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Dekyi

Story of an endangered generation threatened by policy of eradication



वक्रें सेन् विनवे सुन्तुन र्सेन् नम्म नम्भेन विका



<< Dekyi >>

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र्श्व सीरा

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Foreword

Tenzin Choezin, Executive Director, ANEC

The Active Nonviolence Education Center (ANEC) is dedicated to promoting peace and nonviolence through education. Since our founding in Dharamshala, we have trained over 10,000 individuals across India and abroad, and contributed to educational materials that support justice and human dignity.

In 2023, we released << Phuntsok Nyidron>>, our first illustrated children's book. Today, we are proud to share this new publication, << Dekyi>> – an illustrated, fictional story, but one deeply borne out of the painful realities faced by Tibetan children under the Chinese Communist Regime.

According to a 2023 United Nations report, more than one million Tibetan children have been forcibly enrolled in colonial-style boarding schools in Tibet, separated from their families, language, and culture. This storybook brings that reality to light in a gentle, accessible way for young readers.

We hope this book fosters awareness, empathy, and discussion about cultural resilience and justice. Stories are powerful tools for nurturing compassion and understanding from an early age.

I warmly thank the author, Mr. Buddha Kyab, for his sensitive storytelling; the illustrator, Mr. Tenzin Tendhar, for his evocative artwork; and the translator, Dr. Lama Jabb, for bringing the story to Tibetan readers with clarity and heart. My deep gratitude also goes to the Swedish Tibetan Society for School and Culture, especially Gen Soenam Jamyangling and Allan Fotheringham, for their generous support in making this publication possible.

Finally, I extend sincere thanks to all our funders and program partners, board of Directors, Migmar Dekyi (ANEC's Australia coordinator) and staffs, your unwavering belief in our mission inspires and sustains our work.

May this book help preserve the spirit of Tibet and inspire a future built on truth, compassion, and hope.





नरें भुरा

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Dekyi is a six-year-old little Tibetan nomad girl.







नने भ्रीन ने त्ये नुमाय सेंब मये मेंन की यर्जेम मये नु सें सुन सुन लेगा धेवा





Before going to school, she lived a happy life with her father and mother, grandfather and grandmother, and neighbours' children like herself.





