The Bon Landscape of Dolpo, Nepal

Summary / Zusammenfassung

The study is a continuation of an earlier research in Dolpo on different aspects of rituals of Bon religion and their revitalisation that resulted in an MA thesis (Lizentiatsarbeit an der Universität Zürich) called "Mendrub – a Ritual for the Benefit of all Living Beings and the Empowerment of Medicine, performed in Tsho, Dolpo 1996". The research project started with an ethnographic study in the remote district of Dolpo in northwest Nepal and continued with text studies of local texts in Tibetan language. Dolpo - an enclave in which the Tibetan Bon religion survived various persecutions and still exists in an interesting mélange with the local unnamed religious practices is the main focus of the research. The central question concentrates on the mountain landscape that is inhabited by deities and carries traces of saints, who have been meditating at various sites of the area. The deities as well as the history of the saints have a strong influence on numerous aspects of life of the local community. The mythical stories of the sacred places and the biographies of the saints, which are inscribed into the landscape, reflect the history of immigration and settlement and can give some explanations of social patterns. In addition a study of the local lineages connected in one way or the other with the sacred sites will shed some light on the local history. The study shall provide an insight into the history and legends connected with the biographies of local lamas, the foundation of monasteries, the opening of pilgrimages and the Emergence of Bon in Dolpo.

Since the oral traditions of Dolpo are coupled with a written tradition ethnographic research is combined with text studies of the local written sources. For this reason translation work was carried out in Nepal, in Oxford with Charles Ramble and Tenpa Yungdrung and in Switzerland with a few specialists.


Publications / Publikationen


Keywords / Suchbegriffe
Nepal, Dolpo, Phoksumdo, pilgrimage, sacred landscape, sacred mountains, Anthropology of landscape, Bonpo, Bon religion, Bön Religion, religious masters, biographies, genealogies, Ringmo, Pungmo, Samling, Do-Tarap, Shey Riwo Drukta, Hurikot, Kaigaun, genealogies, Tibetan studies, local histories, Himalaya

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