

**MAIN POINTS**

- The writer describes the thrilling but difficult journey through the Tibetan Himalayas.
- The narrator left Ravu with Tsetan and Daniel.
- They headed towards Mount Kailash to complete the Kora.
- Tsetan knew the local routes quite well.
- As they moved on nothing could be seen except a few gazelles, a herd of wild asses and black Tibetan dogs.
- They gained height and were at 5210 metres above sea level.
- The road was blocked with snow. The narrator and Daniel stayed out of the vehicle.
- Tsetan managed to drive through with some difficulty.
- By afternoon they reached the small town of Hor. It is on the old trade route from Lhasa to Kashmir.
- It was a dull and miserable place with a lot of accumulated refuse.
- It was dark by the time they reached Darchen.
- The narrator suffered from a bad cold. One of his nostrils got clogged. He gasped for oxygen. He spent a miserable sleepless night.
- After taking medicines from a Tibetan doctor he felt relieved.
- The narrator met Norbu in Darchen in a cafe. Norbu worked in the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.
- They became friends. For the narrator Norbu turned out to be an ideal companion for the kora.

**MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS**

- Who is the writer of 'Silk Road' ?**
  - Kate Middleton
  - Markus Natten
  - Nick Middleton
  - Khushwant Singh
- What floated in the morning sky when the writer left Ravu?**
  - A cloud
  - Half moon
  - Full moon
  - The sun
- Clouds have been compared to.....**
  - Cotton balls
  - White trees
  - Ice cream
  - Long French loaves
- When did Lhamo give the writer a present?**
  - When he was leaving Ravu
  - When he had arrived into Ravu
  - When he stayed down in Ravu
  - When he met Lhamo
- What is meant by Kora?**
  - Monastery
  - Temple
  - Circumambulation
  - Mountain
- What was the present that Lhamo gave the writer?**
  - Cake
  - Sweater
  - Cheese
  - Sheepskin coat
- Kyang is.....**
  - Wild horse
  - Wild ass
  - Wild heep
  - Wild bear
- Which mountains Kora was the writer going for?**
  - Kanchenjunga
  - Himalayas
  - Everest
  - Kailash
- Drokbass are.....**
  - Sheep
  - Wild asses
  - Yaks
  - Nomadic herders
- Drokbass were only.....**
  - Men
  - Women
  - Boys
  - Both men & women
- What is a Tibetan mastiff?**
  - Horse
  - Guard dog
  - Sheep
  - Yak
- Who have been called shaggy monsters?**
  - Tibetan mastiff
  - Pomeranian
  - Yaks
  - Sheep
- Who has been compared to a bullet from a gun?**
  - Drokbass
  - Sheep
  - kyang
  - Tibetan mastiff

14. **How far would the Tibetan dogs usually chase the car in which the writer was travelling?**
  - a. A hundred metres
  - b. A hundred and 50 metres
  - c. 50 metres
  - d. 200 metres
15. **The Tibetan mastiff dogs had become popular in Chinese imperial courts as:**
  - a. Lap dogs
  - b. Toy dogs
  - c. Sheep dogs
  - d. Hunting dogs
16. **The writer felt pressure building up in his ears due to:**
  - a. High altitude
  - b. Snow
  - c. Cold
  - d. Bumpy ride
17. **The snow wasn't too deep yet the danger lay in the fact that:**
  - a. It lay on both sides of the road
  - b. Tsetan stamped his foot on it
  - c. It was melting
  - d. If the car slipped it could turn over
18. **Tsetan grabbed handfuls of dirt and flung on the frozen surface because**
  - a. He wanted to make the road dirty
  - b. Dirt would help to drive the car without slipping
  - c. He wanted to pass time
  - d. None
19. **The writer travelled for the Kora in which vehicle?**
  - a. A 3 wheeler
  - b. A 3 wheeler
  - c. A 4 wheeler
  - d. He just walked
20. **The writer's head begin to throb horribly as they drove up due to:**
  - a. The ascent
  - b. High climb
  - c. The increasing altitude
  - d. All
21. **To get relief from the throbbing pain in his head due to the rapid ascent the writer:**
  - a. Slept off
  - b. Had medicines
  - c. Rested
  - d. Drank water from his bottle
22. **When Tsetan partially unscrewed the petrol tank it hissed due to:**
  - a. Low atmospheric pressure
  - b. Expansion in the fuel
  - c. Fuel expansion occurring due to low atmospheric pressure
  - d. All
23. **The hissing petrol tank sounded dangerous to the writer; what did Tsetan warn him against?**
  - a. Cold weather
  - b. Snow
  - c. Bad weather
  - d. Smoking
24. **What did the writer and his companions eat for lunch?**
  - a. Hot soup
  - b. Hot noodles
  - c. Hot momos
  - d. Fried rice
25. **Which ocean bordered Tibet, before the great continental collision?**
  - a. Indian
  - b. Pacific
  - c. Tethys
  - d. Atlantic
26. **The town of Hor lay on the old trade route from Lhasa to.....?**
  - a. China
  - b. Bhutan
  - c. Tibet
  - d. Kashmir
27. **What were the blue trucks carrying from the White lake in the Tibetan plateau?**
  - a. Salt
  - b. Snow
  - c. Sugar
  - d. Fish
28. **Where was Daniel returning back to?**
  - a. Kathmandu
  - b. Thimphu
  - c. Lhasa
  - d. Tibet
29. **The tyre which was used to replace the second punctured tyre was as smooth as**
  - a. Silk
  - b. Writer's bald head
  - c. Glass
  - d. Pebble
30. **The small town of Hor has been described as**
  - a. Grim
  - b. Miserable
  - c. Dusty
  - d. All
31. **The drive down from the salt lake resulted in..... successive punctures.**
  - a. One
  - b. Two
  - c. Three
  - d. Four
32. **Tibet's most respected and venerated stretch of water body is considered to be the**
  - a. Brahmaputra
  - b. Mansarovar
  - c. Ganga
  - d. Yangtse
33. **Ancient Hindu and Buddhist cosmology assets Mansarovar as the source of .....**
  - a. The Indus
  - b. The Ganges
  - c. The Brahmaputra
  - d. All

