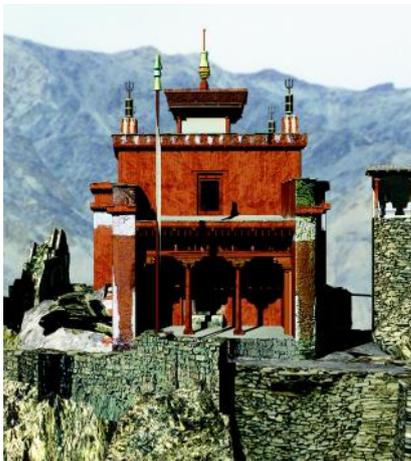


FINDING A STOLEN PAINTING¹

ཀྱུ་སོང་བའི་ཐང་ག་ཕྱིར་རྟོན་པ།

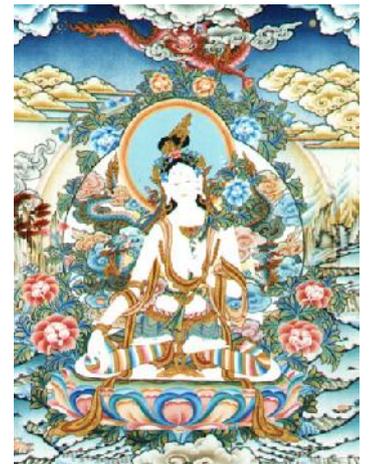
thief ཀྱུ་ས། has a light རྒྱོག་རྒྱོན་བརླང་ཡོད་པ།	Are you crazy? རྒྱོ་སྤོས་སོང་བ་མིན་ནམ།
moves quickly across མགྱོགས་པོར་བརྒྱུད་ནས་སོང་བ།	kneeling ཐུས་བཙུག་པ།
from its frame བྱ་ག་ནས། བྱ་བྱར་ནས།	realizing རྟོགས་པ། ཤེས་རྟོགས་བྱུང་བ།
vase ཐུམ་པ།	reward བྱ་དགའ།
apartment ཁང་པ།	Buddhist art རང་ཚོས་ཐང་གའི་རྒྱ་རྩལ།
reporter གསར་འགྱུར་པ། གསར་འགྱུར་འདོའཇོན་པ།	Buddhist རང་ཚོས་དང་འབྲེལ་བ། ཚོས་ལྷགས་པ།

It is one o' clock in the morning. The place is a Tibetan village temple. A man jumps over the village temple wall. His name is Dorji and he is a thief. He has a saw and cuts through the lock on the temple door. It is dark in the temple. Nobody is inside. Dorji has a light. He looks across the room at a painting. "There it is!" he says.



Dorji moves quickly across the room. He stands and looks at the painting.

"A million *yuan* for this?" he thinks. "It's amazing!" Then he takes a knife from his coat. He takes the painting very, very slowly from its frame. Then Dorji goes back to the window. Suddenly he walks into a table, and a beautiful, green vase falls on the floor and breaks into many pieces. Dorji smiles. "Is that a million-*yuan* vase?" he thinks. "Ha-ha!" he says.



Dorji runs across the pieces of glass to a window. He goes outside through the window.

Dorji has a room in Huang Rong's apartment. He goes quietly to his room and closes the door. Huang Rong and her daughter, Xiao hong, are sleeping. They don't hear him. In his room, Dorji takes the painting from his bag. He puts it in an old newspaper under his bed.

In the morning, Xiaohong is in the kitchen. She is putting old bottles into a box. "We can make some money selling these bottles. There are often some people standing in front of our house. They are waiting to buy old bottles and old newspapers," Huang Rong says to her daughter.

On the TV, a reporter is at the temple. He is talking about the painting. "It's a million-*yuan* Buddhist painting," he is saying. "It is very old. The local villagers love this painting very much. They are very sad it is gone. Here is a photo of it."

Now the reporter is talking about the green glass vase. "A very old green vase was also broken in the temple. The villagers are also very sad that it is broken. They hope the police find the painting and return it soon."

Xiaohong looks at the photo of the vase on TV, and then she asks her mother, "OK, anything else?"

"No," Huang Rong answers. "That's all. Xiaohong, did you look in Dorji's room? He has a lot of old newspapers."

"No. I'll go to his room now and look," Xiaohong says.

Dorji isn't in his room. He is outside. He is talking on his telephone to a man in Lanzhou. The man wants



¹ This material is adapted from *NEWSPAPER CHASE* (Penguin Easy starters, 200 word vocabulary).

the painting, but Dorji isn't happy. "Five thousand *yuan*?" Dorji says. "No! Are you crazy? It's a million *yuan* painting... What? No, I want fifty thousand, not five! . . . What? . . . The painting? Yes, I have it, and it's OK."

