

याञ्च द्रिया अर्हेन्द्रायम् वीयाश्वरत्यस्त्रा LATSE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

शुःलें २००३ सूर्वामा

FALL 2003



र्श्वे त्यहे न सर्दन र्श्वे

PHOTO FEATURE: INAUGURATION FESTIVITIES

- गुन्यन चेनना संजीना स्थाने महिंदिन मुश्नि प्रमुन प्रमुन प्रमुन्य । INAUGURAL ADDRESS: ANDREA SOROS COLOMBEL
- र्हे यायार्थ ब्रीटाया

FEATURED AUTHOR: GANGS-ZHUN

र्वियः सुदः र्हे अः देव विकार्से वा

LITERARY EXCERPT: RULES OF THE HOUSE



বনাৰ বেছুৰ ফ্রীপেত্বপ্রধান বর্ষীর।

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

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यास्त्रपद्भैदिव्याद्भियाः इत्यास्यात्राष्ट्रीद्भावास्यात्राद्भेत्रा

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This is the inaugural issue of the Latse Contemporary Tibetan Cultural Library Newsletter. First of all, I would like to extend my greetings to the people who are reading this newsletter with piqued interest in the Latse Library.

In keeping with the general notion of a "newsletter," this Library seeks to offer readers, through a regular venue, information on Tibetan

cultural activities in the recent past or on events planned for the near future. In addition, we would like to introduce readers to special materials in our existing collection or certain new acquisitions through featured reviews. It is our wish, as well, that readers who are keen on certain books, movies or other audio-visual materials related to Tibetan culture, will support our efforts by sending in their own reviews for publication in this

newsletter.

At the same time, we hope the Latse newsletter serves as a bridge for mutual understanding between Tibetan writers and literary scholars living both inside and outside the People's Republic of China. Towards this aim, we shall be translating into English the works of Tibetan writers living in China and thereby introducing them on the international stage, while introducing the works of Tibetan writers elsewhere to their counterparts and literary scholars in China.

Since the 1980s, as you are aware, many young

र्क्रेसन्देगायन्द्रवियायह्यायायाद्राङ्केत्वाकुण्येत्।

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Tibetan writers have been studying their own traditional literature and actively engaging in such writing styles. Moreover, they read literature from western countries and other nationalities in Chinese translation and practice these techniques. As a result, these writers have been forging a new literary path for Tibetan literature. To support this process, our library will use the opportunity of this newsletter to introduce in each issue wellknown contemporary writers and brief passages from their works in Tibetan translation, or new literary perspectives being discussed in the international arena. We also plan to periodically introduce Tibetan scholars from outside and inside China to important research articles written by their respective counterparts.

In this first issue, we celebrate the opening of the Library and include excerpts from statements made at the ceremonies in March. For instance, Gangs-zhun, the principle writer featured in this issue, was among those who shared their poetry and ideas on Tibetan literature at the Latse opening. Finally, we hope readers will take special notice of our upcoming international conference to commemorate the one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Gedun Choephel and warmly welcome each and every one of you to attend.

Tashi Delek.

Pema Bhum

Director

Latse Contemporary Tibetan Cultural Library



यः हुः द्येः अर्हेद्वायदः यो याश्वरः द्येत्र। LATSE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

प्रसर्भेद्रस्थित स्टाइस्स्य हुँ वर्षे २००३ व्यविश्वेद्राण VOLUME 1, No. 1 Fall 2003

न्तुःवर्द्धवासास्रायदःन्दःगर्द्धेवदेद

Founder and President
Andrea Soros Colombel

श्र्यः श्रृंदःया

Advisor

ओ देवा गें त्यु अ ह्ये व्या

Eric Colombel

€्र अ:श्रीया:वयाव:वह्रदा

Editor-in-Chief

ন্ব.প.বর্থ

Pema Bhum

অধ্যম বেলীম ব্লু সালীয়ানা

News Editor

Kristina Dy-Liacco

र्रेश रेगार्रेश श्लेग या

Literary Features Editor

Lauran Hartley

र्वेगार्रशह्रशत्र्वेरःया

Layout and Design ঘর্মির মুম্বার্ম

Sonam Dhargay

लुधाःश्चीरःस्र

Translations

নহ.প.বর্পা

Pema Bhum

বাধ্যম:এত্রীমা NEMS				
दम्बर् वहेंब्र क्रीं अर्ळअश्वर्षेष्	3			
गुत्र यत्र चेनर्थः स्टर्सेन्यायदे नार्से वहेत् मुः क्षेत्र वित्र नास्ट क्या । INAUGURAL ADDRESS: ANDREA SOROS COLOMBEL	6			
홟(고립도) 최토도 활 PHOTO FEATURE: INAUGURATION FESTIVITIES	10			
ત્ય : ફ્રે'પ્પે' ત્રાસુદ 'ત્રવૃદ્ધ' દ્વા INAUGURAL ADDRESS: PEMA BHUM	12			
নুমীলাশ'ন্মথা স্থ্রিম'ম'র্ম'ন্দ'নস্থমশ'র্কীশা FEATURES				
	IKE3			
ਵੁੱਕਾਪ ਪੇਂ ਗ਼੍ਰੇਵਾਧਾ FEATURED AUTHOR: GANGS-ZHUN by Françoise Robin	16			
ईं अयर में ब्ले ट्य				
र्र्ड्संस्थित्वा FEATURED AUTHOR: GANGS-ZHUN by Françoise Robin व्ह्यासीट्र्स्स्यासेना बेरावर्डे होगाधिका होसीहेर्न्स्य रेहिन्	16			

सर्थर्स्यामुक्तमाबिद्युप्तर्थित्व क्रित्वर्ट्युक्तं क्रीयाम्या स्वित्वर्धित्य । स्वित्वर्धित्य स्वत्या स्वित्व स्वित्वर्षित्य क्रीयन्त्रम् स्वत्यक्षेत्रं त्यत्याच्याय स्वता। सर्थर्स्यामुक्तर्या योशयत्य स्वत्यक्षेत्रः तरता अप्रयाम्यियस्वता। सर्थर्स्यामुक्ष्याम्याचित्रस्वत्यक्षेत्रं तर्द्रस्वत् क्षेत्रस्य स्वत्यम् स्वत्यस्य स्वत्यस्य स्वत्यस्य स्वत्य

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Latse Library Newsletter is pleased to print excerpts from speeches made at our inauguration ceremony on March 8, 2003. Trace Foundation founder and president, Andrea Soros Colombel, and library director Pema Bhum both spoke to the gathering of guests in the library's Reading Room.

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INAUGURAL ADDRESS: ANDREA SOROS COLOMBEL

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ood morning and welcome to the Latse Contemporary Tibetan Cultural Library.

Trace Foundation has been working in China since 1995, where we've been supporting Tibetan communities to meet their own social, cultural, and environmental needs. At the base of all of Trace Foundation's activities is a kernel of appreciation for Tibetan culture and that is, of course, very much at the heart of this project.

Because this is a somewhat unusual project for us in that it is based here in New York and not in China, I wanted to give a little bit of background on why we have established this library.

First of all, when we started our projects inside China we realized that there was an enormous amount of material being produced related to Tibetan culture and society, and that this material was not easily accessible. It was not easily accessible to people there [in China] because it would often be available for only short periods of time, डुक्र.महूर्यं ताराकु कुमाना क

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 and in one place and not another. This was true for written materials, but especially for audio/visual materials. If these materials were difficult to access sometimes within China, they were even more difficult to access in the rest of the world. I would go so far as to say that some of the materials we have here are really known to only small pockets of people.

We wanted to make these materials easily accessible, and they comprise a good portion of our collection. But the collection is actually drawn from sources world-wide. One of the primary features of the library is that you can find materials from all over the world related to contemporary Tibetan society here.

One of the other things that we have noticed, and I think most of you are aware of this, is that a lot of the projects related to Tibetan culture focus on historical elements or religion. Yet, Tibetan culture is a living breathing culture today. Because the Foundation is working with Tibetan communities in their current circumstances and addressing current needs, we felt that we could play a role in displaying and bringing to light the vast resources and diversity of regional differences in Tibetan culture.

This is especially important right now because many Tibetan communities are undergoing rapid and profound changes--economic, social and demographic. It is also important because there is a worldwide, growing interest in Tibet, whether it's contemporary Tibet, Tibetan culture, or traditional Tibetan culture. This interest can be seen through increased enrollment in academic centers, various institutional activities, attendance at conferences, and the portrayal of Tibetan culture more and more in the popular media.

At the same time, there is limited access to mate-

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rials on contemporary culture and limited discussion on what Tibetan culture really means today. We felt that it was important to have a venue for ongoing learning and exchange on contemporary culture, and especially for Tibetans to be able to present their culture, and express their culture and cultural concerns, with one another and with others.

