

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05395-2 - Narrative of a Journey from Heraut to Khiva, Moscow, and St Petersburg during the Late Russian Invasion of Khiva: Volume 1

James Abbott

Table of Contents

[More information](#)**C o n t e n t s .**

	<i>Page.</i>
Preliminary Remarks.	1
CHAPTER I.	
Departure from Heraut—Anecdote of the Poet Jaumie—Arrival and reception at Purwana—Peer Muhumud Khaun, commander of my Escort—Parting benediction—Kytoo Ridge—Cross country path to Khooshk—Valley of the Khooshk—Arrival and reception at Khooshk, the Jumsheedee capital—Departure—Peril from Petticoats—Reception at a Jumsheedee Khail—Translation of 40 Virgins—Kara Tup-pah—Singular sagacity of the Scorpion of Peshawur—Freemason's Hall—Anecdotes—Chummunie Bhyad—Slave dealing at Heraut—Cause of the Vuzeer suffering it—Sabres of Khorussaun—District of Baudkhiss—Kullah-i-Mowr, Toorkish frontier—Reception by the Yahmoots of Punjdeeh—Inconveniences of guestship—Dismissal of Peer Muhumud Khaun.	4

CHAPTER II.

The tent of plenty of the Yahmoot—Gift Horses—A Toorcumun breakfast—The sawney old Khetkhoda—Peer Muhumud Khaun's farewell—Extraordinary power of Yar Muhumud Khaun over his agents—Valley of the Moorghaub—Junction of the Khooshk rivulet with that River—Visit from a panther—Approach to Yoollataun—Reception there by the Governor—Distrust of the relations between

a

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05395-2 - Narrative of a Journey from Herat to Khiva, Moscow, and St Petersburg during the Late Russian Invasion of Khiva: Volume 1

James Abbott

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

vi

CONTENTS.

	<i>Page.</i>
England and Russia—Presents—Muhumud Aumeen Beg—The Zunnuk—Departure—The old Cauzie of Yoollataun—Probable origin of Col. Stoddart's imprisonment at Bokhara—Hopes of the Slaves at Yoollataun—Approach to Merv—Want of courtesy of the Governor in my reception—The Jews of Merv and Meshed—Insulting conduct of a servant of the Governor—My first turban—Visit to the Governor—Insulting reception, its origin, and motive—Preparations for the passage of the Desert—Jew merchants—Suspicious circumstances—Conversation. 24

CHAPTER III.

Jew Merchants—Their estimation at Merv—Visit to the Khaloofauh—Atmosphere of Merv—The son of the Soofie Ool Islaum—Dinner—Ignorance of the state of Europe—Gifts—The gift horse—Visit from the Governor Nyaz Muhumud Bae—Nature and properties of a Gift in Eastern Lands—Saleh Muhumud—My prepossession in his favour—Persian Ambassador to Khiva—Merv—Departure from its miserable and inhospitable plain—Aspect of the ancient site—Slave caravans—Condition of the Victims—Toorcumun and Oozbeg Women—Economy of a Toorcumun Tent—Objection to too much bosom—Preference for broken in partners of the yoke—Other Toorcumun habits—A day's March in the Wilderness of Kara Koom—Land-marks—Sagacity of camels—Instance of the excessive cold at Cabul—Toorcumun notions of the glory of the heels—Aspect of this Wilderness. 46
--	-------------------

CHAPTER IV.

Reception at the house of an Oozbeg gentleman—Message to the Khaun Huzurut—Ram fight—The Light of Mutton tails—Bird/er Beeg's return—Reception of my Message by the Khaun Huzurut—Escort sent to conduct me to my lodging—Aspect of Khiva and its suburbs—Dress of Oozbeg Women—My Quarters—Extreme jealousy of this Government—Arrangements for my accommodation—Indelicacy of the Mehtur or minister—Ruminations—Anecdote of Hajji A-roozooddeen—Summary of difficulties—Difference between Fate and a Razor. 65
---	-------------------

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05395-2 - Narrative of a Journey from Herat to Khiva, Moscow, and St Petersburg during the Late Russian Invasion of Khiva: Volume 1

James Abbott

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

CONTENTS.

vii

CHAPTER V.

Page.

Glistering atmosphere and excessive chill of the air at Khiva—Vivers —First audience at the Court of Khiva—Town—Artillery—Palace —Minister's levee—The Mehtur—Khojeh Mhirahm—Interpreter— Nobles of Khiva—Access to the Royal presence—Black Tent— Audience—Ullah Kooli Khan, King of Khaurism—Dismissal— Suspensions of the Khaun Huzurut—Restrictions upon ambassadors at Khiva.	77
---	----

CHAPTER VI.