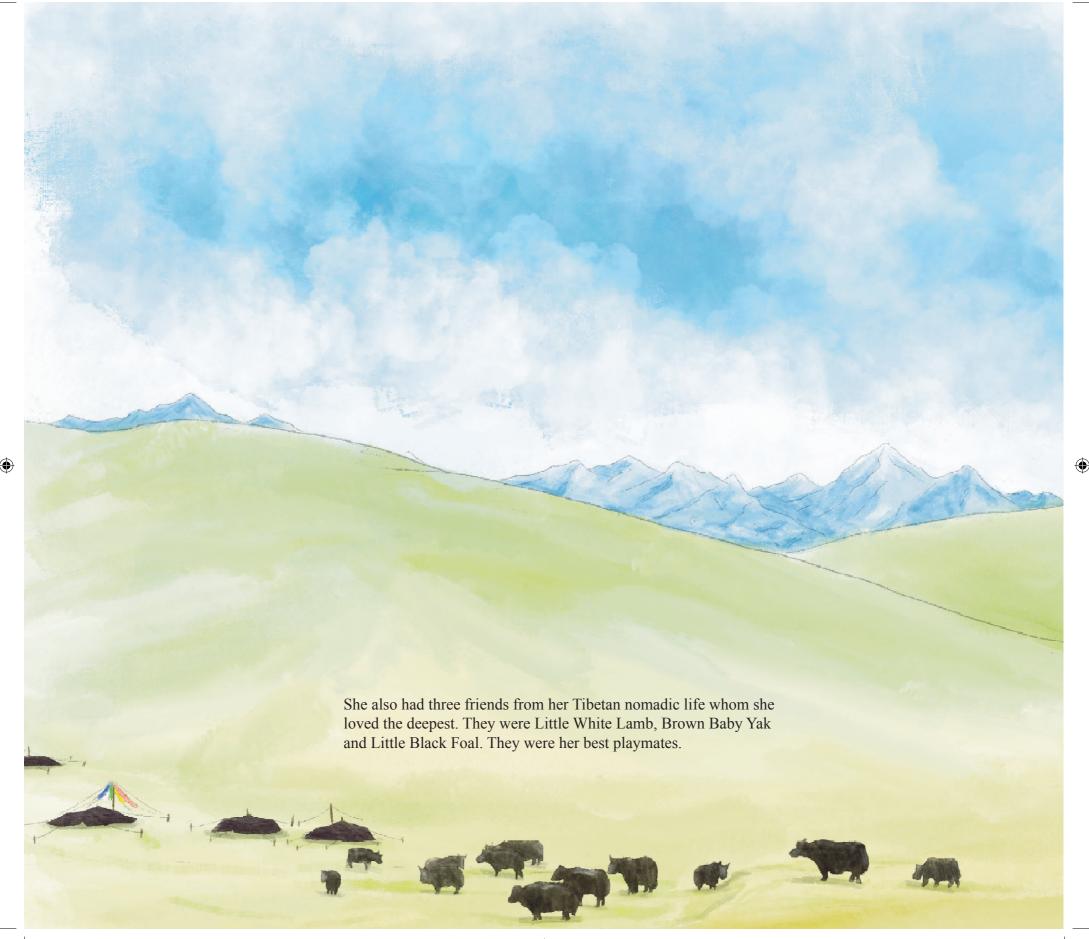


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नरे:श्चेर:दर:नेषु:कु:र्शे



One day there arrived an announcement stating that the children of the village must be sent to school. From that day forth Dekyi and all her neighbours' children had no choice but to leave their parents, grandparents and the beautiful nomadic countryside and go to school.











Since the school only taught spoken and written Chinese, not spoken and written Tibetan, Dekyi initially encountered great difficulties not knowing what to say and how to say things. Even with clothing, she had to put on uniform and was not allowed to wear her Tibetan chuba that she always wore at home.





Dekyi had to board at school permanently and was not allowed to go home except for summer and winter holidays. So, from her new school she unbearably missed her parents and grandparents, the Little White Lamb, the Brown Baby Yak and the Little Black Foal.