34. In reality the Mansarovar is the source of only...
- River Indus
  - River Sutlej
  - River Ganga
  - River Brahmaputra
35. The river..... arises from the flanks of Mount Kailash.
- Indus
  - Mansarovar
  - Ganga
  - Yamuna
36. Where did the writer go to have tea in Hor?
- A restaurant
  - A hotel
  - A Tibetan household
  - A cafe
37. From the cafe the writer had a good view of
- Mount Kailash
  - Salt flats
  - Lake Mansarovar
  - The town of Hor
38. The only cafe in Hor had three broken...
- Chair
  - Doors
  - Windows
  - Tables
39. Who served tea to the writer in the cafe of Hor?
- Tsetan
  - Daniel
  - A Tibetan monk
  - A Chinese youth in military uniform
40. Ekai Kawaguchi was a ....
- Japanese monk
  - Chinese monk
  - Tibetan monk
  - A monk from Hor
41. Ekai Kawaguchi was so moved by the sanctity of Lake Mansarovar that he.....
- Dived into it
  - Swam in it
  - Became speechless
  - Burst into tears
42. Sven Hedin was from...
- Switzerland
  - Russia
  - Sweden
  - Denmark
43. Lake Mansarovar had similar effect on Ekai Kawaguchi and Sven Hedin.They:
- Burst into laughter
  - Burst into tears
  - Became speechless
  - Jumped into it
44. In Darchen the writer stayed at a.....
- Hotel
  - Cottage
  - Homestay
  - Guest house
45. The writer had a terribly troubled night at
- Hor
  - Lhasa
  - Ravu
  - Darchen
46. Which nocturnal disturbance troubled the writer?
- Fever
  - Blood pressure
  - Blocked nostrils
  - Headache
47. Why did the author stay up the whole night in Darchen?He was..
- Hungry
  - Tired
  - Excited
  - Unable to breathe
48. Where was the writer taken the following morning of his arrival in Darchen?
- Dispensary
  - Cafe
  - Guesthouse
  - Medical College
49. The darchen medical college looked like a.....
- Temple
  - Monastery
  - Hotel
  - Guest house
50. The Darchen Medical College had been built...
- A long time ago
  - Not so long ago
  - 10 years ago
  - Recently

#### ANSWER KEY

- 1-c, 2-b, 3-d, 4-a, 5-c, 6-d, 7-b  
 8-d, 9-d, 10-d, 11-b, 12-a, 13-d, 14-a,  
 15-d, 16-a, 17-d, 18-b, 19-c, 20-d, 21-d,  
 22-d, 23-d, 24-b, 25-c, 26-d, 27-a, 28-c,  
 29-b, 30-d, 31-c, 32-b, 33-d, 34-b, 35-c,  
 36-d, 37-c, 38-c, 39-d, 40-a, 41-d, 42-c,  
 43-b, 44-d, 45-d, 46-c, 47-d, 48-d, 49-b,  
 50-d

#### VERY SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What did Norbu tell the writer when he came to know of the writer's purpose to be in Darchen?
- Ans. Norbu said that they could be a team and that they were two academics who had escaped from the library.
2. What gave Norbu the idea that the writer knew English?
- Ans. From writer's English novel.
3. Why was Darchen not bustling with visitors at the time?
- Ans. Because it was too early during the pilgrimage time.
4. Why was the writer unable to sleep at Darchen?
- Ans. He had caught a cold from Hor, it had become worse in Darchen.
5. What caused suspicion in the writer's mind that the trail for Kora might not be free of

**snow?**

Ans. He saw dirty ice chunks clinging to the banks of Darchen's brook.

