

འགྱུར་བ།

Jurwa 2

Changing Times

©Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy, 2017

All rights reserved

Executive Producer

Soik Sian Pek-Dorji

Consultant Script & Production

John Mohammad Butt

Script

Siok Sian Pek-Dorji
Jigme Choden
Jigme Choden (Tshotsho)
Pem Seday
Pem Gyeltshen

Artists

Tempa Rabgay
Wang Rana Gurung
Yeshi Wangchuk
Kunzang Wangmo
Thimphu Comics
VAST Bhutan

No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, microfilming, recording, or otherwise, without the permission from the publisher.

This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are either the product of the publishers' imagination or are used fictitiously and if any resemblance to any person, living or dead, events or communities are purely coincidental.

The production of Jurwa radio drama and graphic novel is supported by DIPD.
Printing of this publication is funded by BDD.

A Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy publication
PO Box 1662, Thimphu, Bhutan

Printed at Kuensel Corporation Limited

www.bcmbd.bt

Democracy is not just about voting every five years. Democracy is our daily thoughts and actions. Democracy is dealing with change.

Bhutan's transition to democracy might have been smooth and peaceful, but it hasn't come without adversities. Democratic politics even in Bhutan has been laden with conflicts and division in the families and communities.


Bhutan's experience with process of democratisation has also proven as challenging as in other democracies, though not in the same degree. But these are the tensions of change that needs to be understood and overcome in the process of political maturity and growth of democracy. That is why it is exciting and, ultimately, fulfilling to be able to make a difference to Bhutan's system of governance at this time.

As the Bhutanese can vote at the age of 18, every teenager should take interest in discussions to be able to make informed decisions and understand the role of a citizen in democracy.

Jurwa: Changing Times in Gakithang - is a graphic novel based on a radio soap series that BCMD created to reflect the stories of a cross section of people who were at the cusp of democratic change. BCMD worked with political candidates, government officials, youth, and citizens who shared their experiences, concerns, and aspirations from Bhutan's evolving system of governance.

This is the story of Bhutan, in contemporary times. As responsible citizens, we want to ensure the success of this path that we have chosen, towards good governance. We urge you to continue discussing our transition to democracy and your feedback is welcomed.

Reach us at bcmd@bcmd.bt/facebook/twitter.



**PEMA NORBU'S
GROCERY SHOP**

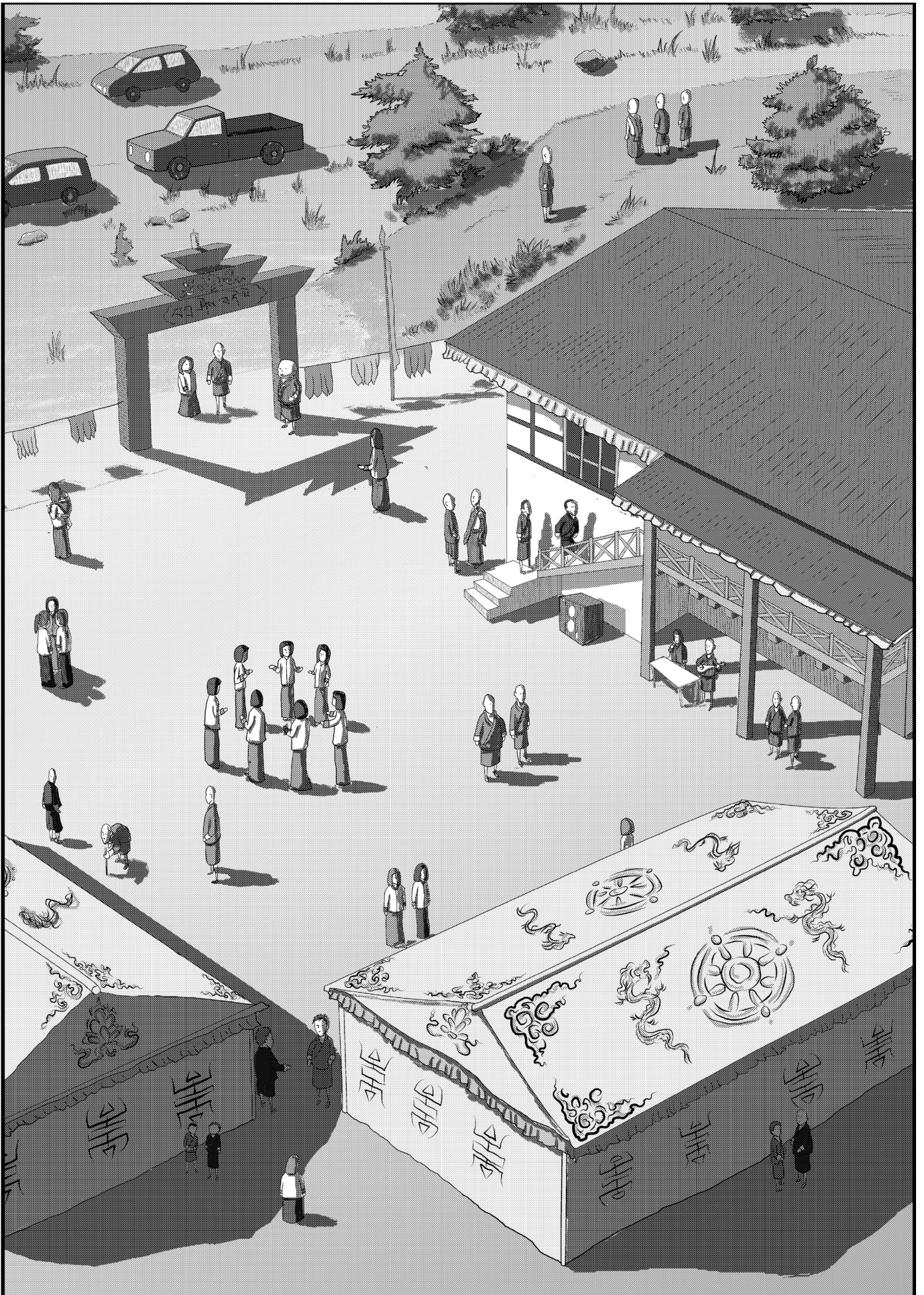
**CHIMPU'S
DRAYANG AND
ENTERTAINMENT**

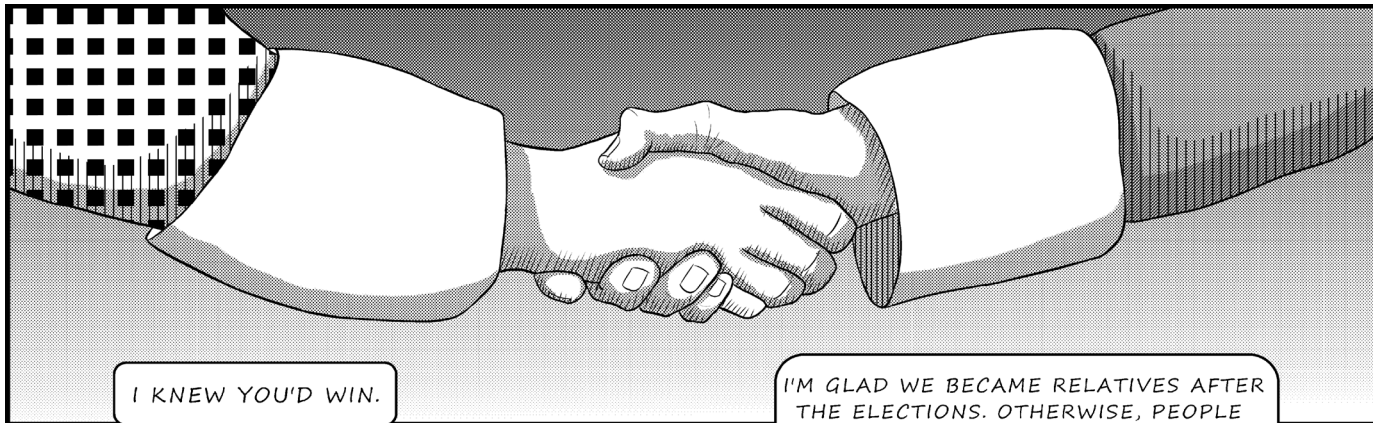
TEMPAX

**ND
MENT**

**WANG'S
COFFEE**







I KNEW YOU'D WIN.

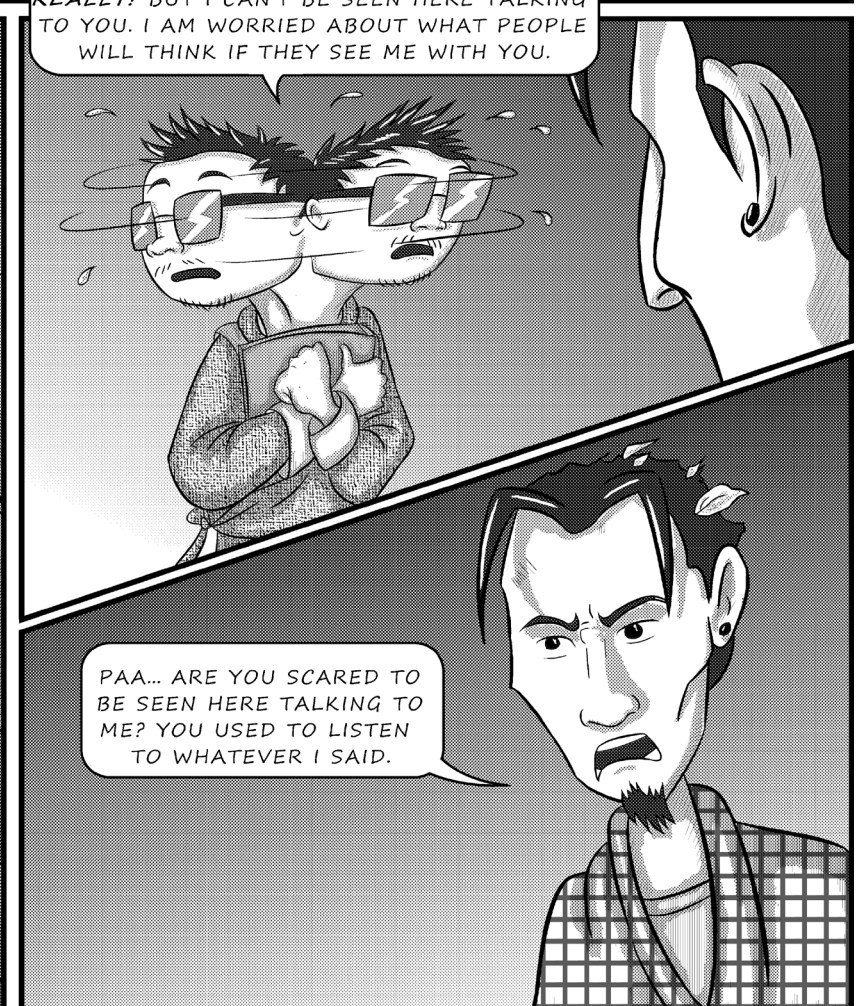
I'M GLAD WE BECAME RELATIVES AFTER THE ELECTIONS. OTHERWISE, PEOPLE WOULD THINK YOU VOTED FOR ME BECAUSE WE WERE RELATED.



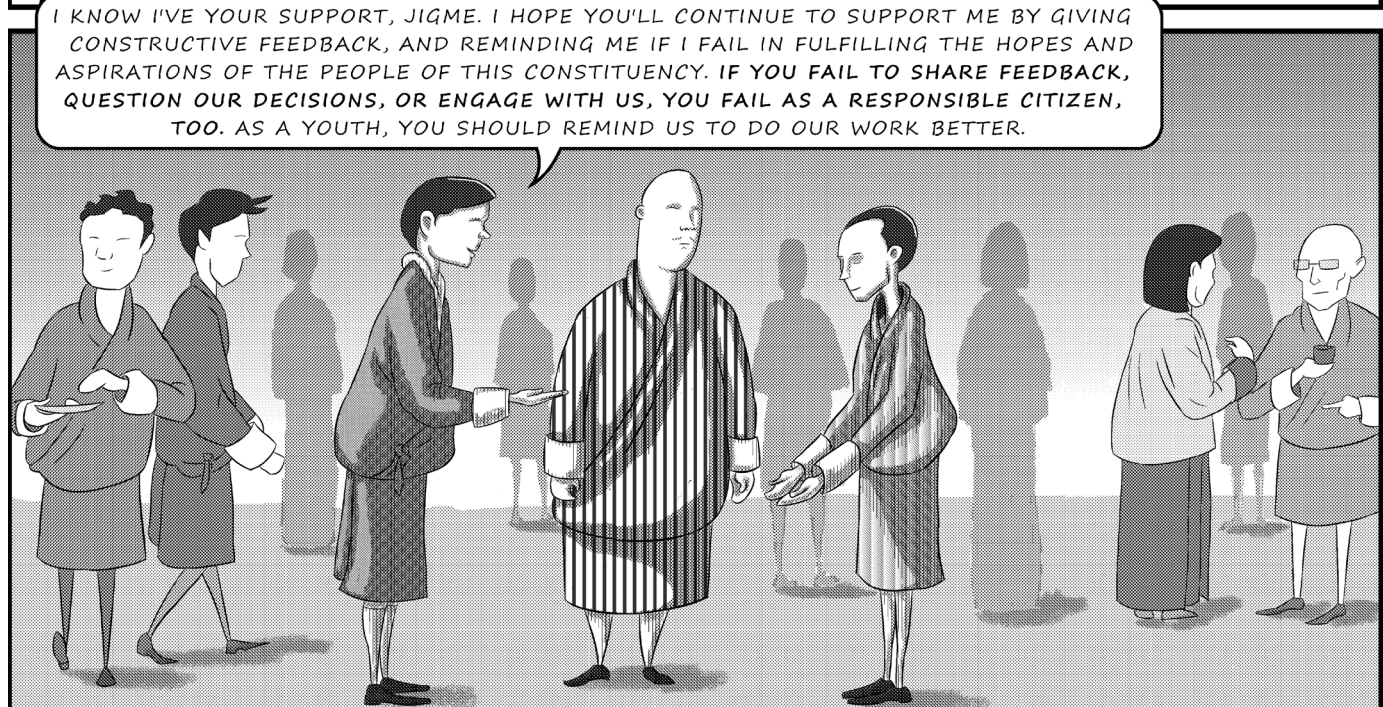
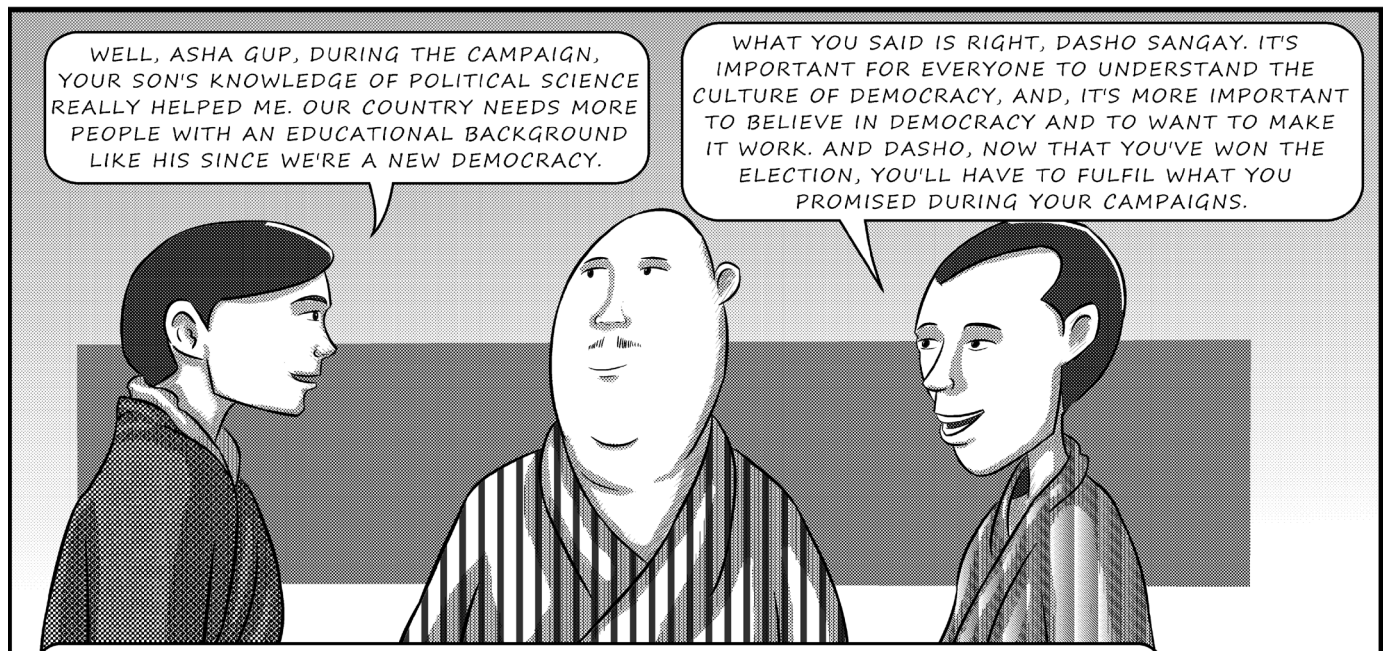
NOW THAT WE'RE RELATED THROUGH MARRIAGE, I'LL HAVE TO THINK TWICE BEFORE I VOTE IN THE FUTURE. I'LL VOTE FOR YOU ONLY IF YOU PROVE YOURSELF NOT BECAUSE WE ARE RELATED.