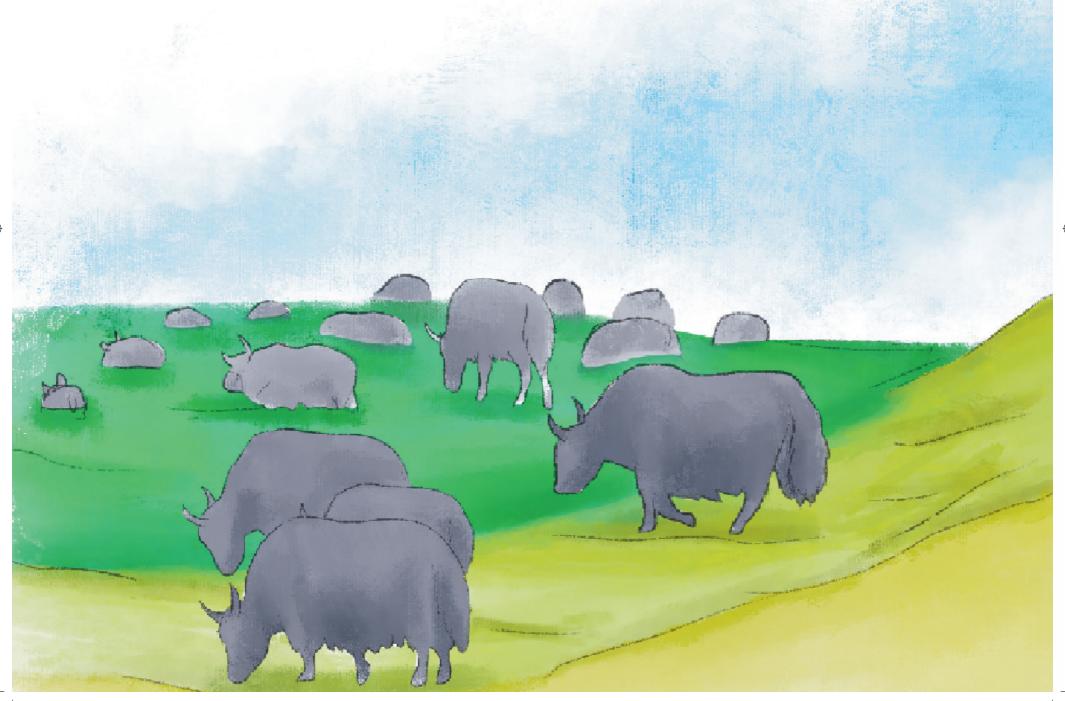


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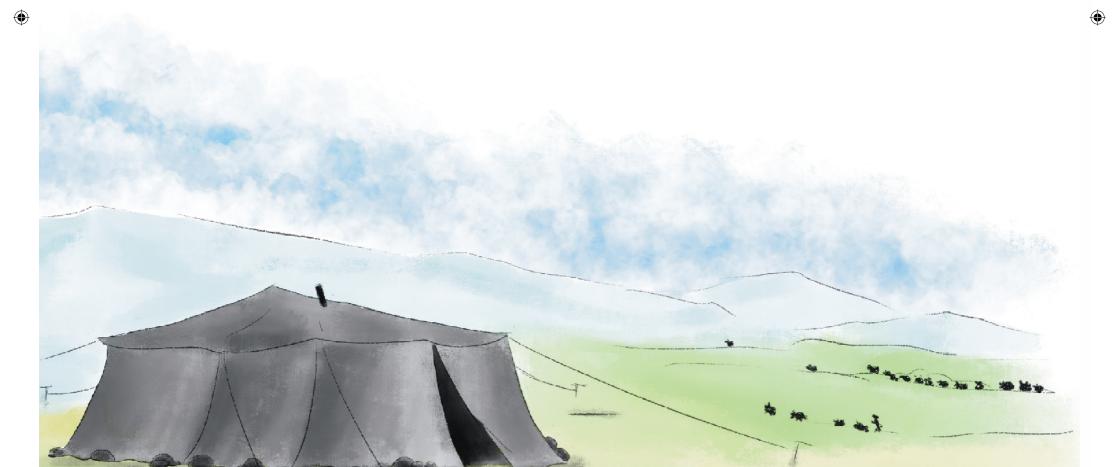
However, after being in school for three years Dekyi became accustomed to spoken and written Chinese, so much so, she came to be more fluent in Chinese than Tibetan. When she visited her home during the holidays Dekyi would speak a mixture of Chinese and Tibetan and sometimes her parents and grandparents wouldn't understand what Dekyi was saying and got confused.



यद्भान्तः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्त्त्रः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्तः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रत्तः स्त्रात्तः स्त्रत्तः स्त्रत्तः स्त्रत्तः स्त्रत्तः स्त्रत्तः स्त्रत्तः स्त्रत्तः स्त्रत्तः स्त्रत्तः स्त्रत्त



In just a few years a great change had taken place in Dekyi. For a long time she hadn't used Tibetan language or worn Tibetan clothes at school. As a result, speaking Tibetan and wearing Tibetan clothes during Tibetan New Year and the holidays was exactly like her finding it hard to become accustomed to speaking Chinese and putting on a uniform when starting the school for the first time.





यश्चर्त्वर्त्त्र क्षेत्र व्याप्त क्षेत्र व्याप्त क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत् क्षेत्र प्रत्य क्षेत्र क्

भूत्-चन्त्रतः दी देःशृङ्ग्वः व्यूत्रः व्यूत्रः प्रत्यः भूत्रः भूतः चन्त्रः प्रतः प्रतः व्यूव्यः व्यूव्यः व्यूव



Now the Little White Lamb, the Brown Baby Yak and the Little Black Foal have grown up and become big. So, they are no longer Dekyi's playmates as before and have left to mingle with the herds of horses, yaks and sheep.