Second audience—The Russians—Persians—Bokharians—Colonel Stoddart—Treachery of the Cauzie Moolla Hussun—Message from the Minister—Visit to him—Reception—Bokhara—Colonel Stoddart —Plan for his rescue—Particulars of the late skirmish with the Rus- sian force N. West of the Sea of Aral—Ignorance and timidity of the Minister—Extreme difficulty of negotiation with such an one— Messenger from the Khaun Huzurut to the Ummeer of Bokhara, for the release of Colonel Stoddart.	86
--	----

CHAPTER VII.

Third audience of the Khaun Huzurut—Explication of British policy in Afghaunistaun—The great Mogul—Expertness of Russian Artil- lerymen—Dismissal—Proposal that my letters should be read by the Khaun Huzurut—Difficulties of correspondence—Rapacity of the minister—Fourth audience, promise to restore the Russian captives —My objection to urge their unconditional release, whilst a Russian army was advancing upon the capital—Nature and origin of the mis- understanding between Russia and Khiva—Russia the aggressor— Estimated strength of the Army of Invasion—Its arrest by the snow —Skirmish—Terrors of a 6lb. shot—Ruminations.	102
--	-----

CHAPTER VIII.

Discussion of Routes—An Oozbeg chart of the world—Relative ex- tent of the British and Russian Dominions—English habits—The	
--	--

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05395-2 - Narrative of a Journey from Heraut to Khiva, Moscow, and St Petersburg during the Late Russian Invasion of Khiva: Volume 1

James Abbott

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

viii

CONTENTS.

	<i>Page.</i>
Khook and its varieties—My unhappy ignorance—Apology to the Tuscans—Necessity of foregoing all Geographical research, imposed by the extreme importance of my mission, and the extreme suspicion with which I was regarded—Another audience—Meyendorf's travels—The Air-gun—Discussion of routes—Impracticability of that by the Balkaun—Difficulties of the Orenburgh route—Recommendation by the Khaun Huzurut of that by Mungh Kishlauk and Astrakan—Questions relative to Europe, dress, dwellings, climate—Telescopes, Astrology, Female Kings—Number of Cities, Russia, China.	113

CHAPTER IX.

Delay in my mission, and my impatience under it—Cross examination upon articles of faith—Kawff—Baub ool mandeb—People and customs of Hindostaun—Mungh Kishlauk guide—His testimony—Another audience—Inhabitants of the Ocean—Fish—Serpents—Submarine sailing—Gun vessels—Sea fights—Towns in the Sea—Magic—Contrivances as wonderful in common use by the British—Steam looms—Mints—Telegraphs—Steam vessels and steam carriages—Our well of Alchemy—Origin of the ducat—Private intelligence—Extreme anxiety of the Khaun Huzurut to effect Colonel Stoddart's release, and bring him to Khiva.	125
---	-----

CHAPTER X.

Interview with the Mehtur—The Book-insolence of the Minister—My resentment of it—Audience—Account of the murdered strangers—Purchase of Ummer Beeg's freedom—Minister's love of Watches—and of Calomel—The Air-gun—Paper kite of Khaurism—Its musical properties—Its mechanism.	136
--	-----

CHAPTER XI.

Visit of an Afghaun Priest—Reports relative to Bokhara—Feast given by the Khaun Huzurut—Arrangement of guests—Purgatory of	
--	--

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05395-2 - Narrative of a Journey from Herat to Khiva, Moscow, and St Petersburg during the Late Russian Invasion of Khiva: Volume 1

James Abbott

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

CONTENTS.

ix

Page.

knees and ancles—Persian Ambassador—Punishment of Dinner- odoxy—Inauk of Huzarusp—The Bee—An Oozbeg Dinner—Holy ardour of the Priests—Accounted for upon Muhammedun principles —Virtue of the Narr of soups—Mutton, Spartan, maigre, chicken broth, ox-tail mock turtle—Turtle.	143
--	-----

CHAPTER XII.

Report of the advance of the British arms to Bulkh, and toward Teh- raun—Prospect of my speedy departure—Extreme difficulty of pro- curing money—Promises of Shroffs and of the Minister equally false —Delay in transmitting my despatches—Private channel established —Liberation of Ummeer Beg—Narrative of his capture and attempt- ed escape—Mutilation of his ears by Yakooob Mehtur—His disposi- tion to revenge the injury—Release of twenty-two of the daughters of the Afghauns in honour of H. M. the Queen of Great Britain— Captain Pottinger's rescue from captivity of some forty or fifty children.	153
---	-----

CHAPTER XIII.

