

*Huo chou* (Fire city), called also *Ha-la*,<sup>954</sup> is situated seventy *li* west of Liu ch'eng and thirty *li* east of T'u-lu-fan. It is the same as the *Anterior Ch'e-shi* at the time of the Han.<sup>955</sup> The *Sui* (589-618) called this country *Kao ch'ang*. Emperor T'ai tsung of the *T'ang* dynasty abolished the kingdom of *Kao ch'ang*, which then became a (Chinese) district with the name of *Si chou*. During the *Sung* period (tenth to thirteenth century) the *Hui-hu* (Uigurs) lived in this country, and used to pay tribute to China. The *Yüan* (Mongol dynasty) called this country *Huo chou* (fire city or district). It was then comprised, together with the districts of *An-ting*, *Kü-sien*, and others (see farther on), in the country of the *Wei-wu-rh*,<sup>956</sup> which was governed by a *da-la-hua-ch'i* (daroga = Mongol governor).

In 1406, in the fifth month, emperor Yung lo sent one of his high officers, *Liu t'ie-mu-rh*, to accompany the envoy from *Bie-shi-ba-li*, who returned home. *Liu t'ie-mu-rh* received order to bestow some pieces of silk stuff on the son of the prince of *Huo chou*, by name *Ha-san*, when passing through his country. In the next year the

<sup>954</sup> There are evidently two characters wanting in the Chinese text, for in the Mongol period this place was called *Ha-la-huo-djo*, the same as *Karakhodjo* of the Persian historians. See Part III. On modern Chinese maps it is marked as *Ha-la-huo-djo*, about sixty *li* south-east of Turfan and fifty *li* south-west of Lu-k'o-ts'in.

<sup>955</sup> There were in the days of the Han, before our era, two realms of *Ch'e-shi*, one of them designated by the name of *Anterior (eastern) Ch'e-shi* i.e., nearer to China, the other called *Posterior (western) Ch'e-shi*. Comp. Ts'ien Han shu, chap. xcvi., where it is stated that the *Ch'e-shi* kingdoms both are situated north-east of the residence of the Chinese officer entrusted with the affairs of the *Si yü* (Western countries), distant from that place, the anterior 1807 *li*, the posterior 1207 *li*. They are distant from the Chinese capital (*Chang an*, near present Si an fu in Shen si) respectively 8150 and 8950 *li*. The residence of that Chinese governor at that time was in *Wu-lei*, which place seems to have been situated somewhere near present Kharashar.

<sup>956</sup> On the *Hui-hu* and *Wei-wu-rh*, both these names denoting the Uigurs, see Part II.

prince of *Huo chou* sent as tribute a piece of jade and some products of his country. In 1409 an envoy from *Huo chou* arrived with tribute, together with the envoys from *Ha-lie* (Herat) and *Sa-ma-rh-han*, and in 1413 *Bo-arh-hin-t'ai*, a military officer of the prince of *Huo chou*, came as an envoy with tribute. At the same time the envoys from *An-di-gan* (Andegan) and *Shi-la-sz'* (Shiraz) and other countries, in the whole nine, arrived at the Chinese capital. The emperor then ordered *Ch'en Ch'eng* (see above), *Li Sien*, and others to bring his manifestos to *Huo chou*, and bestow presents of silk and other stuffs on the ruler, to reward his merits. When the Chinese envoys returned, they were accompanied by an envoy from *Huo chou*. After this for several years no envoys from this country were seen at the Chinese court until 1448, and this was the last time that *Huo chou* sent tribute. (It belonged to Turfan in the second half of the fifteenth century.)

The country of *Huo chou* is very mountainous. The mountains are of a bluish-red colour, like fire, hence the name fire city (district). The climate there is hot. The cereals cultivated by the people and their domestic animals are the same as in Liu ch'eng. The city of *Huo chou* is ten *li* and more in circumference. There are more Buddhist temples than dwelling-houses of the people.<sup>957</sup> East of *Huo chou* there are the ruins of an ancient city, the remains of the capital of ancient *Kao ch'ang*. The country of *Huo chou* borders north-west on *Bie-shi-ba-li*. As *Huo chou* was a small realm, it could not sustain its independency, and Turfan took possession of it.

Regarding the mountains, rivers, productions, &c., of *Huo chou*, see T'u-lu-fan, *infra*.

<sup>957</sup> This statement is corroborated by the diarist of the embassy of Shah Rok to the emperor of China, which passed through this country in 1420. He mentions *Turfan* and *Karakhodjo*, and says that the people of Turfan were mostly Buddhists, and had a great temple with a figure of Sakya Muni (Yule's "Cathay," cc.).