So with all of that in mind, we began the project in 1997. We began to collect materials, and at that time we called the project Himalayan and Inner Asian Resources. We were very fortunate at that time to have Pema Bhum join us, who is now the Director of the Latse Library, as well as Gene Smith, who wasn't able to make it [today], but who worked with us as a consultant to help get the library off the ground.

We previously occupied a space nearby, where some of you may have visited the library. But we began to realize if we really wanted to make these materials accessible and if we wanted to run programs related to Tibetan culture, we needed a more appropriate space.

And that is what brings us here today. We have also renamed the library; we felt the new name reflected better our aims and our collection

So that's the background on how the library got started, and I just wanted to say a few words about what kind of place we envision this being.

We envision it as a place of open and engaged learning. Again, one of the main things we are trying to do here is make materials accessible, and that's why we're in the main reading room now, and the books are here, and you can take them off the shelves, and leaf through them; we have regular opening hours, and people can come and use these materials. The same is true for the tradi-

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tional materials downstairs, and for the audio visual materials as well.

We also envision this as a place of cooperation. We have a collection with a particular focus. There are many institutions; that are interested in Tibetan culture and that have active programs and collections, and we hope to work with those institutions, and in fact, Trace has already cooperated with many such institutions in the past. That includes also working on web-based resources; and in the coming months and years, we'll be developing online resources. We are trying to make as much material available to as broad a public as possible, also at no charge.

Lastly, we see this very much as a place of cultural expression and of celebration. We wanted this collection to be one that you can not only read, but where you can hear and see and also participate in Tibetan culture through various programs.

I think we all live in a moment where we have opportunities to deepen the ties that come from cultural understanding and respectful exchange. And I hope that the library will be able to play some part in that. There are some particular dynamics that have developed in the world around Tibetan studies and Tibetan culture--for instance, the habit of Tibetans to judge one another based on their places of origin, or the idea that what Tibet has to offer the world is Tibetan Buddhism, and what the world has to offer Tibet is a certain kind of development. I would propose that we all have something to learn and something to teach, and that this is a place for open exchange and for breaking down some of those barriers.

So in that spirit, I welcome all of you to the Latse Contemporary Tibetan Cultural Library.















सर्दर क्षेत्रिः हेत्र वर्षेया

वस्तामान्तरः हुन से हुन न्युक्त जान त्यामान्य विकासमान्तरः हुन से हुन न्युक्त जान त्यामान्य हुन से हुन न्युक्त जान त्यामान्य हुन से हुन न्युक्त जान त्यामान्य विकास हुन हुन हुन से जून हुन जान हुन हुन से जून हुन से जुन हुन से जुन हुन से जुन हुन से जुन हुन से जान हुन से जुन हुन से जान हुन से जुन से ज

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चार्श्वर-क्यर-चार्थर-चार्थर-चा। ॥ वेदाःश्वचायच्यांश्वर हूंब्याच्यां Valrae Reynolds ॥ र्घः अर्थे व्येष्ट ह्या ॥ अर्थे व्येष्ट ह्या ॥ अर्थे व्येष्ट ह्यां ॥ अर्थे व्येष्ट ह्यां ॥ विश्वप्रवेश्वर ह्यां व्येष्ट ह्यां अर्थे व्येष्ट ह्यां ॥ विश्वप्रवेश्वर ह्यां ॥ विश्वप्रवेश्वर ह्यां ॥ विश्वप्रवेश्वर ह्यां ॥ विश्वप्रवेश्वर ह्यां व्येष्ट ह्यां ॥ विश्वप्रवेश्वर ह्यां ॥ विश्वप्रविश्वर ह्यां ॥ विश्वप्यव्यव्यवर ह्यां ॥ विश्वप्यव्यवर ह्यां ॥ विश्वर ह्यां ॥ विश्वप्यवर ह्यां ॥ विश्वर ह्यां

INAUGURATION FESTIVITIES

Latse Library celebrated its inauguration on March 8, 2003, with a weekend of activities and special events. Guests from around the world gathered for the opening ceremony, which featured speeches by Andrea Soros Colombel, president and founder of the Trace Foundation, and library director Pema Bhum, excerpts from which are reprinted in this issue. The afternoon featured an open house, as well as cultural performances, including a music program with artists Tenzin Wangyal (New Jersey), Rigzin Choedon (New Jersey) and Jyurme Jiamtso (Kansas City). A poetry reading followed, with Tibetan poets Ljangbu, Gangs zhun, and Khabzang Lhamo reciting selections of their work. English translation was provided, and the reading was followed by a lively question and answer session.

On Sunday, March 9, the library held a program featuring invited speakers from abroad. Wangchuk, former director of the Tibet Peoples Publishing House in Lhasa, gave a talk on publishing and publishing houses in early Tibet. One of Tibet's foremost contemporary poets, Ljang-bu, presented a paper entitled "The Creative Process and Change in Poetry." Finally, Sonam Dhondup from India, a painter, cartoonist, and pioneering illustrator for Tibetan-language children's literature spoke about his background and experiences in the world of publishing and art.

Photos (Clockwise from top left)

Receiving guests; Valrae Reynolds of the Newark Museum; Library Director Pema Bhum talks with guests; Children's Corner; Guests participating in celebratory dance; Mr. Dai Xian at the opening reception; Andrea Soros Colombel gives inaugural address.

यन्यावतुष्राश्चीःश्चेतिन्याशुन्यवन्।

INAUGURAL ADDRESS: PEMA BHUM

ता द्रिया मिर्ट त्यूर्य सामार अन्तर्य स्था मिर्ट स्था मिर स

याद्रः, बुभानक्रियाशान्ह्र्ये, स्ट्रीट्राट्ट्यं सार्व्यः विश्वः स्ट्रीयाः वर्षः विश्वः स्ट्रीयः स्ट्र

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As the name of this library is the Latse Contemporary Tibetan Cultural Library, I would like to say a few words about the term "latse" [la-rtse]. Those familiar with the Tibetan language know that the term refers to a high place or peak of mountain. The materials this library collects mainly focus on Tibetan culture, and this culture comes from the highest place on earth, the roof of the world.

Tibetans from very early times have expressed happiness and pride for living in the highest place on earth. There is a stone pillar in front of the Jokhang Temple in Lhasa which was erected in the 820 A.D, well known as the Sino-Tibetan Treaty of 820. On that stone pillar, Tibetans praise their homeland in elegant and captivating terms: "the center of the snow mountains, sources of the great rivers, high land and pure earth."

Even though they are living in the highest place in the world, Tibetans still feel dissatisfied, and possess a desire to go to an even higher place. Wherever you go in Tibetan lands, as a symbol that it is a Tibetan area, you can see in the distance on the peaks of mountains there are dried tree branches with prayer flags waving. If you look closely, you can see there is a constructed pile of earth and rocks, on top of which people have placed these tree branches along with ancient weapons, such as arrows, spears, and swords, also made of wood. On the tops of the branches are tied prayer flags, waving in the wind. These are known as latse.

In Amdo, the activity of erecting latse is termed "la rtse bstod." The original meaning of the term bstod is "to make higher." The term latse has different spellings nowadays, including "lab tse"

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and "la btse." The term "la rtse bstod" has a meaning of making something higher than the mountain peak. Through this term, you can see that the different spellings of latse are derived from the original meaning [la-rtse], a high place or mountain peak.

Tibetans are not even satisfied with making something higher than the mountain peaks; they try to link the mountain peak to the sky. In some areas of Tibet, they link latse together with a rope called *rmu thag*, a kind of wool rope with wool and strips of colored cloth. *Rmu thag* is a term that existed before Buddhism came to Tibet. In Tibetan historical documents for instance, there is a saying that earliest Tibetan kings came from heaven to the earthly realm by climbing down a *rmu thag*. After their death, they return to heaven through that *rmu thag*. *Rmu thag* is a link between heaven and earth.

The custom of erecting latse is found only in Tibetan areas. This tradition is much stronger among the lay people than in the religious community. This tradition, which originated in pre-Buddhist times, except for a short time during the Cultural Revolution, has continued to present day.

In general, when one talks of Tibetan culture, Buddhism is a main part. However, our library is not focused on this. There are many libraries and institutes that focus on Tibetan Buddhism. We do not feel it is necessary to duplicate these collections and contributions. Our library strives to focus mainly on the culture of the lay people, the ordinary people of Tibet, and how this culture exists in modern times.

We see that this term latse is a symbol of Tibetan lay culture. We hope that this symbol expresses this culture's origin, vibrancy, and the spirit to attain greater and greater heights. We also hope that it expresses that this culture, which originated several thousand years ago, even in these days, despite so many changes, is still alive and strong.