The Ummeer of Bokhara's refusal to release Colonel Stoddart—En- deavour to make me solicit the company, on my mission, of an Oozbeg ambassador—And to persuade me to prefer the Orenburgh route—Private Intelligence—Presents for the Emperor of Russia— Arrangements for the exchange of captives—Reasonableness of the Khaun's propositions—His extreme anxiety, and evident sincerity on this point—His amusement at the motion of my pen—And curi- osity respecting my epaulettes—His Majesty's tribulation at my want of a cocked hat and plume—Muhummud Shaah—Dismissal—Re- veillee of Nizaum, the sleeper of sleepers—Visit from a relation of Birdler Beeg—His account of the skirmish with Russia—Difficulty of raising funds—Fresh attempts to make me apply for an Oozbeg am- bassador, and for permission to proceed viâ Orenburgh—Discon- certed by a discovery—Visit from the Minister—Renewal of those efforts—His happy confidence in destiny—Heroic spirit....	169
---	-----

b

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05395-2 - Narrative of a Journey from Heraut to Khiva, Moscow, and St Petersburg during the Late Russian Invasion of Khiva: Volume 1

James Abbott

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

x

CONTENTS.

Page.

CHAPTER XIV.

Departure of the Persian ambassador—Difficulty of procuring correct intelligence—Inefficiency of my establishment—Presence of the Persian ambassador, how far useful to me—Alarm occasioned by the reports of the British advance—Resolution of the Khaun to put down slave-dealing—Final audience—Subject of change of route renewed—The guide Hussun Mhatoor, chief of the Chowdhooors—The Khaun's charge to him—To me—His message to Her British Majesty—Importance to Europe at this moment of the kingdom of Khaurism—Parting charge and farewell—Fruitless endeavors to cash my bills—Deceit and treachery of the Mehtur—Inhospitability, meanness, and cruelty of the Court—Quit Khiva in the almost certain prospect of perishing in the wilderness—Parting instructions, and farewell to Ummeer Beg—Departure from Khiva. 183

CHAPTER XV.

Departure from Khiva—Palace of the Toorruh—Priggery of the Toorcumuns—Umbar, an ancient site—Report of gigantic human bones—Dahsh Howz—House of the guide—His obstinacy—Message from the Mehtur—The great Mare's nest—Its origin—Journey resumed—Inhospitability of the guide—Capture of a Russian interpreter—My objection to see him—Journey resumed—Reception at the den of thieves. 192

CHAPTER XVI.

Visits from Toorcumuns—Khail of Yahmoots—Dress of Toorcumun women—Fierceness of the watch dogs—Visit to the ruins of Old Oorgunj, and to a Toorcumun fair—Entertainment at a Khail—Cure of Jaundice—Toorcumun dinner—Economy of a Toorcumun Tent—Dress of children—Ruined Fort Shoomauki—Deserted bed of Oxus—Distant view of Oxus and the Lake Loudahn—Slaves—Cliffs of Chalk and Marl—Ruined castle of Kohna Wuzeer—Of Burrasun Gelmus—Another enchanted castle—Ibrahim Aat'h—Entrance to Kuzzauk land—Distant view of the channel occupied by the Oxus when it fell into the gulf of Balkaun—Anecdotes of the Bahrukzye Chiefs. 211

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05395-2 - Narrative of a Journey from Heraut to Khiva, Moscow, and St Petersburg during the Late Russian Invasion of Khiva: Volume 1

James Abbott

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

CONTENTS.

xi

Page.

CHAPTER XVII.

Chase of the wild ass—Miry state of the Steppe—Intense cold on the higher land—Antelope of the Steppe—Dry basin of a lake—Particulars of the murder at Khiva of the two European travellers and their five servants—Manners of the Kahra Kulpauks and other Oozbegs—Character of the country—Chalk cliffs, etc. 226

CHAPTER XVIII.

Rapacity of the guide—Physiognomy of the Kuzzauks—Nizaum's extreme amusement at the sight of beardless men—The dragon of Heraut—The petrified dragon of Cundahar—Existence of a species of Boa amongst the mountains of Afghaunistaun—Anecdote of Shauh Káumraun—Singular fate of a tent mallet—Chalk cliffs—Kuzzauks. 237

CHAPTER XIX.

Story of Hautim, the Arab—Face of the country—Melancholy prospects—Anecdote of the Ex-Ummeer Doost Muhummud Khaun—Some account of the descendants of Cyrus the Great—Herds of galloways—Kuzzauks—The snake—Ali's dream—Origin of Tobacco—Lawfulness of pigtail—Goat's milk—Liberty of the fair sex *sometimes* abused. 253

CHAPTER XX.

Ferocity of Toorcumun horses—Cliffs of crystallised lime—Account of the death of Futteh Khaun, Vuzeer of Heraut—Resistless power of destiny—The falcon and the crow—Perverseness of guide—Tent of Dana Bae, the Kuzzauk—The napkin of Khaurism—The desert bird. 264

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05395-2 - Narrative of a Journey from Herat to Khiva, Moscow, and St Petersburg during the Late Russian Invasion of Khiva: Volume 1

James Abbott

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

xii

CONTENTS.

