlej and Indus both flow roughly westwards and unite halfway, while Brahmaputra and Gaṅgā both flow eastwards and eventually unite their deltas. So then, which one will be the original model?





Jaxartes

Pakshu/Oxus

Sitā/Tarim

Sindhu/Gilgit-Indus



ମାତ୍ରକେଶବନ୍

ମାତ୍ରକେଶବନ୍



Even if you
don't believe it

ବ୍ୟାକ୍ ପରିଚୟ

ସ୍ମୃତି ପରିଚୟ



Thank you all!

