

One night in Manigange, and over the pass to Dege we go. . . (7/27/2007-7/29/2007)

From Yushu we arrived in Manigange late in the day after a much less eventful bus ride than our ride to Yushu. This gave us just enough time to explore this wild western Tibetan town, and find the bathroom which was located across the street and behind the building opposite our hotel. Perhaps it was put there to keep the stench of the pit toilets from permeating the rooms, although after 4 days without a shower my feet weren't a much better alternative. There seemed to be no running water in the town, to get water at the hotel we were directed to a tank on the back of a tractor truck parked in front of the adjoining restaurant. The next morning we hired a minivan to Dege, taking in the sacred lake of Yilhun Lhatso along the way, with the Brits we met in Yushu and 3 Chinese tourists. The lake was beautiful and fortunately the clouds slowly lifted to reveal the snow capped peaks surrounding it. From the lake the road climbs over the highest pass this side of the Himalayas at 5050 m or about 16,700 feet before descending into the town of Dege which is nestled in a steep river valley. Dege is most famous for its monastic library and printing house where scriptures are printed by hand with wood block stamps at a furious pace. The printing house is also an important pilgrimage site and there were a number of pilgrims circumambulating the building, prayer wheels in hand, making it a fascinating place to visit. In addition the printing house, the young monks in the adjoining monastery were full of energy, posing for the camera, and eager to show us around there quarters.



**Monastery above
Manigange**



**Boy with lama pictures
around his neck,
Manigange.**



Nun, Manigange



**Tibetan on a motorcycle, streets of
Manigange**



Yilhun Lhatso, holy lake, road to Dege.



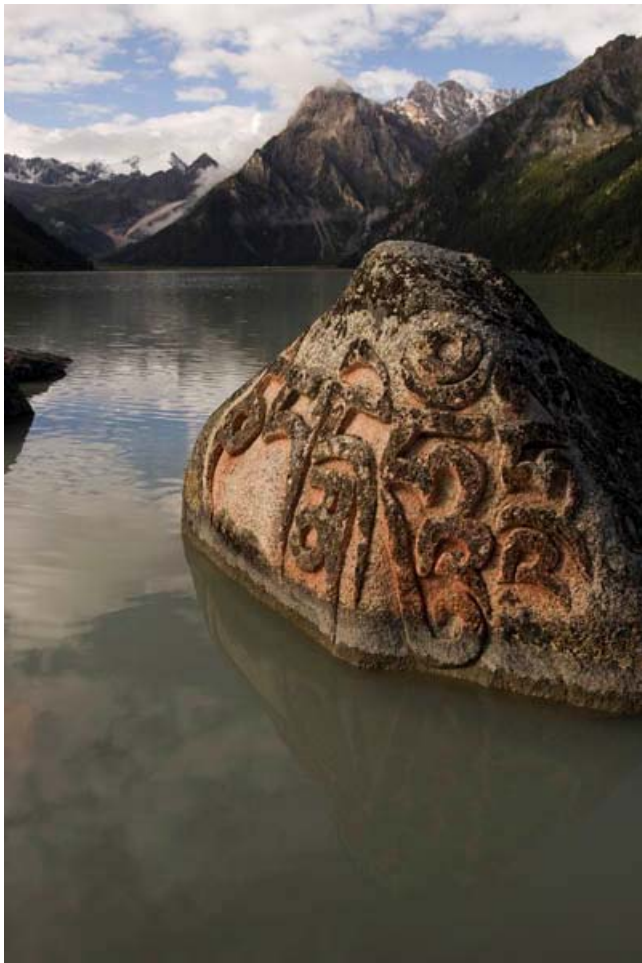
Yilhun Lhatso, holy lake, road to Dege.



Yilhun Lhatso, holy lake, road to Dege.



Yilhun Lhatso, holy lake, road to Dege.



Yilhun Lhatso, holy lake, road to Dege.



Josh and I at the top of the 5050 m (16,700 ft) pass on road to Dege.



Nomad tents and yaks on the road to Dege.



