

Day 52 -- We finally entered Nepal today. This morning the porters complained at what they were given to carry and I had to weigh every load and make them exactly alike before they would take them up. The four of us did not cross the border with them, but rather moved through the trees off a way and rejoined them down the road. Anzalone has shaved off his beard and moustache and we all now hide in the heavy Nepalese robes that they wear. We had little trouble -- we did come to a checkpoint where the guards seemed angry and wanted to know who we were, but when Anzalone gave our guide some coins and two bottles of the local spirit to pass on they were happy with that.

Day 57 -- The village of Pokhara. Tendruk lives here and won't go further north so we need another guide. We also need more supplies. The paper money we brought is useless, the people here don't want it and we're low on coins.

Day 59 -- We have a new guide, Yangser Chumpo, a Tibetan. Delnegro and I go with him to look at the way north and west while Anzalone and Quarrie stay in the village -- they feel the lack of air already.

Day 61 -- I have to say I need some real food -- we are living on rice and little else.

Day 63 -- Leave Pokhara and press on. The three of us, Delnegro, Chumpo, four porters and five yaks, each with a driver. The yaks are strong and evil-tempered beasts.

Day 65 -- Anzalone swapped jewelry he bought in India for potatoes, eggs and chicken. A feast.

Day 67 -- Finally made the river today.

Day 71 -- The village of Tukutcha.

Day 72 -- Today, by our reckoning, we entered Mustang. In the morning we will head to the Annapurna and start the search for Drakmar.

Day 73 -- It was a hard climb today and though Delnegro and I are fit, Quarrie and particularly Anzalone need much help. Their breathing is ragged and Anzalone complains of headaches and nausea.

Day 74 -- We head out from Anzalone's map reference. We split up: I lead one group to climb the dry valley, Delnegro takes the other over the other side of the ridge to the south. We walk all day and meet to camp as the light fails. It's very cold and hard going. No one lives up here -- there is nothing for anyone.

Day 75 -- We've found it. My group came across it at midday just where we thought it would be. The tall cliffs and the valley floor are painted orange and there are caves all around. Our porters have left, and although the guide stayed he will not camp in the valley. Anzalone is quite sick now -- he woke several times in the night saying he was suffocating.

Day 76 -- We entered Drakmar for the first time and there is script on the walls with drawings. In the fourth cave, a creature was watching us from shadows -- quite still -- a Tsotsowa. When I saw him he moved quietly away. Delnegro saw him then and he shouted and raised the gun but I stopped him. I said it must have been a monk or even one of the porters come back, but he does not believe that. He is very watchful now. Our guide left in the night. We went in again today and found fresh waste, and then human bones. Just jaws, which I think had been stripped by human teeth. There is a deep regular noise that can be heard (was it there all the time?) and the ground seems to tremble ever so slightly. It moves in rhythm with my own heart. I think I am close to panic. Delnegro insists we must leave the place and we agreed. He is packing everything as I write this and intends to watch all night. But none of us will leave.

what have you done in the dreams I saw the monster the root of all evil a dream and reality a nightmare or not and waking in a surge of fear and pleasure the three of us and he was a little way off they talked and when he looked around at me with his eyes I struck him down hit him again and again he took so long to fall I am looking at him now they were furious what have you done what have you done wasted hatred what have you done but how could he matter was he the white acolyte no what have you done no he lies still spread out before me a bloody cut of meat he waits for them and we with him they will come

a god a monster what have I done its out there a piece of the monster miri nigri what have I done what have I done what have I done what have I done what have I done what have I done what have I done