वार्रे के मसूर मन्द्र सेर म

SPEAKER SERIES

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क्षेट्या, बुक्त म्यं स्वीक्ट्रा प्रकार मार्थर मार

Among the new programs undertaken with the recent opening of the Latse Library is the Speaker Series. Our series began as part of the Inauguration celebrations held in early March with three guest speakers. Latse was pleased to host Wangchuk (Dbang-'phyug), former director of the Tibet Peoples Publishing House in Lhasa, which, under his direction, has published many important works in Tibetan and Chinese, contributing significantly to the field of Tibetan Studies. Mr. Wangchuk is also highly regarded as a researcher and chief editor.

In our commitment to represent contemporary literary voices, Latse invited Ljang-bu, one of Tibet's leading and most influential writers in modern Tibetan literature, to participate in our first speaker series. A prolific poet and writer, Ljang-bu's works have been published in numerous books and literary journals in China.

Our final inauguration speaker was Sonam Dhondup, an instructor at the College for Higher Tibetan Studies in Dharamsala, India, who is recognized for his long and committed experience in children's book illustration, as well as his pioneering work in Tibetan-language comics.

Latse also invited Dai Xian, former director of the Nationalities Publishing House (Beijing) and editor of the *Bod rgya tshig mdzod chen mo*, to attend the library opening. Mr. Dai Xian joined the other speakers in a forum and discussion at the East Asian Institute at Columbia University entitled "25 Years After the Cultural Revolution: the State of Tibetan Publishing Today." The speakers also traveled to Indiana University, Bloomington, as guests of Professor Elliot Sperling and the Department of Central Eurasian Studies to partici-

वाहे न्ये अर्धेन्य विद्या के स्वाहित्य के स

pate in a roundtable discussion on Tibetology and Tibetological publishing over the last ten years. Poet Ljang-bu, who is currently a lecturer in Paris, also gave a special lecture at Columbia University on "Dondrup Gyal and the New Tibetan Literature," and gave a rousing reading of his poetry and prose at the famous Bowery Poetry Club in the East Village in Manhattan.

Soon after our opening, Latse Library hosted a presentation by André Alexander of the Tibet Heritage Fund on March 13. Mr. Alexander is the co-founder of the Lhasa Archive Project for study and preservation of historic Lhasa. In 1996, the project evolved into the Tibet Heritage Fund. Mr. Alexander has served as a consultant to UNESCO, and has published the two-volume *The Old City of Lhasa*, as well as various articles in architectural journals and heritage publications. The title of his talk was "10 Years of Heritage Preservation in Tibet."

SPEAKER SERIES FALL 2003

September 27 - Poetry Reading by Tsering Wangmo Dhompa

November 7-9 - Gendun Choephel Centennial Conference

December (Date to be announced) -Tibetan Carpet Designs by Tenzin Chakdor

FEATURED AUTHOR: GANGS-ZHUN

by Françoise Robin

angs-zhun-his given name is Sangsrgyas-rgya-mtsho—is one of today's most renowned Tibetan poets, according to both popular and professional opinion. Interestingly and strangely enough, his name has barely begun to reach Tibetological circles outside the People's Republic of China.

I first became aware of his existence in 1999

after encountering some of his free-verse poems in various Tibetan literary magazines, such as Bod kyi rtsom rig sgyu rtsal [Tibetan Literary Arts], Sbrang char [Light Rain], and Gangs rgyan me tog [Mountain Flower]. His name has regularly appeared in these magazines since 1984, making him one of the most prolific poets of his time. By his own estimate, he has published around one hundred poems since the start of his writing career.

One could argue that this intense poetic productivity is double-edged: on the one hand, it demonstrates Gangs-zhun's passion for his subject; on the other hand, the overall quality of his output varies from one piece to the other, as personally confirmed by Zla-ba-blo-gros, assistant chief editor of Sbrang char. And yet, after all, even Mr. Jean Paulhan himself, once chief editor of the prestigious French literary journal Nouvelle Revue Française, was in favor of "letting young authors write very absurd and questionable things so that gradually the new things they have to say will emerge."

A brief biographical account

Gangs-zhun was born in the township of Snangra (Angla), in Gcan-tsha (Jianzha) County, Qinghai Province in September 1969. He has three

> younger brothers and sisters. His mother is illiterate, and he is the only "intellectual" in his farming family, having recently graduated from Northwest Nationalities Institute (Lanzhou). He was one of the few students in the Tibetan literary section there, under the supervision of the dge lugs pa scholar popularly known as A-lags Dor-zhi, an incarnate lama from Dpa'-ris Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture (Ch. Tianzhu) in the northeastern reaches of Qinghai Province.



Gangs-zhun

Under the direction of this traditional master, Gangs-zhun studied classical Tibetan poetry for three years. His master's thesis dealt with synonymy (Tib. mngon brjod, Skt. abhidhāna) as exemplified in the famed Sanskrit treatise on poetics, the Kāvyādarśa (Tib. Snyan ngag me long), and the influence of such metaphors in contemporary Tibetan poetic composition. He entered the Institute in 1998 and graduated with a master's degree in June 2001. His primary education was received between 1976 and 1982 at a local school in Gcantsha. During his childhood, he often met with lay tantric practitioners (sngags pa), enjoyed watching and performing religious and mystic dance ('cham), and he prayed a lot. He continued his schooling at the Nationalities Middle School in Gcan-tsha between 1982 and 1985, and later at the Teachers Training College for Nationalities in Chab-cha (Ch. Gonghe), one hundred kilometers south of Xining. Here he was amongst the first batch of students in the Tibetan department of the first Tibetan-medium upper middle school in Qinghai Province. He began writing in 1984, during his last year of school in Chab-cha; and his first published literary piece, a poem entitled Kha byang med pa'i rtsom [Untitled Work], appeared in Sbrang char in 1988. Upon graduating in 1989, he was sent to work in Mgo-log (Ch. Guoluo) as a Tibetan teacher in a Tibetan-medium middle school. He is now married to a woman from his village whom he has known since childhood, and they have two children. For the past two years he has been working on development projects with the Trace Foundation in Qinghai Province.

Critic, editor, poet

Gangs-zhun has authored some thirty short articles (dpyad rtsom) on literature and social questions, as well as five prose essays (lhug rtsom). He is also a committed editor. While at Northwest Nationalities Institute, he was the editor of a little-known and unofficial journal produced by students in the Tibetan Department. He also served on the editorial board of Snyan ngag tshags par [Poetry Newspaper]. The 45th issue of the paper (December 1999) bore the challenge: "Is 'Buddhahood' a mere ideal hope or something which can actually be attained?," a query posed by La-mo'i-'od-zer, a reincarnate lama from Blabrang Monastery. This issue also offered readers a brief abstract on psychology, six free-verse poems, and an article on a classical poetic treatise by [A-mchog] Dkon-mchog-bstan-pa'i rgyal-mtshan (1783–1848). Most importantly, the last page presented 75 questions dealing with Tibetan language, Tibetan culture, and the relationship between Buddhism and society. This feature lay the foundation for a lengthy collection of essays entitled *Lta ba bsam blo lag len* [Views, Thoughts and Practice], which Gangs-zhun edited with his classmate Rdo-lha. The book addresses many of the original 75 questions, giving the co-editors' own replies followed by some of the earlier reader responses. I have been told the book is well-known among young intellectuals since its release in 2000.

As for his poems, they present a mixture of down-to-earth statements and rather elevated Buddhist concepts, both as a foundation and subject matter for his reflection. As mentioned above, Gangs-zhun was a pious Tibetan young boy, and his interest in religion did not fade as he was growing up. It is difficult to single out a poem in which he does not in some way refer to Buddhism. Though never trained as a monk, Gangs-zhun has many friends in religious circles, with whom he enjoys discussing philosophical topics. Janet Upton (1995) has studied the position of teachers as mediators and bearers of authority in the new Tibetan society. Gangs-zhun, neither teacher nor monk, represents possibly yet a third pole of intellectual authority in today's cultural Tibet. He takes a modern approach to his culture and to Buddhism, almost a Western intellectual one. He is aware of the uniqueness of his Tibetan and Buddhist background and his people's history, while not devoid of criticism towards monastic institutions or the impact of tradition. In a word, he thinks as an intellectual, halfway between Buddhism and academia, endowed with a common family background and academic training. He follows a "middle-path,"

so to speak, between the two extremes of Chinese-Tibetan intellectuals: claiming a traditional Tibetan background, he is strongly inclined towards Buddhism and is knowledgeable about Tibetan history and culture. And yet, he does not regard the Tibetan past as a glorious Shambhala nowhere to be reached, nor does he despair of the present situation in which China and Tibet are catching up to a certain type of modernity.

