

CultureTalk Tibetan Language and Culture Video Transcripts:
<http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Adjusting to the Weather in India

Lhasa Dialect

Tibetan transcript:

ཚོ་ལགས། ཡོད། ད་ལོ་ལོང་ས་ནི་རེད། མར་གྱེ་མཚོ་ད། རྫོང་ས་ནི་གྱེ་མཚོ་རེད། དེ་ནས་མར་ལུང་པ་ནས་བོར་
ཡོང་བ་རེད། ཨ་སོང་ནས་མར། ཨ་སོང་ནས་ བོར་ནས་བོ་ལྷོ་ལ་གིས་ལམ་སྐྱེ་དགྱེལ་དེ་སྐྱེ་བས། ལམ་སྐྱེའི་ལྷགས་དེ་
རྒྱ་མི་སྐྱེ་བས་ནས་ བོར། དེ་ནས་གཞི་ཆག་སྐྱེ་བས་ནས་བཟང་བ་རེད། དེ་ནས་རང་དབང་རེད།

དག་དབང། She said she...

ཚོ་ལགས། གཞི་ཆག་ནས་ལས་ཀ་བྱས་ནས་བཟང་བ་རེད།

དག་དབང། I asked her about herself, and she said she lived in, uh, Tibet, in the south, and she escaped Tibet and went into exile in India in 1959 after the invasion of Tibet by China, and she lived... she... she went to India, and she worked as a, uh, hmm... laborer – building roads in the mountains, uh, and – which was a very, very tough job, extremely tough.

བར་ཆས་འཛིན་མཁན། How old is she right now?

དག་དབང། ཚོ་ལགས་རང་ད་ལྟ་ལོ་ག་ཚོད་ཡིན་ན།

ཚོ་ལགས། ལོ་བདུན་བརྒྱ་བདུན་བྱུག།

དག་དབང། She is 76¹, and she said she came to India when she was 24.

ཚོ་ལགས། བོད་དེ་དྲན་གི་འདུག། ཡིན་ནེ་ལོག་ཡ་ཁག་བོ་ཡོད་རེད།

དག་དབང། རེད།

ཚོ་ལགས། བོད་དྲན།

དག་དབང། རེད། She said she misses Tibet dearly and that, uh, she, she thinks often about returning and how it would be like to return, but she is reluctant to, she can't, because of

¹ Ngawang misheard Grandma's age.

the situation over there, and that it's extremely hard, because, it's, it's, the Chinese are extremely strict and they, they don't provide much freedom, and she, she said she is like a religious person and can't freely practice religion there and openly, as she would like.

མོ་ལགས། བོད་དུ་ རྒྱ་གར་དུ་ བོད་དུ་ ཡ་རི་དུ་ དེ་བོད་ནང་དུ་ བོད་དེ་ས་ཆ་སྐྱེད་པ་ ཡ་རི་སློབ་སྦྱོར་ གནམ་གཤིས་དེ་
བོད་དང་འབྲེ་བོ་སོ་གཅིག་འདུག། དེ་གངས་རྒྱུ་གི་འདུག་འུ། རྒྱ་གར་ལ་གངས་ཡོད་མ་རེད་པ།

ངག་དབང། རྒྱ་གར་ཕར་སློབ་སྦྱོར་དུས་གནམ་གཤིས་གྱི་འགྱུར་བ་དེའི་དཀའ་ངལ་བྱུང་སོང་ངམ། གནམ་གཤིས་ཆ་བོ་
རེད་པ།

མོ་ལགས། ཆ་བོ་ཤེ་དྲག་རེད། བོད་ནས་རྒྱ་གར་སློབ་སྦྱོར་ན་དུ་ཆ་བོ་ཆེན་པོ་འདུག།

ངག་དབང། ལག་བོ་འདུག་ལ།

མོ་ལགས། ཚོའ།

ངག་དབང། ཡ་རི་ས་མི་མང་བོ་ན་ཤི་གི་རེད་པ།

མོ་ལགས། ཡ་ཁ་ཁ་ དེ་འབྲེ་གཅིག་ལ་སློབ་སྦྱོར་ནས་སྤྱུག་པ་ལ་བསམ་ཡ་ཞིག་འདུག།

ངག་དབང། She said she – when she escaped to India, she missed the weather of Tibet very much with, uh, the high elevation of Tibet was, uh, so the air was extremely fresh over there, [and] when she went to India, the, the weather changed a lot, and it was very hot over there, and lots of illness are over there. And she said some of her – lots of the Tibetan refugees in India fell ill, because of the weather, and they could not adapt to the weather quickly, and so many thousands of Tibetans died because of the change in the weather.