EXACTLY, YOU SHOULD VOTE FOR THE RIGHT CANDIDATE AND NOT YOUR RELATIVE. I'M SO HAPPY TODAY, NOT JUST BECAUSE IT'S MY WEDDING DAY BUT THE CELEBRATIONS ARE EVEN MERRIER SINCE YOUR AND SEDAY'S PROBLEMS ARE SETTLED.









EVERYONE IS CALLING ON PHENTO TO SING AND DANCE.

PLEASE BE QUIET!
I'VE STOPPED SINGING.
YOU HAVE TO GIVE THE
DRAYANG GIRLS AN
OPPORTUNITY TO DO
THEIR WORK.



THE DRAYANG GIRLS HAVE LEFT!

IT'S NOT FUNNY. TODAY'S
OCCASSION IS TO CELEBRATE
A MARRIAGE AND I'VE COME
TO BLESS THE COUPLE.

NOO....I'VE REALLY GIVEN UP SINGING.
I AM ALMOST ENLIGHTENED NOW!

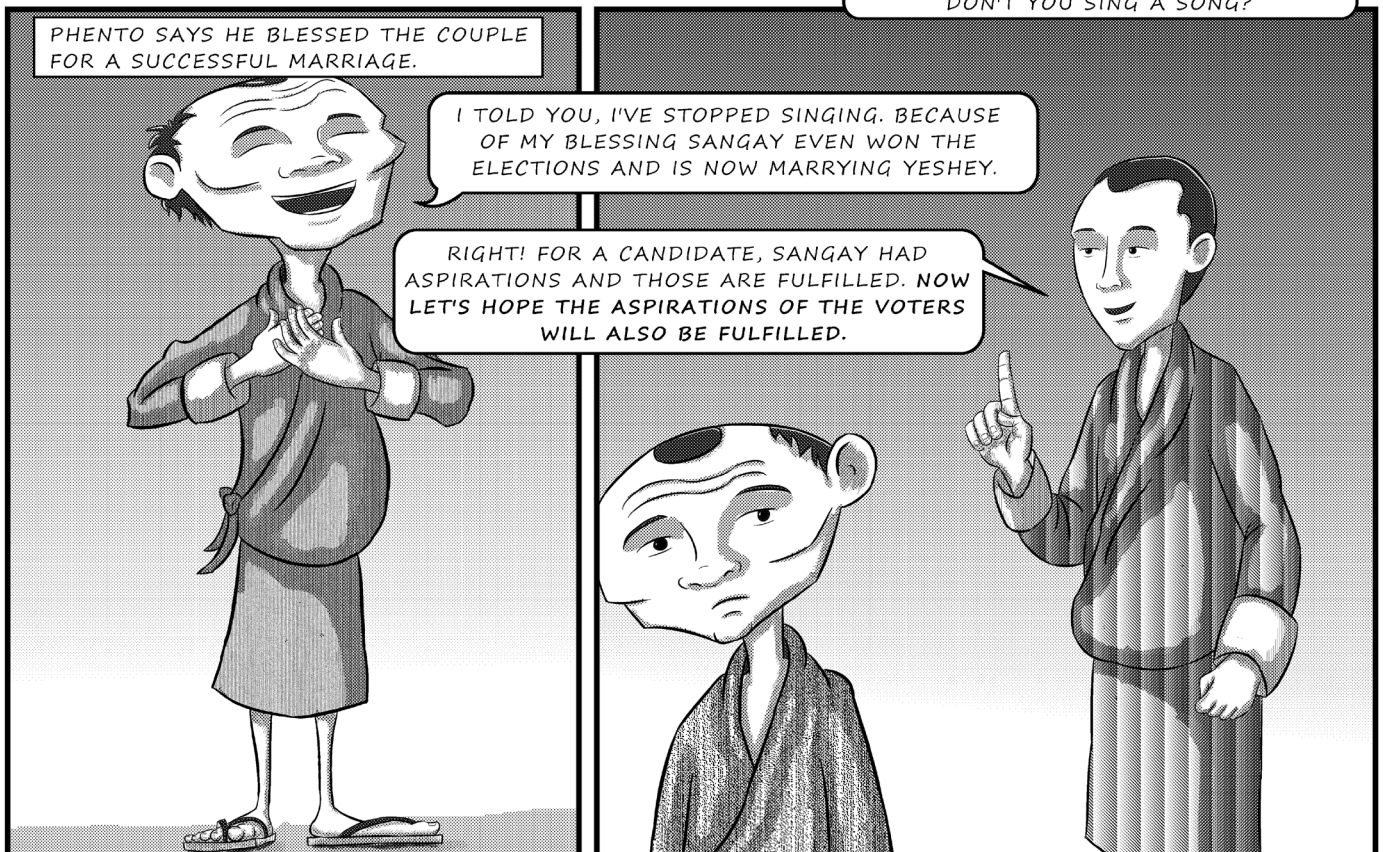


BUT PHENTO, THE LAMA HAS ALREADY
BLESSED THE COUPLE, SO INSTEAD WHY
DON'T YOU SING A SONG?

PHENTO SAYS HE BLESSED THE COUPLE
FOR A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE.

I TOLD YOU, I'VE STOPPED SINGING. BECAUSE
OF MY BLESSING SANGAY EVEN WON THE
ELECTIONS AND IS NOW MARRYING YESHEY.

RIGHT! FOR A CANDIDATE, SANGAY HAD
ASPIRATIONS AND THOSE ARE FULFILLED. NOW
LET'S HOPE THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE VOTERS
WILL ALSO BE FULFILLED.



AUM PEMA IS WORRIED THERE WILL BE PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT HAPPY WITH SANGAY'S SUCCESS IN THE ELECTIONS AND THE HAPPY COUPLE'S MARRIAGE.

THIS IS NO WAY TO FEEL OR TALK ON SUCH A HAPPY OCCASION. IT'S YOUR SON'S WEDDING. BE HAPPY AND SUPPRESS SUCH THOUGHTS.

I HEAR YESHEY IS INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR THE LOCAL ELECTIONS? THOSE WHO ARE UNHAPPY WILL BE MORE UNHAPPY.

WANGCHUK TALKS TO KINCHO WHO LOST TO SANGAY IN THE ELECTIONS. WANGCHUK ASKS ABOUT SANGAY'S LAVISH WEDDING.

WANGCHUK, WHAT A GRAND WEDDING! WE HAVE MANY PRETTY GIRLS WITH GOOD VOICES IN THE VILLAGE, YET THEY GOT SINGERS AND DANCERS FROM THE DRAYANG, ALL THE WAY FROM THIMPHU. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SUCH BIG WEDDING IS TAKING PLACE IN THIS VILLAGE.

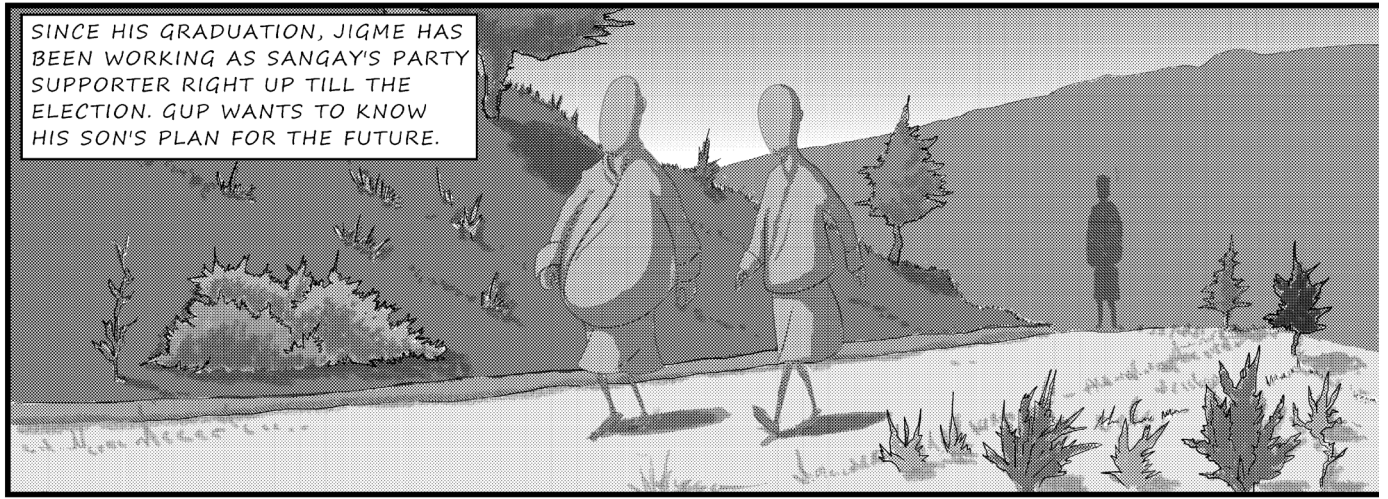
SANGAY'S GRAND WEDDING IS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM BEING THE NEW MP. KINCHO THINKS SANGAY WON THE ELECTIONS BECAUSE OF HIS WEALTH.

SANGAY SPENT A LOT OF MONEY DURING THE CAMPAIGNS AND ALSO BRIBED PEOPLE TO ENSURE HIS WIN. THERE WAS NO WAY HE WOULD WIN AGAINST ME.

BUT THE PEOPLE VOTED HIM IN AND ALL THE MONEY HE SPENT IS NOW ALL REPAID, RIGHT? DO YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF PRESENTS WAS GIVEN TO THE NEWLY-WEDS? I'M SURE YOU BROUGHT A PRESENT TOO. WHAT IS IT?

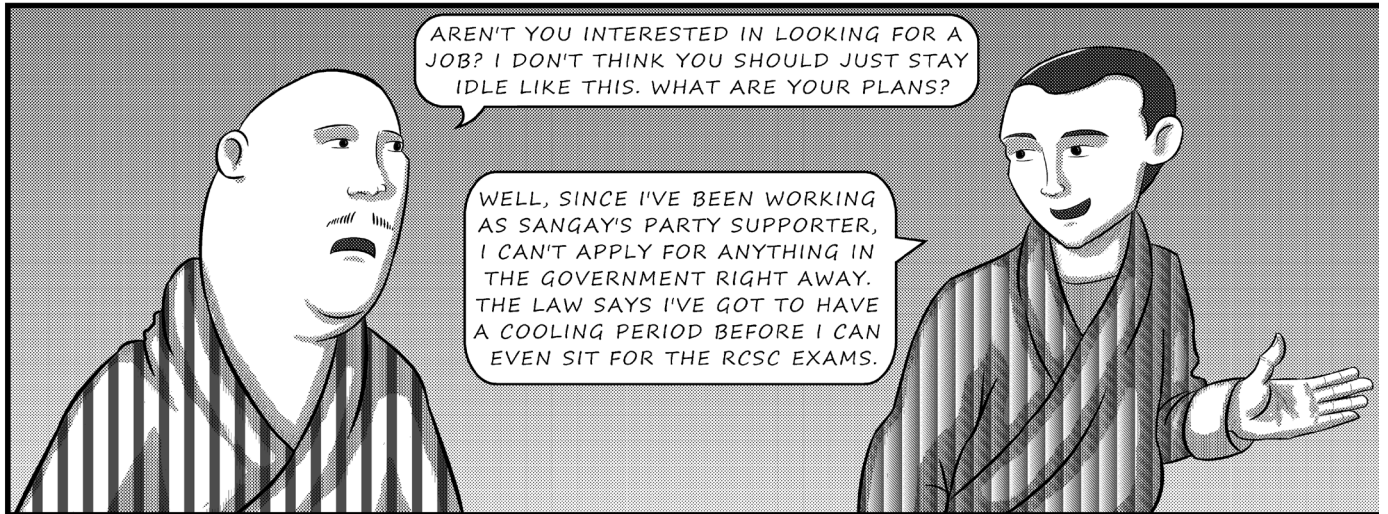
SANGAY WON IN THE END BECAUSE HE BRIBED PEOPLE.

SINCE HIS GRADUATION, JIGME HAS BEEN WORKING AS SANGAY'S PARTY SUPPORTER RIGHT UP TILL THE ELECTION. GUP WANTS TO KNOW HIS SON'S PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.



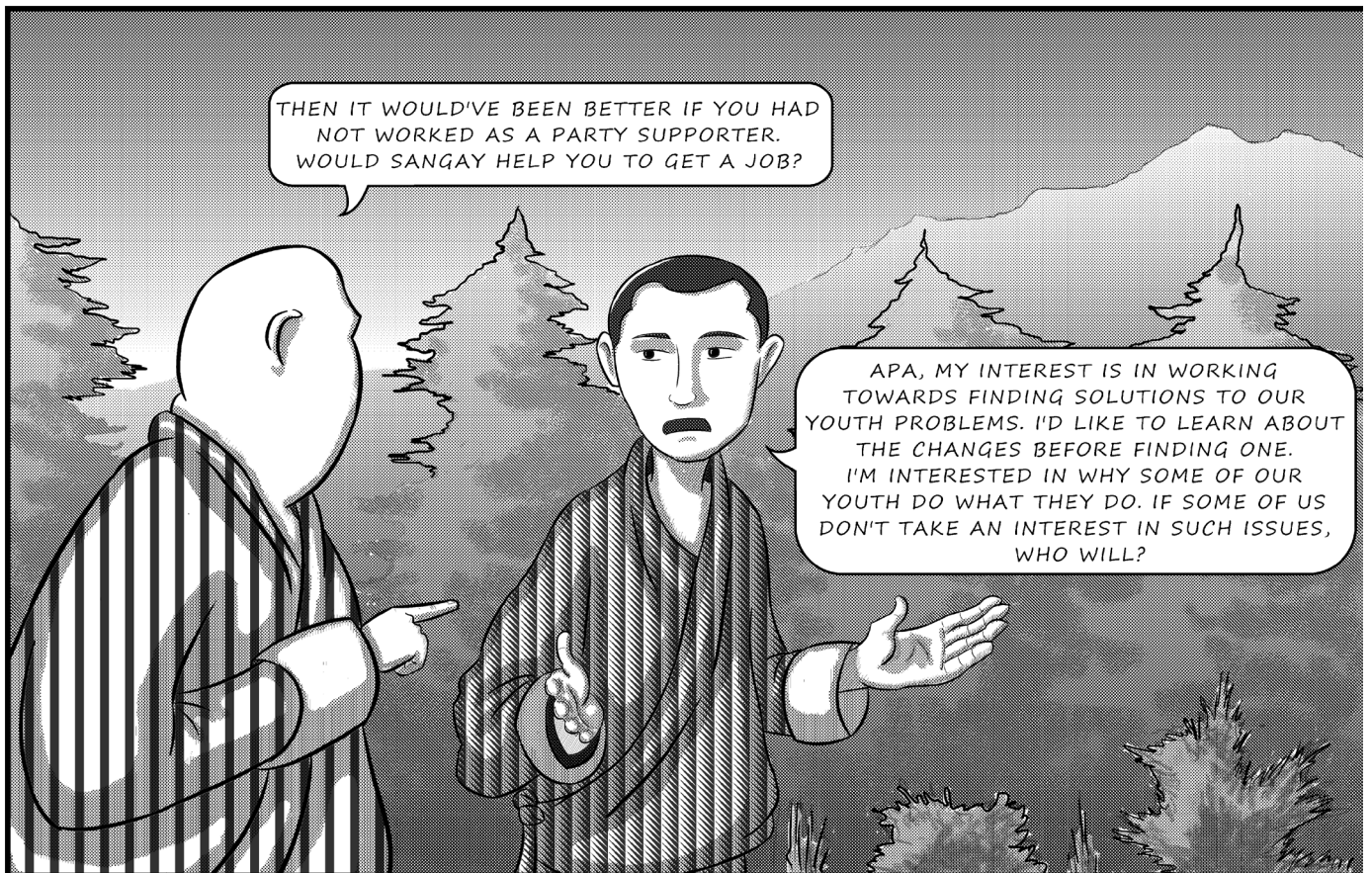
AREN'T YOU INTERESTED IN LOOKING FOR A JOB? I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD JUST STAY IDLE LIKE THIS. WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS?

WELL, SINCE I'VE BEEN WORKING AS SANGAY'S PARTY SUPPORTER, I CAN'T APPLY FOR ANYTHING IN THE GOVERNMENT RIGHT AWAY. THE LAW SAYS I'VE GOT TO HAVE A COOLING PERIOD BEFORE I CAN EVEN SIT FOR THE RCSC EXAMS.



