



# **“Hurried Trip To Avoid A Bad Star”**

- M. Lilla and C. Bishop Barry



PARBIV

## 6. Hurried Trip to Avoid A Bad star. (An Essay)

-M. Lilla and C. Bishop Berry

### Summary and Central Idea:

M. Lilla and C. Bishop Barry are American geographers, depicts the lifestyle of Karnali people in their essay 'Hurried Trip to Avoid a Bad Star'. This essay presents an exploration of the region, which the authors did on foot for 15 adventurous months. Authors knew that Karnali people are always in movement and directly linked to the Terai for their survival. It describes the life of the hilly people who walk to Nepalgunj to buy and sell things for their living. After Christmas, authors are involved in an annual trek to see how Karnali zone is economically linked to the south. Their fellow travellers had carried baskets filled with medicinal herbs, hashish, hand-knit sweater and blankets to sell in Nepalgunj. Over 11350 foot in Hari Lekh a chettri woman about 30 asked authors where they were going. She requested them to send back her husband who had left home 15 years ago and had not returned yet. At 9000 feet, they found a group of people processing Silajit. They were doing it on the way as they were influenced by bad star. They were making flat ten-ounce discs; it would cost 60 rupees in Nepalgunj. The geographer climbed down the Sal forest with scarcely a leaf left on them. They saw women chopping the green branches, who were unaware about the bad effect of chopping. At last, authors reached to Nepalgunj. They sat near a campfire. They heard jackals, bats, mules, bullock carts, which they hadn't seen while living in upper hills. It was new sights, smells and sounds. Hilly people were moving one shop to next to buy and sell things. They were buying cotton clothes, aluminum and iron ware, spice and jewellery. But Karma, one of the sellers, bought the distillery equipment to make liquor to earn money. Karnali People are living very difficult life. Soil is not fertile. Therefore, it gives very less product. Along with farming, they rear cattle in large number. They collect wool and make wollen blankets. They collect medicinal herbs. Karnali people are always in movement. They sell their things to lower Terai and buys whatever they need. People are living in harmony with nature. They are simple and hardworking. They sell Silajit Yarshgumba, Hashish, Hand-knit sweaters, blankets and other medicinal herbs. They buy cotton cloth, aluminum, iron ware spice, sweets and other essential things. Some people do job there. It proves that Karnali is economically linked to low land Terai.

### Important Questions:

1. How Karnali is economically linked with the low land region of south?
2. Write short account in the lives of the people of Karnali?

## Short Answer Questions

### 2075 GIE Q. No. 21

What is the life of the people of Karnali zone like? [3]

Geographically, Karnali is distanced from the city facilities in Nepal. People living in this region live simple life. Deprived of infrastructure development like roads, hospitals, schools, and so on, they live fully ignorant life. Because they are not exposed to the city life styles, people living in Karnali zone live almost traditionally bounded. In addition to this, the people living in the zone live economically low quality of life. Except animal husbandry and handicraft, they don't have other sources of income. They trade their handicrafts in Nepalgunj and buy the domestic goods that they need in Karnali. Culturally, they live a life of harmony. They totally live a life of unity. Be it is the part of trading, or buying things or going in the forest for fodder, or collecting herbs, they do together. The women live an innocent life by remaining busy in household work. Males earn money whether by going abroad or doing something of their own sort. The women are very faithful to their husbands. On the other hand, they live in a rhythm: collecting silajit, trading blankets, chopping down the trees for the animals and buying jewelry for their wives from Nepalgunj. This gives a glimpse of some ceremony. They, thus, live a satisfied life despite the educational economic and political consciousness and advancement. Therefore, they need a visible government that could properly groom them with economy, education by means of infrastructure development. The zone must not be a terrorist hub. The full concentration of NGOS and INGOs in the area can bring a noticeable change.