Xiaohong opens Dorji's door and looks into his room. "Ah!" she thinks. "There's a newspaper under Dorji's bed." Then she puts the newspaper and old bottles into a box. She goes outside the apartment and sees a couple who always sit there, waiting to buy bottles and paper from people.

"OK, let's see," the man says. "These newspapers weigh one kilogram. I'll give you two *yuan*. And I'll give you three *yuan* for those bottles." The man gives Xiaohong five *yuan* and then they leave.

Dorji is coming back to the apartment. He sees the couple and he sees Xiaohong. Dorji understands that Xiaohong has sold his newspaper to the couple. He chases the couple. "Wait! Wait!" he says.

Xiaohong watches him and feels surprised. Dorji stops the couple and begins looking in their newspapers. Their newspapers are in several very large plastic bags on a cart. Xiaohong walks near. Dorji is kneeling.

"There's some green glass on Dorji's shoe," Xiaohong thinks. Suddenly, she remembers the photo of the green glass vase on TV. Realizing what's wrong, Xiaohong calls the police station.

Two policemen arrive quickly. They check Dorji's shoes. One of the policemen takes the glass from Dorji's shoe. "This is a very expensive piece of glass," he says. "From a very expensive vase. Remember?"

Suddenly, Dorji understands. "Oh, no!" he says. Then the policemen also look in the bags for the million-*yuan* painting. They find the right newspaper—and they find the painting.

"Good work, Xiaohong," one of the policemen says. "And there's a reward."

"Maybe I can buy some books about Buddhism with the reward!" Xiaohong says. "I'm very interested in Buddhism and Buddhist art!"



Answer these questions.

1. Who is Dorji? _____
2. Who is Huang Rong? _____
3. Who is Xiaohong? _____
4. Who are the couple? _____
5. What do the policemen do? _____
6. Who says he will give Dorji five thousand RMB? _____
7. Where is the temple? _____
8. Is Dorji a good man? Why or why not? _____
9. What falls on the floor and breaks? _____
10. Where does Dorji have a room? _____
11. Who sells some bottles and newspapers? _____
12. What does the reporter say? _____
13. How does Xiaohong know that Dorji is a thief? _____
14. What is Xiaohong very interested in? _____

15. Would you like to meet Xiaohong? Why or why not? _____

16. Do you know about a thief taking something in your home place? Tell me about it.

17. Do you live thieves? Why or why not? _____

18. Why are thieves interested in paintings in temples? _____

True/False

1. Dorji take the painting from a temple at one o' clock in the afternoon. ___
2. The painting is in temple in a big city. ___
3. Dorji is a thief. ___
4. Dorji cuts through the lock on the temple door. ___
5. Dorji breaks a vase. ___
6. Dorji has a knife in his shoe. ___
7. The vase breaks. ___
8. Huang Rong is Dorji's wife. ___
9. Xiaohong is Huang Rong's daughter. ___
10. Dorji puts the painting inside newspaper. ___
11. Dorji calls the TV reporter. ___
12. The villagers are happy. ___
13. Xiaohong watches the TV. ___
14. Dorji sells the painting for five thousand RMB. ___
15. There are several very large plastic bags on a small cart. ___
16. Five policemen arrive and catch Dorji. ___
17. Xiaohong is very interested in Buddhism. ___
18. Xiaohong will go to France soon. ___

Match the English words with the Tibetan words.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. apartment ___ | C. ལྷོ་རྫོས་སོང་བ་མིན་ནམ། |
| 2. Are you crazy? ___ | D. མགྲོགས་པོར་བརྒྱུད་ནས་སོང་བ། |
| 3. Buddhist ___ | E. བུས་བརྩལ་བ། |
| 4. Buddhist art ___ | F. གྲུ་ག་ནས། གྲུ་བྱུར་ནས། |
| 5. from its frame ___ | G. རྟོགས་པ། ཤེས་རྟོགས་བྱུང་བ། |
| 6. has a light ___ | H. བུས་པ། |
| 7. kneeling ___ | I. བྱ་དགའ། |
| 8. moves quickly across ___ | J. ཁང་པ། |
| 9. realizing ___ | K. བྱང་ཚེས་ཐང་གའི་རྒྱ་རྩལ། |
| 10. reporter ___ | L. གསར་འགྱུར་པ། གསར་འགྱུར་འདོམ་འཛིན་པ། |
| 11. reward ___ | M. བྱང་ཚེས་དང་འབྲེལ་བ། ཚེས་ལུགས་པ། |
| 12. thief ___ | |
| 13. vase ___ | |
| A. རྒྱ་མ། | |
| B. ལྷོག་རྫོན་བརྒྱུད་ཡོད་པ། | |