

Defeat of the Gurkhas in A.D. 1792
Recorded on a stone slab below the Potala.

Written by the King.

The monument of the deeds fully accomplished ten times.

Now that the Gurkhas have submitted to me, the Imperial army has been withdrawn, and the completion of this brilliant tenth achievement has been set out in the Letter. Though the fame of this matter was great, it has not been fully manifested. Therefore the proclamation has been inscribed on this monument, that the monument may serve as a moral for the minds of men.

It comes to my mind that my mind was formerly attached to the Yu-kur writing. According to the writing of Che-u-kur the acts of the respectful and sympathetic Amban, arid of the Owner of the country, able to perform all things, are set down here. It is written in a chapter of the Lu A-u that, when the mind is in a good state, the mind and the deeds are joined together. However, he who acts in accordance with the above precepts will obtain the approval of the Heavenly Protectorⁱ and will gain reward. As my conduct was on those lines, I gained all the merits necessary for carrying out the ten wars to a successful conclusion. It is fitting that they should be carved on this monument.

The merits of the ten times are as follow

Two victories over the Chung-kar.ⁱⁱ

One victory over Hu-i Se.

Two victories over Tsa-la and Chu-chen.

One victory over Ta-i Wan.

Two victories over Mi-han-tan and An-tan.

Now I have fought twice with the Gurkhas. I have made an end of them, and they have tendered their submission to me. This completes the ten times. Three of the internal victories are of lesser importance.

Now as regards the submission of the Gurkhas in the Female Earth-Bird year.ⁱⁱⁱ

Although they brought troops for looting U and Tsang.^{iv} the A-u Hu-l not daring, Pa-chung did not go into the matter thoroughly, but arranged it in a hurry. So the Gurkhas were not frightened.

Again, having obtained loot last year, they came back. The wicked Minister was degraded. and the famous Chang-chun was sent. The latter arranged on a large scale for provisions and wages. Fu-kang men appreciated my gifts highly, and did not consider fatigue or fear.

During the winter of last year additional soldiers of So-lon^v and Szechuan came quickly, batch by batch, along the Sinning road, and arrived in the country of the thieves^{vi} during the fifth month of this year. Immediately on their arrival they retook the country of U and Tsang, and captured the territory of the thieves. They traversed the mountains, so difficult to push through, as though they were moving over a level plain. They crossed rivers with great waves and narrow gorges as though they were small streams. They climbed up the peaks of mountains and descended again in the pursuit. They captured the important

places and at the same time captured the roads in the gorges. Not considering injuries to hands or feet, they fought seven battles and gained seven victories. The thieves were panic-stricken.

After that, when the troops arrived close to Yam-bu,^{vii} the chief leaders of the thieves were sent. They submitted respectfully and represented that they would conduct themselves according to bur orders. Although they carried out the orders of the great Commander--in-Chief, they were not allowed to enter our encampment. The reason for this was that last year they seized Ten-dzin Palior^{viii} and those with him by means of a falsehood; and so they were not allowed to enter.

Owing to the great heroism of the mighty army the thieves were helpless. Ha could have had them removed from his presence, and could have made an end of them, letting not even one of them escape. However, that was not the wish of the Heavenly Protector. Even if all those territories had been obtained, as they are more than a thousand distances from the frontiers of U and Tsang, it would have been difficult to cultivate them and to guard them. As for ordinary, simple people, even if they obtain a thing, the end will not be gained.^{ix} Therefore orders were given, the respectful •submission was noted, and the army was withdrawn. Thereby the work was completed.^x

