



## II. Briefly comment on

1. The purpose of the author's journey to Mount Kailash.

Answer: Nick Middleton is an Oxford Professor as well as an adventurer. He follows the most difficult terrain through the Silk Road and reaches mount Kailash. He visits the holy place to complete the kora- going around the place.

2. The author's physical condition in Darchen.

Answer: The author was not physically well when he reached Darchen. His sinuses were blocked due to the cold wind at Hor and he was not able to sleep well at night. The next day Tsetan took him to the Darchen Medical College and the doctor there gave him some medicine that gave him some relief.

3. The author's meeting with Norbu.

Answer: The author was feeling rather lonely without Tsetan who had left for Lhasa. There weren't any pilgrims at Darchen as he had reached the place much early in the season. It was then he Norbu who was a Tibetan and also an academician. He too was there to visit Kailash and they decided to go there together.

4. Tsetan's support to the author during the journey.

Answer: Tsetan was a good and efficient driver. He drove the car very carefully. During the journey, he spoke to the author giving information about the places they were visiting. He was very caring. At Darchen when he found that the author was not well, he took him to the medical college and got medicine for him. He was a good Buddhist.

5. "As a Buddhist, he told me, he knew that it didn't really matter if I passed away, but he thought it would be bad for business."

Answer: Tsetan was a good Buddhist and believed that death was not the end of life. Kailash being a holy place it would be better for him as it would take him to heaven. Then if the author would die there, it would be bad for his business as his credibility will be at stake in looking after the tourists and later he may not get any customers.

## Talking about Text

### Discuss in groups of four

1. The sensitive behaviour of hill-folk.

Answer: The hill-folk are quite unsophisticated and innocent. People like Tsetan very religious and God-fearing. They are very much hospitable and take care of the visitors from out side.

2. The reasons why people willingly undergo the travails of difficult journeys.

Answer: The author was an academician, hence, he undertook the journey for the purpose of education. For him it was a learning experience. Secondly, people undertake such journeys because of the spirit of adventure. The areas covered by the author are some of the most difficult terrains in the world. The third can be a religious reason. People visit places like Mount Kailash as part of their pilgrimage.

3. The accounts of exotic places in legends and the reality.  
Answer: There are many accounts of exotic places in legends and the reality. Places like Mount Kailash, Manasarovar occupy a prominent place in legends. There are many articles written about these places.

Thinking about Language

2. What do the following utterances indicate?

(i) "I told her, through Daniel ..."

(ii) "It's a cold," he said finally through Tsetan.

Answer:

(i) She was not able to follow English but Daniel translated what he told in English in the Tibetan language to her.

(ii) The doctor spoke in Tibetan language, which Tsetan translated into English for the author.

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3. Guess the meaning of the following words.

kora, drokba, kyang

In which language are these words found?

Answer:

Kora: Walk all the way round, circumambulate

Droka: shepherd

Kyang: It is a wild Tibetan ass.

These words are found in Tibetan Language.

Working with Words

2. Explain the use of the adjectives in the following phrases.

(i) shaggy monsters

(ii) brackish lakes

(iii) rickety table

(iv) hairpin bend

(v) rudimentary general stores

Answer:

(i) shaggy monsters: hairy, unkempt

(ii) Brackish lakes: salty

(iii) Rickety table: wobbly, shaky

(iv) Hairpin bend: very sharp bend

(v) rudimentary general stores: elementary.

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