Page.

CHAPTER XXI.

Cliffs of shell sandstone—Burial ground—First glimpse of the Caspian—Difficulties suggested by the guide—Entire absence of boats—Desperate posture of my affairs—Expedient suggested by the guide—His refusal to accompany me farther—Prospect of utter ruin—Alternatives—Basin and cliffs of the Caspian—False report of sails in sight—Signals—Resolution to proceed to Dahsh Gullah—Repetition of signals—Their fruitlessness—Appearance of Dana Bae, the Kuzzauk—His agreement to conduct me—Announcement and departure—Letter to the Khaun Huzurut—Suspicious circumstances—Ruinous habits of my Interpreter. 276

CHAPTER XXII.

The treacherous messenger—Perplexities—Resolution to return—How altered—Farther symptoms of treachery—Appearance of a clump of Toorcumun horse—Bivouac in the rain—Symptoms of treachery in the guide—Fresh perplexities and difficulties—Reach a Kuzzauk tent—The Kuzzauk bride—The Hyæna—Reach Dana Bae's tent—Interchange of Spoons—Arrangements for the journey—Greed of Dana Bae—His formidable oath—Dismissal of the Hyæna—Night in a Kuzzauk tent—Journey resumed—Incessant anxiety and watchfulness—Arrive at a chain of Mountains—The Black Russian Ambassador—Singular weather-worn rocks—Fresh causes of suspicion—Reach the Caspian. 292

CHAPTER XXIII.

A rencontre—Its result—Hasten our march—Toilsome ascent of the cliffs of the Caspian—Suspicious conduct of the younger guide—Bivouac at the summit—Absence of the younger guide—Meditations—Carelessness of my people threatening us with ruin—Lighten the camel loads—Farther preparations—Resumption of journey—Ahris Mhatoor—Descent—Treacherous conduct of the younger guide—Attempt to secure the elder in my interests—The monk—Bivouac—Suspicious action of Dana Bae—The alarm—The night attack—Result—Reflections—The interposition—Fate of three of my suite. .. 310

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05395-2 - Narrative of a Journey from Heraut to Khiva, Moscow, and St Petersburg during the Late Russian Invasion of Khiva: Volume 1

James Abbott

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

CONTENTS.

xiii

Page.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Hilarity of the young guide—The letter—Scene—Consultations and reports of the Kuzzauk assailants—Night on the field of strife—Meditations—Desperate posture of my affairs—Triumph of the coward Yar Muhummud—State of my party—Symptoms of a move—Ahris, the hero—Retrograde movement—Helpless condition of my Meerza—Our shattered and melancholy cavalcade—Halt at Soosun Uttah—Summud Khaun's sagacious arrangement for our safety—Spite of the younger guide—The curse of the Koraun—Arrival of tents—Arrangements for our disposal—Yar Muhummud and the tempter—First repast as captives—Soft flattery in an unknown tongue—Character of Ahris Mhatoor—The covenant—Night alarms—Varieties of death—Second night of our captivity. 329

CHAPTER XXV.

Capture of Maimood and Ali Muhummud—Consultations of our Captors—Third night of captivity—Farther consultation—Harassing demands—Division of booty—The Blandishments of beauty out of her teens—Sentiment of sheep's tails—Delicacy and sympathy of Kuzzauk women—Misery of our position this day—The poor Meerza's view of the case—Farther partition of spoils—Recovery of the royal presents—Rape of the cloak and the kerchief—Three of my suite taken off as slaves—Rescue of Nizaum—Survey of Summud Khaun—State of my wounds—New guide to Mecca—Lamentable want of religious fury amongst the Kuzzauks. 347

CHAPTER XXVI.

Embarrassment of Ahris Mhatoor—Considerations—The Scotched snakes—Fidelity of Cherkush—The Bond—The Negotiator—The Shippish—Sensation he produces in London—Whether he acknowledges the Emperor of all the Russias—Liking of a Kuzzauk for Nizaum—Messenger from Hussun Mhatoor—News from Dahsh Gullah—Valuation of plundered property—The golden banquet—Shift camp—Virtue of patience—Golden colic. 375

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05395-2 - Narrative of a Journey from Herat to Khiva, Moscow, and St Petersburg during the Late Russian Invasion of Khiva: Volume 1

James Abbott

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

xiv

CONTENTS.

Page.

CHAPTER XXVII.

Hopelessness of our predicament—Ali Muhammad's project—The Afghaun horsemen—Congratulations of a bear—Apparition of Saleh Muhammad—Greetings—Recapitulation—The Search—Confabulations—Happy disposition, and bright mind of Saleh Muhammad—Consultations—Joy of my party—Confusion of enemies—Ummeer Beg—Delicacies unknown to Hellogabulus—The tit-bit. 388