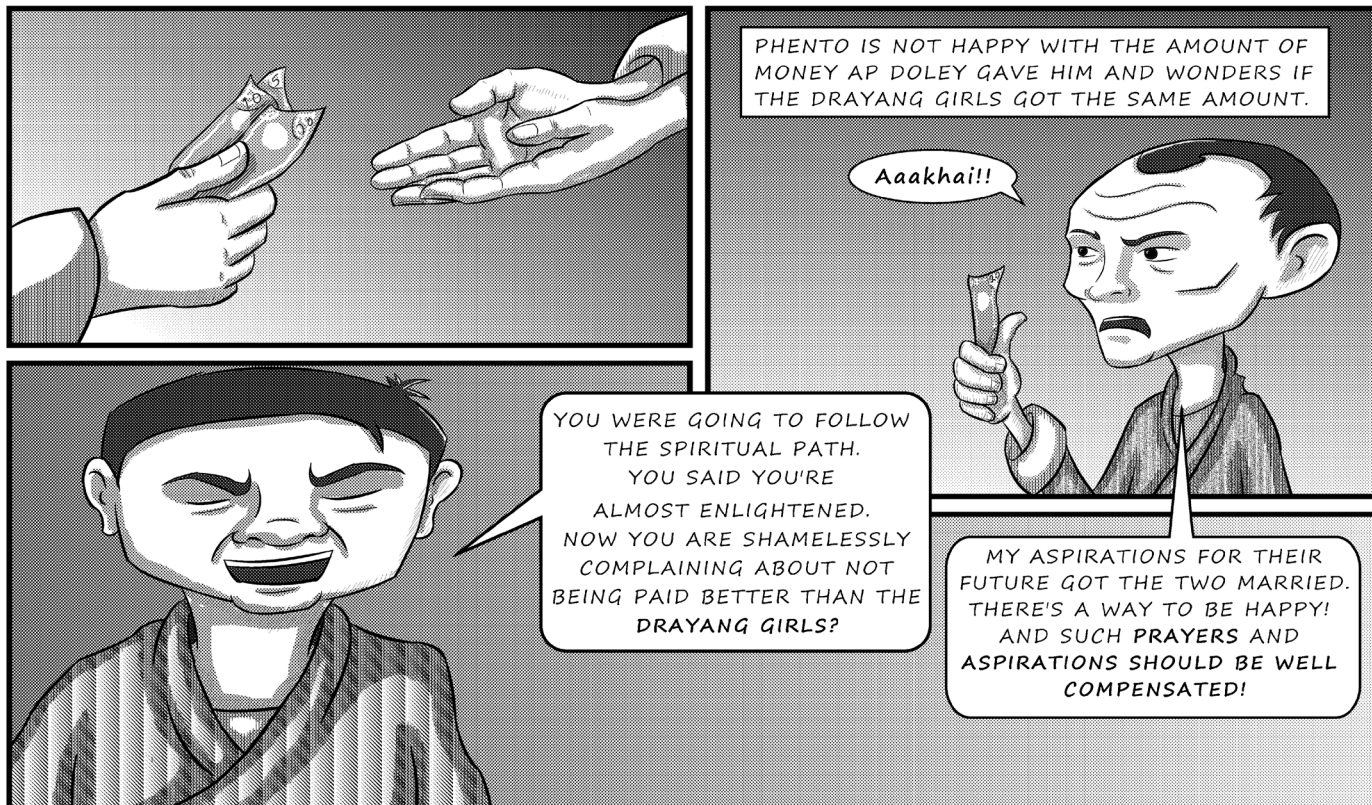
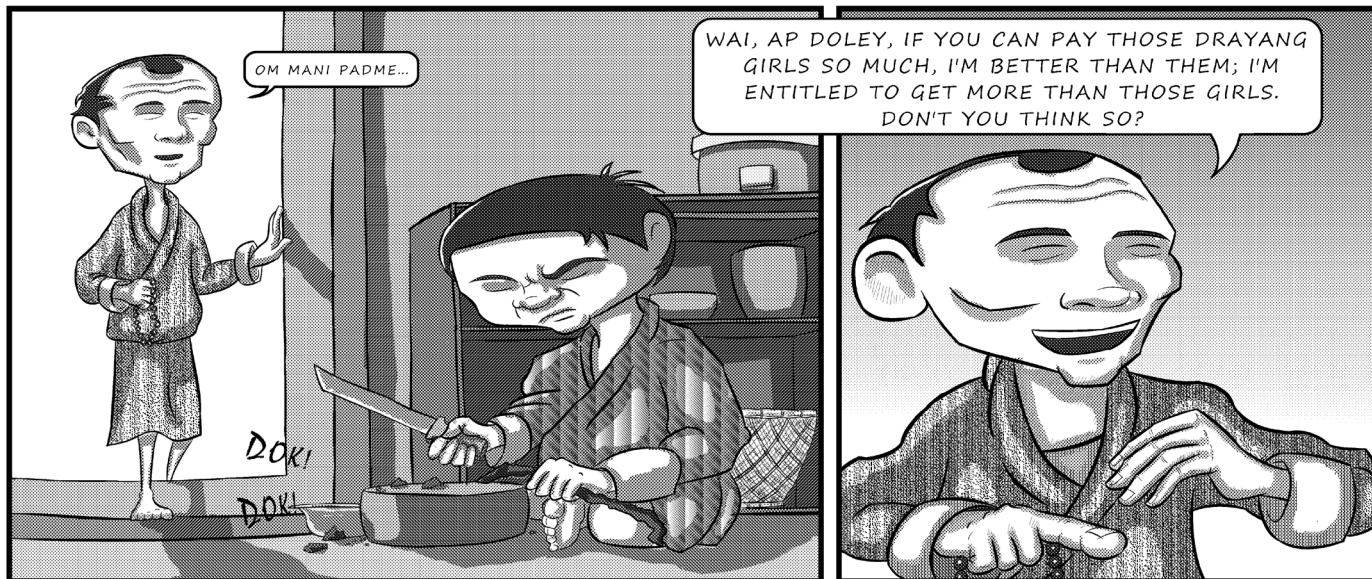
THEN IT WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER IF YOU HAD NOT WORKED AS A PARTY SUPPORTER. WOULD SANGAY HELP YOU TO GET A JOB?

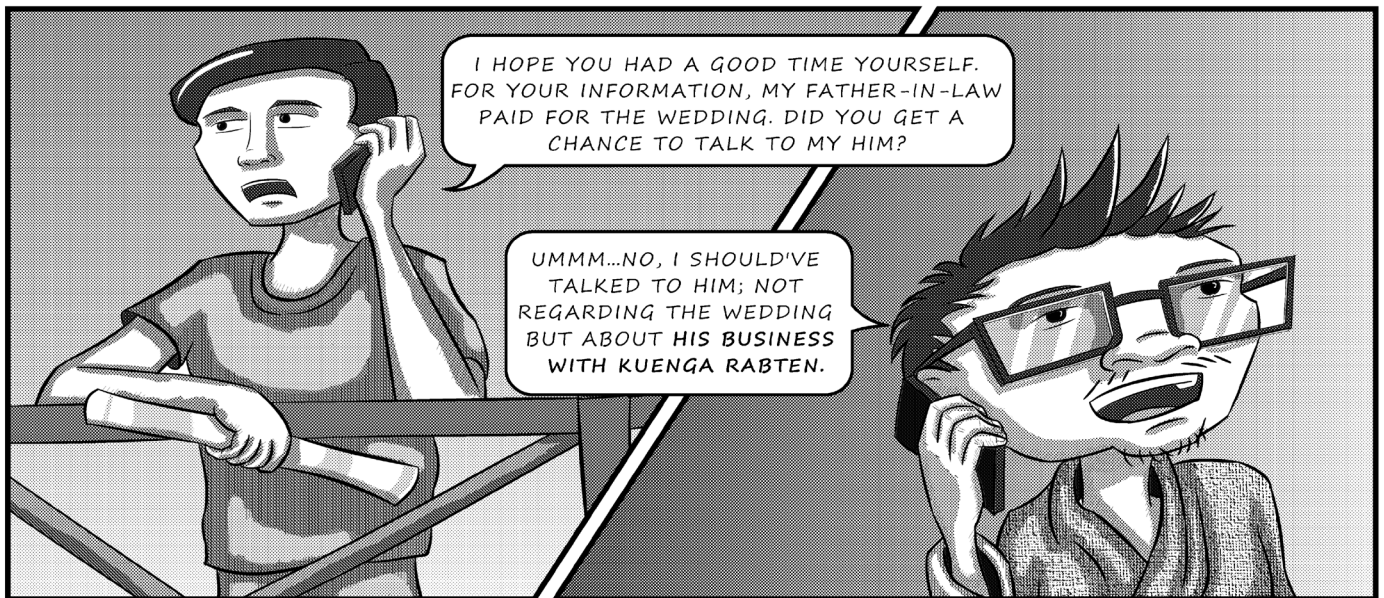
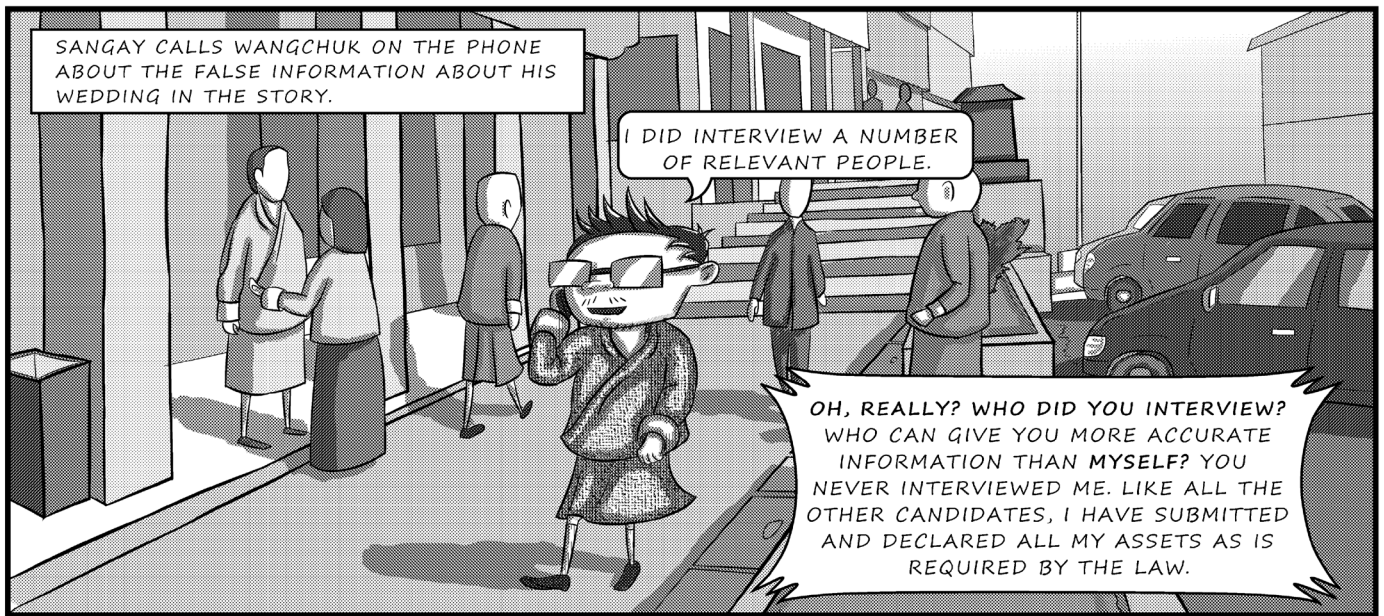
APA, MY INTEREST IS IN WORKING TOWARDS FINDING SOLUTIONS TO OUR YOUTH PROBLEMS. I'D LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT THE CHANGES BEFORE FINDING ONE. I'M INTERESTED IN WHY SOME OF OUR YOUTH DO WHAT THEY DO. IF SOME OF US DON'T TAKE AN INTEREST IN SUCH ISSUES, WHO WILL?



THERE IS A NEWS ARTICLE ABOUT YESHEY AND SANGAY'S WEDDING. THE ARTICLE TAKES THEM BY SURPRISE.







KINLEY IS SURPRISED SANGAY IS NOT BOTHERED BY THE STORY ABOUT HIS WEDDING BUT INSTEAD TALKED TO THE REPORTER ABOUT EVERYTHING.

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT. I GAVE HIM FEEDBACK ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF CHECKING AND VERIFYING FACTS BEFORE HE PUTS OUT ANYTHING IN THE NEWSPAPERS. IT'S A JOURNALIST'S DUTY TO GIVE ACCURATE INFORMATION TO THEIR READERS.

SO, HOW DID THAT GO?

ONLY TIME WILL TELL. HE SEEMED LIKE A SMART AND CAPABLE REPORTER AND A NICE PERSON BUT A BIT HASTY WITH HIS WORK.

SANGAY AND KINLEY, ARE YOU GUYS GOING TO TALK THE WHOLE DAY? AREN'T YOU COMING TO EAT? YOU TWO ARE SO ENGROSSED IN YOUR CONVERSATION; YOU'VE FORGOTTEN YOUR WIVES.

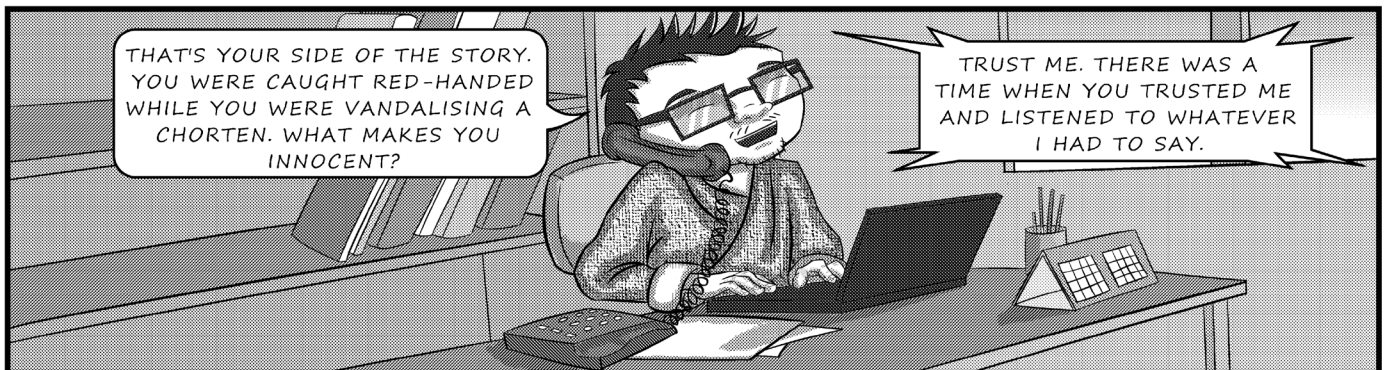
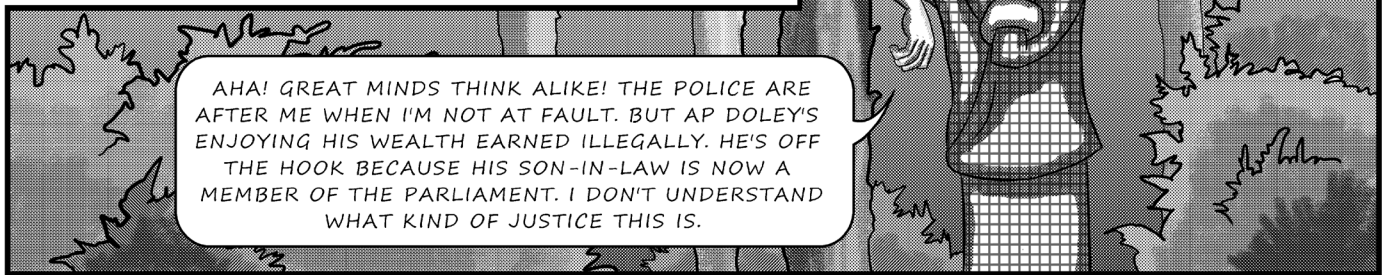
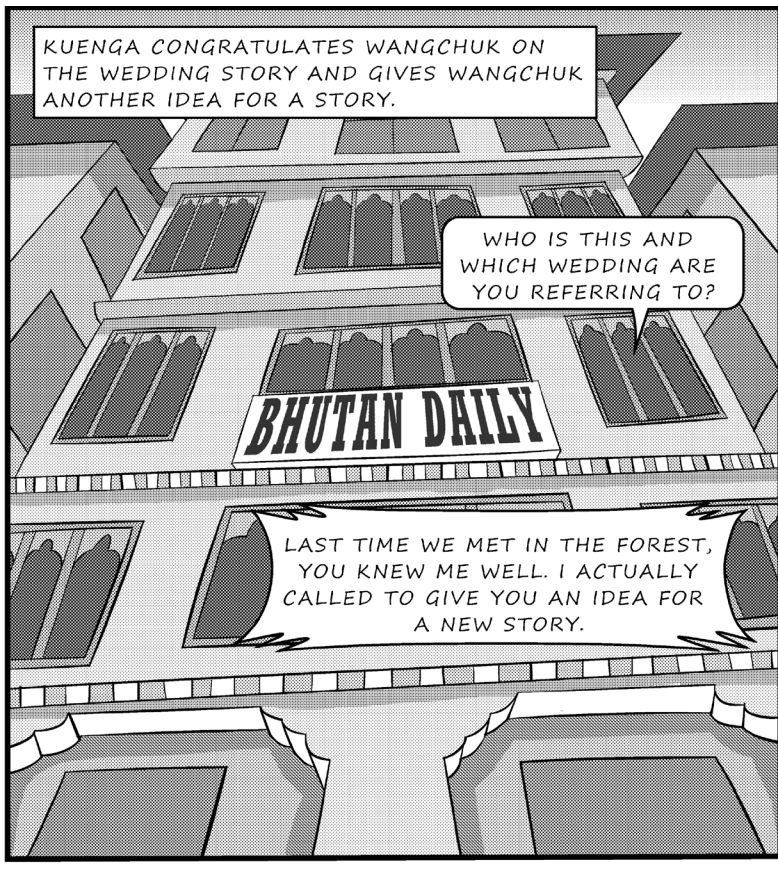
SANGAY MENTIONS THERE WAS AN UNINVITED GUEST AT THE WEDDING. YESHEY AND KINLEY ARE IN FOR A SURPRISE.

