

DECHEN & DORJI GO GYALSUNG

CHAPTER TWO (WHO IS ELIGIBLE?)



IT IS LATE AFTERNOON, DECHEN AND DORJI ARE LEAVING THE SCHOOL AND GOING HOME. JUST OUTSIDE THEY MEET DECHEN'S FATHER- GYEMBO (A TEACHER AT THE SCHOOL) AND YOUNGER BROTHER TASHI.

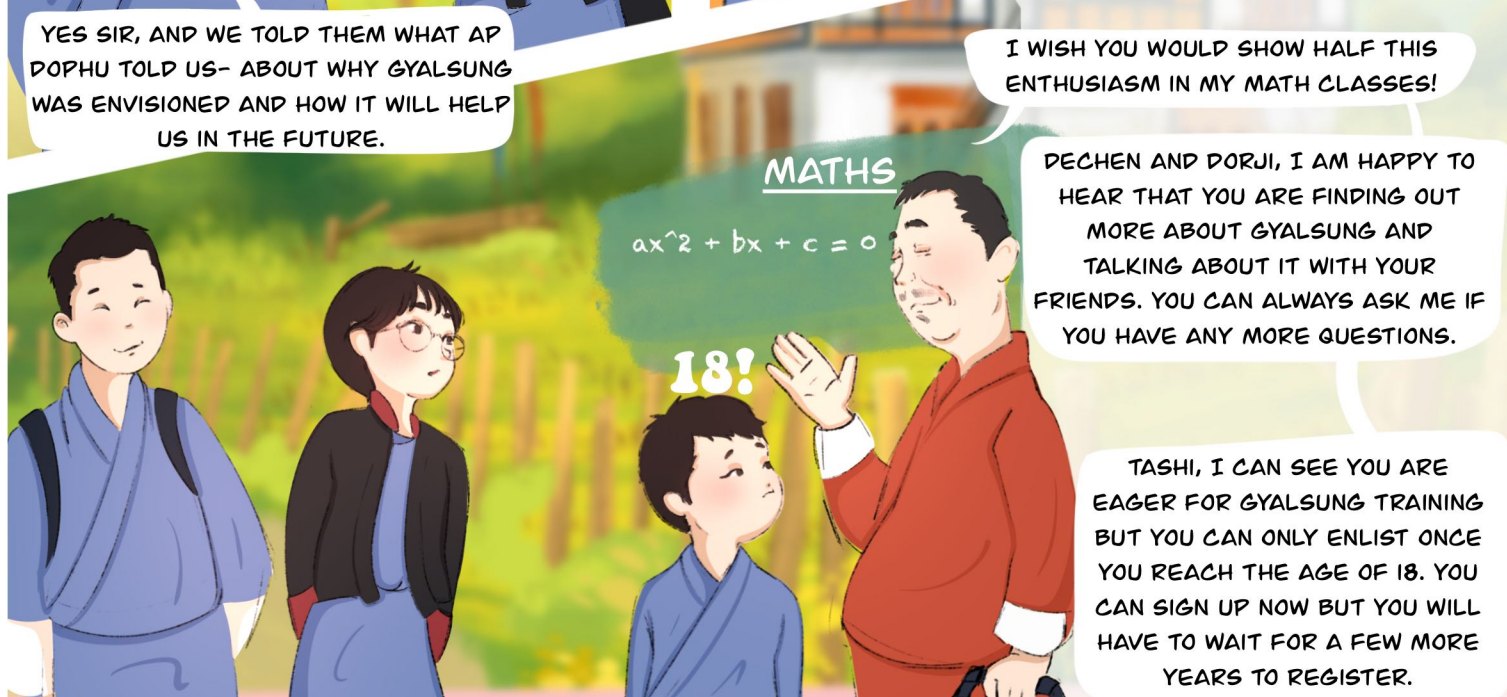


APA APA! DORJI AND I WERE JUST TALKING TO OUR FRIENDS ABOUT GYALSUNG.

YES SIR, AND WE TOLD THEM WHAT AP DOPHU TOLD US- ABOUT WHY GYALSUNG WAS ENVISIONED AND HOW IT WILL HELP US IN THE FUTURE.



IT'S NOT FAIR! I WANT TO JOIN GYALSUNG IMMEDIATELY. WHY DO ASHIM AND ACHO GET TO GO AND I HAVE TO WAIT FOR 3 MORE YEARS?



I WISH YOU WOULD SHOW HALF THIS ENTHUSIASM IN MY MATH CLASSES!

DECHEN AND DORJI, I AM HAPPY TO HEAR THAT YOU ARE FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT GYALSUNG AND TALKING ABOUT IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS. YOU CAN ALWAYS ASK ME IF YOU HAVE ANY MORE QUESTIONS.

TASHI, I CAN SEE YOU ARE EAGER FOR GYALSUNG TRAINING BUT YOU CAN ONLY ENLIST ONCE YOU REACH THE AGE OF 18. YOU CAN SIGN UP NOW BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR A FEW MORE YEARS TO REGISTER.



BUT APA I HEARD SOME PEOPLE CAN GO BEFORE THEY TURN 18



OH YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT EARLY ENLISTMENT. YOU ARE ONLY ELIGIBLE FOR THAT IF YOU ARE MORE THAN 16 AND A HALF YEARS OLD, HAVE COMPLETED CLASS 12 AND HAVE THE CONSENT OF YOUR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS.



SINCE YOU HAVE NONE OF THOSE REQUIREMENTS, APA SUGGESTS WAITING TILL YOU ARE 17 TO SIGN UP FOR GYALSUNG.

DECHEN AND DORJI LAUGH AT TASHI'S FORLORN FACE.



IS THAT THE TIME? LET'S HEAD HOME AND CONTINUE THIS DISCUSSION WITH YOUR MOTHER AS WELL.



WHAT ARE YOU GUYS CHATTERING ABOUT?

WE ARE GOING FOR GYALSUNG AMA. I AM A LITTLE NERVOUS ABOUT THE BMT BUT WE LEARNED THAT THERE WILL BE NATIONAL EDUCATION AND SKILLING PROGRAMS AS WELL.

BUT I HEARD GYALSUNG TRAINING WILL TAKE PLACE IN ACADEMIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. YOU TWO HAVE NEVER EVEN SPENT A NIGHT AWAY FROM HOME. APA, WILL THEY BE OK ON THEIR OWN?



I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HOW GYALSUNG TRAINING SHAPES OUR CHILDREN AND EMPOWERS THEM TO BE WORTHY AND PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS.



DECHEN AND TASHI WILL BE 18 YEARS OLD WHEN THEY JOIN GYALSUNG, NO LONGER CHILDREN. NOT ONLY IS THIS AN IMPORTANT RITE OF PASSAGE, THEY WILL LEARN DISCIPLINE, TIME-MANAGEMENT AND OTHER CRUCIAL LIFE SKILLS. I KNOW YOU'RE WORRIED BUT THIS EXPERIENCE WILL SHAPE THEM INTO THE TYPE OF ADULTS THEY WILL BECOME.



AND I CAN'T WAIT TO PRACTICE DRILLS WITH 100'S OF MY NEW FRIENDS!



AS NIGHT FALLS, THE FAMILY LAUGHS AND SETTLES INTO THEIR MEALS.



TO BE CONTINUED...