Sangs-rgyas-rgya-mtsho writes exclusively in Tibetan. He readily admits that he is unable to express himself well in Chinese. He chooses to write under the guise of a penname, a widespread practice among Tibetan luminaries, today as well as in earlier times. Gangs-zhun literally means "essence of snow." The choice of gangs as part of one's surname is not uncommon among Tibetan writers. Similar pennames that other young Tibetan authors have chosen for themselves include Gangs-dga' [Snow Lover], Gangs-dpal [Snow Glory], Gangs-myug [Snow Pen], Gangs-dkar-yag [Pure and Good Snow], and Gangs-'phrin [Snow Messenger]. In all cases, "gangs" obviously refers to Tibet. The topic of snow and mountains is an anthem, a motto, widespread among young Tibetan authors, Tibet itself having been dubbed for many centuries by Tibetans themselves as "Bod kha-ba-can" [Snowy Tibet] or "Gangsljongs" [Land of Snow]. The use of "gangs" usually indicates a strong attachment to Tibetan culture, reinforced by, in the case of our author, the addition of "zhun" or essence. Sangs-rygas-rgyamtsho thus means to tell the reader that his writings aim at embodying Tibet.

The Essence of Samsara

I have chosen to feature here Gangs-zhun's poem 'Khor-ba'i snying-bo (The Essence of Samsāra), which won a Sbrang char literary award in 2001.

This prize, granted every three years, holds a strong democratic flavor in that the jury is comprised of all subscribers to the magazine, numbering some 1000 persons residing principally in Qinghai Province, but also in Gansu, Yunnan, Sichuan, the Tibet Autonomous Region, and Beijing.

Gangs-zhun had previously published three poems focusing on his understanding and reflections on the theme of samsāra (cyclic existence): 'Khor ba'i sdug bsngal (Sufferings of Samsāra), 'Khor ba'i thar sa (Refuge from Samsāra), and 'Khor ba'i mgron po (Samsāra's Guest). In classical Madhyamika philosophy, samsāra is the sphere of delusion. Our being trapped in samsāra is due to the accumulation of karma originating from the misunderstanding of the illusionary nature of this very samsāra and one's life. The only essence with which cyclic existence is sometimes said to be endowed is emptiness (stong pa nyid). In other teachings, samsāra is sometimes expounded to be that "which is devoid of essence" (snying po med *pa*).

If the world, the Self, and all such illusory phenomena are considered as devoid of essence, then the poem's title itself is oxymoronic—or heretical. Yet, the reader is asked to equate samsāra, not with vacuity, emptiness or voidness, but with love. Indeed, the charm that pervades the poem and conquered the hearts and minds of the majority of regular Shrang char readers is the poem's expression of worldly love. Here, the sublimation of worldly love leads to a celebration of this feeling, rather than its usual rejection as a source of the three basic poisons that give birth to the accumulation of karma and samsāra: attachment, hatred and ignorance or the deluded view that phenomena can be the object of appreciation.

For Gangs-zhun, however, worldly love does not blind the beholder, it transcends him/her and

brings him/her to the highest stages of reflection and existence, enabling the person who feels love to value the precious human body and to take advantage of each and every moment of one's life. The narrator of the poem discovers the true value and existence and nature of lamas, truth, and the Three Jewels, through the mediation of this "you" whom (s)he loves. Far from blinding, worldly love acts as an impetus for the person who feels it, directing him/her towards the noblest concepts.

This apparently paradoxical approach can be linked to the tantric approach in which "desire can become a means to liberation. With the help of the Tantra, passions can be changed into forces assisting in the work of salvation." (Tucci 1980, 51) This tantric view, where relative and absolute truths (kun rdzob and don dam bden pa) find mutual resonance and nurture rather than exclude each other, is echoed in the following excerpt from 'Khor ba'i mgron po:

If one looks at history

Kings and princes either wise or foolish

Lamas who receive offerings, who drag sentient beings out of hell

All those who hold mastery over the three times,

They have to be connected to a place, and to an ethnic environment

They do not escape their small valley's joys and sorrows.

My reading of Gangs-zhun's poem is confirmed by a review of 'Khor ba'i snying bo, which was published jointly with the poem and entitled "The Truth of Love." (Tshe grub 2000) The review's title alone supports the view that love and truth, if not two sides of the same phenomenon, are at least linked. We find further

confirmation of this view in Ye-shes-mtshorgyal's life when her guru Padmasambhava tells her that "without a consort, a partner of skillful means, there is no way you can experience the Mysteries of Tantra." (Gross 1989, 16). Accordingly, she seeks a suitable consort, and puts her guru's advice into practice. When she later returns to Padmasambhava, he tells her: "O yogini who mastered the Tantra/ The human body is the basis of the accomplishment of wisdom/ And the gross bodies of men and women are equally suited." (p. 17)

This seemingly paradoxical link between "worldly" love and the discovery of Buddhist truths reveals another aspect of Gangs-zhun's poetry: provocation. The writer relayed to me how he received angry letters after the recent publication of his poem Rdo rje gdan 'prhul snang gi sems bskyed ban bun (Bodh Gayā—Fuzzy and Illusory Thoughts). The poem's location is Bodh Gaya, where Prince Siddhartha Śākyamuni attained liberation over 2500 years ago. In the poem, the Master, seated on a throne in Bodh Gaya, observes the world of humans while he himself is being observed. At some point, he flies away into the air and vanishes, leaving the people who had come to question him, dumbfounded. Readers reproached Gangs-zhun for the familiarity with which he treats the Master's reactions and for ascribing to him seemingly human feelings: the Master cries, the Master leaves human beings to their difficult lot. The poem may have expressed, in the eyes of some readers, a severe breach of trust by a Buddha who instead of accompanying sentient beings until they reach the safe banks of Nirvāṇa, is "overwhelmed" and forsakes them with "eyes filled with tears." Other readers complained about the closing phrase "My master with bad karma," because a master (ston pa) is supposed to have exhausted all karmic imprints.

As for Gangs-zhun's style, he writes in a clear, at times rhythmic Tibetan, in contrast to many Tibetan poets today who are engaged in the exploration of what Chinese critics since 1980 have dubbed "obscure poetry." Living at the heart of Tibetan poetics for the last ten years, Gangs-zhun has observed all trends and styles, leading him to pen an article entitled "Is Opacity a Poetic Virtue?" He claims that the most urgent question with which Tibetan poetry must come to grips today is its opacity: "However much readers regard and ponder over today's poetry, they cannot make any sense of it." His assertion prompted counter-articles by younger writers.

Finally, it may be noted that a significant part of Sbrang char's readership consists of monks and nuns. Thus, it was a popular jury made up of a relatively high proportion of clerics who praised the poem The Essence of Samsāra with its tantric tenet. This approbation is all the more surprising since the majority of Sbrang char readers live in Amdo areas, where most monasteries belong to the didactic and analytical dge lugs pa school of Tibetan Buddhism.

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FRANÇOISE ROBIN began studying Tibetan at Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO), Paris, in 1993, and has been teaching standard spoken Tibetan and contemporary Tibetan literature at the same Institute since 1999. She is currently completing her Ph.D. dissertation on the rise of Tibetan-medium fiction writing in contemporary Tibet. In addition to numerous translations, Françoise has published several original articles. The most recent of these include "L'avènement du vers libre au Tibet: une forme littéraire de l'intime au service d'un projet collectif," in Actes du colloque des Journées de l'Orient / Société Asiatique (Louvain: Peeters, 2003); and "The Unreal World of Tibetan Free Verse Poetry: A Preliminary Study on Topics and Themes in Contemporary Tibetan Free Verse Poetry," in Religion and Secular Culture in Tibet, ed. H. Blezer, Tibetan Studies, vol. 2, Proceedings of the Ninth Seminar of the IATS, 2000 (Leiden: Brill).