WHO WAS THE UNINVITED GUEST?

GASP!

KUENGA RABTEN!
THE REPORTER
TOLD ME.

WHAT?! KUENGA!!!
HOW DARE HE!!
I WISH THE REPORTER HAD TOLD ME
AT THE WEDDING. I WOULD'VE HELD
HIM BY HIS GHO AND DRAGGED
HIM STRAIGHT TO THE POLICE.



AFTER MANY MONTHS, KINLEY SEES PHENTO IN THE MARKET. PHENTO SAYS EVERYONE IN THE WORLD IS HIS FRIEND.

I'M TALKING ABOUT YOUR BEST FRIEND BEFORE YOU WERE ENLIGHTENED.

P. NORBU
GROCERY
CUM BARS

WELL ANYWAY,
NOW I DON'T THINK
ABOUT THE PAST.

YOU REALLY DON'T THINK
ABOUT KUENGA RABTEN?

KUENGA RABTEN!!! OF COURSE I DO!
HE SHOWED ME THE PATH TO
ENLIGHTENMENT! HE TOOK ME TO
THE CHORTEN AND SINCE THEN,
MY HEART TOOK A TURN.

KUENGA HAS DONE A LOT OF
UNWANTED WORK AND THAT'S THE
REASON WHY HE IS ON THE RUN
FROM THE POLICE AND ME.

THE CHORTEN ENLIGHTENED PHENTO AND
KUENGA IN DIFFERENT WAYS.

PHENTO, IF YOU SEE KUENGA,
YOU MUST TELL ME.

WAI, KINLEY!! KUENGA IS
SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTHERN PART
OF THE VILLAGE NEAR THAT BIG TREE.

ANOTHER TIME,
PHENTO RINPOCHE.
THAT'LL NOT DO.
I NEED TO CATCH
HIM AND TAKE HIM
TO THE POLICE.

USE
ME

GUP AND SANGAY ARE DISCUSSING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES.

PERSONALLY, WHEN I WAS THE GUP, WE HAD ISSUES BECAUSE WE DID NOT EVEN TRY TO BUILD THE RELATIONSHIP. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP, IT AFFECTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONSTITUENCY.

GUP HAS DECIDED TO RESIGN AND WILL NOT STAND FOR RE-ELECTIONS.

I'D LIKE TO SEE SOME YOUNG PERSON TAKE OVER AS GUP BUT LOOKS LIKE THERE ISN'T MUCH INTEREST AMONGST THE YOUNG ONES. EITHER THAT OR THEY ARE NOT CAPABLE.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE HAPPY WITH MY PERFORMANCE.

HA HA
HA

ALTHOUGH JIGME NEEDS TO TAKE SOME TIME OFF BEFORE HE FINDS A GOVERNMENT JOB, GUP IS WORRIED JIGME IS NOT LOOKING INTO OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

MAYBE HE HAS NOT FOUND ANYTHING HE IS INTERESTED IN YET. THESE DAYS THE YOUTH WANT A JOB THEY ARE INTERESTED IN AND IT TAKES TIME TO FIND SOMETHING YOU REALLY LOVE TO DO.

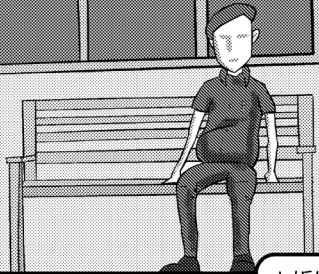
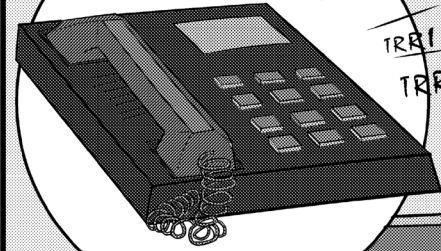
CA ... CAN YOU TALK TO HIM AND SEE WHAT HE WANTS TO DO? CAN YOU THINK OF ANYTHING?

POLICE TASHI IS UPSET THEY DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT KUENGA RABTEN'S PRESENCE AT THE WEDDING.

WHAT?! A CRIMINAL ON THE RUN HAD THE COURAGE TO BE AT THE WEDDING? HOW CAN A PROCLAIMED OFFENDER LIKE KUENGA RABTEN BRAZENLY DEFY THE LAW IN THIS MANNER? WAIT TILL I GET MY HANDS ON HIM!!

RRING!
RRRING!

CAKITHANG GEWOG
POLICE DEPARTMENT
THIMPHU DISTRICT



WELL, KUENGA THINKS HE CAN KEEP DOING THIS AND GET AWAY WITH IT. DON'T WORRY. WE'LL CATCH HIM SOONER OR LATER.

I'LL BE MORE VIGILANT AND WILL CATCH HIM SOON. HE'LL MAKE A MISTAKE AND TRY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HIS FRIENDS.

I HEAR REPORTER WANGCHUK IS IN TOWN TOO. I THINK KUENGA WILL TRY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM. KUENGA WILL PROBABLY TRY TO GIVE WANGCHUK FALSE STORIES ABOUT SANGAY AND SAY THAT HE'S ON THE RUN BECAUSE OF SANGAY.

IF HE GOES TO THIMPHU, THE POLICE THERE WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM. I SHOULD LOOK OUT FOR THE REPORTER AND KEEP AN EYE ON HIM IN CASE KUENGA TRIES TO GET IN TOUCH.



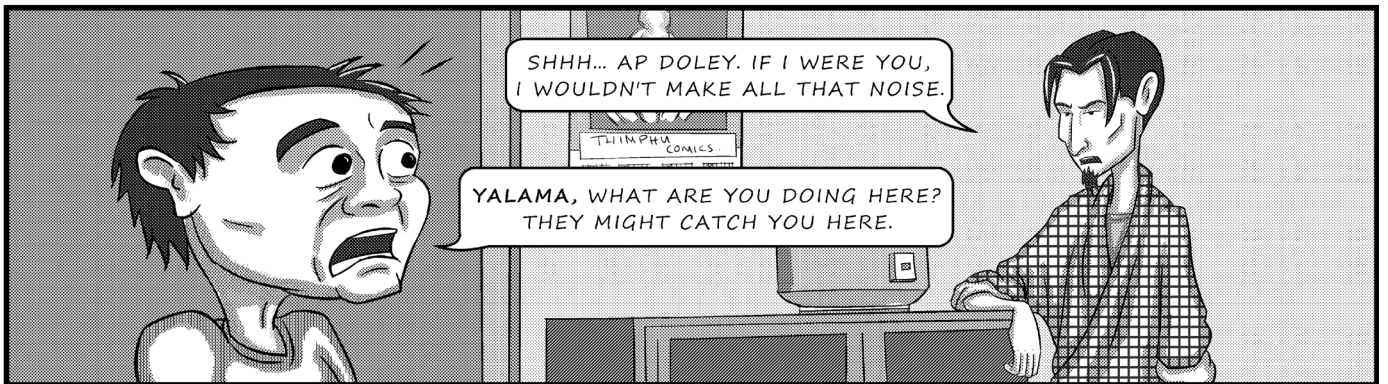
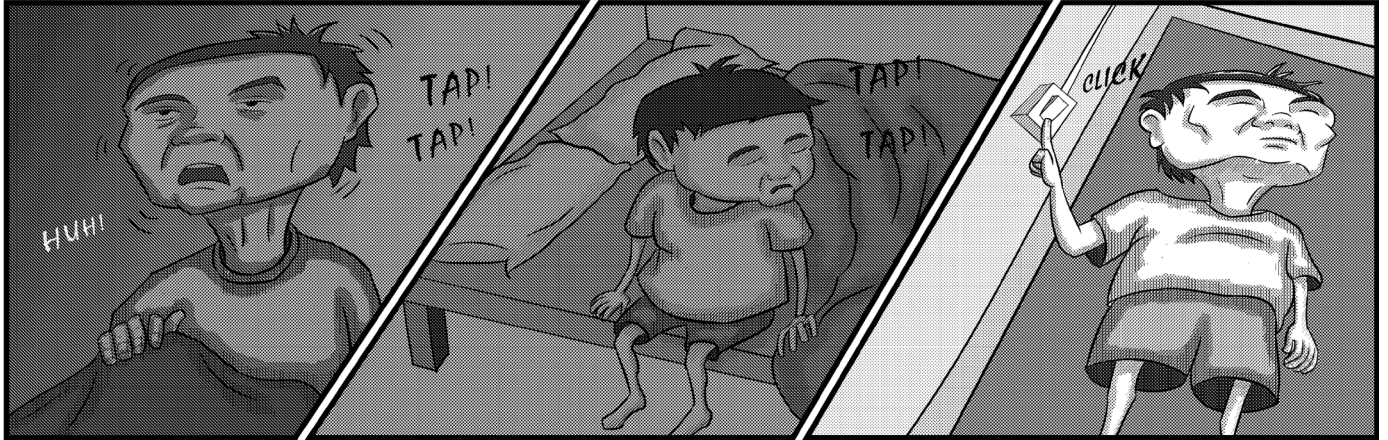
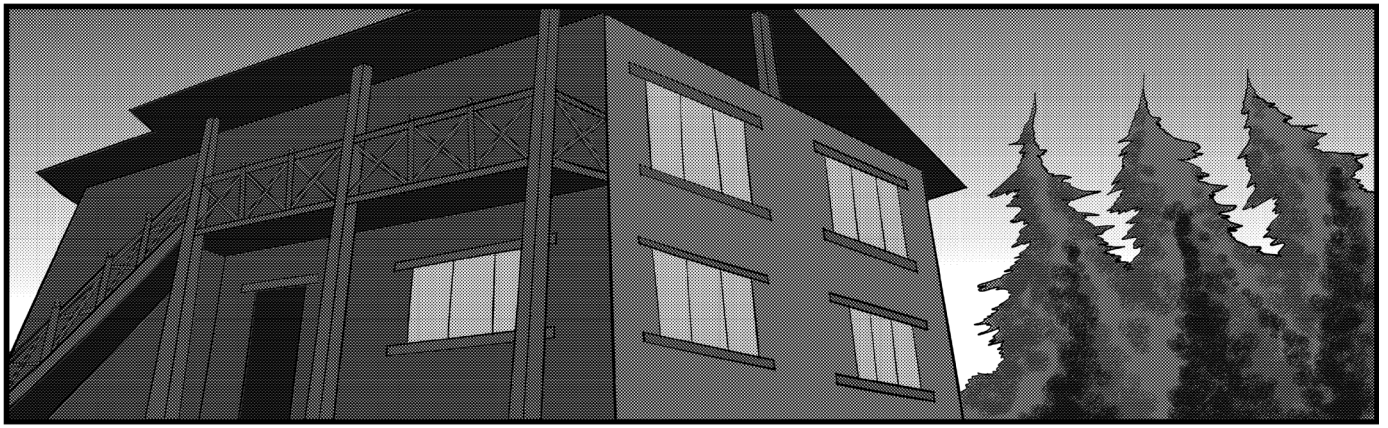
THAT WOULD BE REALLY GOOD!

POLICE TASHI IS GOING TO SEND SOMEONE TO WATCH KINLEY'S HOUSE.

YOU MUST ALSO UNDERSTAND KUENGA IS A CLOSE FRIEND OF YOUR FATHER-IN-LAW, AP DOLEY, AND A FREQUENT VISITOR TO YOUR HOME. I HOPE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND THIS.

IF YOU NEED HELP, I AM HERE. IF KUENGA COMES TO MY HOUSE, HE'LL REGRET HIS DECISION.





THE POLICE HAVE SEIZED EVERYTHING KUENGA HAS. KUENGA DEMANDS PROFITS FROM HIS BUSINESS WITH AP DOLEY.

THEN I SHALL FLEE THE COUNTRY AND YOU CAN LIVE HAPPILY AS A DASHO'S FATHER-IN-LAW. OTHERWISE, I WON'T LEAVE YOU ALONE. REMEMBER, IF THEY CATCH ME, THEY'LL CATCH YOU TOO.

PLEASE, GO!
I SPENT EVERYTHING
ON MY DAUGHTER'S WEDDING.
I DON'T EVEN HAVE A SINGLE
NGULTRUM LEFT NOW.



CRASH!!



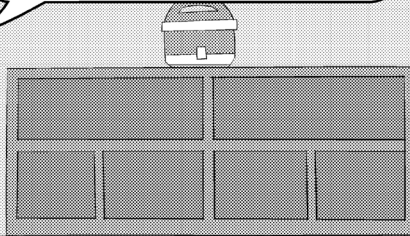
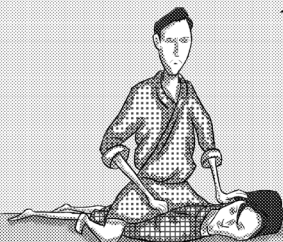
LET ME GO!
LET ME GO!

