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The Feast of Tarnga

Ang Tsering Sherpa

as told to Bob Peirce

You know where Thame Teng is? Tarnga is two or three hours walk from there. It's a flat place—flat, all flat. There's a big river in there, and over there a big hill—BIG hill. No jungle. No trees. Big hill but small juniper—not tall but small. We call it incense juniper and we use it for incense—morning incense. The morning god.

At that time, there were many, many yeti there.

This story, you can find it in Namche Bazar. You can find it in a book. I don't know the story well, but I have heard it.

In the daytime there were many people there. Everybody has a field—you know, a garden. We're planting potatoes. All potatoes, and then we go home to sleep.

Yeti, he is watching for that time, watching from the hill. At that time, the yetis come down and dig everything up. They come at night. The people come in the day, and what are they to do? The yeti does this again and again.

After a few weeks, the men make a lot of chang. Much chang. A big drum of chang. Two drums of chang.

They take one drum of chang and drink from it. The men had brought a lot of knives. Each man borrowed a knife. Then they drank the chang and fought. But they didn't hit each other. It was not real. Just hit him "wLshhhhh!" and stuff like that [demonstrating]. Then they just go lie down, and then they go away.

The other drum has a lot of poison. Much poison and chang. Much poison put in the chang. There were also many knives.

The yetis came at night time.

They drank that chang—poison chang. And they're very, very—kind of, you know—they all—

And they hit each other, hit each other with knives. And many of them died. Many yetis died at that time.

But there was one yeti who didn't die, a mother yeti who had a baby inside. A small yeti. She just watched. She didn't come down to where the chang was. She couldn't walk. Because she had a baby, you know, and she couldn't walk.

So this yeti did not die, and that yeti made more yetis. And the yetis made more and more children. So now we have yetis.