

THE LOTTERY

Rgod po ltag khra རོད་པོ་ལྷ་གཞུང་།¹

One cold winter, Uncle Ston pa bought an old donkey for one hundred *yuan* from a villager named Rin chen, who agreed to bring the donkey to Uncle Ston pa's home the next day. However, the next day, Rin chen walked over to Uncle Ston pa's home and said, "I'm very sorry, but I have sad news."

"What has happened?" Uncle Ston pa said.

"The donkey died," Rin chen said.

"Well, just give me my money back," said Uncle Ston pa.

"I can't. I've already spent it all," replied Rin chen.

"OK. Just bring the dead donkey over," said Uncle Ston pa.

"What are you going to do with the dead donkey?" asked Rin chen.

"I'm going to sell lottery tickets with the donkey as the prize," replied Uncle Ston pa.

"You can't raffle off a dead donkey!" exclaimed Rin chen.

"Just watch me. I won't tell anyone the donkey is dead," said Uncle Ston pa.

Rin chen and two of his sons then put the dead donkey in a cart, pulled it over to Uncle Ston pa's home, and dumped it in his orchard.

A month later, Rin chen met Uncle Ston pa in the local market and asked, "What happened with that dead donkey?"

"I sold 500 tickets at three *yuan* each. I made a profit of 1,397 *yuan*," said Uncle Ston pa.

"Didn't anyone complain?" inquired Rin chen

"Just the man who won so I gave him his three *yuan* back," said Uncle Ston pa.

Rgod po ltag khra. 2017. The Lottery. *Asian Highlands Perspectives* 47:199-200.

NON-ENGLISH TERMS

rgod po ltag khra རོད་པོ་ལྷག་ལྷན།
 rin chen རིན་ཆེན།
 ston pa ལྷན་པ།
 yuan 元