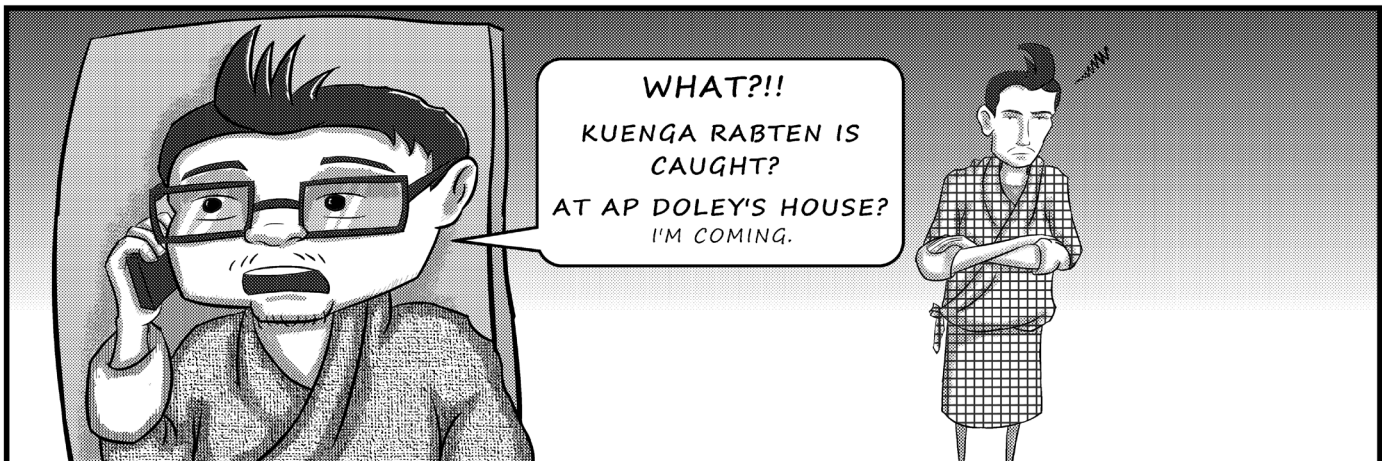
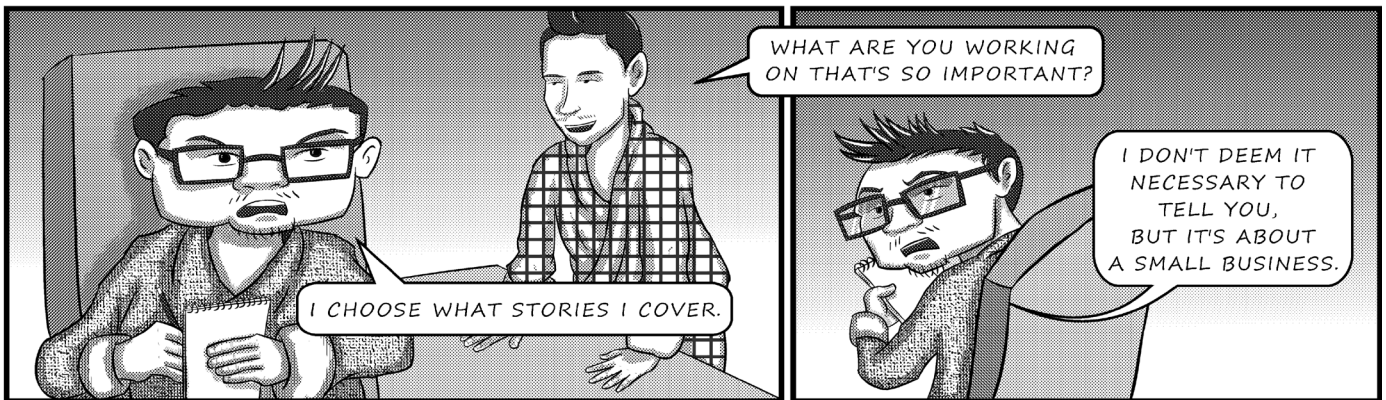
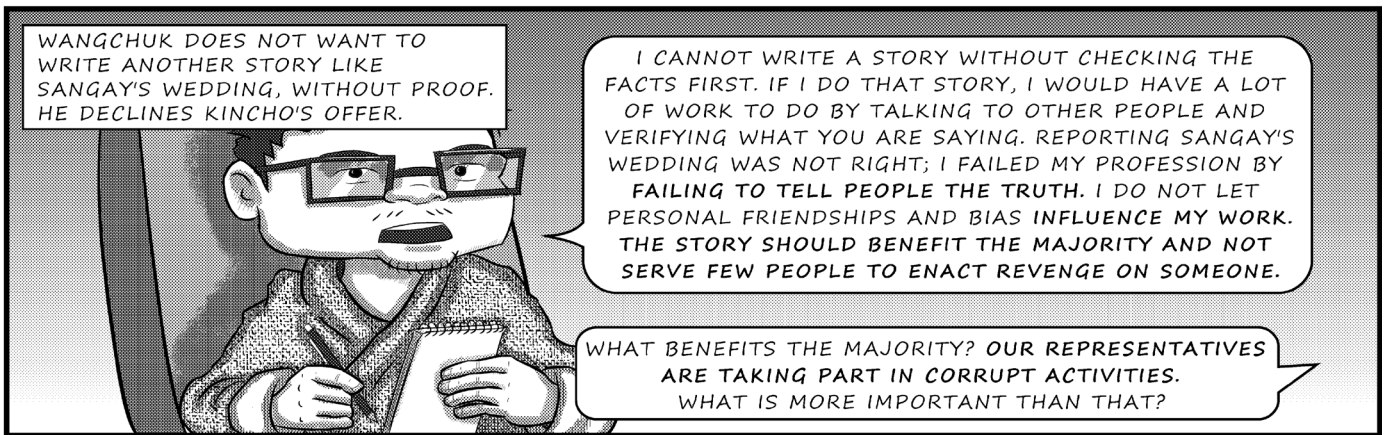
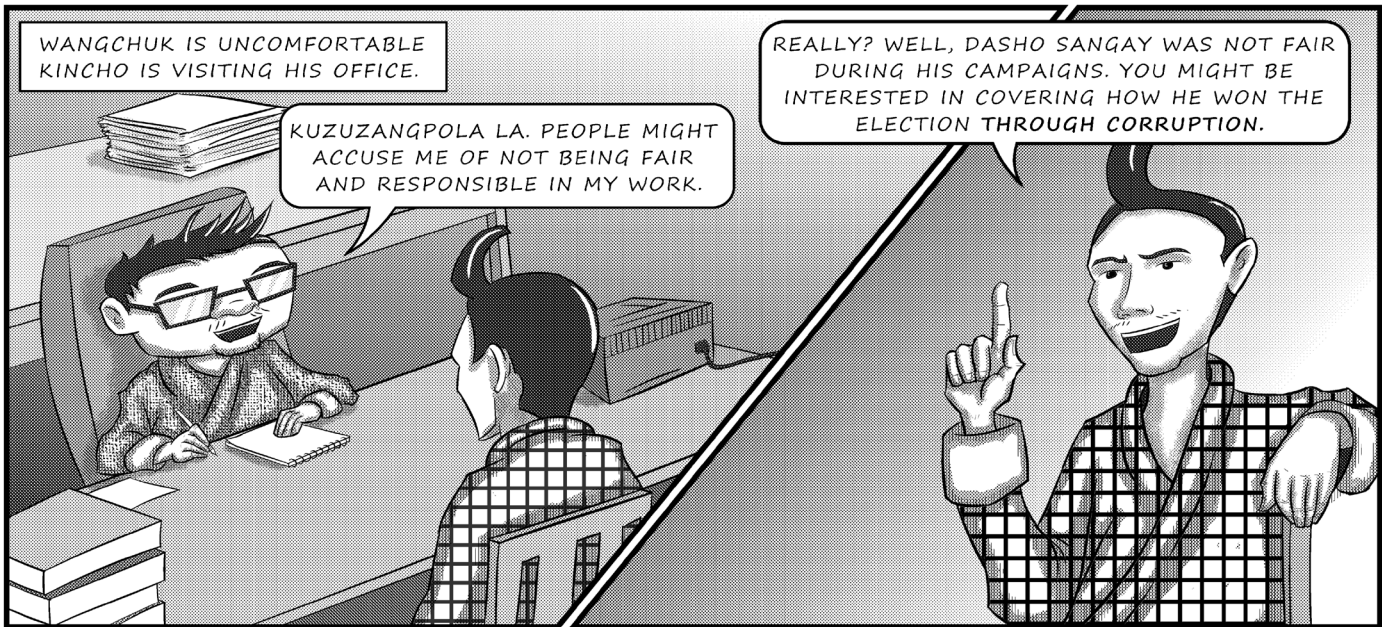
I AM SO GLAD I CAUGHT YOU!
APART FROM THE LAW, I HAVE
THINGS TO SETTLE WITH YOU.



AP DOLEYYYY,
TELL HIM TO LET ME GO.
OTHERWISE, I AM GOING TO
TELL HIM EVERYTHING THAT
WILL FINISH YOU TOO!

APA, CALL THE POLICE!
TELL THEM WE HAVE KUENGA!





AP DOLEY IS STARTLED TO HEAR THE DOG BARK, WHO'S OUT THERE? ARE THEY KUENGA'S SUPPORTERS?

BARK!
BARK!

WHO IS IT?? I HOPE IT'S NOT ONE OF KUENGA'S SUPPORTERS. CHIMI; KINLEY, COME HERE, I NEED HELP.

IT'S ME, I WAS KUENGA'S FRIEND A LONG TIME AGO, NOT ANYMORE.

AZAI!!

PHENTO OFFERS HIS DIVINATION SKILLS TO FIND KUENGA.

THE POLICE CAUGHT KUENGA AND TOOK HIM.

AP DOLEY, ARE YOU LYING TO ME?
IF IT'S TRUE, I MUST TAKE MY REVENGE ON HIM BEFORE THE LAW.
WHEN I WAS ON THE RIGHT PATH, HE MISGUIDED ME AND ALMOST GOT ME INTO TROUBLE.

KUENGA!



THE POLICE HAVE CAUGHT KUENGA. KUENGA SAYS HE IS INNOCENT AND HAS NO REASON TO HIDE.

REALLY, YOU THINK YOU ARE INNOCENT? YOU VANDALISED THE CHORTEN.



AND WHAT ABOUT ALL THOSE VILLAGERS WHO SAW YOU DO THAT? ARE THEY LYING?



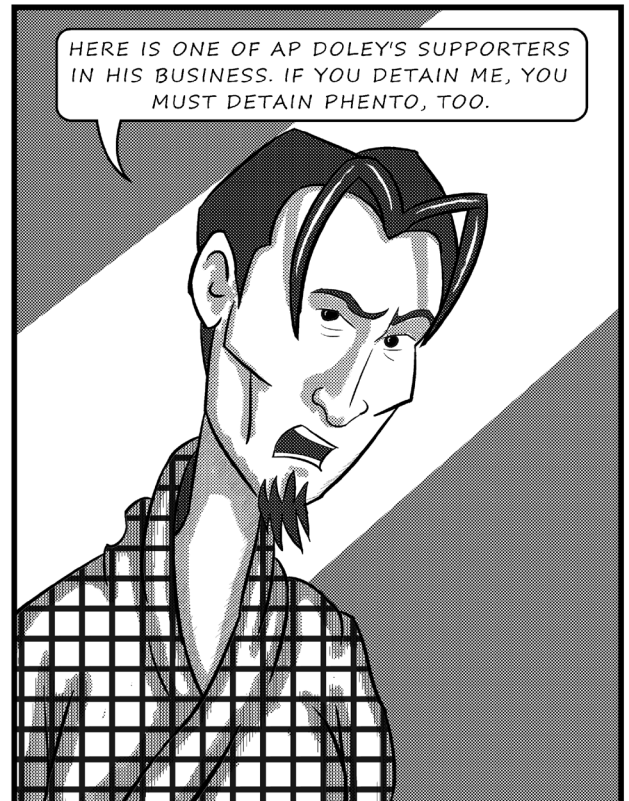
WHATEVER YOU SAY, ALL I'VE BEEN DOING IS FOLLOWING AP DOLEY'S ORDERS. WHAT ABOUT AP DOLEY'S PUNISHMENT? YOU ARE NOT TOUCHING HIM JUST BECAUSE HE IS DASHO SANGAY'S FATHER-IN-LAW? HOW CAN THERE BE DIFFERENT LAWS FOR DIFFERENT PEOPLE? IS THAT FAIR AND JUST?

YES, IT'S NOT FAIR!



I CAME BECAUSE OF YOU. MY DIVINATION ALWAYS SHOWED YOUR NAME.

HUFF!
PUFF!



HERE IS ONE OF AP DOLEY'S SUPPORTERS IN HIS BUSINESS. IF YOU DETAIN ME, YOU MUST DETAIN PHENTO, TOO.

AP DOLEY IS ANGRY SEEING WANGCHUK WHO REPORTED FALSE INFORMATION EVEN AFTER AP DOLEY EXPLAINED EVERYTHING TO HIM. AP DOLEY IS FRUSTRATED WITH WANGCHUK'S TONE AND COMMENT. IF AP DOLEY'S CHILDREN WERE HOME, WANGCHUK WOULD BE KICKED OUT OF THE HOUSE.

WHEN YOU LAST CAME HERE, I EXPLAINED EVERYTHING IN DETAIL BUT AFTER ALL THAT, YOU WROTE THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF WHAT I TOLD YOU.

WHY?

WHAT HAVE MY DAUGHTER OR SANGAY EVER DONE TO YOU?

I'D LIKE TO APOLOGISE. I WAS AN INEXPERIENCED REPORTER, AND I WAS IN A HURRY TO GET THE STORY PUBLISHED. TODAY, I'M DOING ANOTHER STORY AND I'VE COME LOOKING FOR FACTS AND EVIDENCE, LA.

WHAT STORY? WHAT HAS THE STORY TO DO WITH ME? YOU SHOULD LEAVE BEFORE I CALL THE POLICE.

THE POLICE MIGHT WANT TO TALK TO YOU SINCE KUENGA RABTEN WAS CAUGHT AT YOUR HOUSE.

AP DOLEY GIVE ME JUST ONE SECOND. KUENGA HAS ALREADY BEEN ARRESTED AND YOU WERE HIS BUSINESS PARTNER. I WANT TO KNOW THE NATURE OF YOUR BUSINESS WITH HIM. WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT HIS ARREST?

I SAID, 'LEAVE!!' NOW!!

HAVING DEFAMED SANGAY WITH FALSE INFORMATION, SANGAY THINKS WANGCHUK WILL DEFAME AP DOLEY.

IN MY OPINION, KUENGA RABTEN WAS CAUGHT AT AP DOLEY'S HOUSE, THEY WERE REALLY BUSINESS PARTNERS.

DON'T FORGET MY BROTHER-IN-LAW CAUGHT KUENGA AND CALLED THE POLICE.

EVER SINCE MISREPORTING ABOUT SANGAY'S WEDDING, WANGCHUK HAS BEEN MORE CAREFUL AND UNBIASED IN HIS REPORTING.

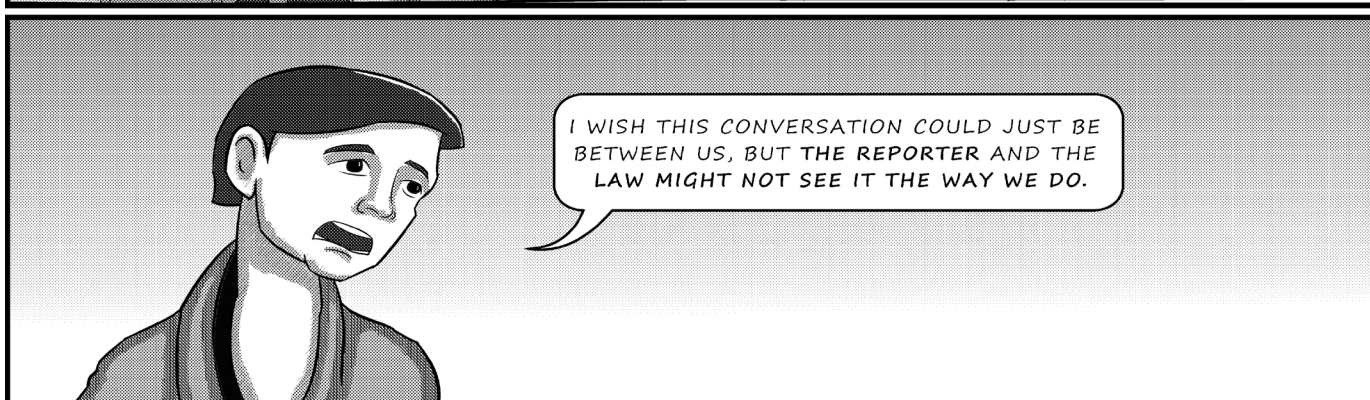
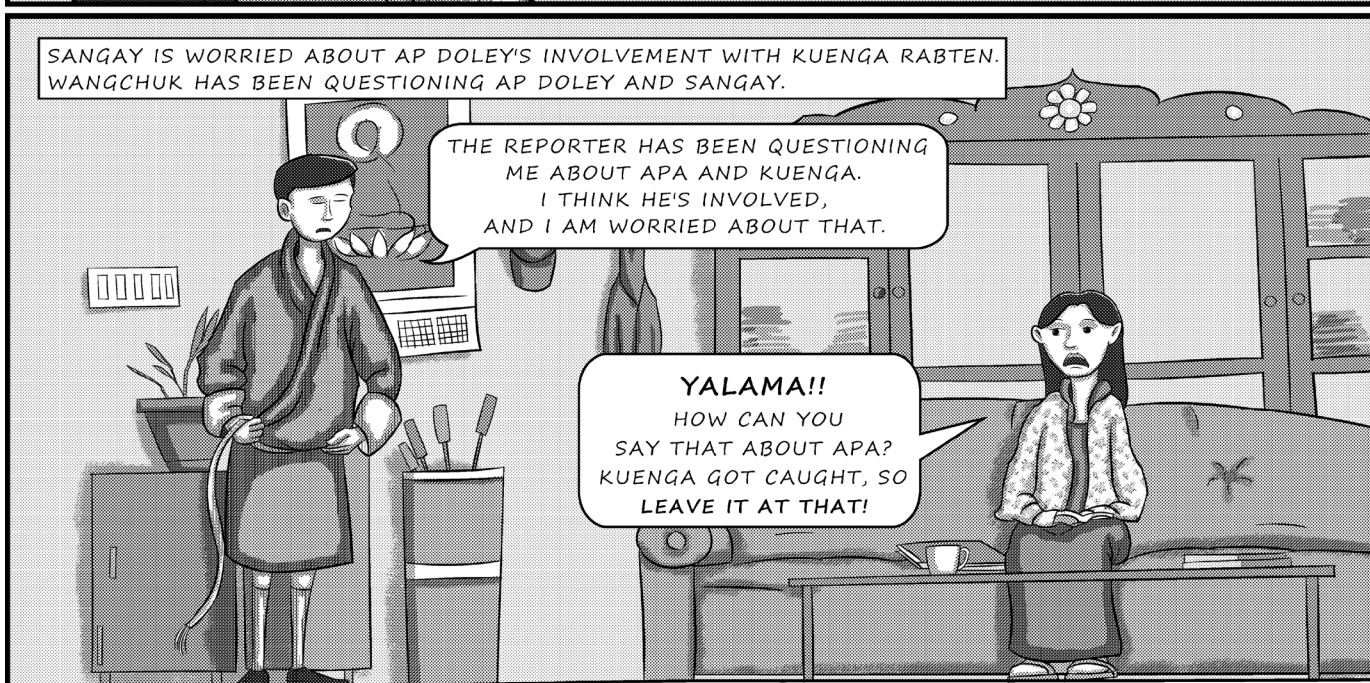
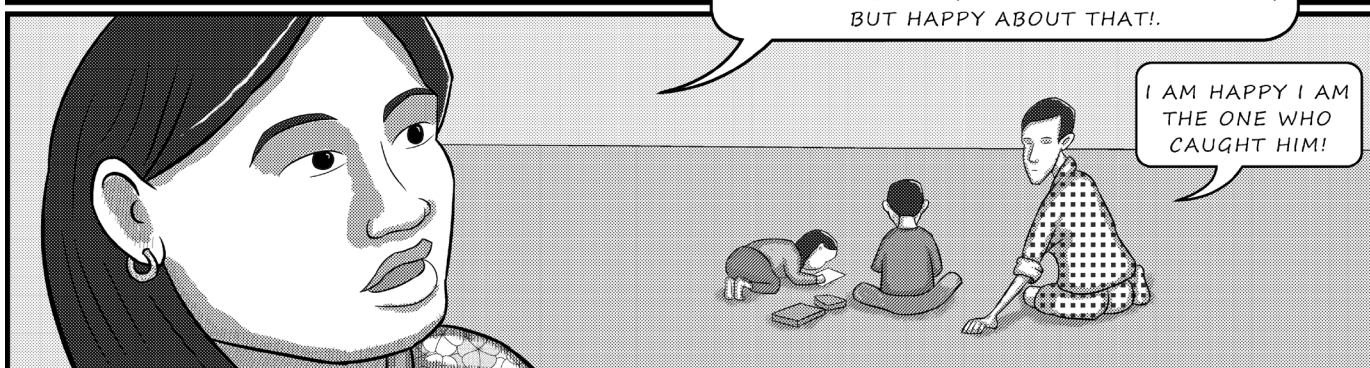
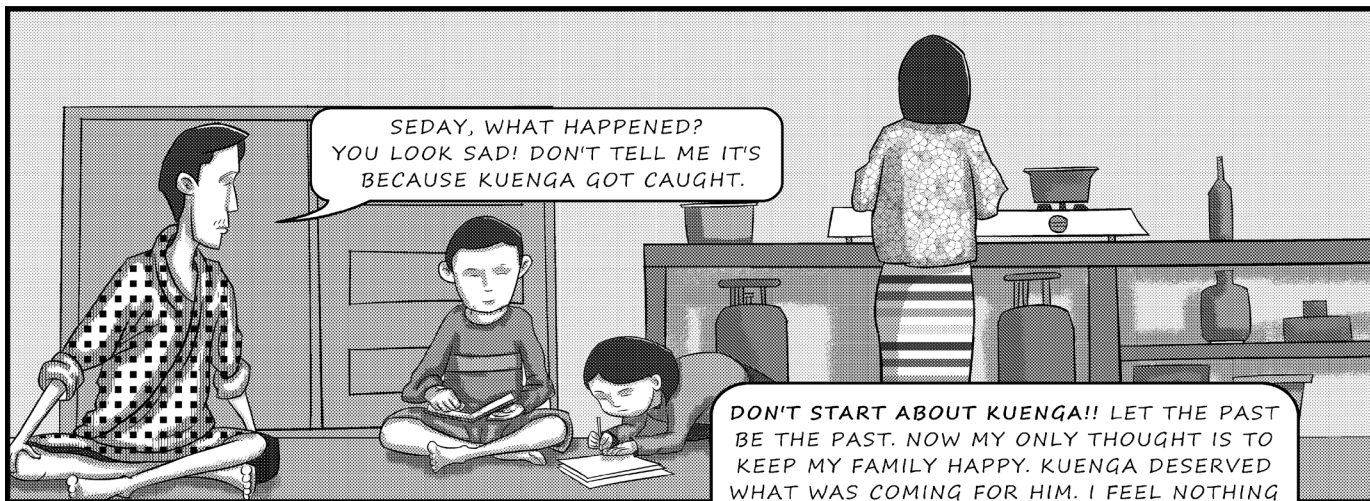
I KNOW I MADE A MESS OF THE STORY ON YOUR WEDDING. I APOLOGISE FOR IT AND WOULD LIKE TO ADD THAT IT WAS NOTHING PERSONAL. I WAS JUST DOING MY JOB, BUT I COULD HAVE DONE BETTER. I HOPE DASHO WILL COOPERATE AND HELP ME DO A GOOD STORY BASED ON FACTS, LA.

