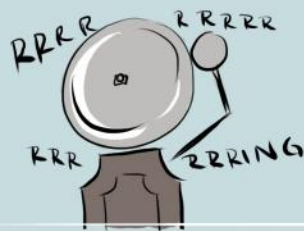


Saving Tiger Leaping Gorge



ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT, SETTLE DOWN. EVERYONE PULL OUT YOUR NOTEBOOKS.



...AND I HEARD THE WHOLE VALLEY WOULD BE GONE.

WHAT? ARE YOU KIDDING ME?



HEY! YOU TWO, WHAT ARE YOU WHISPERING ABOUT?



GENLA, PEMA'S MAKING UP STORIES AGAIN.



NOPE, IT'S THE TRUTH. FATHER SAYS WE HAVE TO LEARN FROM THEM!



COME UP HERE PEMA. IF IT'S THAT IMPORTANT, YOU CAN TELL ALL OF US.

GO ON, FROM THE START.



A LONG LONG TIME AGO, WHEN A DEMONESS MADE LOVE TO A MONKEY--



HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?



I'M GOING FROM THE START.

HA! HA!
HA! HA!

QUIT HORSSING AROUND, PEMA. TELL US WHAT YOUR FATHER SAID.



ALRIGHT, GENLA. EVERYBODY READY?

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT DOWN RIVER, THERE IS A PLACE CALLED TIGER LEAPING GORGE, RIGHT?

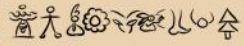
THEY SAY IT'S ONE OF THE DEEPEST, SCARIEST CANYONS IN THE WORLD.

AND AT THE BOTTOM, THERE'S A RIVER SO WILD THAT NO ONE CAN GO INTO THE WATERS. MANY PEOPLE HAVE DIED.



NOW, STUDENTS, THIS AREA IS MOSTLY INHABITED BY THE NAKHI PEOPLE, WHO TRADITIONALLY TRADED WITH US ALONG THE TEA AND HORSE CARAVAN ROUTES. THEY PRACTICE THEIR DONGBA RELIGION, BUT MANY ALSO PRACTICE KAGYU BUDDHISM BECAUSE OF THE HISTORICAL INFLUENCE OF THE KARMAPA

LONG AGO, A TIGER LEAPT ACROSS THE GORGE, AND THAT'S WHY THEY NAMED IT THE TIGER LEAPING GORGE.



NAKHI PICTOGRAPHIC SCRIPT, KNOWN AS DONGBA

THEY HAVE THEIR OWN LANGUAGE, DRESS, AND STYLE OF MUSIC WHICH IS SAID TO HAVE COME FROM KUBLAI KHAN HIMSELF!

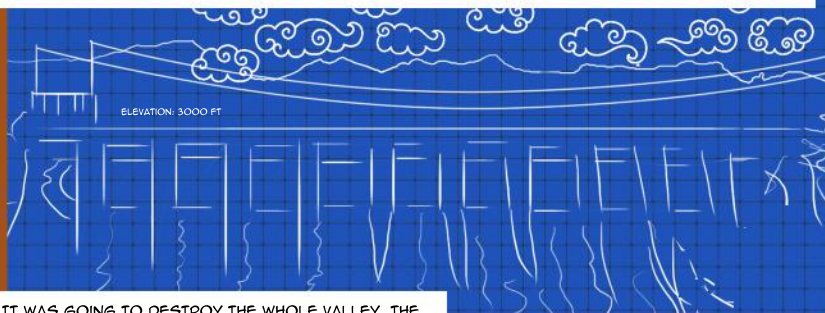
WOULD ANYONE LIKE TO HEAR THE STORY OF KUBLAI KHAN GIVING MUSICAL SCORES TO THE NAKHI?"



GENLA, LET PEMA FINISH PLEASE!



OKAY, OKAY, SO AROUND THE TIME WE WERE BORN, WAY BACK IN 2004, THE STATE WAS PREPARING TO BUILD A HUGE HYDROELECTRIC DAM AT TIGER LEAPING GORGE.



IT WAS GOING TO DESTROY THE WHOLE VALLEY, THE HOMES OF 100,000+ PEOPLE AND 13,000 HECTARES OF FARMLAND.

SAME THING HAPPENED IN MY AUNT'S VILLAGE! THEY DIDN'T GET ANYONE'S PERMISSION OR ANYTHING.



WELL IF THAT'S ALL TRUE, HOW COME I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THE DAM?



THAT'S BECAUSE THE PEOPLE DEFEATED THE PROJECT. NOW DO YOU WANT TO HEAR HOW?



ALRIGHT THEN. IT ALL BEGAN WHEN XIAO LIANGZHONG, WHO ORIGINALLY CAME FROM TIGER LEAPING GORGE AND WORKED IN BEIJING, FOUND OUT ABOUT THE DAM.



