

A Sky Burial in Tibet

Lhamo's grandmother has died. When Lhamo was a young girl, her grandmother taught her to milk yak where they lived out on the grasslands, herding the yak as they grazed in the shadow of the Himalayan mountains.

The Tibetan Buddhist monks have been to the family's tent and chanted mantras and burned juniper. Lhamo's father used their precious financial resources to pay for this religious ceremony. Lhamo and her family are trying not to show any emotion which would indicate a worldly attachment, which is discouraged in their religion.

Tomorrow morning at dawn Grandmother's body will be carried up the hill through many flags to the sky burial site. The flags are believed to spread blessings which become a permanent part of the universe. Even as the images on the flags fade with time, old flags are left in

place and new ones erected, symbolizing life's changes in the great on-going cycle of life and rebirths.

Grandmother's body will be left up on the high flat rock to decompose and be eaten by the birds. Such a burial is considered an act of generosity and compassion as the body provides food for other living beings.

Lhamo has been taught that Grandmother's death is not the end of life. It is simply the end of the body she inhabited. Grandmother's consciousness will continue and seek out a new body to attach to. After an estimated 49 days, her consciousness will be reborn in another physical form. Where her consciousness is reborn depends on her lifetime of positive and negative actions, and the karma (cause and effect) she has earned by those actions.

HOW CAN WE PRAY?

Pray for Tibetan Buddhists to hear how Jesus describes that we can be born again.
(John 3:1-18)



Pray for Christians living in Tibetan Buddhist communities to share their hope for eternal life. (John 17:3)



Pray that Tibetan Buddhists will encounter the unending, unstoppable love of God.
(Romans 8:38-39)