

## KHO LU

Sangs rgyas bkra shis སངས་རྒྱལ་བཀྲ་ཤིས།

I was born in 1991 in Lo ba Village, Gcan tsha thang Township, Gcan tsha County, Rma lho (Huangnan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Mtsho sngon (Qinghai) Province.

My neighbor, Uncle Zon thar, took good care of a lamb, because his mother died. He heated yak milk, poured it into a bottle, put a nipple on the bottle, and fed the little lamb until it could eat grass. Uncle Zon thar's family members also cared for the lamb when Uncle Zon thar was not at home.

The lamb was so accustomed to living near Uncle Zon thar's family that he often did not go with other sheep. When he grew older, he did not want to go far from home and often followed the herdsmen, even though they shooed him away.

Family members often gave food to Kho lu, which is a name local people give to lambs that are rejected by ewes or the ewe dies and then locals raise such lambs.

When Uncle Zon thar's family members called "Kho lu!" he would come, hoping to receive such tidbits as bread, leftover noodles, and milk tea.

About a year later, the family selected ten fat sheep to sell - including Kho lu - put them in a truck, took them to the county town, and sold them to some Muslim businessmen. When Uncle Zon thar was about to leave, Kho lu ran to him three times, even when people threw stones at him and tried to stop him.

Finally, the Muslim traders tied Kho lu and were about to put him in a truck. Watching Kho lu's struggles and his obvious distress, Uncle Zon thar decided he did not want to sell him and brought Kho lu back home. Uncle Zon thar said that when Kho lu was struggling to run to him, he could not bear his sense of abandonment. He said, "I

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Sangs rgyas bkra shis. 2017. Kho lu. *Asian Highlands Perspectives* 47:77-78.

am truly glad that I did not sell Kho lu. I will never try to sell him again."

The family's affection for Kho lu grew stronger.

#### NON-ENGLISH TERMS

kho lu ཁོ་ལུ།

gcan tsha གཅན་ཚ།

gcan tsha thang གཅན་ཚ་ཐང་།

Huangnan 黄南

lo ba ལོ་བ།

Qinghai 青海

rma lho རྩ་ལོ།

sangs rgyas bkra shis སངས་རྒྱས་བཀྲ་ཤིས།

zon thar རྩོན་ཐར།