### 2. 2075 Set A Q. No. 2d

Give a short account of the life of the people of Karnali. [3]

Please refer to

### 3. 2075 Set C Q. No. 2a

What is Silajit? Why is it important? [3]

Silajit is a herbal product found in the northern high hills of Nepal. It is mostly available in the districts of Karnali zone. It is a natural product found at the height of 9000'. silajit denotatively means a tar-like deposit that oozes from the rocks in the valley of Sinja, far to the north. People in the Karnali zone collect it and process it before sending it to the market. The product has its medicinal use. People believe that it cleans inside and is pure and strong when boiled with the milk. Thus, people shape silajit into flat ten ounce discs. They sell

per disc for 60 rupees in Nepalgunj. In India it is used for pharmaceutical purposes. Silajit really connects the people in Karnali with the people in Nepalgunj. In addition to the medicinal use, it has its cultural importance: people sit and gather together forming a great community of their own with a single purpose of collecting it, processing it and selling it.

#### **4. 2075 Partial D Q.No. 2b**

How is Karnali linked economically with the lowland regions to the south? [3]

Karnali zone is economically linked to the low land regions to the south. Geographically Karnali zone is not development friendly. The stiff hills, rough mountains and high attitudes become the bar for smooth economic activities. So, people living in the region have to depend on Nepalgunj to run their business and economic activities since they are geographically linked too. They sell their home grown products like blankets, sweaters, hashish and medicinal herbs in Nepalgunj. Similarly, they find some temporary jobs there to support the family economically. On the other hand, Nepalgunj is a developed town. People living in Karnali fulfill their basic needs from the town. They buy iron wares, jewelries, biscuits, cotton, clothes, spice, aluminum and distillery equipment from the amount of money they have collected in Nepalgunj. Thus, Karnali supplies the raw materials and homegrown products that are demanded in Nepalgunj and Nepalgunj supplies the commodities needed in the districts of Karnali. Thus, they are economically dependent on each other. In this sense, Karnali is economically linked to the lowland region of the south.

#### **5. 2074 Partial D Q. No. 2d**

Give a short account of the life of the people of Karnali.

Please refer to **2075 GIE Q. No. 2f**

#### **6. 2074 Partial E Q. No. 2e**

What does the skeletal-looking Sal trees indicate about the exploitation of nature?

The travelogue, "Hurried Trip to Avoid a Bad Star" implicates towards the conservation of nature. While climbing down the hills, the American geographers came across the scene where they heard the sound of chopping down the trees from different directions. They noticed a strange forest of skeletal looking sal-trees. This suggests that the forests in the hills of Karnali zone are at stake. People have destroyed the forest haphazardly. They want to indicate that nature is at risk. The geographers when expressed their surprise at this activity, the women innocently told them that they need to feed their animals. This refers to the ignorance and innocence of the people regarding the effects of deforestation and exploitation of nature. To sum up, the "skeletal looking sal trees" indicates that the forest, one element of nature, is being massively destroyed. The forest, in other words, is at great risk and the geographers indicate towards the immediate need of protection.

#### **7. 2073 Set C Q. No. 2f.**

Explain in brief a sad tale of Karnali Zone. [3]

The sad tale of Karnali Zone is mentioned in the journey essay "Hurried Trip to avoid a Bad Star" by two American Geographers, M. Lilla and C. Bishop Barry. People of Karnali are living a very difficult life. Soil is not fertile. So, it produces very little. Along with farming, they rear cattle in large numbers. They collect wool and make woolen blankets. They collect medicinal herbs. People of Karnali are always in movement. They sell their things to lower Terai and buy whatever they need. People are living in harmony with nature. They are very simple and hardworking. They sell Silajit, Yarshagumba, Hashish, Hand-knit sweaters, blankets and other medicinal herbs. They buy cotton cloth, aluminum, iron-ware, spice, sweets and other essential things. Some people do jobs there. The women wait for the husbands at home who have gone for work in Nepalgunj. The people living there are very much simple, honest and hardworking. They have equally faith in tradition, Religion and God.

