



THE STORY OF ZATOE PART I

MY NAME IS DICKYI. I LIVE IN A SMALL TOWN CALLED ZATOE IN KHAM. WE HAVE VAST PASTURES AND THREE RIVERS THAT FLOW INTO THE REST OF ASIA. MY FATHER IS A NOMAD, AS WERE HIS PARENTS BEFORE HIM, AND THEIR PARENTS BEFORE THEM. WE HERD YAK, AND WE TAKE CARE OF THE LAND.

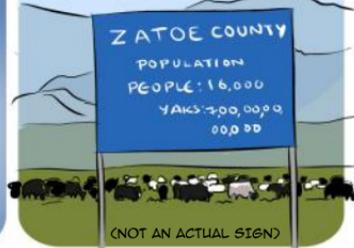
THIS IS MY PET YAK THANGOMA.



YAKS ARE KIND OF LIKE BUFFALOES, BUT WITH AMAZING HAIR...



...AND MY TOWN HAS SO MANY YAKS, WE'RE RENOWNED IN TIBET FOR IT.



ONE DAY, THE CHINESE BEGAN TO BAN NOMADS FROM GRAZING.

YOUR YAKS. THEY'RE OVER-GRAZING, AND EATING TOO MUCH GRASS!



RUINING THE LAND? OUR PEOPLE HAVE LIVED IN THESE LANDS FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS—WHAT'S THAT BULLDOZER FOR?



WE COULDN'T SAY NO, SO FATHER SOLD ALL THE YAKS. "WE'LL BE THE LAST NOMADS OF OUR FAMILY," HE SAID.





THE STORY OF ZATOE

PART II

WE WERE FORCED TO LEAVE THE FREEDOM OF THE OPEN GRASSLANDS, AND MOVED INTO A PERMANENT CEMENT HOME IN THIS RELOCATION VILLAGE. MOST OF THE HOUSES WERE BARELY CONSTRUCTED WHEN WE CAME TO MOVE IN. BEFORE WE COULD EVEN GET SETTLED IN, THE CHINESE OFFICER CAME FOR A VISIT.

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE RIGHT? YOU'VE PROBABLY NEVER SEEN ONE. YOU JUST HAVE TO SIGN HERE, AND HERE FOR THE AGREEMENT AND INVOICE.



DICKY!, COME HERE FOR A BIT!

WHAT IS IT APA?



CAN YOU SEE WHAT THIS SAYS?

"AN AGREEMENT TO PAY OFF ALL THE CONSTRUCTION COSTS?"

INVOICE
~~~~~ 2000  
~~~~~ 500  
~~~~~ 70  
~~~~~  
TOTAL 3000

WHAT!/?

JHO RINPO! YOU WANT TO TAKE MORE FROM US?



THIS IS WRONG, WE WERE TOLD THESE HOUSES WERE PAID FOR BY THE GOVERNMENT!

HA! NOTHING IS FREE. I GIVE YOU ONE MONTH TO PAY IT OFF. BE GRATEFUL YOU HAVE A REAL HOUSE NOW.



BUT HOW? IT'S TOO MUCH MONEY, WE SOLD OUR YAKS, AND THIS PLACE IS IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE!



I DON'T KNOW, SO PICK SOME YAPSTA SUNGU! OR SOMETHING, LIKE THOSE SMART KIDS OVER THERE, THEY MAKE VERY GOOD MONEY.

OR, YOU CAN JUST WALLOW IN MISERY LIKE THACHIN OVER THERE. THEIR WHOLE FAMILY HAS BEEN NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.



YOU SEE, THIS IS A MAJOR STATE INITIATIVE TO HELP MODERNIZE YOUR BUNCH. YOU GO AGAINST IT, YOU'RE AGAINST THE STATE, LAW AND SOCIAL ORDER.

AND THE GOVERNMENT IS VERY GOOD AT REMINDING PEOPLE OF THE LAWS.



ANYWAYS, I'M OFF TO THE NEXT HOUSE. REMEMBER, ONE MONTH!



YOU THINK I'M SCARED?

AROUND THIS TIME, MINERS FROM CHINA ALSO CAME, BRIBING OUR LOCAL OFFICIALS TO GIVE THEM PERMITS. NOW THAT WE'RE OFF THE GRASSLANDS, THEY CAN MINE WITHOUT INTERFERENCE.

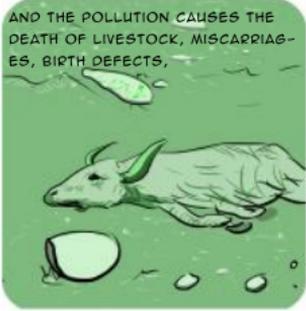
THE STORY OF ZATOE PART III



CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS BOSS? ALL THAT WORK GETTING THOSE STUPID LOCAL OFFICIALS ON BOARD, AND NOW THESE BEASTS ARE BLOCKING US.
HEY! HURRY IT UP!



BUT MINING GOES AGAINST OUR VALUES AND BEST INTERESTS. IT'S BAD FOR OUR SACRED MOUNTAINS,



AND THE POLLUTION CAUSES THE DEATH OF LIVESTOCK, MISCARRIAGES, BIRTH DEFECTS,



AND MANY SERIOUS ILLNESSES LIKE CANCER.



HEY! IT'S BEEN A WHILE NOW! BEAT IT SO IT'LL LISTEN!



THERE YOU GO!