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মাদ্র্মান্ত্র।

द्यान्तर्हेट् सूट्यं सूच्यान्तर्वे सूच्यान्त्र स्थान्य स्थान्य सूच्या स्थान्य सूच्या स्थान्य सूच्या स्थान्य सूच्या सूच्य

श्रेत ब्रुश। न्यायरे मासुर स्वाग्ती श्रे खुरामान्त्र द्रशायलु श्राष्ट्र व्या हेंगाश्रामेदे मानु हेंगानु मानु मानु मानु स्वाग्ती श्री खुरामान्त्र द्रशायलु स्वाग्ती स्वाग्ती

মঞ্জিশের দেয়বির্দ্রিদের সৌম্পা વદ્યા.તવુ.બૈજા २.२८.भाइस.मयु.मुँ२.म.२८.चेभस.मयु.भूम.मी.मै.मैटस.प्र.५.स८.। रदःश्चेरःमोज्ञेमायःयःयहं सस्यान्वेदःवश्चवः अद्यान्यः। ८४। यद्भै: द्वा व्रस्थ ४५ : श्लैट वें स्रेन प्यन्ते : सून वर्श्लेस : सुन विवस्य वास्त्रीट विवर्धन दी। विंदार्भेदायम् वर्षेत्रचायाञ्चेदार्वे भेदास्य वर्षेत्रच व स्रुट र्च र्षेत् प्रमा दशः दः वार्चेदः वर्के वः वर्के वस्ति अस्ति दः दर्गोतः अर्केवाः दर्गोतः अर्केवाः पुः हेवाशा वर्षेत्रच व स्रुट र्च र्षेत्र प्रमा रशन्यार्वेन्ययायायर्गेश्वेरस्यायास्याया वर्षेत्रच व स्रीट में प्रेन्यश दशन्यार्वेद्यस्थायस्थायस्थायस्थित्यद्वेद्यायद्वेद्यायद्वेद्यायस् र्रेया ग्रम्भव्यादेगावरीमा विविद्यात्रात्राह्मीदार्वेद्योद् हेशायत्वर् हुवास्त्रात्वर दुः स्पेत्। चर्चा उचा ची सूर्व प्रशामुद्दा विदेश चार्सू चर्श द्रा स्वा की का चार्सु दर्श सुंदा । म्या विस्त्राच्याः हेषः सुरायम् वहैवा हेब वर्षेर व वर्ने क्षें वार्र की बाह्य क्रुन डेवा क्षेत्र वा શ્રે ખુબ વર્જે ન વર્ષે ક્રેં કાર્યક શ્રે ક્ર્યું ક્ર્યું હ્ર્યું હ્રા હોવા સામેના মাধুৰ বেই ৰুখা चैभाजुर्यामान्य जयात्मात्यर्यीजार्जेदमाञ्चमाग्रीमाग्रीमा चया शेर् : वर प्रते : कुल : वर्ष : व्रिया श्राम : व्रेर : व्रवः व्रेर : व्र ষ্ট্রবর্ম ধ্রম ব'না হার্ম প্রিম প্রমান্ত্রীর শ্রাহা। ब्र-स्या-दशुःवः विश्वश्च वर्ष्ठः वर्त्तुन्द्रः द्वात्रेश्वश्च स्थितः यदेवः यदेवः यद्वे वर्षे द्वात्यः स्था **५.४४.यर्बर.**। दशः स्ट हिन् ग्री है अन्ये ये न्दा श्रम् कर्ये ये वे में श्रम्य श्राप्त वर्षे या हुना वा दशः स्ट क्षेत्र ग्री में अप्यर्शे अप्ते से से प्रदास्त्र ने स्ट से स्ट से स्ट से मूरमा वसूर-चटु-संसूचालरः। सूर-ग्रीका-टटु-सु-प्रकासिका-प्रकासिका-प्रकासिका-प्रकासिका-प्रकासिका-प्रकासिका-प्रकासिका-प्रकासिका-प्रकासिका-प्रकासिका-प्रकासिका-प्रकासिका-प्रकासिका-प्रकासिका-प्रक्षित-प्रकासिका-प्रक्षिका-प्रकासिका-प

The Essence of Samsāra

by Gangs-zhun

We talked a lot over the phone
But I feel I have not told you all
I contemplated writing a letter with all my inner thoughts
But I did not know where to begin—too much to say
So Now
Wherever I go it seems I have lost something
Wherever I am it seems I have forgotten something
On a quiet evening
A night free from voices and the noise of machines
The lamp was off, my eyes shut
With my hands on my chest, I slowly pondered
If once I could see your face
I would have nothing left to say
If once I could gently kiss your cheek
I would have nothing to forget

Yes In this world
All I have is you
Yes, earth and heaven are void,
And all phenomena are free from Self and belonging

But in my universe only you are not void

I am convinced that you alone possess me

After a cold, I realised

That the body cannot hope to escape from the three sufferings

That no one knows when parents, children, teachers and companions, will part like merchants after a fair

That privilege, might and fame are like the echo's empty voice

Even though I am aware that this body of mine is only on loan from the Lord of Death

I still want to insist that I possess you and you alone

Isn't it? That which remains steady in my adamantine heart

Which the flames of sacred teachings couldn't melt

Which the cannonballs of logic couldn't destroy

Which the golden bit of this world's customs couldn't tame

is you alone you who have seeped into the flow of my life

—Your loving words Devoted heart Soft body

Each beautiful pose, each loving look

Has pierced my heart like a thorn

So... I cannot possibly visualise them as devoid of essence.

Oh! There is an essence to samsāra

There is you Thus there is an essence to samsāra

This means that

I now know life as life

I understand the Three Jewels as the Three Jewels

It means that

I now know my parents as parents

Lamas as lamas

It means that

I now know beauty as beauty

I understand truth as truth

And under the sky

No one can claim that samsāra has no essence.

Our Lord Buddha said, "Samsāra is mighty."

Do you understand? Dear Samsāra's pillar!

Samsāra and the universe are not tragic

Life is not a sad and absurd tune

Here

With luck, a single wave of the hand

Can seize the stage of pure liberation

Without luck, a single step

Could send you wandering through the eighteen infernos

Henceforth

I shall take advantage of each day, of each second

I shall not waste a step, not a word,

I shall ready for the day when our pure prayers are fulfilled

In this endless universe

In one life span, one body

One thousand miles may separate us now

But please do not worry about me

Why? Because Lord Buddha told his disciples again and again,

« Protect and cherish this precious human body. It is capable of great things.»

So I protect my body even more

As if you were actually by my side

Pray do not worry for me

Samsāra's vital strength, do you hear me?

Translated by Françoise Robin.

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वर्द्यास्त्रीरार्डेयारेवा बेरावारे विवाधिता

नेभेनेन्यर्सेक्विस्यान्स्यया

म्याका स् र्थका क्री प्रदेशका स्थान स्था

महर् छुष होट्टी मुंदे हुल अर्जेस् से स्थान स्था

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तात्त्रचेताःचःश्रद्धं योषाताःक्ष्यं सूर्याःचेतायाःक्ष्यं स्ट्राःच्यायाय्याःक्ष्यं यो व्याप्तः स्ट्राःच्यायाय्याः स्ट्राःचे यो याय्याः स्ट्राःचे याय्यायाय्यायाय्यायाय्यायाय्यायाय्यायाय्यायाय्यायाय्यायाय्यायाय्याय्यायाय्यायाय्यायाय्यायाय्यायाय्यायाय्यायाय्यायाय्यायाय्यायाय्याय्यायाय्यायाय्या

वर्षायदे से स्वर्ते से स्वा में राम्यवा में सम्बन्धि से सम्बन्धि में स्वर् नर्वोक्षादेश उद्गायोद्ध पार्था क्षेत्र यात्रा हो केर वर्षो प्रवेद व्योपि वह वा हे द की क्रिंग देवा है 'ब्रेंब' क्रुंब 'दर देवा मालुर 'वर 'ब्रेंब' क्रीक 'ब्रुंब' मावर मालेब र्शः सैचन्नातरः भूषः क्रीना कीचार्नेचन्ना क्रियः मुवासी वार्षेशः स्टिन् द्या यस दश्चेम्स सुर्धेत यदै यस्र संस केंस द्रस्य मूर्या यदे याय के दर्श ये प्री हों र्ड्स देवा को मार्ड मार्बर प्रक्युर क (धुवा बुद मार्बर र्ड्स द्राय वर्ष मार्थे कर्मा की च्याया हैं अपन्ता देव अपन्देया हे कर्णे क्षेत्र विस्तृ वार्डे याव द व्याहर य અર્થ્યન્ય.શે.તાકૂ.યોષન ક્ષે.ભડુ.રીજા થજા.કુો.ભડુ.રીજા.શે.ડર્જીં જ.વોંજા તાના સ્ટે.કરાજા દ मृत्यीर्। ह्यम्। त्रेन्थः (John Guillory) ग्रीभः स्वामुन्याम् स्व ग्री प्रमुद पर्डेश हें अ देवा दे से जुद दगार येंदे सुरा प्रदे त्या देंद हिं द दिवा हु मुर्रे पर्रे देरा रेष्ट्ररपेद पर्रे मुराकंद मर्डे वे दे के के के के के के के के चुन् खेन न्दर्मात्रभः कुन् के 'देवाभाव्यभः क्षेत्रभः विवासः वार्हेवाभाव्यम् क्षेत्रभः श्रीयोष्याक्षेत्रका चक्षराकाक्ष्यान्त्रीय होत् क्षुंत्रीत्रक्ष्या वर्षेत्रकाक्ष्यान्त्रीय यः र्ह्मेश्व स्रोदः प्रोतः यसः स्वतः देते विस्योत्यः दः दुरः वसूत्रः वर्षेशः हेशः सेवाः वीः र्क्षे कु केर द्वे केरा देवे बर त्य देर स्वय कु हैं बा पर तह वा दर्वे य य दरा चक्षर्याः क्ष्यः मुः विष्यायः देः स्टार्यायः वशः क्षेः रचयः श्रः वश्चीः र-दर्ग्यायः स चन्दा देख्या हुन्य विद्याल हुन्य स्थान विद्याल स्थान विद्याल स्थान स्थान