सु:सु:५ग्र-रहुरः।







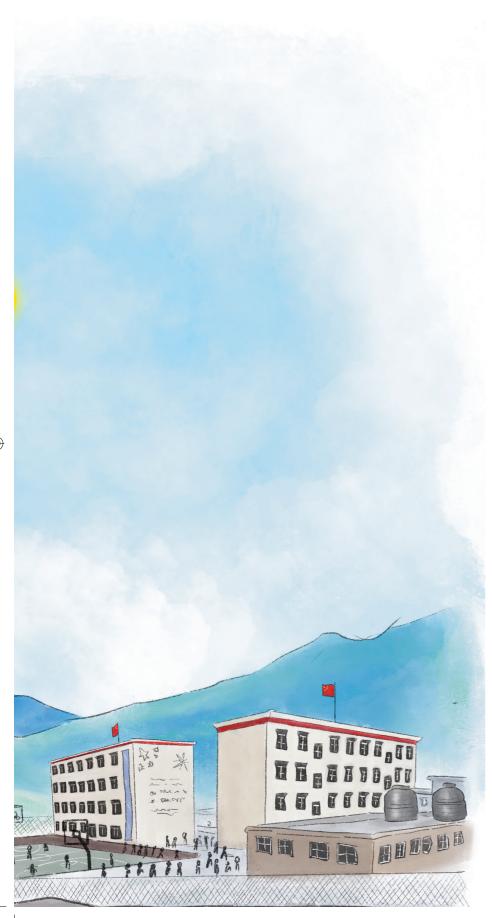
Dekyi's parents and grandparents worried greatly, saying "she's becoming Chinese." One day they had a discussion and decided to take Dekyi out of school.











Her father went to the school office and informed the principal that he wished to take Dekyi out of school and keep her with them at home as she was their only child and would take on all the family responsibilities in the future. As the principal was Chinese he didn't understand what her father was saying. A teacher had to be summoned to interpret and assist in his explanation.

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यन्त्रः क्रियाः स्वित्रः स्वित्रः स्वित्रः स्वित्रः स्वितः स्वितः स्वितः स्वितः स्वितः स्वितः स्वितः स्वितः स्व स्वितः स्वतः स्वितः स्वतः स्वितः स्वतः स्वतः स्वितः स्वितः स्वतः स्वतः स्वितः स्वतः स्वतः स्वतः स्वतः स्वतः स्वतः स्वतः स्वतः



After realizing the intention was to take Dekyi out of school, the principal, with a sombre face and loud voice, told her father "It is the duty of parents and the directive of the government to send children to school. Be aware that there will be a punishment if the directive is to be infringed!"



र्स्यतः श्री भारते : श्री ना श्री ना



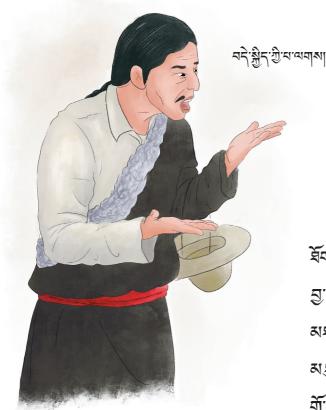






Initially, her father felt scared. Then he was furious at the principal's conduct and attitude. Finally, without caution or inhibition he burst out to the interpreter-teacher pouring out all his mental anguish: "If we continue to send Dekyi to school like this it is highly likely that we will end up not being able to understand her language and she will not understand ours. I don't know what she speaks in school, but having sent her there, as parents, we're becoming ever more estranged from our child. This is not only a problem for our family. It is a problem for all Tibetan nomadic children and parents."