#### **8. 2073 Partial W Q. No. 2e**

Why were the travelers going to Nepalgunj? What they carried? [3]

The travellers are two American geographers. They were involved in their annual trip from Karnali to Nepalgunj in order to show how Karnali zone economically linked to the low land region of the South, i.e. Nepalgunj. After Christmas M. Lilla and C. Bishop Barry participate in an annual trek to see how the Karnali zone is economically linked to the south. Their fellow travellers had carried baskets filled with medicinal herbs, hashish, hand-knit sweaters and blankets sold in Nepalgunj. This essay presents an exploration of the

region which the authors did on foot for adventurous months. M. Lilla and C. Bishop Berry knew that Karnali people are always in movement directly linked to the Terai for their survival. It describes the life of the hilly people who walk to Nepaljung to buy and sell things for their living.

#### **9. 2071 Set C Q. No. 2d**

Why did Karma buy only distillery equipment? [3]

Karma is one of the fifteen travellers mentioned in short descriptive article "Hurried trip to Avoid and Star" by two American geographers. He buys distillery equipment in the bazaar of Nepalgunj. Other fourteen travellers however buy conventional items like spice, jewelries, cotton clothes and sweets but Karma buys a machine that makes liquor. The main reason for buying this equipment is to earn a lot of money. He is a man of business motive and says he will buy all the clothes needed in Jumla by the earning of the liquor. Perhaps he has also bought this because Karnali Zone makes a good amount of liquor and its alcohol is a brand even in Nepalgunj. Karma perhaps wants to meet the increasing demand of the local liquor found in Karnali Zone. He knows well that his home product could easily compete with the imported wine. Thus, whatever the case is he buys this machine with his noble purpose of commercializing his home product, "Jumli Rakshi".

#### **10. 2070 Supp Set B Q. No. 12 b**

What is silajit? What are its uses? Explain. [3]

Please refer to **2075 Set C Q. No. 2a**

#### **11. 2070 Set C Q. No. 2 e**

What is Silajit? What are its medicinal uses? [3]

Please refer to **2075 Set C Q. No. 2a**

**12. 2069 Q. No. 1261**

Give a short account of the life of the people of Karnali? [3]

Please refer to **2075 GIE Q. No. 21**

**13. 2069 Partial Q. No. 12a**

What does the skeletal looking sal trees indicate about the exploitation of nature? Explain. [3]

Please refer to **2074 Partial E Q. No. 2f**

**14. 2068 Q. No. 12 a**

Describe briefly how Karnali is economically linked with the low land Terai.

Please refer to **2075 Partial D Q. No. 2b**

**15. 2066 Q. No. 12f**

Give a short account of the life of the people of Karnali as you find in "Hurried Trip to Avoid a Bad Star". [3]

Please refer to **2075 GIE Q. No. 21**

**16. 2063 Q. No. 12 b**

How is Karnali linked economically with the lowland regions to the south? [3]

Please refer to **2075 Partial D Q. No. 2b**

**17. 2061 Q. No. 10 a**

How is Karnali zone economically linked with the lowlands of southern Nepal?[3]

Please refer to **2075 Partial D Q. No. 26**

**18. 2059 Q. No. 2 b**

What did the two writers learn about the life and culture of the people of the Karnali region during their journey on foot? [3]

The two writers, who are American geographers, learn about the life and culture of the people of Karnali zone during their journey to the road less part of Nepal. They found them living a difficult life. Without access to the road facilities, people living in the region have to walk on foot to trade their products in Nepalgunj. Not only that, they work quite hard to make a living. They have their handicrafts to reflect their lives. They are deprived of modern facilities. The two writers find them trading their products in Nepalgunj on food. They write about the numbers of people processing silajit at night. They have also written about the disappeared husbands in pursuit of the jobs. While talking about their culture, the writers have found them religious, friendly, harmonized, united and traditional. They work in groups. They are traditional and, thus, hurry to avoid a bad star. The women wait for their husbands to wear them. They live a ritualistic life here.