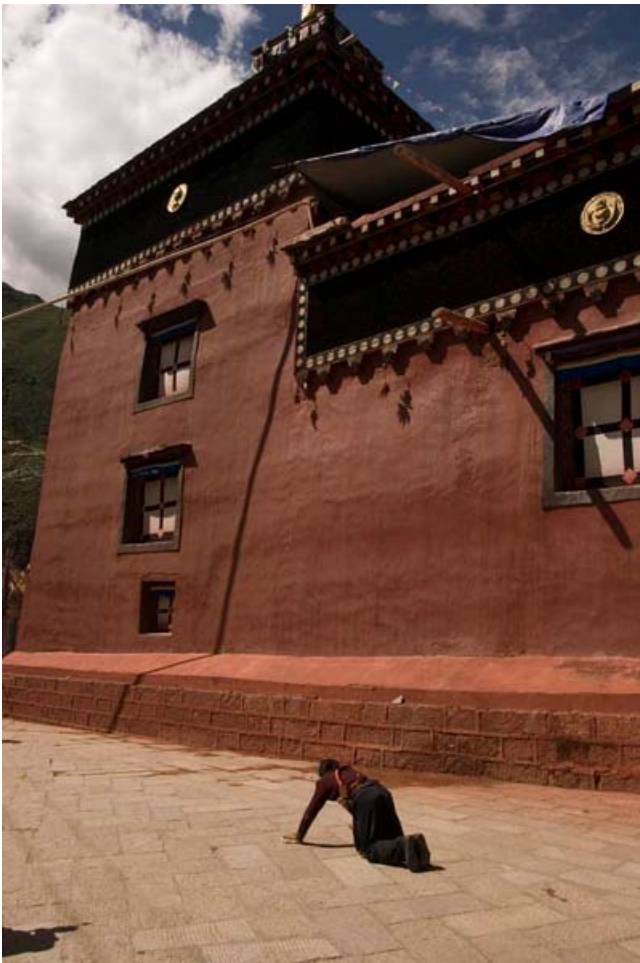
Switchbacks descending from the 5050 m pass on the road to Dege.



Monk on the road to Dege.



The road to Dege.



Pilgrim prostrating around the printing house in Dege.



Pilgrim with prayer wheel circumambulating the printing house in Dege.



Pilgrim circumambulating the printing house in Dege.



Workers printing scriptures from wood blocks at the printing house in Dege.



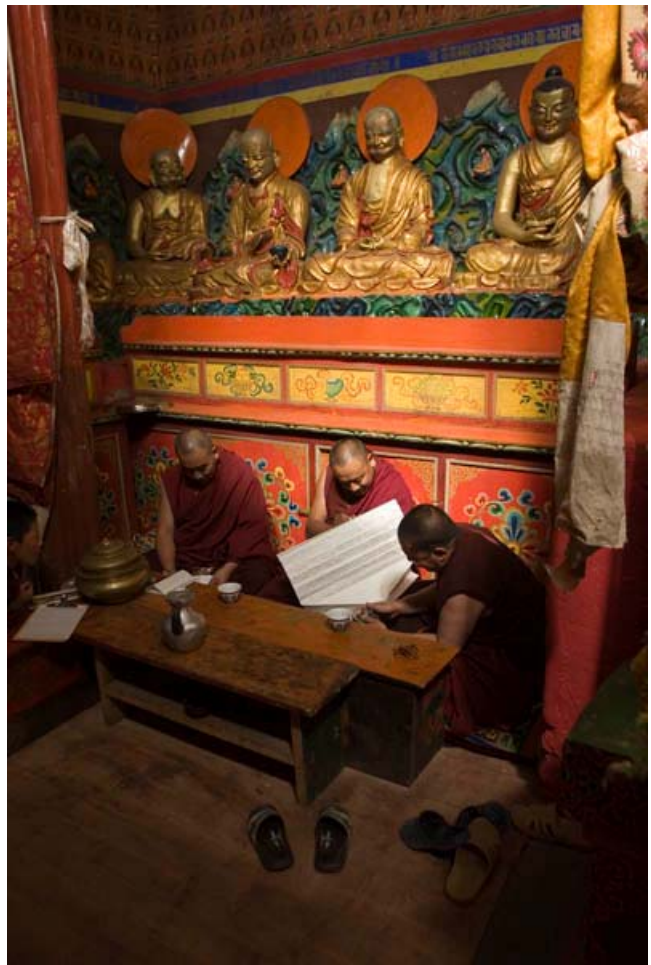
Young monks posing for pictures, Gangqing Monastery in Dege.



The new young lama at the Gangqing Monastery in Dege.



Icon of Padmasambhava, Gangqing Monastery in Dege.



Monk, Gangqing Monastery in Dege.