JIANG! RUN!



I PEE'D MY PANTS BOSS.

IS IT GONE!/?



THE STORY OF ZATOE

PART IV

LIKE MANY OF OUR NEIGHBORS, FATHER CANNOT FIND WORK OR COLLECT HIS BENEFITS. ALL WE CAN DO IS SELL CATERPILLAR FUNGUS. BUT IT'S GETTING HARDER AND HARDER TO FIND THEM. I THINK HE WORRIES DEEPLY FOR OUR FUTURE, I COULD SENSE IT IN HIS EYES. WE WERE BOTH CERTAIN THAT WE NEEDED A WAY OUT OF THIS.



HEY DICKY! ISN'T THAT YOUR YAK?



MY.. THANGOMA?



THANGOMA!



POOR THING. LOOKS LIKE HE WAS INJURED.



WE CAN'T PROTECT OUR ANIMALS AND LAND, AND ARE STUCK WITH THESE WORMS. WHAT ARE WE DOING, DICKY!?



MAYBE IT'S TIME TO DO SOMETHING NEW.

SOMETHING NEW?



THAT'S RIGHT. APA, THANGOMA'S RETURN IS A SIGN. THESE ARE OUR LANDS AND IT'S OUR JOB TO PROTECT THEM.



...AND EVEN THE MINING LICENSES ARE FAKE. WE HAVE A REAL CHANCE HERE GUYS.



YOU MAY BE RIGHT, BUT THEY DON'T CARE. THEY'LL SEVERELY PUNISH ANYONE WHO DARES RAISE A VOICE!

HE'S RIGHT! THARCHIN'S FAMILY SUFFERED ENOUGH FOR SPEAKING OUT!

THIS TIME IT'S DIFFERENT! FIRST, WE'RE GOING TO ONLY SPEAK ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT,



SECONDLY... WE'RE USING XI'S OWN WORDS.

PRESIDENT XI VOWS TO BRING POLLUTERS TO JUSTICE

WORD SPREAD AND AROUND ONE THOUSAND PEOPLE GATHERED AT THE THREE SITES ON THE SAME DAY. WE PEACEFULLY BLOCKED THE ROADS BY SITTING, AND WE ASKED THE AUTHORITIES TO STOP THE MINING.

THE STORY OF ZATOE

PART V



THE STORY OF ZATOE

PART VI



IT WAS A SCARY TIME. BUT WE STUCK TOGETHER AND REMAINED COMMITTED TO OUR GOAL OF STOPPING THE MINES. AND IN THE END, WE DID IT!

FIRST, THEY STARTED A RE-EDUCATION CAMPAIGN AND CAME DOOR TO DOOR TO QUESTION AND DETAIN PEOPLE.



THEN, THEY FIRED VILLAGE LEADERS, BUT COULDN'T REPLACE THEM BECAUSE TIBETANS REFUSED TO TAKE UP THE POSITIONS.



THE BEST THING WE DID WAS TO SPREAD VIDEOS OF THE CHINESE FORCES FIRING UPON OUR PEOPLE. THIS DREW MEDIA ATTENTION.



THE NEXT FALL, WE DECIDED THAT OUR LOCAL OFFICIALS COULD NOT BE RELIED UPON. WE HAD TO GO TO BEIJING WITH A PETITION.



BEFORE THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, WE CITED THE AREA'S STATUS AS A PROTECTED ZONE AND THE CORRUPTION OF OUR LOCAL AUTHORITIES WHO WORKED WITH MINERS TO ALLOW THE ILLEGAL MINING.



OUR CAMPAIGN ENDED WITH SUCCESS. BEIJING ISSUED ORDERS FOR THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO STOP MINING NOT ONLY IN ZATOE BUT THE SURROUNDING AREAS WHERE THREE MAJOR RIVERS BEGIN.



THE GOVERNMENT PUT UP PILLARS DECLARING THE AREA A 'NATIONAL PROTECTED NATURAL AREA.' AND FINALLY, ALL ARRESTEES WERE RELEASED.



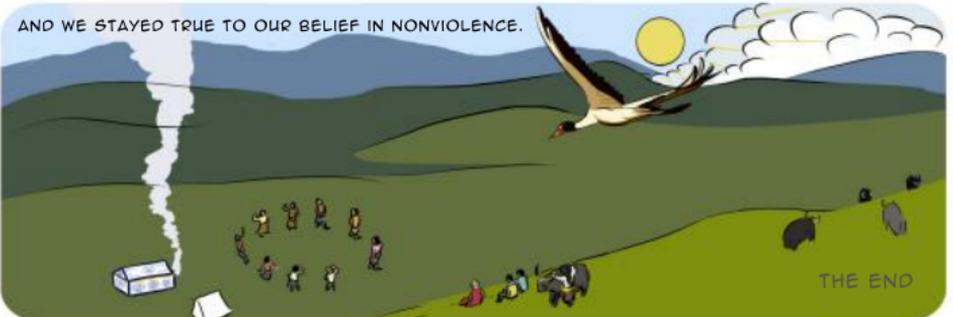
HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE WIDESPREAD MEDIA COVERAGE OF OUR TOWN'S ACTIONS, WE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL IN STOPPING THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR ANCESTRAL LAND.



BUT WE WERE ALSO INFORMED, ORGANIZED, AND UNITED...



AND WE STAYED TRUE TO OUR BELIEF IN NONVIOLENCE.



THE END