यश्रम्भःक्रूमःनुन्द्रयोयाविद्रः मृत्यूस्मम्भुत्रात्मः सुर्वायाविद्रः मृत्यूस्मम्भुत्रेत्यः सुर्वायाविद्रः मृत्यूस्म स्मृत्यः स्मृतः स्मृत्यः स्मृतः स्मृत

ह्रमश्चम्यत्वस्त्रम् ह्रम् स्वास्त्रम् स्वास्त्रम्यस्त्रम् स्वास्त्रम्यस्त्रम् स्वास्त्रम् स्वास्त्रम् स्वास्त्रम

चीयः ततुः स्त्रीयः सूच्याः सू

 कुं दमा देमा यदे यामका याञ्चन ज्ञानका उदाकी जे नदा र्खेद (Steven Owen) क्ष्रीय: १९६० व्यॅट्स्ट्रिययम् क्षुः द्वायानी सुद्राद्वायः सुरु हिन गुः र्रें अ भेग वर्द्य मुद्दा सूद्दा द्वा दे दे लेग भेदा बेर पार स्थाय स्थाप नेवे बरन् में रामर्डर या ग्रे क्षेत्र महें न ग्रुया पें न ल्ल्याम् मुन्यह्रीय वर्षेत्र मुन्यह्रीय बना में 'से' च 'कें मुख' वहें ब 'खामब 'न्ट' ख़ुब 'टमा' आमब 'झेन' मामाश 'डब' में 'नुकें (北岛) थे क्षेत्र क्रें अ क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र मक्षेत्र भारतीय महित्य क्षेत्र व्यवस्थ क्षेत्र अन्तर." (八月的梦游者) दे त्य प्रश्चेमाय क्या देश तह्याचीरायोश्यातपुः हुयायाचा स्थाप्तायाचा हुत्ता 'नवा'वी'र्हेअ'र्रेवा'वी'नवदःश्वायायायांनेदरम्रुवा'क्क्वा'याहे'अदर्नुवर्वे प्ववेदार्थन देवे व्यवसानुः वा विर्केशः वहं सान्नी महिंसा देवा ें बेराव देव वे वि *दे* 'है 'हु च 'र्सु वाश्वायते 'र्सु अ' देवा 'वी 'हम 'दु 'सु 'खे' क 'वश्वायम र्व.चप्टर.च.क्षा.लुष.चर.चत्रद.लूर्गः लूष्यंची.क्षंच.क्षंच्या ली.क्र्यः . ૮૮.ભ.ઝુ.મુ.પાંતુ. ૮૮.મનઅ.૧૧ જાયું. વર્ડુ તોજા, [®].૧વો.⁸.જુ. તંત્રું. તંવી તવીવું. ર્જૂન दशस्याप्तृःसुराळद्वायाञ्चार्यम्यायदेश्चयञ्चयः स्वाप्तः म् भेर्ड्स देवा प्रत्येता विद्यो मुद्दा वर्ष हैंदा क्रिस पर्ये इसस स्टावी हैंस मे चर्हेर् मुलेर शुरावदे मुर्बेद शुम्बा उद श्री खें वा क्रुव रदाव द्वारा है सुकार्ये न

लुरे.स्. प्रियाची स्टलियाची स्थिताची स्याची स्थिताची स्य

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नेश्चेनिद्यस्त्रिं (David Damrosch) द्वेनी युअरश्चेष्यश्चेषय् श्चेत्र श्चेते द्वित स्नित्र प्रति प्रसुद्ध स्त्र स्त्

च्युम्यदेते द्विद्येपायो अर्ज्ञ "What is world literature?" ब्रेम्यदे (World Literature Today) ब्रेम्यदे दुर्भदेव २००३ वेदिः क्षेत्र्व र्येदिः विद्यापाया प्रतिविद्यापाया स्थापाया स्यापाया स्थापाया स्

SHORT STORY: DASHED HOPE

by Tsering Dondrup

As they leave school and step out into society, the minds of many of today's youth are filled with pride and hope for the future. Öser was one of these. Last year he graduated from the provincial medical college and began working in the county health bureau. Shortly thereafter, he wrote a report and presented it to the director of the bureau. As the director gazed at it, his mouth fell open and his eyes grew wide. Gradually he started to smile and after a while he couldn't help but laugh: "Ha, ha, ha ...," a laugh like the sound of a horse. Then he closed his eyes and, shaking his head, said: "Ah, ah, today's unbridled youth ..."

Here is the gist of Öser's report:

These days the livelihood of the nomads has improved and at the same time their health has dramatically improved. They buy soap and toothpaste, detergent and hair oil, and look after their health by washing their hair frequently, brushing their teeth every day, rubbing oil in their hair. But the nomad women know nothing about vaginal hygiene and pay no attention to it. Because they don't use sanitary napkins when they get their period, their legs and sheepskin coats get dirty. This causes them much discomfort and they suffer from disorders of that part of the body. Due to the bad outlook that comes from a thousand years of feudalism, however, apart from its name they dare not speak about it. Therefore, in cooperation with the county women's association and related departments we must definitely publicize knowledge of vaginal hygiene for women in nomad areas and emphasize health and hygiene for nomad women.

The director spoke, still shaking his head: "Oh, yes. Today's unbridled youth, no shame. So, have you ever looked under a woman?" Öser was startled. In fact he had never looked under a woman. But one need not actually look to be able to think about these things.

"Oh, yes. I'm fifty years old and I've never heard of someone who paid attention to women's vaginal hygiene. Today's unbridled youth ..."

As soon as they heard the word "vagina" the women in the government building hid their faces with their hands and fled out the door as if their pants had fallen down in front of their father. You must understand, the people of this area have a sense of decency.

As Öser was on his way to work that afternoon, people pointed their fingers at him, saying: "Is it 'Look-under'? Is it 'Look-under'?" When he arrived at the government building the director smiled sarcastically and asked: "Has Öser 'Lookunder' arrived?" Öser did not respond. He sat down on a chair and thought for a long time: "So, this is basically how it is." He stood up and requested: "Director, please return that report to me." Feigning concern, the director returned the report and warned: "If you continue to demonstrate this kind of foolishness you will become a laughingstock." Saying nothing, Öser set fire to a corner of the report. At first, the flame flickered brightly, but then it dimmed and gradually turned to ash.

Translated by Ronald Schwartz.

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TSERING DONDRUP was born in Henan Mongolian Autonomous County in Qinghai Province where 92% of the population is ethnically Mongol. Most of his fellow county residents could claim, as does this writer, "My bones are Mongolian, but I've spent my whole life speaking Tibetan, and all I've ever known was Tibetan cul-Tsering Dondrup graduated from the Huangnan Teachers Training School in 1982 and studied Tibetan language and literature at both Qinghai Nationalities Institute in Xining and Northwest Nationalities Institute in Lanzhou. He is currently employed as a researcher and editor for the Henan County Annals Editorial Office. His short stories and novellas have been published by a variety of presses in the PRC, and most recently he has authored two full-length novels, Mes-po (Ancestors) and Smug-pa (Fog). English translations and studies of his work have appeared in the Asian arts magazine Persimmon, as well as the academic journal Inner Asia, published in Cambridge, U.K.