Formerly, in the time of King Thang Tha-i Tsung, there was a conference with the Chi-li.^{xi} As it was shown that they (the Gurkhas) were conquered and powerless, he (the Chi-li) said.^{xii} that they would always remain on good terms (with China). It is not fitting to take the Chi-li as an example.^{xiii} The frontiers of U and Tsang are not near to China. They (the Gurkhas), fearing to lose their lives, were compelled to submit respectfully. A pretended submission, made in order to obtain peace, will not suffice. A great victory has now been obtained. The thieves have offered a heart-felt submission, and this is believed and accepted. Affairs have been arranged in accordance with the three points of King Tha-i Tsung of Thang.gur. Need I write the former affairs of the Tor-goe^{xiv} how they became afraid of us and followed us ? How they came to agree with us and to follow us, this has all been written already. Now the Gurkhas having admitted their fault, and wishing to save their lives, fear us and follow us. Thus agreeing with us and following. the two qualities are complete. The failing was theirs, and they have admitted their fault : that is how the matter stands.

If this matter be considered, it will be seen that the people of U, abandoning military pursuits, devote themselves solely to literature. Thus they have become like a body bereft of vigour. This is unfitting. If a people abandon military pursuits and make literature their chief object, they become unable to safeguard their former position. This should be known.

The manner of going and the manner of returning are clearly written in the book entitled The Planets and the Stars. Now understand this and do not forget it.: It is to be considered again and again at the time of making war, that it may be of advantage.

Owing to the knowledge gained during fifty-seven years of warfare these ten deeds have been fully completed. This is the gift of the Heavenly Protector. Thus the kindness of the Heavenly Protector is exceedingly deep. I also have faith in it.

They (the Gurkhas) thought they could achieve a great deal by violence, but the favour of the Heavenly Protector remained. It is hoped that this will tend to turn people into men of complete justice. Besides this, there is nothing to be said. This has been written by the King on an upper date^{xv} in the first month of winter in the fifty-seventh year of the reign of the Heavenly Protector, that is to say, in the Male Water Rat year.

ⁱ i.e. the Emperor of China.

ⁱⁱ Apparently the Qosot Mongols.

ⁱⁱⁱ In the Tibetan system of chronology five elements are joined to twelve animals. Each element is repeated once to indicate male and female. Thus

1924. Male Wood Rat year.

1925. Female Wood Bull year.

1926. Male Fire Tiger year.

1927. Female Fire Hare year.

The first round of elements ends at the tenth (Female Water Bird) year, and is recommenced immediately, so that the eleventh year is the Male Wood Dog, and the twelfth the Female Wood Pig. At sixty years the two series end together, the animals having run five times and the elements six times. We then get the Male Wood Rat year again and the series runs through '55 before.

^{iv} The two main provinces of Central Tibet. Lhasa is in U; Shigatse in Tsang.

^v A district in the upper part of the Tibetan province of Gyarong, annexed by China in 1863. It is therefore evident that there were Tibetan troops in this army that conquered the Gurkhas.

It appears also that several Tibetan officers took part, including Do-ring Shap-pe, Yu-to Shap-pe, and Chang-lo-chen De-pon (Colonel).

^{vi} i.e. the Gurkhas

^{vii} i.e. Katmandu, the capital of Nepal.

^{viii} The Do-ring Shap-pe. It is said that the Chinese sent him with the Yu-to Shap-pe and Chang-lo-chen De-pon as peace envoys to the Gurkhas, and that the Gurkhas seized them and carried them off to Nepal.

^{ix} i.e. 'Even if Nepal be annexed to Tibet, the Tibetans will not be able to hold it.'

^x European writers, following Chinese authorities, put the Gurkha army at 18000 men and the Chinese at 70000. Tibetans in general put the Gurkha army at about 4000 and the Chinese army at about 9000, of whom half or rather more were Tibetan.

^{xi} Apparently the British, The Tibetan word for foreigner, of European extraction is 'Chi-ling'.

^{xii} The non-honorific word for 'said' is used here—the word applied to the common people—to indicate contempt for the representative of the Chi-li.

^{xiii} *Sebble*, in keeping Indian territory for themselves, after conquering it.

^{xiv} A Mongolian tribe conquered by the Chinese,

^{xv} The Tibetan Government shall pay the sum of ten thousand rupees annually as a present to the Gurkha Government.