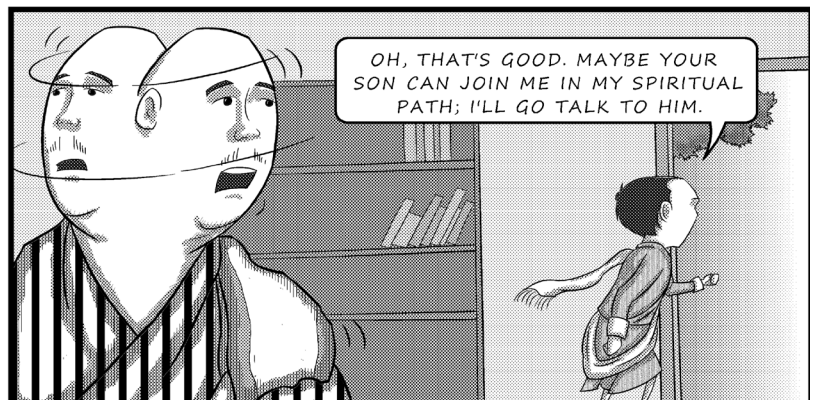
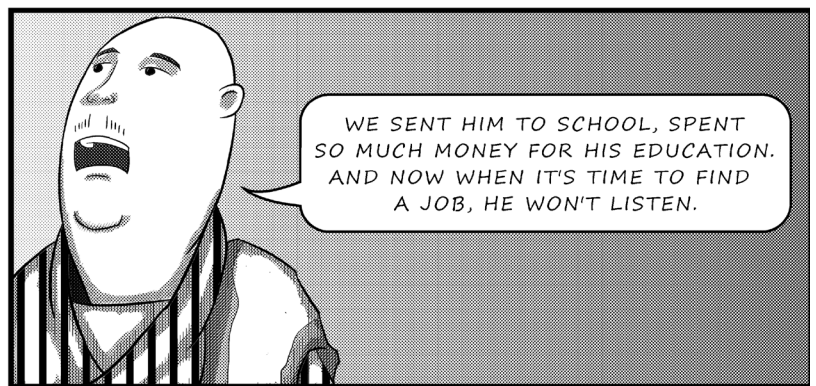
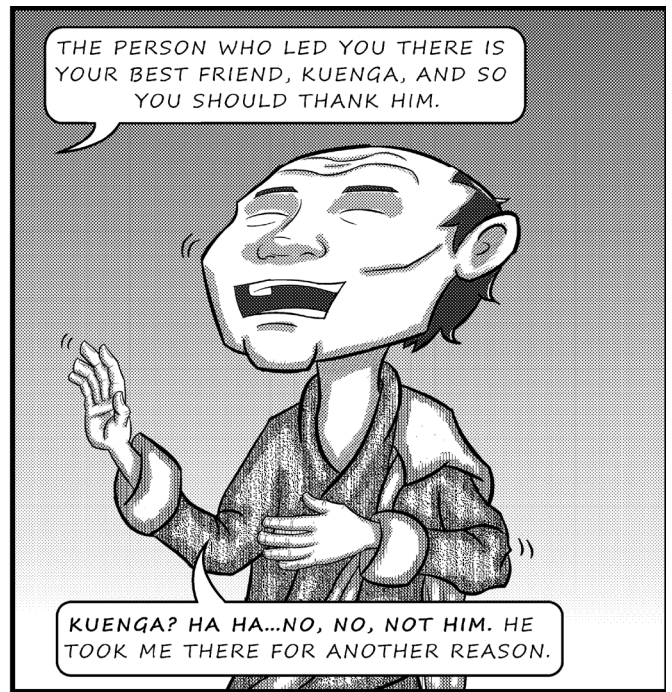
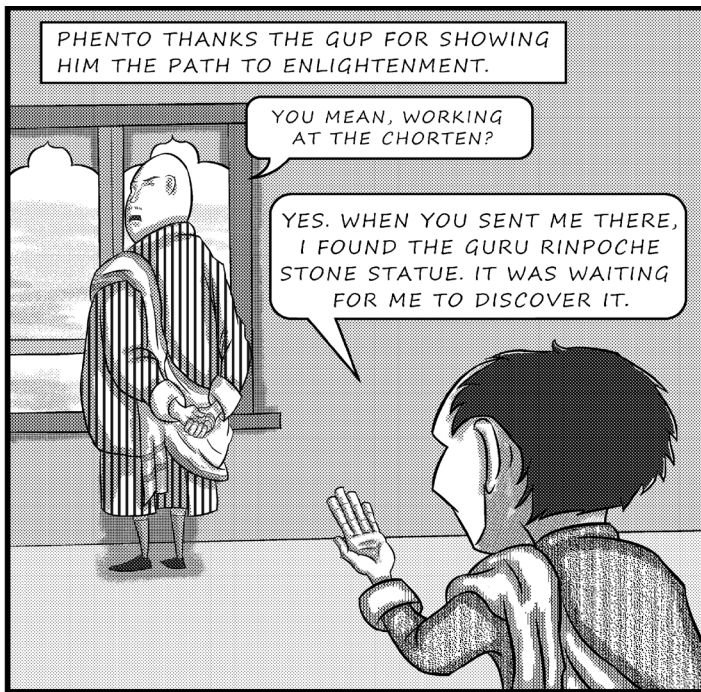
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ASK ME?

AP DOLEY AND KUENGA WERE BUSINESS PARTNERS. WANGCHUK VISITS SANGAY WITH A FEW QUESTIONS SINCE KUENGA WAS CAUGHT AT AP DOLEY'S HOUSE.

I THINK YOU SHOULD DEAL WITH THIS ACCORDING TO THE LAW. DON'T YOU THINK THAT WILL BE BETTER?

YOU ARE RIGHT OF COURSE. KUENGA WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF BY THE LAW BUT WHAT ABOUT AP DOLEY?





AP DOLEY FEARS THE NIGHT WONDERING WHO'LL COME TO THE HOUSE.
HE'S SUFFERING FROM PARANOIA, FEARING THAT EVERYONE IS "OUT TO GET HIM".

FIRST KUENGA,
THEN THE REPORTER,
NOW I WONDER WHO
ELSE IT WILL BE.

REMEMBER, WE BEGGED YOU
NOT TO ASSOCIATE WITH KUENGA.
UNTIL THE POLICE CAUGHT HIM
HERE, YOU DID NOT LISTEN TO US.

BUT NOW HE'S BEHIND THE BARS, YOU
DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE IN KEEPING IN
TOUCH WITH HIM.

IS THAT SO HARD FOR YOU TO
BELIEVE? AND NOW EVERYONE
SEEMS TO BE AFTER ME-- THE
POLICE, THE REPORTER,
WHAT IS IT?

BUT SHOULD YOU ALSO TAKE
SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE
PREDICAMENT YOU'RE IN NOW?

ARE YOU PLANNING TO PUT ME IN TROUBLE?

WE ALL LOVE YOU, AND WE DON'T
INTEND ON PUTTING YOU IN TROUBLE!

AREN'T YOU MY WIFE? YOU'RE
PERSISTENTLY DOUBTING AND
ASKING THE SAME QUESTIONS
LIKE EVERYONE. I SHOULD JUST
GO AWAY AND FIND SOME PEACE.

AP DOLEY, AP DOLEY!! WHERE ARE
YOU GOING? COME BACK!

AP DOLEY IS FEELING THE HEAT,
THIS TIME FROM POLICEMAN TASHI
WHO'S ASKING ABOUT KUENGA'S VISIT.

KUENGA RABTEN CAME HERE, RIGHT?
WHY DID KUENGA RABTEN COME TO YOUR HOUSE?

HE CAME TO ASK ME FOR
SOME MONEY.

IS IT THE MONEY FROM THE
BUSINESS YOU TWO WERE DOING?

NO!! I DON'T AND DID NOT
DO BUSINESS WITH KUENGA.
HE WANTS MY MONEY.

TALKING TO THE VILLAGERS WHO KNOW ABOUT AP DOLEY AND
KUENGA'S BUSINESS, THE POLICE CONFIRMED THE ASSOCIATION.

I'VE BEEN TALKING TO THE
VILLAGERS AND IT SOUNDS LIKE
KUENGA AND YOU HAVE BEEN
PARTNERS IN YOUR BUSINESS.
AND YOU'RE DENYING IT?

NO, WE'RE NOT DOING ANY BUSINESS
TOGETHER. I'VE KNOWN KUENGA SINCE
HE WAS A BABY. AND OUR FAMILIES
ARE CLOSE. AND SO PEOPLE THINK
WE ARE BUSINESS PARTNERS.

CLUCK!
CLUCK!

KUENGA ADMITS TO VANDALISING THE CHORTEN.

WELL, KUENGA SAID THE
MASTERMIND BEHIND ALL THIS IS
YOU.

WHAT?! THIS KUENGA! HE IS SAYING
ALL THAT TO SAVE HIS SKIN.

JIGME IS SURPRISED SANGAY HAS COME TO SEE HIM INSTEAD OF THE GUP. WHO JIGME THINKS SUPPORTS SANGAY.

YOU WERE MY BIGGEST SUPPORTER AND NOT YOUR FATHER. YOUR FATHER IS A CIVIL SERVANT AND I'M A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT. ALTHOUGH THE LOCAL AND THE NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES WORK TOGETHER, I DON'T THINK HE'LL UNNECESSARILY MEDDLE WITH MY WORK.

SANGAY PRAISES JIGME ON HANDLING EVERY TASK EFFICIENTLY DURING SANGAY'S CAMPAIGN AND CONTINUES TO GIVE HIM ADVISE.

I SUPPORTED YOU BECAUSE APA THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD EXPERIENCE FOR ME.

YOUR APA HOPES YOU'LL FIND A JOB.

YES, I ENJOYED WORKING WITH YOU. I WAS ABLE TO GET A GLIMPSE OF PROBLEMS OUR YOUTH FACE. OUR YOUTH ARE OFTEN PORTRAYED NEGATIVELY BY THE MEDIA AND EVERYONE. I FEEL THAT WHILE POLICIES ARE NECESSARY, INDIVIDUALS CAN ALSO PLAY A PART IN TRYING TO UNDERSTAND AND SOLVE SOME OF THESE ISSUES.

BOTH ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES AND VOTERS HAVE EQUAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

I AM TRYING TO UNDERSTAND AND FIND WAYS TO SOLVE THEM WITH THE COMMITTEE THAT LOOKS AFTER YOUTH ISSUES.

I'M GLAD YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE YOU SHOW AN INTEREST IN SUCH ISSUES.

SADLY, OUR VOTERS SEEM TO THINK THAT JUST BECAUSE THEY HAVE ELECTED SOMEONE, THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY TO TACKLE PROBLEMS LIES WITH THAT PERSON.

JUST AS WE NEED TWO HANDS TO CLAP, WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER TO BRING CHANGE IN BHUTAN.

KINLEY AND WANGCHUK ARGUING ABOUT THEIR CONNECTIONS WITH KUENGA RABTEN. THE POLICE IS QUESTIONING PEOPLE KUENGA KNEW.

I'M LOOKING INTO THE ANTIQUE BUSINESS IN GENERAL. KUENGA RABTEN SEEMS TO HAVE FOCUSED HIS BUSINESS ACTIVITIES AROUND THIS VILLAGE.

APART FROM THE BUSINESS, HE'S ALSO INTERESTED IN OTHER THINGS LIKE CREATING MISUNDERSTANDING THROUGH FALSE FACEBOOK POSTS.

HE DID A LOT OF MALICIOUS THINGS TO BREAK UP SANGAY AND YESHEY AND NONE OF IT WORKED. JUST LIKE THE SAYING GOES; NOSA TARI MEPHO, THRAMA SHING GE ME GHA (THE AXE WILL NOT LAND WHERE YOU THINK IT WILL AND THE TREE WILL NOT CRACK IN A STRAIGHT LINE.)

JIGME HAS FOUND A SMALL FLAT IN THIMPHU AND ANNOUNCES THAT HE'LL SOON MOVE THERE.

FOUND A FLAT? WHAT FOR? YOU'VE FOUND A JOB. IS THAT IT?

ANYWAY, APA, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING. I'VE FOUND A SMALL FLAT IN THIMPHU.

SOMETHING LIKE THAT, APA.

I KNEW MY SON WASN'T A WASTER. NOW TELL ME, WHAT KIND OF JOB IS IT? YOUR NEWS IS MAKING ME HAPPY.

YESHEY HAS FINALLY SETTLED IN THIMPHU WITH SANGAY AND AUM PEMA.

IT'S NICE TO HAVE A WARM CUP OF TEA AFTER A DAY'S HARD WORK. AMA, JUST LIKE YOU, I'M HAPPY TO SEE YESHEY SETTLED WITH US HERE. BUT I WONDER IF ALL THIS WILL STILL BE THE SAME WHEN SHE STANDS FOR ELECTIONS SOON.

STAND FOR ELECTIONS? I THINK ONE POLITICIAN IS MORE THAN ENOUGH IN THE FAMILY. I WANT YESHEY HERE, AT HOME.

THERE WAS SOMETHING INTERESTING ON THE NEWS TODAY. YESHEY, WHY DON'T YOU TELL SANGAY ABOUT THE GUP'S SON, JIGME?

WHAT??? JIGME WAS ON TV? WHAT FOR? THE GUP MUST BE SO HAPPY.

SANGAY THINKS JIGME FOUND A JOB AND IS ON TV. YESHEY IS NOT SURE IF JIGME IS ON TV FOR THE RIGHT REASON.

OH YES, HE'S FOUND A JOB BUT JUST NOT SURE WHETHER THE GUP WILL LIKE WHAT HE'S DOING.