स्वायम्यायविष्ठ्व स्वत्यक्ष्यः स्वत्यक्ष्यः स्वत्यक्ष्यः स्वर्णः स्वत्यक्ष्यः स्वर्णः स्वरं स्वर्णः स्वरं स्व



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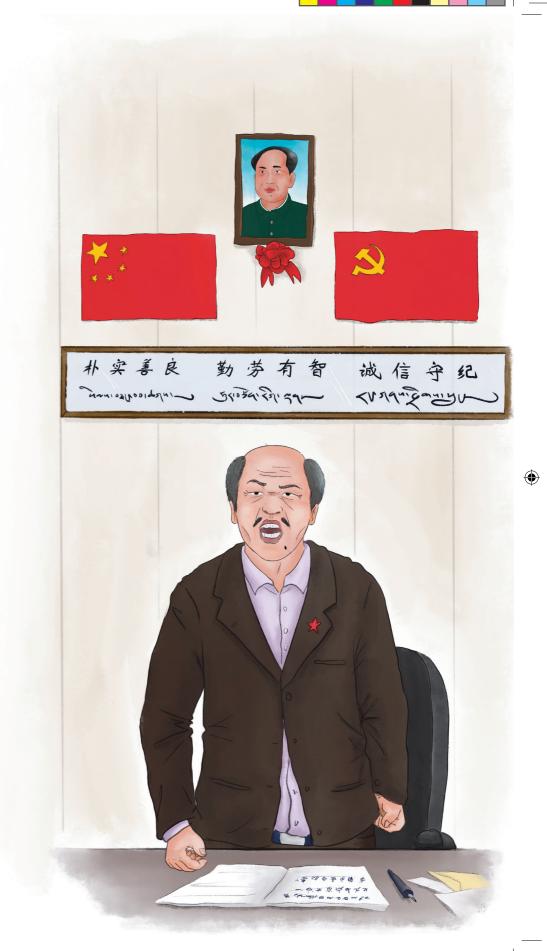


Upon hearing the father's remarks, the principal's attitude became worse than ever. He threatened her father stating: "If you make nonsense remarks like these that go against the national government you will be forced to incur a heavy punishment. Instead, go back home and think this through! If you go on making trouble in the office, we'll be forced to call the police to come over." Her father had to return home, powerless and in despair.





सन्ना सन्यम्भारतः स्वास्त्रम्भारतः स्वास्त्रम्भारत् स्वास्त्रम्भारतः स्वस्त्रम्भारतः स्वस्त्रम्भारस्यः स्वस्त्रम्भारस्यः स्वस्त्रम्भारस्यस्ति स्वस्ति स्वस



Her father felt a deep despondence within his mind as there was no one he could speak to about the problem. Swallowing tears of sadness within his heart he turned his steps homeward. Yet, the closer he got to home the more frequently he glanced back towards Dekyi's school in the distance.