ज.३.२नु.शहूर्।वर.४४१.विच.चर्सेचोश.७.कै.जो

रक्ष्य. ये.म.५.० नु.व्र.क्रेम्यम्भमञ्जीतान्तेरान्।

दीर-श्चीर-द्वतालुष्य। इतासदाश्चायम्बद्धायस्य स्वायम्बद्धायस्य स्वायम्बद्धायस्य स्वयम्बद्धायस्य स्वयमस्य स्वयस्य स्वय

ष्टिमापूर्या श्रीक्षेत प्रदेया प्रयोग यीचा हुए अप्रिटी माजारीयाय हुँ यीचा प्रकृत माजारीयाय हुन प्रवास विद्या प प्रदेया कु योषम् श्री सेशल ग्री आप्रेश हुं योषा सूर कुटी प्रमाण सूर मुया माज कुटा प्रहिया ची प्रप्राप्त भी योषा है ग्री माजारीया हुन स्थाप स्थाप सामा स्थाप ग्री आहेता

चुःरतेः बरः तुः नः धवः क्षेत्रः ध्येषाः चार्यः न्याः क्षेत्रः द्याः चीः नगारः कयाः वर्षेत्यः लेवः चीनः चुन्यः।

यहियासायोषटात्र-प्रुप्तः स्वार्ट्स-स्वितः स्वार्यः स्वार्यः स्वार्यः स्वार्यः स्वरं स्वार्यः स्वरं स्वरं स्वरं प्रुप्तः स्वरं स्

Latse Library announces the CD-ROM release of *Bya-ra 2.0*, a resource tool by which Tibetologists and other researchers can easily familiarize themselves with secondary research by Tibetologists in the People's Republic of China.

Bya-ra aims to increase awareness of research being undertaken by scholars in the PRC, and enhance the possibilities of scholarly exchange in the Tibetan academic community.

The database now has nearly 9,000 bibliographic entries and is searchable.

A web-interface to make the database available for free public use on the internet is currently being developed. In the meantime, if you are interested in receiving a free copy of the CD-ROM, please contact us.

विवासुरासेया विभार्याया

LITERARY EXCERPTS: RULES OF THE HOUSE

नेयःश्रेटः।

र्देशयाळे रेटान्यटाळी **र्हे**ब्रायधी

Berkeley, California: Apogee

Press, 2002 পুঁঘানামে ৬३

Rules of the House

by Tsering Wangmo Dhompa Berkeley, California: Apogee Press, 2002. 93 pages

ुष्याचीयः प्रचित्याचीयाधुषाः । विष्याचीयः प्रचित्याचीयाधुष्याः । હુદા \mathfrak{F}_{2} શહેરા કેવા તાલું શહેરા તાલું તાલું કે શહેરા તાલું તાલુ विवाहु है भूर वर्ळर वेंद्र बुद वर्षे दिया बुद वर्षे अवर्षे दि बेद है अपने वा स्मेदा इ.इ.ट्यट.म्.लयोश.क्रीश. स्त्रीयोट.धुयो.इ.यश.म्.म.म.म.म.म.व.वी.व.म्रीट.क्री बर-र्-हें र-व मुन्द्र-ह्नर-थ थेर्न अब देव दे हे व्यथ व्यव यावे हे की छात्र ्श्रेय ह्रें सन्ता हु "M" वेश खुटा) व्याम व्यन्ते में पेट सन्दा क्षेत्र श्रृंश ने तु. ये र. ची. ह. हिंची श.ची र. ने . वह र. च म. वची म. च. चुंश हों, क्रॅ.इट.र्चट.शुंदु:श्रुव:र्ड्स याष्ट्रिश वित्य:र्नुयुट च वाष्ट्रशः वाश्वरा

Praised by a leading American poet as being "full of song" and a collection of "interestingly fractured, cross-genred narrative poetry," Rules of the House bears intimate witness to the experience of a girl cum young woman growing up in exile. Tsering Wangmo sings the "sounds we cannot hear but understand in motion." The book is dedicated to her late mother (called "M" in these poems), who "when the thermos shatters, she knows the direction of its spill." Two selections follow.

Member

Halfway through our dream, M woke us up. She wanted to show us where the secret stash of money was, in case, she said, something happened to her.

S suggested she show us in the morning. It was dark outside and he had cold bones. M said morning was hours away and it would take time to get there.

She wasn't old like some mothers. She wasn't sick. She was just always thinking of things that could happen.

Every day could be an end, she'd say, as though stray mutts would take over the government. We were instructed where to go if anything happened to her and F. We were not citizens of the country we lived in, nor did we have refugee papers. M wanted us to belong to a place.

One day, she'd say, she'd buy a lottery ticket. Nobody had won in our town for ten years. M said lottery hawkers were all thieves. She never bought a ticket. Said there was already too much in life that needed hope.

She wrapped her money in a handkerchief and hid it in a shoe. S thought it was an obvious place. She said he was right. It was so obvious no thief would find it.

श्चेत्रा

र्देशयकें दैर द्वर सेंश्

ર્જી વ્યાસ છે ત્રિક્ષ ત્રાપ્ત માના $^{\mathrm{M}}$ એસ પ્રસંધ ત્રિક્ષ વ્યાસ વસુદ્ર મા સંસ્થા સેંગ પ્રસંધ સેંગ સુરા ત્રાહ્મ ત્રાહ્મ સેંગ પ્રસ્તિ ત્રાહ્મ ત્રાહમ ત્

ર્મેન્યત્વક્તાની ત્ર્વાન્યન્યાના ત્રુપાના ત્ર

જાજા ત્રામાં ત્રામા ત્રામાં ત્રામાં

तर.अ.उर्येश.ग्रीश.यश्चीरा

Untitled dance

by Tsering Wangmo Dhompa

As the monks stepped out in their masks for the Lion dance, S announced he was tired of trying to understand. *It's a lama dance*, I said. *Watch their feet kick dust*.

You can unravel a complete story by the pressure of feet on shoes.

We do not recognize the masked dancers when the dance is over. Having returned, they are themselves.

In the end I settle for words.

There is a particular message of anger when M rubs her chin. She is rubbing her chin as S tells her he is unable to find significance in bowing before idols.

The trees in the garden send their branches to lean in one direction. The gardener says predictions are made by the self opting for aberrations.

I am taught to accept the visible, but there are possibilities in interpretation.

The full moon labored over the hill, breaking the dark's code. When I turned to show him how a moon too, can appear timid, it had moved.

The ruins complete in its light.

No words passed between us. Vultures overhead were combing.

वक्रमासीटासीट्रास्या

र्नेस्र संके देर द्वर संस्

व्याया मुक्ता स्वीता स्वाया स्वया स्वय

त्यक्षः अद्यान्त्रम् । विक्रिक्षे विक्रिक्षः स्टब्स्य ।

सवरवुन दर्वे रद्भा हेंद् केंग्य या सूर्मिश

M જ્યાન્ય ત્રાપ્ત ત્રાપ્ત

यक्षेत्र मुीश्रायत् सुर्तु स्वेत्र शूर जन्म मुन्यात् तर्र यर्र शन्य पायत् त्यात् सुन्य स्वाप्त सुन्य स्वाप्त स्वित् स्वाप्त स्वापत स्वाप्त स्वापत स्वापत स्वापत स्वाप्त स्वापत स्व

र्ह्न स्रेचन्ना सि.च.स्विटन्यःश्वीतनवानाः स्टर्चा १ सि.से.से.च.च.च्याः व्याचान्त्राच्याः व्याचान्त्राचान्त्राच्याः व्याचान्त्राच्याः व्याच्याः व्याचः व्याच्याः व्याचः व्याच्याः व्याः व्याच्याः व्याच्याः व्याच्याः व्याच्याः व्याच्याः व्याच्याः व्

मिलेश में मि दे हैं वर्ष दे गुरेश से देश सु मार्थ स्वर मुख्य

हर्माहेराक्ष्यास्य निर्मेर इस्यान्य स्थानिय विर्मेर हिन

तर्यायर्येश.च्रीश.चर्षीरा

माम्यायस्परा क्षुत्र हॅं अपदे मानुभाग्री तर पुत्रवुर नवे रहीत भेषामी माम्यायहार ^M है हॅं अपराये का अपर ^F है काम या माम्यायस्पर र ^S है अंवे और से कुर न या माम्यायस्पर र

`ર્ફેઅ'ય'ૹૅઃરેઽ'૬વઽ'ઍં'ફે`ૹૄુ઼ૹ'য়\ર'૬ઽ'વૹ'ૡૢૹ'ૹ૾ૢ૾૽૽ૼઽૼ<u>'</u>૾ૹ૾ૢ૾ૺૺૹ૾ૢૼૺ૽ૹ૾ૼૼૺૹ૾૾ૢ૾ૢૻ૽ૹ૾ૢૼૺૼૹ૾૾૱