WHAT KIND OF A JOB? STOP BEING SO MYSTERIOUS, YOU TWO. TELL ME!

HE'S A MOMO SELLER NEAR A DRAYANG. THAT'S WHAT HE IS DOING FOR A LIVING. IMAGINE-A GRADUATE SELLING MOMOS!! I CAN'T IMAGINE THE GUP BEING HAPPY ABOUT THAT!

PHENTO IS PRAISING ASHA GUP FOR PUTTING HIM TO WORK AT THE CHORTEN.

FORGET ASHA GUP AND HIS GREATNESS, I WILL TELL YOU SOMETHING. WE KNOW AP DOLEY IS INVOLVED IN ANTIQUE SMUGGLING; BUT DID YOU KNOW EVEN *SANGAY* IS INVOLVED?

THAT IS INDEED INTERESTING. CAN THAT BE TRUE?

HOW DID SANGAY WIN THE ELECTION BY A LANDSLIDE? WHAT IS THE REASON FOR THAT? EVER WONDER?

THIS IS FUNNY, SO YOU ARE SAYING ALL THIS TO GET BACK AT SANGAY FOR WINNING. BUT I DON'T LIKE POLITICIANS. ALL THEY WANT IS POWER AND MONEY, AND WHEN IT'S TIME TO GIVE, THEY'RE THE STINGY ONES AND CAN'T EVEN GIVE US A LOAN OR SOME ASSISTANCE. THAT'S WHY I'VE GIVEN UP THIS MATERIALISTIC WORLD AND TURNED TO DHARMA. MY NAME IS PHENTO - WHICH MEANS BENEFITTING OTHERS.

HEE
HEE

YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT POLITICIANS BEING STINGY AND ONLY MONEY-GRABBING. WHY DON'T YOU TELL OTHER PEOPLE SO THEY KNOW WHAT SANGAY IS LIKE? IT WOULD SURELY BENEFIT THEM.

WHY SHOULD I? NO NEED! I DON'T HAVE THE TIME.

GUP IS IN THIMPHU AND MEETS SANGAY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT JIGME.

HONESTLY, I'M NOT SURE WHAT JIGME IS DOING. HE HAS RENTED AN APARTMENT SAYING HE HAS A JOB. I AM SO FRUSTRATED SO I'VE COME TO TALK TO HIM.

ASHA GUP, IT MIGHT DO YOU GOOD TO LET HIM DO WHAT HE WANTS FOR A WHILE. I WOULDN'T BE TOO WORRIED ABOUT HIM. HE'S MATURED AND SMART AND KNOWS WHAT HE IS DOING.

I WORRY. HE WON'T ANSWER ANY OF MY CALLS. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE HE LIVES. ARE YOU IN TOUCH WITH HIM BECAUSE HE RESPECTS AND ADMIRE YOU, RIGHT?

I'M SORRY BUT HE HAS NOT GOTTEN IN TOUCH WITH ME, AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE LIVES.

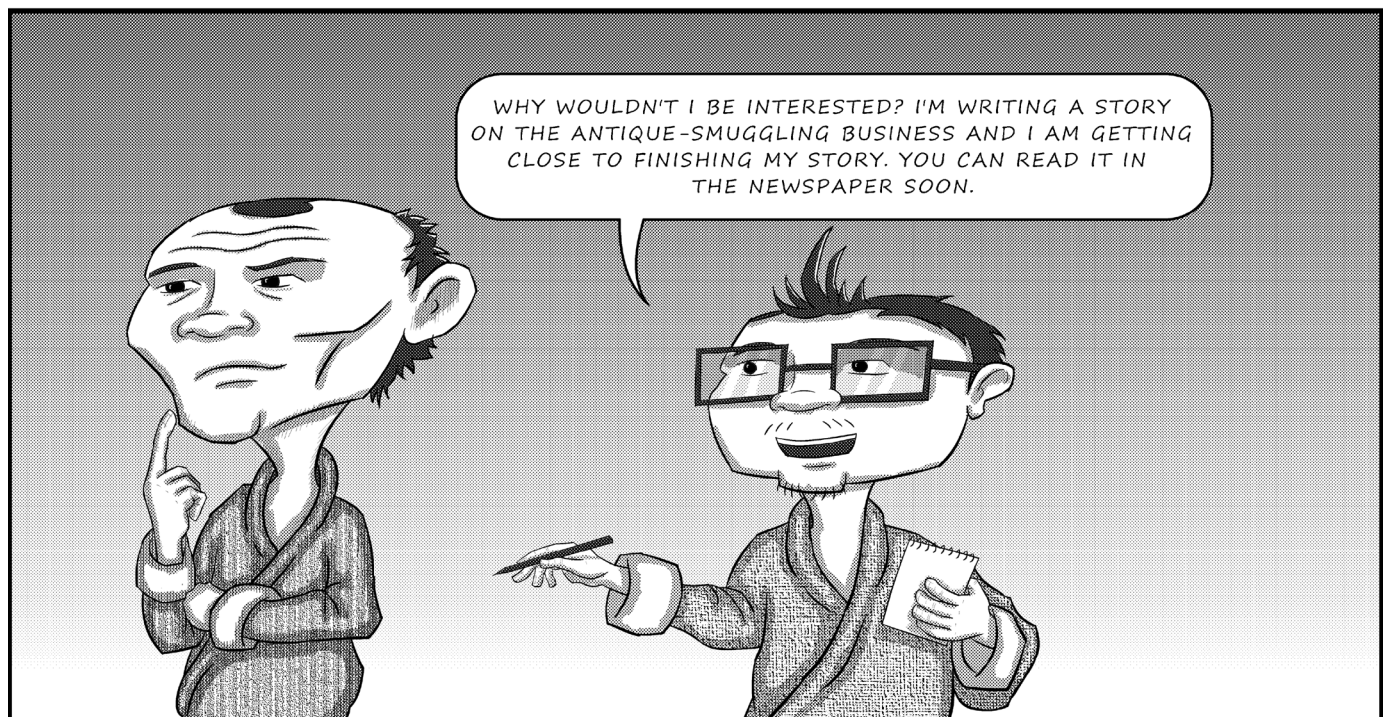
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE IN TOUCH. I MUST HAVE EXPECTED TOO MUCH FROM YOU SANGAY.

MAYBE JIGME IS DELIBERATELY NOT KEEPING IN TOUCH BECAUSE HE KNOWS THAT I WOULD BE THE FIRST PERSON YOU WOULD SEE TO FIND HIM. I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP YOU STILL. I THINK HE'S GOT A JOB.

OH, REALLY? WHAT KIND OF JOB? HE WOULDN'T EVEN TELL ME. HE KNOWS I WOULD BE THRILLED IF HE GOT A JOB.

Ahmm... I DIDN'T SEE HIM BUT MY MOTHER SAW HIM ON TV.

ON TV? I AM CURIOUS; IT'S NOT EASY TO BE ON TV. I WONDER IF HE DID SOMETHING GREAT TO HAVE FOUND FAME SO QUICKLY. YOU HAVE TO BE FAMOUS TO BE ON TV, YOU KNOW.



SANGAY FINDS JIGME'S PLACE. SANGAY IS TRYING TO CONVINCE JIGME TO MEET HIS APA.

ASHA GUP IS LIKE A FATHER TO ME TOO. HE'S WORRIED, TALK TO HIM.

APA KNOWS WHAT I AM DOING. I DON'T THINK WE CAN TALK CIVILLY. HE WON'T UNDERSTAND.

JIGME, I OFFERED TO FIND A JOB FOR YOU AND YOU WERE NOT INTERESTED. AND HERE YOU ARE, A MOMO SELLER. IS THIS WHAT YOU ARE REALLY INTERESTED IN DOING?

YOU MIGHT THINK THAT MY JOB IS OF NO VALUE AND USELESS BUT IT'S NOT. IT REALLY IS NOT.

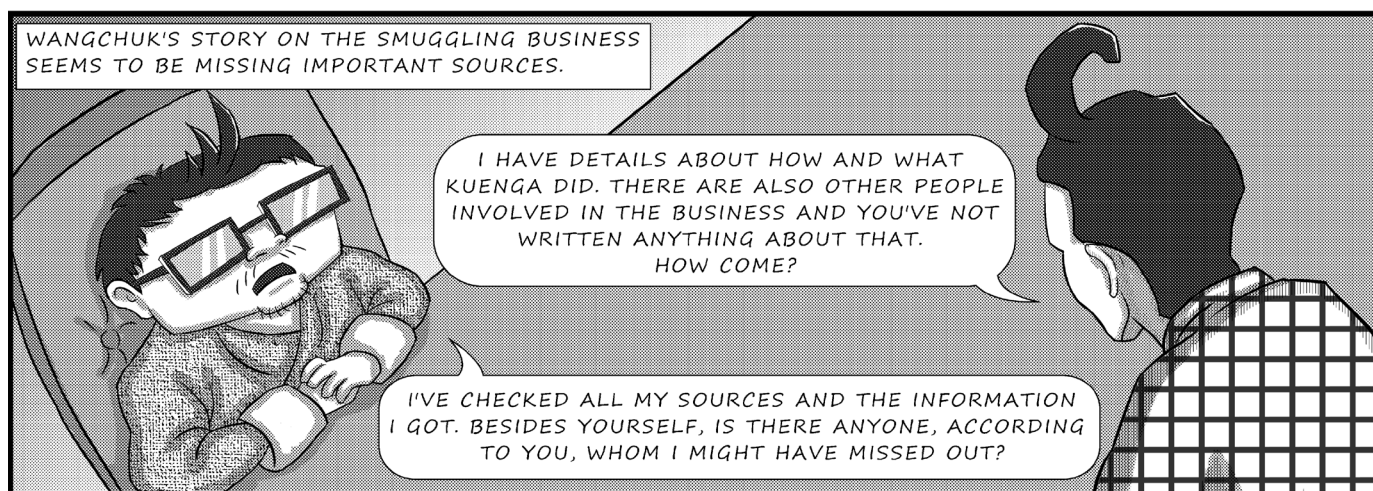
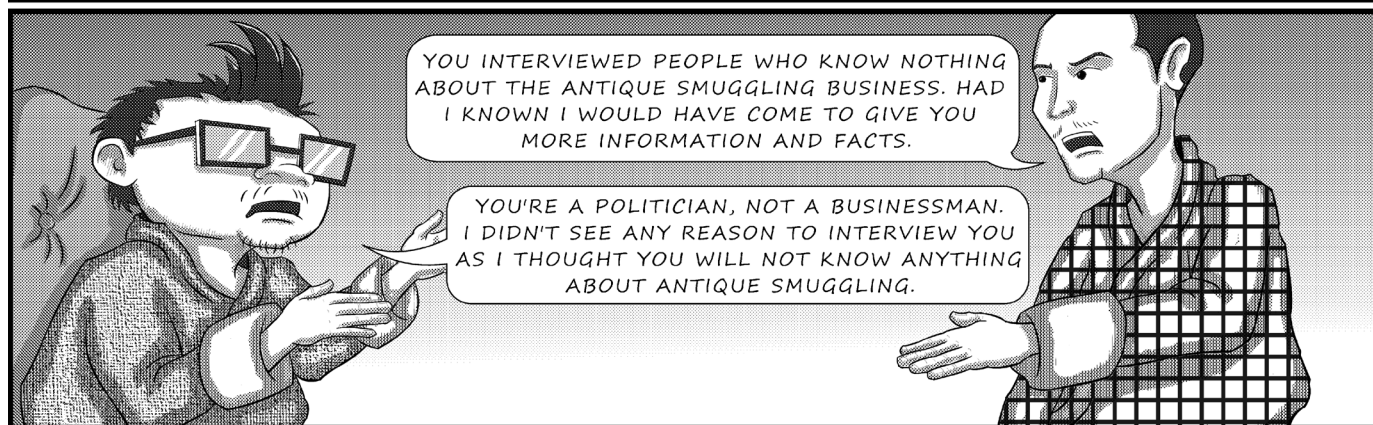
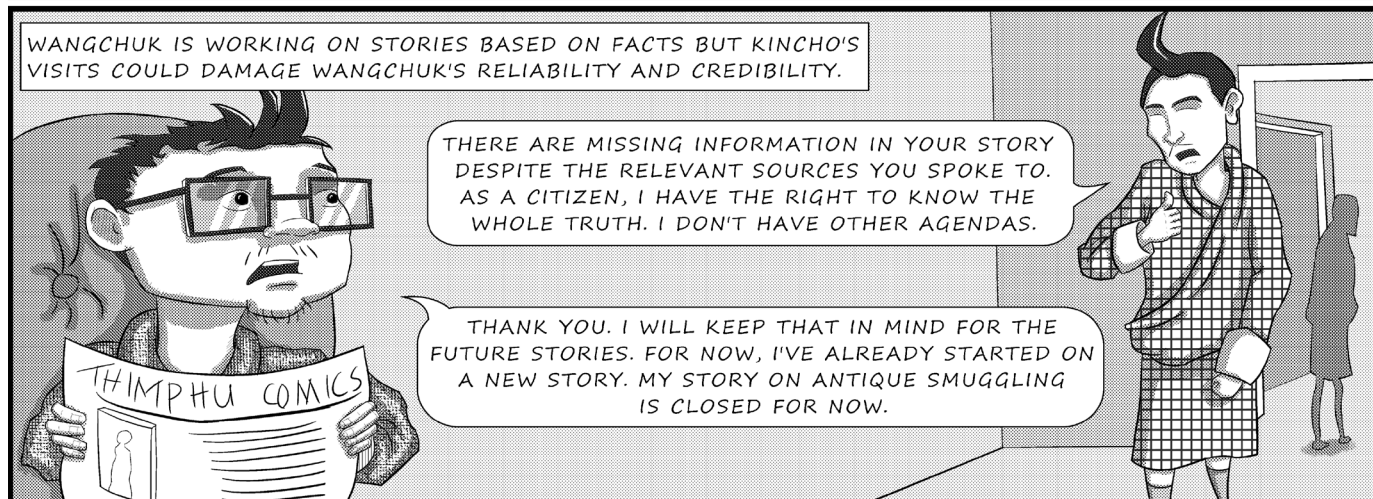
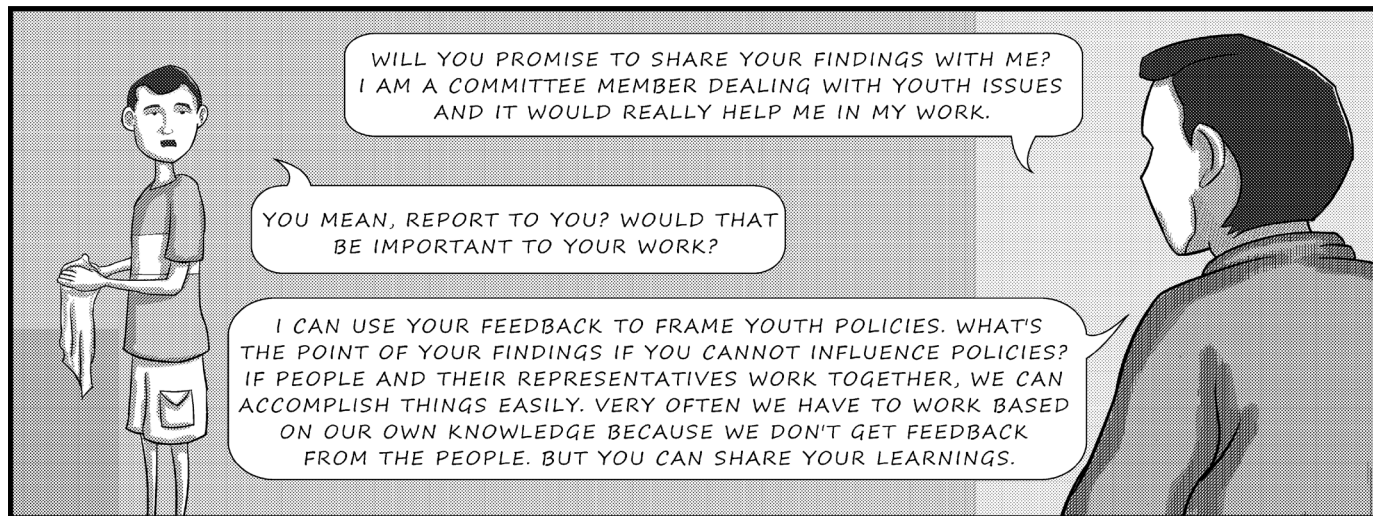
WOULDN'T ANY PARENT BE ANGRY IF THEIR SON DECIDED TO SELL MOMO AFTER COLLEGE. GUP INVESTED A LOT IN JIGME'S EDUCATION.

NO, I DON'T. BUT PUT YOURSELF IN YOUR FATHER'S SHOES. YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A GOOD STUDENT. NATURALLY, HE HAD EXPECTATIONS FROM YOU. YOU CAN'T REALLY BLAME HIM FOR THAT.

