

15/12/2023

## Chapter - Silk Road

### Notes:-

⇒ Nick Middleton along with Daniel leaves from Rewari for Mount Kailash

- Lhamo gives him sheep skinned coat
- Journey begins with the break of the day

⇒ A shortcut to get off Changtang

- Route would take directly towards mount Kailash
- Involved crossing high mountain passes
- Snow stretches could present difficulty
- ⇒ Crossed vast open planes herds <sup>white asses</sup>
- Came across gazelles and heard of wild
- Went through grassy and stony & rocky area

⇒ Moved from rocks to hills

- Came across well-glad herds tending their sheep.
- Flocks of sheep would run to avoid their ~~route~~ approaching vehicle

⇒ Sighted nomads tents

- Alert massive black dogs kept vigilance



- Bold, fearless they chased the vehicles
- Same breed dogs used as hunting dogs in Chinese coats.

### ⇒ First Blockage

- A 15 m stretch of drifted snow
- Fear of slipping on the solid patch of snow
- Driver <sup>drives</sup> over the patch safely after covering it with soil

### ⇒ Second blockage

- Another stretch of ice
- Steep slope scattered with huge rocks
- Driver drives around the steep snow skillfully

### ⇒ Reach top of the pass at 5515 meters.

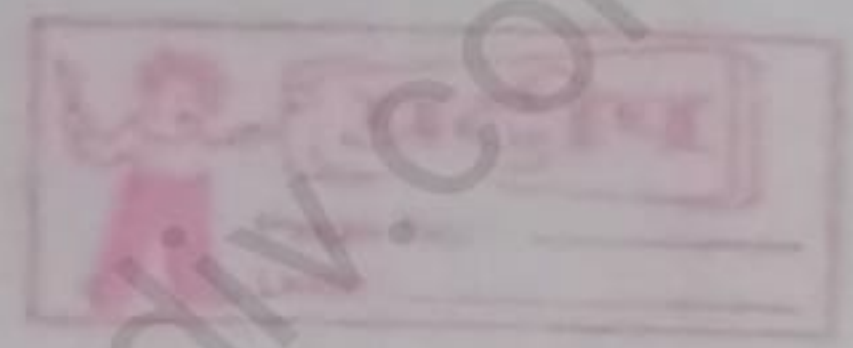
- Following tradition in clockwise direction
- Driver checks tires & petrol tank

### ⇒ Drive down the other side of the pass

- Nick's headache relieved.
- Took lunch near dry salt lake
- Salt lake hub of activity.

### ⇒ Reach a small town here

- To punctured tires got fixed



• More on the shore of lake Mansarovar

Nick's cold triggered on way to Darchin

- Sleepless & breathless <sup>night</sup> in Darchin
- 1 nostril blocked
- Chest heavy abrupt waking up
- ~~line~~ down trouble, sitting posture helped lying

Driver takes Nick to Darchin Medical College

- Given tibetan medicine
- Responds to medicine
- Driver leaves for Lhasa

Language barrier in Darchin

- After driver left Nick could not communicate
- No one understood or spoke English
- Darchin did have a couple of general stores
- A relaxed & unhurried place

Nick meets Norbu

- Norbu a tibetan worked in Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, in the Institute of Ethnic Literature
- Had come for Kailash Kora
- Decide to climb together though both equally ill equipped for pilgrimage
- Each other's company & suggestion come as a relief.

## Ques / Answer

I  
Ques - Give reason for the following statements  
The article has been titled 'Silk Road.'

Ans - The article gives an account of a travel from the hills of ~~Raku~~ Rawu of across some of the mountain passes to mount Kailash it followed the old route from Khasa to Kashmir. It was known as silk-road.

2. Tibetan mastiffs were popular in China's Imperial courts.

Ans - The Tibetan mastiffes were of large dogs with big head. They had massive jaws & barked fearlessly. They were completely fearless of vehicles. They would chase person's or animal at brave speed.

3. The author's experience at Hox was in stark contrast to earlier accounts of the place.

Ans - The author found Hox a grim miserable place with no vegetation but a lot of refuse, dust & sticks. His experience in Hox as a stark contrast to earlier accounts of the place. ~~Kai Kawagushi~~, A Japanese monk

arrived there in 1900. He was so moved by the ~~sensity~~ serenity of the lake that he burst into tears.

Ques 4 - The author was disappointed with Darchin

Ans 4 Darchin was dusty partially interrupted & at intervals by heaps of broken stones or bricks from a building or wall & Rubbish or garbage. The town had a couple of general stores. It had only one cafe. It had a medical college where Tibetan medicines were prescribed.

Ques 5 - The author thought that his positive thinking strategy worked well after all.

Ans 5 - The author had timed his arrival for the beginning of pilgrim season. Daniel & Tsetan had returned to Lhasa. He thought that he had not made much progress with his self-help program on positive thinking. He did not come across anyone in Darchin who knew English then he met Norbu & decided to go for Kailash Kora.

## II Briefly Comment on

1. The purpose of the author's Journey to Mount Kailash

Ans - The purpose of the author's Journey to Mount Kailash was religious one. He had to perform Kora to ~~mount~~ Kailash.

2. The author's physical condition in Darchen

Ans - The author's physical condition in Darchen was quite bad. One of his nostrils was blocked, he started breathing through his mouth then he switched to single nostril power he was inhaling enough oxygen, but he was about to fall ~~to~~ asleep. Sitting up made him feel better. He stay awake all night.

3. The author's meeting with ~~Mr~~ Norbu

Ans 3 - The author was staying in a guest house at Darchen. One afternoon he was sipping tea in Darchen's cafe looking at his notebook. Norbu came in saw his novel and asked if he could sit opp. him then they began talking in English. Soon they journeyed a tea.

Quest- Tsetan's support to the author during the Journey.

Ans4- During the Journey, he was the source of great support to the author. He not only drove him safe him from Rawu to Darchin but also provided him valuable information. He took him to Darchin medical college. These medicines help him to peacefully after so many sleepless nights.

5' "As a Buddhist, he told me, he knew that it didn't really matter if I passed away, but he thought it would be bad for business."

Ans5- Tsetan was a devote Buddhist who believed that death was not the end of the world. Kailash is a holy place going there would be better for him because it would transport him to heaven. Then, if the author died there, it would be bad for his business because his credibility in looking after the tourists would be jeopardised, and he might not get any customers later.