HE WAS SO ANGRY AT THE THOUGHT OF LOSING HIS HOME THAT HE DECIDED TO DO SOMETHING.



FIRST, HE HELPED JOURNALISTS AT SOUTHERN WEEKEND WRITE A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE CALLED "EMERGENCY AT TIGER LEAPING GORGE."



I HAVEN'T READ IT, BUT I HEAR IT WAS SUPER SHOCKING AND UPSETTING.

WELL, THAT ARTICLE SAID THE WHOLE DAM WAS ILLEGAL AND THAT THE PEOPLE HADN'T BEEN EVEN TOLD WHAT WAS HAPPENING.



AND THEY DEFINITELY DIDN'T WANT TO BE KICKED OUT OF THEIR HOMES.

WHEN PREMIER WEN JIABAO HEARD OF THE NEWS REPORT, HE ORDERED AN URGENT INVESTIGATION INTO THE DAM.



IN THE MEANTIME, LOCAL PEOPLE WORKED HARD TO SPREAD THE WORD.



FARMER SE QUANXIAO WENT AROUND DISTRIBUTING INFORMATION ABOUT GOVERNMENT POLICIES, LEGAL RIGHTS, AND THE SOUTHERN WEEKEND ARTICLE AND TELLING PEOPLE ABOUT THE BAD EFFECTS OF

BECAUSE OF THIS HE AND ANOTHER LEADER FACED A LOT OF PRESSURE.

THE NEXT YEAR, XIAO DIED SUDDENLY FROM A HEART ATTACK.



EVERYONE THOUGHT IT WAS BECAUSE HE HAD WORKED TIRELESSLY TO PROTECT TIGER LEAPING GORGE.

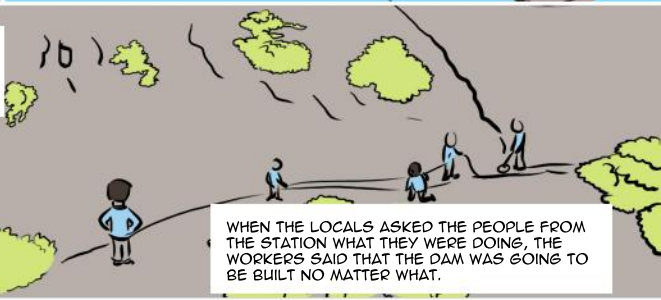
HIS DEATH MADE PEOPLE EVEN MORE DETERMINED TO WIN.



THAT SPRING, WHILE XIAO'S FAMILY WAS STILL IN MOURNING, A FARMER FROM A NEIGHBORING VILLAGE CAME RUNNING OVER.



HE SAID THAT PEOPLE FROM THE HYDROPOWER STATION WERE AT THE GORGE, TAKING MEASUREMENTS.



WHEN THE LOCALS ASKED THE PEOPLE FROM THE STATION WHAT THEY WERE DOING, THE WORKERS SAID THAT THE DAM WAS GOING TO BE BUILT NO MATTER WHAT.

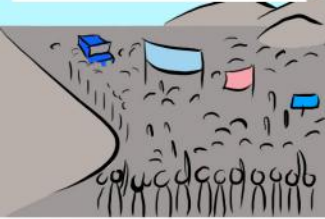
WELL, THAT WAS A MISTAKE BECAUSE THE VILLAGERS KIDNAPPED THE SEVEN SURVEYORS AND KEPT THEM OVERNIGHT IN A FIELD.



THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF VILLAGERS GATHERED.

WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVED, THEY WERE TOTALLY OUTNUMBERED.

AND WHEN AN OFFICIAL CAME TO TRY AND GET THE VILLAGERS TO STOP PROTESTING...



...HE WAS CHASED OUT.



THEY KNEW THAT THEY COULDN'T CONVINCE THE VILLAGERS TO GO HOME UNLESS THEY STOPPED THE CONSTRUCTION. SO THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THEY DID. THEY ANNOUNCED THAT THE DAM WOULD NOT BE BUILT.

AND WITH THAT, TIGER LEAPING GORGE AND THE HOMES OF 100,000+ WERE PRESERVED!



WOW, PEMA, THAT REALLY IS GREAT. SO CLASS, HOW DID THE VILLAGERS WIN?



THE PRESS COVERAGE AND HELP FROM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS IN BEIJING. PEOPLE ALL OVER THE COUNTRY HEARD ABOUT THE DAM.



YES, AND THE GRASSROOTS ACTION OF ALL OF THE LOCALS!



THE HEROISM OF LOCAL LEADERS LIKE XIAO LIANGZHONG IN SPREADING AWARENESS AND GETTING HELP FROM JOURNALISTS.

OH, AND THE BIG MOMENT WHEN SO MANY PEOPLE PROTESTED. THAT'S WHEN ALL THEIR OTHER WORK PAID OFF AND THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO STOP THE DAM!