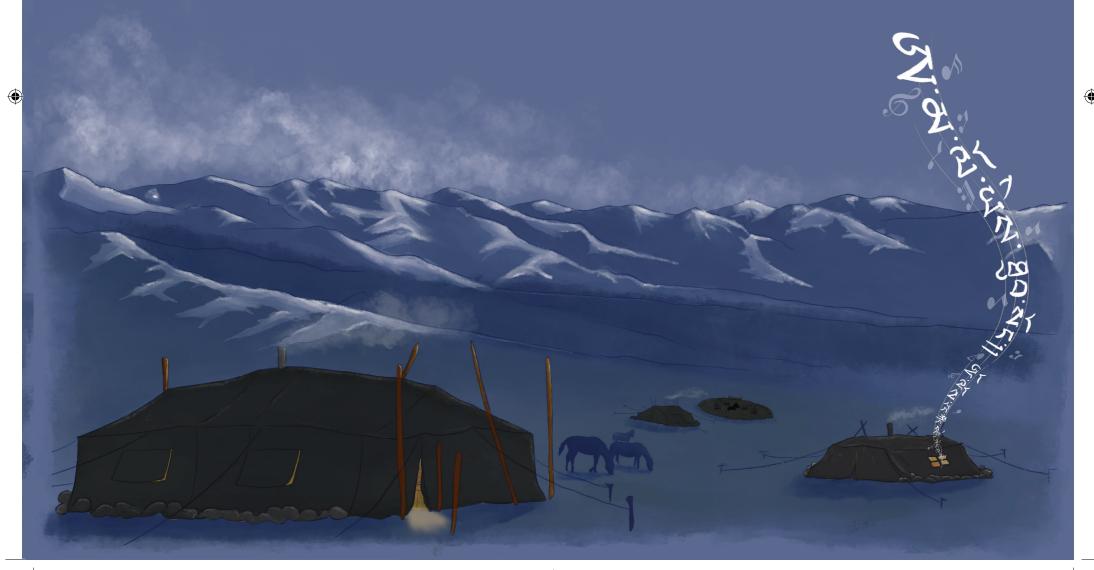
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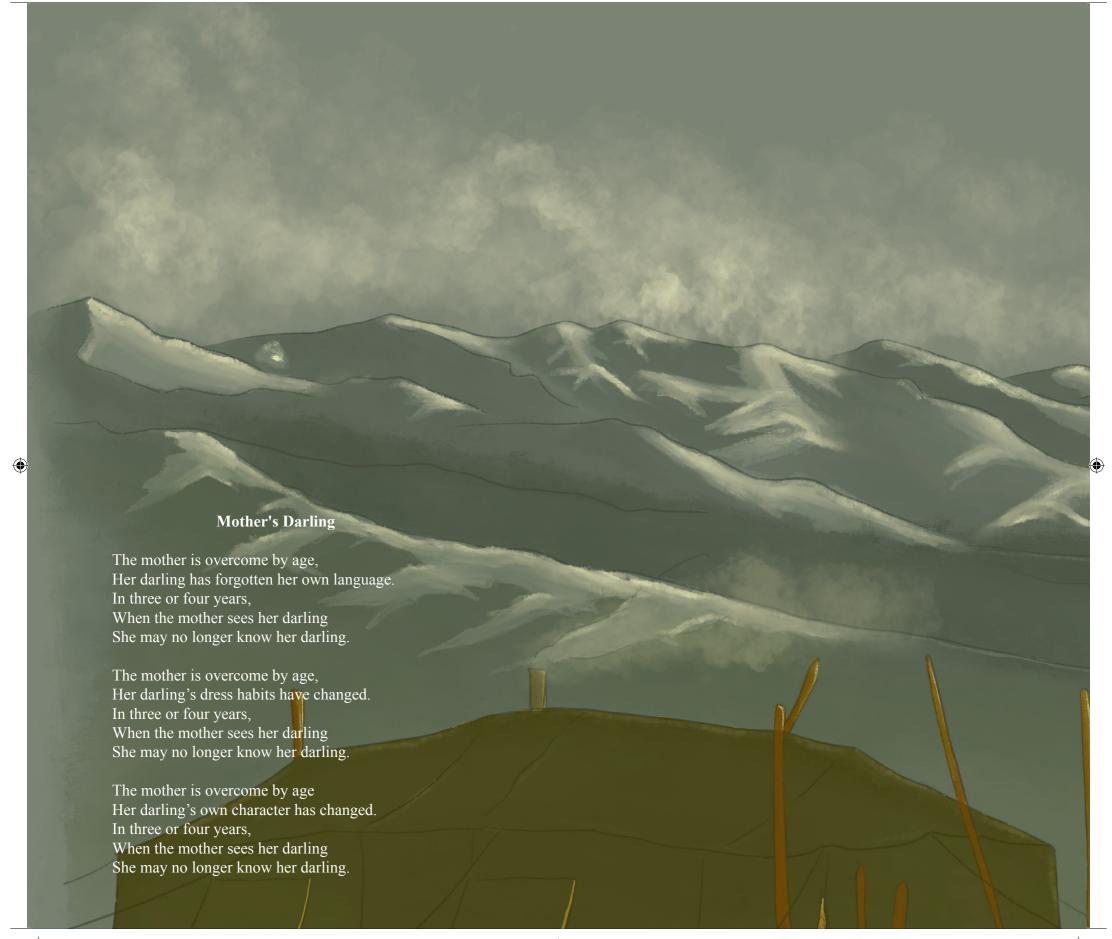