र्खेदेः MA धाःचमान्निमदेखाः जूरश.घर.। शुःकुतुः शुःचे शेदेः श्लॅच मूर्य इतः । यूश्वरः र्हेशः ग्रीः क्ष स्यास्मानस्यः (MFA) यमान्तिमन्ने स्थानेते स्थानेते स्थान ধ্ মর রীঝারী র্মি আমের রূমী র্ম্মির ক্সার্টর র্মিম র্সির ळॅ:रेट:५नट:ॲ:अग्रथ:हे:ब्रुद:र्ह्रे अ:र्सु ग्रथ:नश्लेग्रथ:ग्री देवःकुरः "श्रेदःदेःद्वाःदब्चैःवःवक्कुदःद्वाः (A.bacus, Potes & Poets ৰুম্মরীম্ম श्रुव।यरःग्रीयःद्रशःश्रुवःद्रुयः। वेरःयःदरः। र्जेश्रम् " (Tangram Press वेर परे प्रमुद [यट:वीश:दंश:भूत:वुश] बेर:व:वाहेश:कुर्रं अ:य:यं धेत्। र्भेदे प्रमुखमार्केम प्राप्त Mid American Review, 26, Zyzzyva 3x7575555555 বাৰ্ব্ব শ'ব্যাদ্য প্ৰ্ৰি প্ৰিব। क्षेत्रमळे मेरान्वराठी व्यवस्था के विष्णमंद्री का को मेर TSERING WANGMO DHOMPA grew up in the Tibetan communities in India and Nepal. She

> received her MA from University of Massachusetts and her MFA in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University. Tsering is the author of two chapbooks, In Writing the Names (A.bacus, Potes & Poets Press) and Recurring Gestures (Tangram Press). Her work has appeared in the Atlanta Review, Boston Review, Mid American

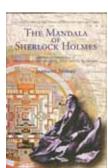
Review, 26, Zyzzyva and others. Recently, she was selected as a finalist for the Asian American Literary awards. Tsering lives in San Francisco.



Boston Review,

गदिः हें अन्यानु नगदि अवय अहुनानी और वेंदि दर न होनश र्थन। र्के ज्याम प्रविद्यास स है छा देते सद सु दह सेस से विप्योद।

नेयःश्रेटः। विस्त्येवार्द्रवास्य सेवे प्रशुक्षिय **र्रे**शयपी QEN'555 N' X X 3 ५२ भूद विदा Collins Publishers, 1999 প্ৰা.আন্পা 24*v*



The Mandala of Sherlock Holmes

by Jamyang Norbu New Delhi: HarperCollins Publishers, 1999. 287 pages

ट.क्रॅश.५००० ज्रेंद्र.क्र्र्स.च्याचा.च.ट्याचाचाराज्य. वर्रेब वेट्या हेया सम Crossword Prize For Fiction নিমান্ত্র ब्रॅं.स.च.त्यामायायायहरायहे (ब्रूमाय (ब्रेगाय व्यॉन क्रुप्येमा व्यम्भ मु द्रुपः देव वदी र्वेद विस्वेद विस्वेद व्यम दर व्यव त्रें व व व्यन प्रवेद द्रवे सुन वर Bloomsbury Publishing ব্রুম্বর শ্রুমর শরুমর শ্রুমর শর্মর শরুমর শরুমর শরুমর শরুমর শর্মর শরুমর শ बेर्स देस्सूर देव देवे सेरायां विस्त्यें मार्ड्स सुसी वस्यस्या हु सेरावदे वी " (Sherlock Holmes: The Missing Years) নগাঁহ'র্মার

In our next issue, we shall feature an interview with the author of this winner of the prestigious Crossword Prize for Fiction of India in 2000. The book has also been published by Bloomsbury Publishing in London and New York, where it was re-titled Sherlock Holmes: The Missing Years.



Gedun Choephel Centennial Conference November 7 - 9, 2003

Latse Contemporary Tibetan Cultural Library in New York City announces a conference in commemoration of the centennial of the birth of Gedun Choephel (Dge 'dun chos 'phel (1903-1951)) to be held at the library **November 7-9, 2003**.

In this milestone year, Latse Library will gather together a group of individuals who have had direct or indirect experiences with Gedun Choephel. These include family and relatives of Gedun Choephel who can provide unique insights into his private life; personal acquaintances who can also contribute narratives of their interaction with Gedun Choephel; scholars, researchers, and biographers who have contributed greatly towards a deeper understanding of this complex intellectual; and collectors and owners of Gedun Choephel's personal effects and/or works in his own hand.

Never before have Gedun Choephel's works of varying genres, including his writings, drawings, paintings, etc., been exhibited together in one place. In bringing together manuscripts, art works, personal effects, and photographs, we hope to provide our audience with an unprecedented and rare opportunity for examination and appreciation of Gedun Choephel's legacy.

Gedun Choephel Portrait by Kanwal Krishna. Courtesy Gustav Roth Collection, Göttingen - Lenglern 2003.

Schedule

This schedule is subject to change. Please check our website for updates and further details.

Nov. 7: Narratives: family and acquaintances talk about their recollections of Gedun Choephel. Videotaped interviews will also be shown.

Nov. 8: Collectors exhibit and discuss the works and legacy of Gedun Choephel. A **Translators Roundtable** will offer an opportunity for discussion on translation projects and experiences. **Sneak peek** at a new documentary on Gedun Choephel.

Nov. 9: Papers and presentations: scholars present current or recent research. Roundtable discussion will be a moderated discussion of and issues and future directions.



नमो तर्व केंब्र त्येया शुः हे या द्व केंब्र या वर्ष

ह्येर्व्य २००३ ह्या १७ ह्या १७ वस्

त्यः हो ने त्या स्वर्थः हो अन्तर्य के विद्यान स्थात्र । त्या स्वर्थः स्वर्थः स्वर्थः स्वर्थः स्वर्थः स्वर्थः स १९९२ - १८९२ - १८९३ - १८९३ - १८९३ - १८९३ - १८९४ - १८९४ - १८९४ - १८९४ - १८९४ - १८९४ - १८९४ - १८९४ - १८९४ - १८९४

દ્રશાનિદ્રકાશી સેંજ્યાન્નાર્થના સેંત્રાના સુત્રાના કુના હુના ત્રાનુ માત્ર માત્ર માત્ર માત્ર માત્ર માત્ર માત્ર સાવર ન્રી સાવના માત્ર માત્ માત્ર માત્ય માત્ર માત્ર માત્ર માત્ર માત્ર માત્ર

क्ष्यःलुट्कुशःचुट्कुःलूट्। स्थितःच्कुशःचुट्कुशःचुट्कुःलूट्। स्थितःचुक्कुशःचुट्कुशःचुन्द्विःच्। स्थितःचुक्कुशःचुट्कुशःचुन्द्विःच्। स्थितःचुक्कुशःचुट्कुशःचुन्द्विःच्। स्थित्वे चुन्द्विःच्। स्थित्वे चुन्द्विःच्। स्थित्वे चुन्द्विःच्। स्थित्वे चुन्द्विःच्।

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कुँ में २२ क्रूम. ६ ज.संस्थान क्षेत्र में स्वरूप हो स्वरूप में स्वर्ण क्षेत्र स्वर्ण में स्वरूप हो स्वरूप हो स भी में २२ क्रूम. १ ज.संस्थान स्वरूप में स्वरूप हो स्वरूप में स्वरूप में स्वरूप में स्वरूप हो स्वरूप स्वरूप में

૮૮.\ તર્સ શ્રૈય કુટ. તહુવ તતુ ટ્યો તર્ય ક્ર્યાત્વરા સ્ટ્રેય કુર્યાત્વરા સ્ટ્રેય કુર્યાત્વરા તાલુ કર્યો વિલ્યા શુદ્ધાત કુટ ક્રિયા પ્રત્યા ત્વર્ય ક્ર્યાત્વરા શ્રેય જ્ઞાન શ્રીક ત્યાન સ્ટ્રેય કર્યા કર્યો હોય ત્યા તાલુ કર્યો સ શું શ્રુ 33 ક્રયા ૧ જ ટ્યો તર્ય ક્રયાત્વરા જાજૂવા તાલું શ્રી દ્વારા ત્રાપ્ય ક્રયા તાલું ક્રયા ત્યા સ્ટ્રેય હોય ત્યા સ્ટ્રેય ક્રયા સ્ટ્રેય ક્રયા ત્યા સ્ટ્રેય ક્રયા સ્ટ્રેય ક્રયા સ્ટ્રેય ક્રયા સ્ટ્રેય ક્રયા સ્ટ્રેય ક્રયા સ્ટ્રેય ક્રયા ત્યા સ્ટ્રેય ક્રયા ક

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CONTEMPORARY TIBETAN CULTURAL LIBRARY

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Mission Statement

Lase Contemporary Tibetan Cultural Library, a project of Trace Foundation, is a forum of open inquiry for all audiences interested in Tibetan culture. The library conducts programs and makes available a unique collection of up-to-date texts, multimedia and other research materials in relevant languages that represent the extent and character of Tibetan cultural diversity. It is an active center of modern Tibetan cultural studies and provides a forum for meaningful interaction, learning and the exchange of ideas. We assist those with interests in the humanities, arts, and sciences in order to promote a deeper understanding and wider appreciation of Tibetan culture and its contribution to the world's cultural heritage.



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