English translation:

Grandma: [in Tibetan] I came from southern Tibet, Kyenong², then passed through Assam³, and worked in Bhuntar⁴. Then the Chinese invaded Tibet, and I fled to India and stayed in Tibetan settlements in India. We had freedom there.

² Kyenong is a very remote place in southern Tibet (according to Grandma). It is very difficult to locate on a map because Tibet did not have good maps of its own country before 1959. After the invasion of Tibet in 1959 by the Chinese Communist Party, they changed the map and gave Chinese names to some places. Such changes make it harder to locate where Grandma actually came from.
³ Assam is a state in India. It is located in the northeastern part of the country.
⁴ Bhuntar is a town in the state of Himachal Pradesh in northern India.

Ngawang: [interpreting in English] She said she...

Grandma: [interrupting in Tibetan] I settled in Tibetan settlements as a worker.

Ngawang: [interpreting in English] I asked her about herself, and she said she lived in, uh, Tibet, in the south, and she escaped Tibet and went into exile in India in 1959 after the invasion of Tibet by China, and she lived... she... she went to India, and she worked as a, uh, hmm... laborer—building roads in the mountains, uh, and—which was a very, very tough job, extremely tough.

Cameraman: [asking Ngawang in English] How old is she right now?

Ngawang: [asking Grandma in Tibetan] How old are you, Grandma, right now?

Grandma: [in Tibetan] Seventy-six.

Ngawang: [interpreting in English] She is 76⁵, and she said she came to India when she was 24.

Grandma: [in Tibetan] There is nothing I can do even if I miss Tibet. There is no way I could go back.

Ngawang: [agreeing with Grandma in Tibetan] Right.

Grandma: [in Tibetan] I miss Tibet.

Ngawang: [responding to Grandma in Tibetan] I see. [interpreting in English] She said she misses Tibet dearly and that, uh, she, she thinks often about returning and how it would be like to return, but she is reluctant to, she can't, because of the situation over there, and that it's extremely hard, because, it's, it's, the Chinese are extremely strict and they, they don't provide much freedom, and she, she said she is like a religious person and can't freely practice religion there and openly, as she would like.

Grandma: [in Tibetan] If I compare Tibet and India—uh, Tibet and America—Tibet has better lands, but the U.S. [Amherst, Massachusetts] weather seems the same as in Tibet. It snows, huh! But India [some parts of southern India] does not have any snow!

Ngawang: [asking Grandma in Tibetan] Did you struggle with adjusting to the weather of India [after fleeing from Tibet]? Because the weather of India is so hot.

Grandma: [in Tibetan] When I first came to India from Tibet, India felt really hot.

Ngawang: [asking Grandma in Tibetan] Was it really tough?

Grandma: [in Tibetan] Yes, it was really tough, yes.

⁵ Ngawang misheard Grandma's age.

Ngawang: [asking Grandma in Tibetan] Did many Tibetans fall sick and die?

Grandma: [in Tibetan] Yes, I felt sorry for people being in such a country and condition.

Ngawang: [interpreting in English] She said she—when she escaped to India, she missed the weather of Tibet very much with, uh, the high elevation of Tibet was, uh, so the air was extremely fresh over there, [and] when she went to India, the, the weather changed a lot, and it was very hot over there, and lots of illnesses are over there. And she said some of her—lots of the Tibetan refugees in India fell ill, because of the weather, and they could not adapt to the weather quickly, and so many thousands of Tibetans died because of the change in the weather.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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