**19. 2057 Q. No. 2e**

How is Karnali linked economically with the low land Regions to the south? [3]

Pease refer to **2075 Partial D. Q. No. 2b**



## Long Answer Questions

### 20. 2072 Supp Q. No. 3a

write a few paragraphs to show how Karnali Zone is economically linked to the lowland regions. Explain if any changes have taken place in Karnali regions since the text was written.

Karnali zone is economically linked to the low land regions to the south. Geographically Karnali zone is not development friendly. The stiff hills, rough mountains and high attitudes become the bar for smooth economic activities. So, people living in the region have to depend on Nepalgunj to run their business and economic activities since they are geographically linked too. They sell their home grown products like blankets, sweaters, hashish and medicinal herbs in Nepalgunj. Similarly, they find some temporary jobs there to support the family economically. On the other hand, Nepalgunj is a developed town. People living in Karnali fulfill their basic needs from the town. They buy iron wares, jewelries, biscuits, cotton, clothes, spice, aluminum and distillery equipment from the amount of money they have collected in Nepalgunj. Thus, Karnali supplies the raw materials and homegrown products that are demanded in Nepalgunj and Nepalgunj supplies the commodities needed in the districts of Karnali. Thus, they are economically dependent on each other. In this sense, Karnali is economically linked to the lowland region of the south. The text was written in the sixties with a hope that the region would change soon. Unfortunately there is not a noticeable change in the region. Almost half a century has passed away, people still live a very difficult life. Except few roads are made, there is no such change. They still import goods for their livelihood from Nepalgunj, the only market to them. They still depend on their handicrafts. No smooth transportation is seen and infrastructural development is still lacking. They depend on animal husbandry even today. Because of the civil war in the country, the helping hands like NGOS and INGOS have stopped working. Life in the region is thus still miserable.

### 21. 2072 Partial Set A Q. No. 3a

Write a paragraph or two to show how the remote Karnali zone is economically linked with the lowland regions to the south. [10]

Please refer to **2075 Partial D Q. No.**

### 22. 2072 Partial Set B Q. No. 3a

Present a short account of Karnali Zone, explaining how it is economically linked to the lowland region. Include if some changes have taken place there since the essay was written. [10]

Please refer to **2075 GIE Q. No. 21**

**23. 2071 Partial Set B Q. No. 13 a**

Write how Karnali is linked economically with the lowland regions to the south. [10]

The two American Geographers made their journey in the town of Nepalgunj so as to see how Karnali is economically linked to the low land region of the south. The main objective of their article, "The Hurried Trip to Avoid a Bad Star" is also to write about the economic linkage between these two connected two geographies. By their observation, they found Karnali totally linked in terms of economic activities. Its trade and business is seen as influenced and guided by the Southern Nepalgunj. Nepalgunj is its dealer by which they meet their needs at Karnali. To be precise, Karnali depends on Nepalgunj for the job, to sell their products and fulfill their demand of cotton, spice and sweets. Karnali zone is economically linked to the low land regions to the south. Geographically Karnali zone is stiff not development friendly. The hills, rough mountains and high attitudes become the bar for smooth economic activities. So, people living in the region have to depend on Nepalgunj to run their business and economic activities since they are geographically linked too. They sell their home grown products like blankets, sweaters, hashish and medicinal herbs in Nepalgunj. Similarly, they find some temporary jobs there to support the family economically. On the other hand, Nepalgunj is a developed town. People living in Karnali fulfill their basic needs from the town. They buy iron-wares, jewelries, biscuits, cotton, clothes, spice, aluminum and distillery equipment from the amount of money they have collected in Nepalgunj. Thus, Karnali supplies the raw materials and homegrown products that are demanded in Nepalgunj and Nepalgunj supplies the commodities needed in the districts of Karnali. Thus, they are economically dependent on each other. In this sense, Karnali is economically linked to the lowland region of the south.