

new railway with her Internet friends, had this to say: “I feel that, regarding Tibetans, in a situation where real autonomy cannot be achieved, the most important thing is not rights, but being awoken. Only those who have awakened can know what they themselves really want.”¹⁵ This may be the biggest gift brought by the railway, as well as the crux of the issue of whether or not actual progress can be made in the negotiations between Tibet and China. Lodi Gyaltzen Gyari, the Dalai Lama’s envoy, has often said: “The Tibet government in exile cannot be rushed or forced into reaching any sort of agreement with the Beijing government because achieving progress takes time. At this stage, achieving meaningful progress is the objective of the Dalai Lama’s special envoy.”

Translated by Paul Mooney

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NOTES

1. Dong Cunrui (1929–1948) was proclaimed a hero of the People’s Liberation Army in 1963. During a battle between China’s Communist and Nationalist forces, the advance of the PLA was blocked by a pillbox built on a bridge. Dong pressed a pack of explosives against the bridge with his hand and blew the pill-box off, dying in the explosion. In propaganda posters, he is inevitably depicted holding the pack of explosives.
2. Also known as Amy Yip, a buxom Hong Kong starlet.
3. Based on a Japanese manga series of Yoko Kamio, the popular Taiwanese drama “Meteor Garden” centers on a love story between the poor girl Shancai and the rich and hotheaded Dao Mingsi.
4. Tripitaka is a Tang Dynasty Buddhist monk who in the Chinese classic *The Journey to the West* joins the Monkey King and his companions Pigsy and Sandy to retrieve Buddhist sutras from India to bring back to China. Originally named Xuan Zang, Tripitaka was chosen by the goddess Guanyin for the task.
5. A Hong Kong singer and actress originally from mainland China, Wong had her second child at a Beijing hospital on May 27, 2006.
6. A Qing Dynasty scholar and official, Lin is most famous for his fight against opium smuggling in Guangzhou, which set off the First Opium War with Britain in 1839.
7. Following the death of the Qin emperor, Xiang Yu defeated the Qin army, after which Liu Bang invaded the Qin capital, and the Qin Dynasty collapsed.
8. “Qingzang tielu tongche, Hu Jintao fabiao zhongyao jianghua,” Xinhua News Agency, July 11, 2006, http://news.xinhuanet.com/video/2006-07/01/content_4772631.htm.
9. Xu Bo, “Dalai Lama you tiaojian huanying Qingzang tielu jiancheng,” Voice of America, June 30, 2006, <http://www.voafanti.com/gate/>

Reverberation

BY A. E. CLARK

When the last shrine shall have been converted into a gift shop;
When three dice rattle below the neon lights of the Potala,
And Milarepa’s songs are all extinguished;
When the prayer wheel shall be stopped
And none can tell the beads which a curator placed beneath the glass;
When the prairie’s been peeled off the copper and chromite,
And the shepherds are settled in cities,
Where some may find work as bellhops in quaint uniforms;
When the fire burial is finally cold,
The Presence blown into the blue, a windwraith . . .

Strike singing bowl, wait long for deepest sound.
Though callous hands don’t feel the mace recoil,
A blow, once dealt, rebounds within the mind
To dislocate the world the violent know:
What dripped in the Dangqu may yet flood to the sea.
Then the superior man, shocked by the taste
Of ashes at his feast, will stagger out
To search for healing—for a word not hollow,
For an authority by love ennobled—
And rue the gentian trampled in the West.

By Namtso, look! Reflected in the lake
At dusk, ice glints on Nyenchen Tanglha’s peak:
The herdsmen say, a jeweled door into
That darkness which engenders and enshrouds.
The door swings open, multitudes surge through:
Some dance with grace, some butt and shove their way.
A mounted guardian, whip hand high,
Sits poised with an inhuman smile
To marshal all that rise
And fall: all that has been and shall be.

big5/www.voanews.com/chinese/archive/2006-06/w2006-06-30-voa25.cfm.

10. A long-time advocate on Tibet and environmental issues, Wang is married to the Tibetan writer Woesser.
11. “Zhuanfang ‘Huanghuo’ ‘Tianzang’ zuozhe Wang Lixiong: Qingzang tielu dui Zang wenhua you he chongji?” *Yazhou Zhoukan*, June 24, 2006, posted on Chinese Newsnet, http://www6.chinesenewsnet.com/MainNews/Forums/BackStage/2006_6_24_9_15_53_204.html
12. Pinyin: Qiangba Puncog
13. See Yang Ming, “Xizang gaoguan tam tong Dalai Lama daibiao duihua,” Voice of America, July 4, 2006, <http://www.voanews.com/chinese/archive/2006-07/w2006-07-04-voa62.cfm>.
14. Quoted in *Tibetan World Magazine*, August 2005, http://www.tibetanworldmagazine.com/Read/interview_kate.html.
15. The original source of this quote could not be located, probably because Woesser’s blogs have since been shut down.