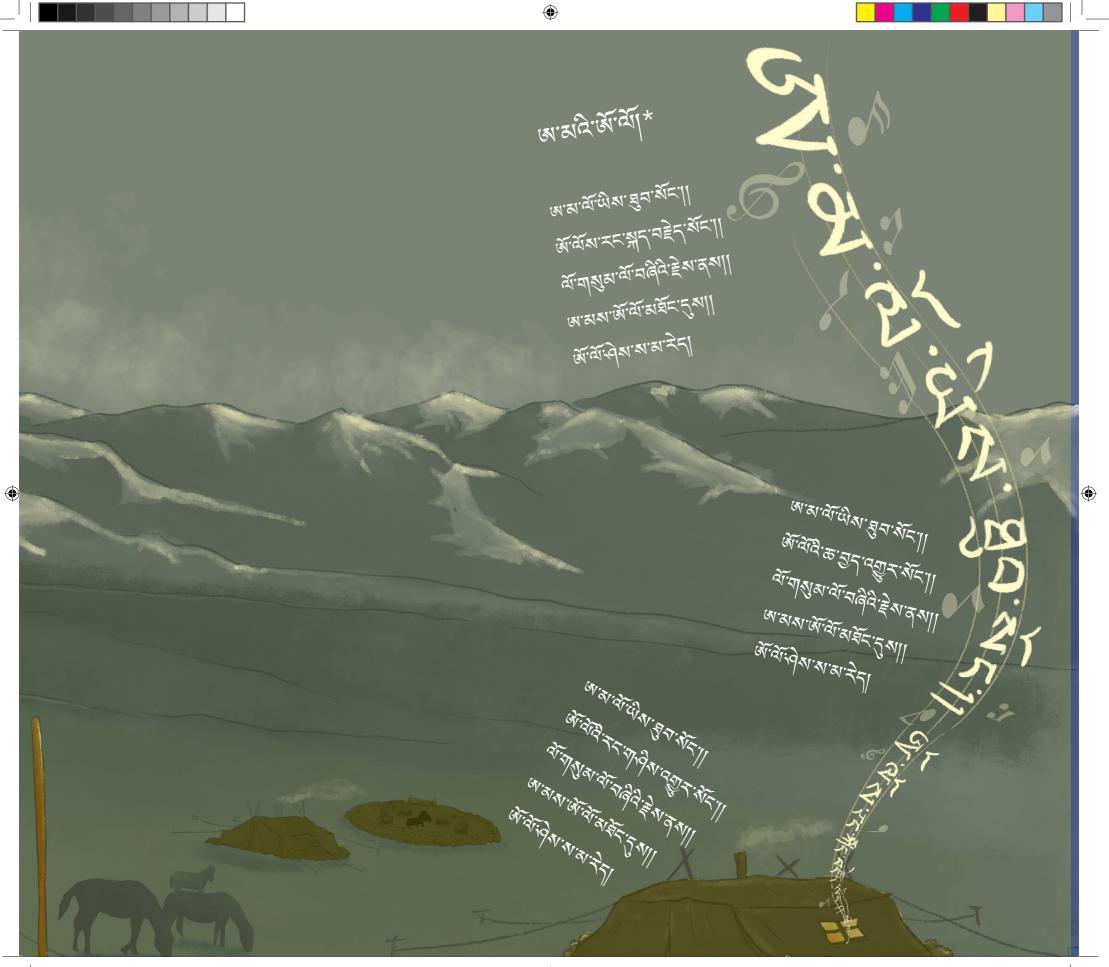


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VOICES CULTURE LIFESTYLE INDYBEST DEALS TRAVEL

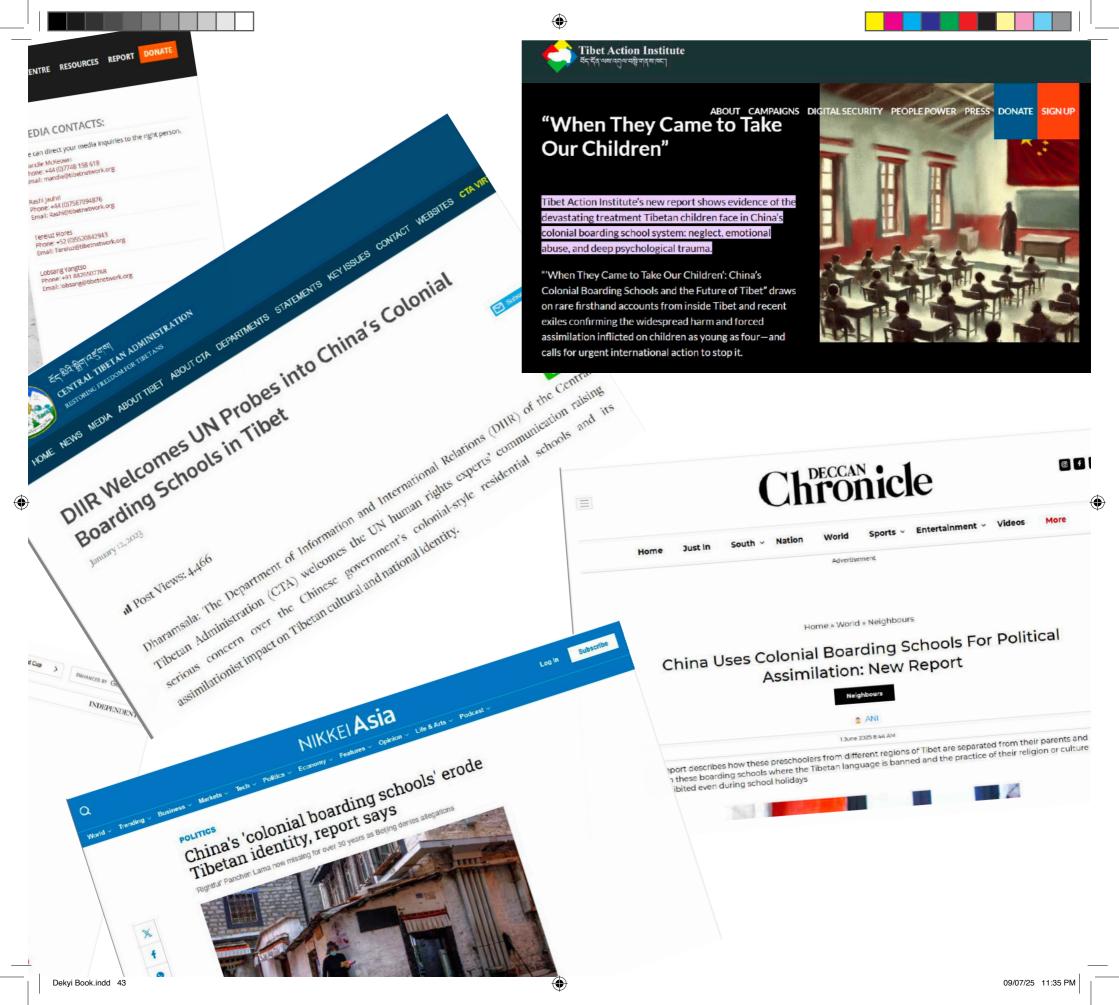
China accused of 'indoctrinating' Tibetan children from age of four with state-run boarding schools Group says lives of Tibetan children are 'irrevocably altered to serve the purposes of the Chinese government' Alisha Rahaman Sarkar • Thursday 29 May 2025 17:30 85T • T Comment











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The song's lyrics and tunes were composed by well-known Tibetan composer Doret la. This song was performed by Doret la and his student Lhakyi on the occasion of 2017 Losar or the Tibetan new year.

Doret la who is a mathematics teacher has educated many Tibetan students, over the course of more than two decades. He is one of the most well-known artist in the Tibetan contemporary history for composition of new lyrics and tunes and for the overall propagation of the Tibetan music scene.

In 2010, he was dismissed from his position as a teacher and assistant headmaster in connection to his role in a series of peaceful protests by Tibetans against the Chinese government in order to safeguard the Tibetan language. The song performed by him and his student Lhakyi highlights the grave danger posed by the Chinese policies in alienating Tibetan children from their identity including their language, culture and way of life in a short period of time.