**6. The walls and ceiling of the cafe in Darchen was covered in.....**

Ans. multi coloured plastic sheets

**7. Who was Norbu?**

Ans. He was a Tibetan who was a non practising Buddhist.

**8. Where did Norbu work?**

Ans. In Beijing at the Chinese academy of social sciences, in the institute of Ethnic Literature.

**9 Why was the Kora going to be hard for Norbu?**

Ans. Because he was fat

**10. Who were the two academics to have escaped from the library?**

Ans. The writer and Norbu

### SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

**1. How did the writer come to know that Norbu was as ill-equipped for kora as the writer himself?**

Ans. Norbu kept telling the writer how hard the kora would be. Considering the high altitude the walk would be difficult, for a person as fat as him.

**2. What led the writer to conclude that norbu was not a local?**

Ans. Norbu's Western dressing style, especially his wind-cheater and metal rimmed spectacles gave the writer this idea.

**3. How did the writer's reflection led him to conclude that Norbu would be his ideal companion for the kora?**

Ans. Norbu had a practical approach towards doing the Kora. He suggested that they should hire yaks to carry the luggage. He laughed off the writer's question of prostrating himself all around the Kailash mountain saying that his big tummy would not allow it.

**4. What impression did the writer form of Hor?**

Ans. The writer had great expectations of Hor, as he had read the accounts of early travellers how they had been emotionally moved by their first sight of Lake Mansarovar. But he found Hor to be a grim,

miserable rocky and dirty place with no vegetation.

**5. How can the salt flats on the Tibetan plateau be explained?**

Ans. The salt flats are the remnants of the ancient Tethys Ocean, resulting from being pushed upwards due to the great continental collision, millions of years ago.

### LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

**1. Give a short summary of the chapter Silk Road in your own words.**

Ans. The writer/narrator Nick Middleton, a British geographer, was going for a Kora or pilgrimage to Mount Kailash which involves circumambulation (parikrama) of the mountain. In Ravu he was presented a long full-sleeved sheepskin coat by Lhamo, the lady who had provided accommodation. She knew it would be extremely cold higher up. Tsetan is the owner of the car hired by the author for the journey. Daniel, another character, had to travel to Lhasa. The three set out from a shortcut in the mountains that Tsetan knew. He said that the journey would be smooth if there was no snow on the way. They saw gazelles, wild asses (kyang), Tibetan mastiffs, local herdsman, on the way. By late afternoon they reached Hor, a small town on the shore of Lake Mansarovar. Daniel proceeded towards Lhasa. Tsetan got two flat tyres repaired. The writer found Hor to be a dirty and miserable place. Due to excessive human activity it had ceased to be a holy place. They reached Darchen in the night and stayed in a guest house. Due to blocked nostrils the writer could not sleep. Tsetan took him to the Darchen Medical College hospital. The doctor gave him five days' medication. Tsetan left for Lhasa. The writer realised that despite it being the pilgrimage season, he had arrived too early for the kora. Luckily he met Norbu who worked at the Chinese academy of social sciences in Beijing. Both of them decided to do the Kora together.

**2. Describe the writer's health condition in Darchen.**

Ans. The writer had a miserable night at Darchen. His cold worsened, and the night became longer for him. He was unable to breathe so he started breathing through his mouth. Then he switched to one nostril breathing and fell asleep; only to be awake again. This went on the entire night. Next morning the doctor diagnosed his condition as a cold and the effect of high altitude.



**3. Create a word picture of Norbu.**

Ans. Norbu was a non-practicing Tibetan Buddhist who worked at the Chinese academy of social sciences, in Beijing. The writer met him at the only cafe in Darchen. He had come for a kora too. He was quite enthusiastic about the kora but admitted good humouredly that his tummy was too big to allow him to prostrate on the ground. He was a practical man and suggested that they hire yaks to carry the luggage. He was a learned man, having written academic papers on Kailash Kora.