Preserving Tibetan Cultural Heritage

As the situation deteriorated in Tibet, the odds for Akong Tulku’s refugee party looked more unfavourable each day of their perilous journey to India. Leaving behind the familiar and accommodating world of Eastern Tibet, which they had enjoyed and cherished for as long and their memories of which they had displaced and lost in the freezing winter of the southern mountain ranges of Tibet, all of a sudden fugitives in which they had enjoyed and cherished for as long as their memories reached, they now found themselves in distress, in Tibet and elsewhere.

The Gift of a Daughter

On 81 years old, Subhadra Butalia has written a succinct volume that she describes as ‘neither a memoir, nor a book about dowry’. Yet it is laced elements of both. Using names and stories of vicissitudes of history.

Tibetan heritage, which has proven to be so vulnerable to the texts. These collections will be entrusted to the care of ume collections: Tibetan medical texts and Kagyupa college texts. These efforts have so far resulted in two multi-vol-

Preserving Tibetan Cultural Heritage

Subhadra Butalia’s father was determined to marry her to a husband who would not expect or demand a dowry. At the time she married, soon after the independence of India in 1947, a bride might be nagged or grumbled at for little or no dowry, but there was none of this in a high-caste family. Hardeep had been sent back to her parents with a list of her husband’s dowry demands, but her parents decided she should be returned to her husband and in-laws. The blackmail continued until the par-

Tibetan Cultural Heritage

Subhadra Butalia’s father would have been proud of his courageous daughter’s many arduous years of helping victims, and of agitating for changes in the law and its enforcement. Too late for many like Hardeep and my friend Madhu, social workers like Butalia have raised our consciousness and made it possible for young women to question and protest at this pernicious insti-

I was with this defining experience in mind that Akong Tulku Riopche founded, in 1980, the humanitarian and organization Rokpa, which in Tibetan signifies ‘help’. Head-

Henk Blezer, Researcher at the CNWS

h.w.a.blezer@let.leidenuniv.nl

The Gift of a Daughter. Madhu, a lovely young Pun-

Pim Willems is secretary of Rokpa Nethertlands

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Tibetological Collections & Archives Series

The first copies were formally presented to the Kern Insti-

-by Pim Willems

The blackmail continued until the par-

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