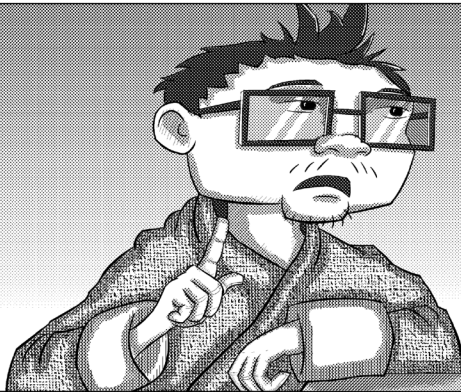
YOU'RE RIGHT, LA. BUT WHAT I AM DOING NOW IS NOT WHAT I'LL BE DOING MY WHOLE LIFE. MY WORK RIGHT NOW GIVES ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERACT WITH FELLOW YOUTH. I GET TO UNDERSTAND OUR ISSUES AND WHY THEY DO WHAT THEY DO. I EARN ENOUGH FOR MYSELF AND DON'T HAVE TO DEPEND SO MUCH ON APA.

YOU WILL SET A GREAT EXAMPLE TO OUR YOUTH. I WILL EXPLAIN TO YOUR APA, BUT YOU MUST PROMISE ME TWO THINGS. FIRST, DON'T LET YOUR APA DOWN, BECAUSE HE HAS HIGH HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS. SO PLEASE MEET HIM. HE DESERVES AN EXPLANATION. HE IS YOUR FATHER.

OKAY. WHAT'S THE SECOND PROMISE?



REPORTERS DON'T WRITE NEWS STORIES
BASED ON ALLEGATIONS AND RUMOURS.



YOU LEFT OUT THE MASTERMIND BEHIND THE
BUSINESS; AP DOLEY, KUENGA WAS JUST ACTING
ON HIS INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDANCE.



I DID CHECK ON AP DOLEY'S INVOLVEMENT
AND DIDN'T FIND ANY EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE
ALLEGATIONS. THERE IS NO NEED TO WRITE ABOUT
SOMEONE WHO IS NOT INVOLVED. IT IS NOT MY
JOB TO WRITE STORIES BASED ON HEAR
SAYS AND RUMOURS.

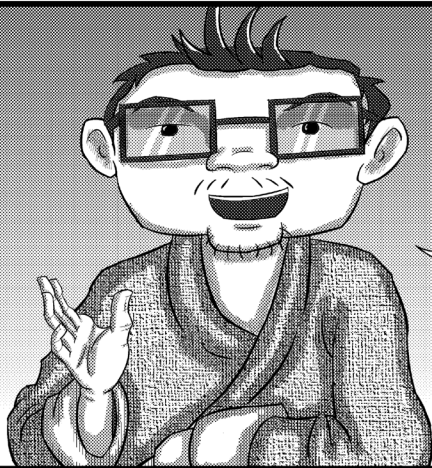
AP DOLEY HAS MP AS A SON-IN-LAW AND SO HE
IS FREE; BUT KUENGA RABTEN IS BEHIND THE BARS.

ALL THESE ALLEGATIONS ARE TRUE. I HOPE YOU ARE
NOT INFLUENCED BY SANGAY AND THAT IS WHY YOU
HAVE NOT MENTIONED AP DOLEY'S INVOLVEMENT!

I KNOW HOW TO DO MY JOB, BUT I
APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN ANYWAY.



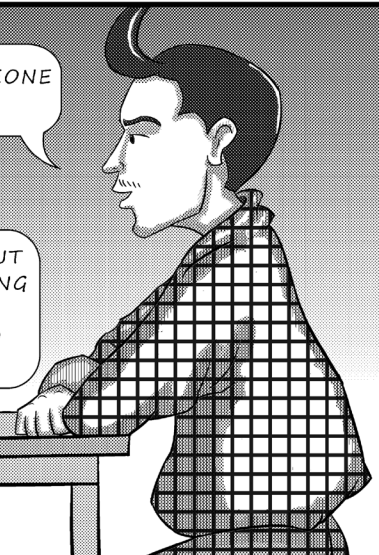
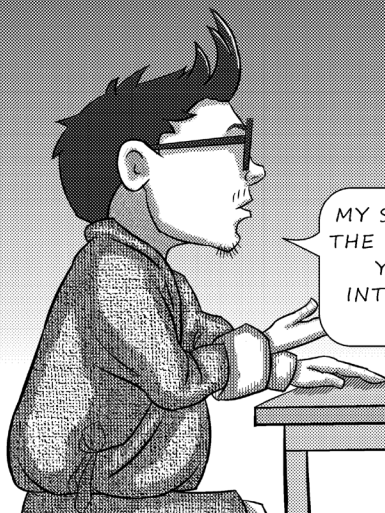
MAYBE I DIDN'T WIN THE ELECTION BECAUSE I AM TOO HONEST.
ANYWAY, WHAT NEW STORY ARE YOU WORKING ON?

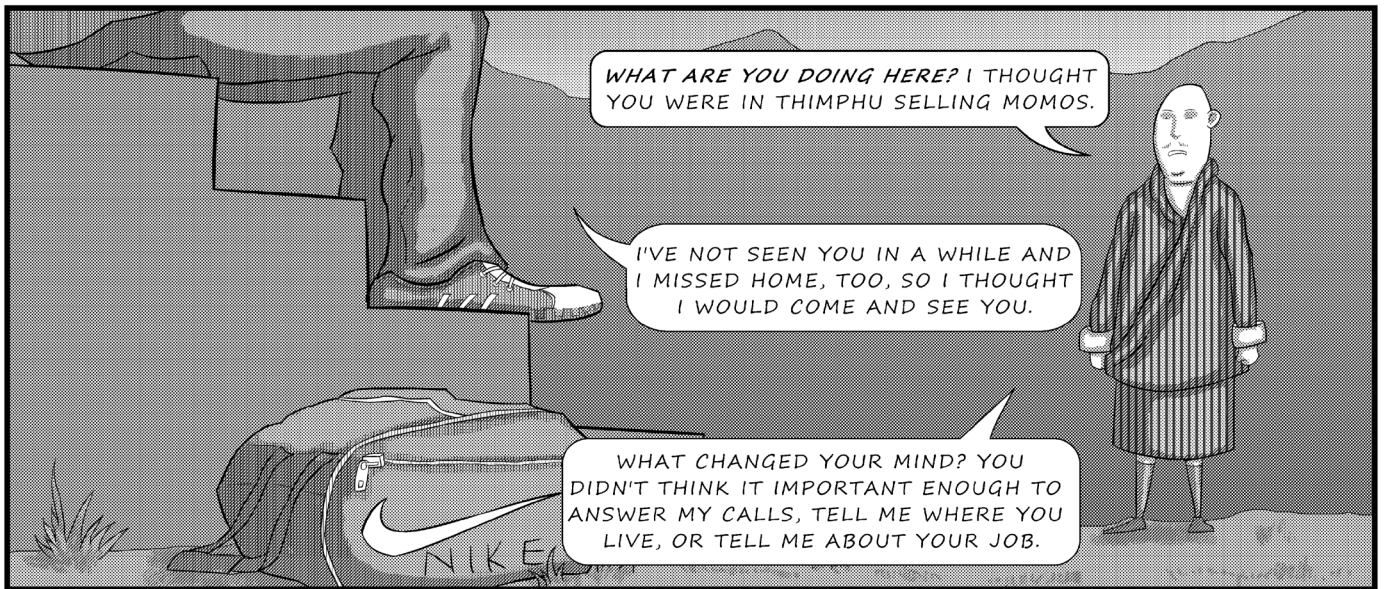


I'M DOING A STORY ON WHY THERE ARE VERY FEW WOMEN
IN POLITICS. BE IT LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR THE PARLIAMENT,
THE NUMBER OF WOMEN IS VERY SMALL. MY HOPE IS THAT
THROUGH MY STORY, I'LL AT LEAST BE ABLE TO BRING UP
THIS ISSUE, AND THE RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS WILL DO
SOMETHING ABOUT IT. WE NEED EQUALITY OF VIEWS AND
GENDER BALANCE IS IMPORTANT IN ELECTED OFFICES.

AND FOR THAT I'M SURE YOU HAVE SOMEONE
PARTICULAR IN YOUR MIND?

MY STORIES NOW ARE ABOUT ISSUES AND NOT ABOUT
THE PERSONALITIES. BUT YES, I WILL BE INTERVIEWING
YESHEY, DASHO SANGAY'S WIFE. I HEARD SHE'S
INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS. I'D
LIKE TO FOLLOW HER STORY AS AN EXAMPLE.

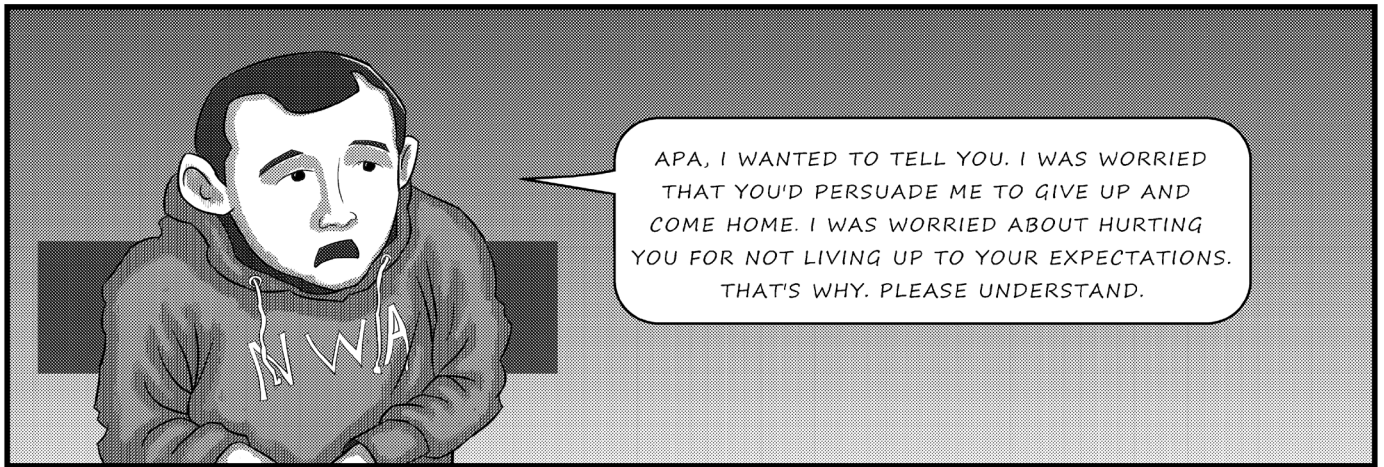




WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN THIMPHU SELLING MOMOS.

I'VE NOT SEEN YOU IN A WHILE AND I MISSED HOME, TOO, SO I THOUGHT I WOULD COME AND SEE YOU.

WHAT CHANGED YOUR MIND? YOU DIDN'T THINK IT IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO ANSWER MY CALLS, TELL ME WHERE YOU LIVE, OR TELL ME ABOUT YOUR JOB.



APA, I WANTED TO TELL YOU. I WAS WORRIED THAT YOU'D PERSUADE ME TO GIVE UP AND COME HOME. I WAS WORRIED ABOUT HURTING YOU FOR NOT LIVING UP TO YOUR EXPECTATIONS. THAT'S WHY. PLEASE UNDERSTAND.



GUP ADMITS JIGME'S JOB DOESN'T LIVE UP TO HIS EXPECTATIONS. THE WHOLE VILLAGE IS TALKING ABOUT A GRADUATE SELLING MOMOS.

APA, SORRY I AM EARNING A LIVING HONESTLY. WE'VE GOT TO CHANGE OUR MENTALITY. EDUCATION IS EMPOWERMENT BUT NOT NECESSARILY A TOOL TO GET US IN TO A GOVERNMENT POSITION. OUR COUNTRY IS SMALL, AND THE NUMBER OF JOBS ARE DECREASING EVERY YEAR. IF EVERY GRADUATE WANTED A JOB IN THE GOVERNMENT, THERE WON'T BE ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE? WE SHOULD CREATE OUR OWN JOBS.

GUP CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW JIGME IS CONTRIBUTING TO OUR DEMOCRACY BY SELLING MOMOS.

ALL THIS BIG TALK ABOUT CREATING YOUR OWN JOB IS FINE BUT A *MOMO SELLER*? YOUR EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION IS NOW A PART OF YOUR IDENTITY. THINK OF ALL THE EFFORT YOU MADE, AND THE SACRIFICES I MADE FOR YOU TO DO WELL IN YOUR EXAMS, AND MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO OUR NEW DEMOCRACY. WHAT ABOUT ALL THAT?

I'M STILL DOING THAT APA, AND IN THE PROCESS, I'M INTERACTING WITH THE YOUTH AND I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION THEY ARE IN.

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. HAVE YOU TALKED TO SANGAY ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE DOING AND WHAT YOU FOUND?

I DID. DURING THE CAMPAIGN I OFTEN ASKED HIM TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS OF YOUTH, BUT SANGAY'S HANDS SEEM TO BE TIED, AND I DON'T KNOW IF HE ALONE CAN DO EVERYTHING.

WELL, FROM MY OWN EXPERIENCE, THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS WE WANT TO DO TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, BUT HE HAS TO FOLLOW THE LAWS AND PROCEDURES.

I KNOW WE HAVE TO FOLLOW THE LAW. BUT SOMETIMES BEING A PART OF THE SYSTEM, HIS HANDS ARE TIED. THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIETY AS WELL AS MAKE A LIVING. I AM LEARNING THAT NOW. CIVIL SERVANTS AND POLITICIANS ARE NOT ONLY ONES WHO CAN DO SOMETHING MEANINGFUL FOR OUR COUNTRY. WE CAN CONTRIBUTE TOO IF WE WANT.



CAN'T IMAGINE SEEING YOU HERE.

JUST BECAUSE I LOST THE ELECTIONS AND YOUR SON-IN-LAW WON, IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE SHOULD NOT TALK TO EACH OTHER, DOES IT?



I DID NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH SANGAY'S VICTORY.

AHHH, IF YOU HAD NOT SUPPORTED HIM, DO YOU THINK HE WOULD HAVE WON? EVERYONE KNOWS HIS VICTORY IS BECAUSE OF YOU. QUITE A POLITICAL FAMILY YOURS IS BECOMING.

JUST BECAUSE MY SON-IN-LAW IS AN MP DOES NOT MEAN MY WHOLE FAMILY IS POLITICAL.



NO, BUT ONCE ONE HAS THE POLITICAL BUG, OTHERS FOLLOW. I HEAR YESHEY ALSO WISHES TO FOLLOW HER HUSBAND TO THE ELECTED OFFICE.

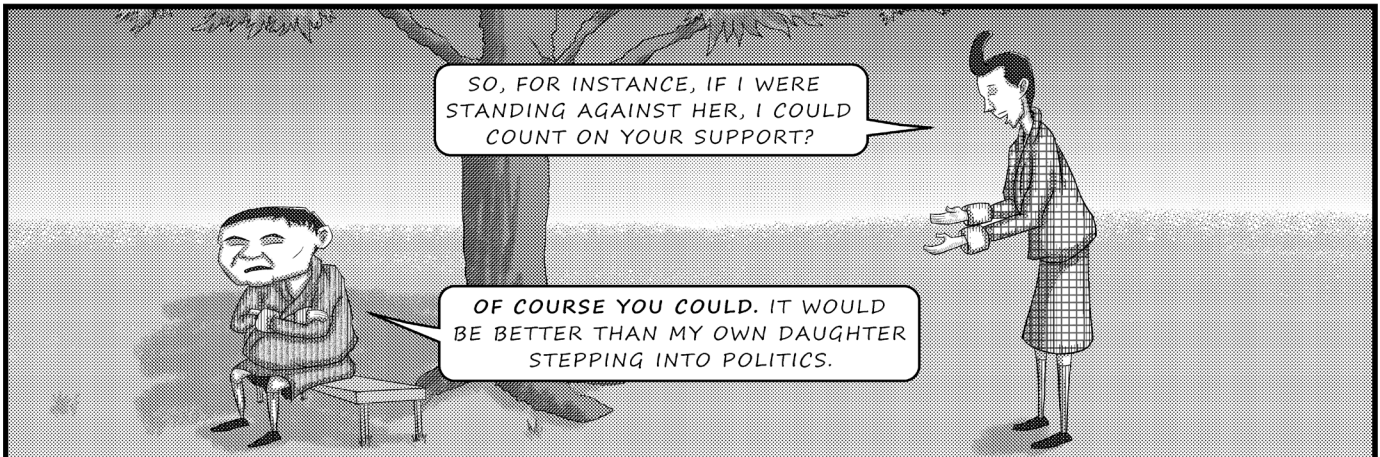
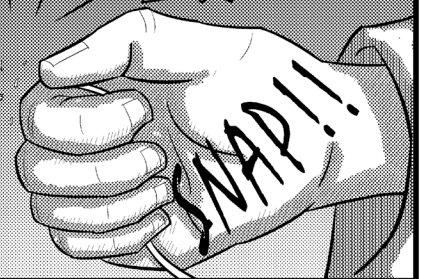


YESHEY! MY DAUGHTER? SHE JUST GOT MARRIED! WILL SHE LOOK AFTER HER HOME OR THE CONSTITUENCY?

REALLY? HARD TO BELIEVE YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOUR DAUGHTER'S PLAN FOR POLITICS.

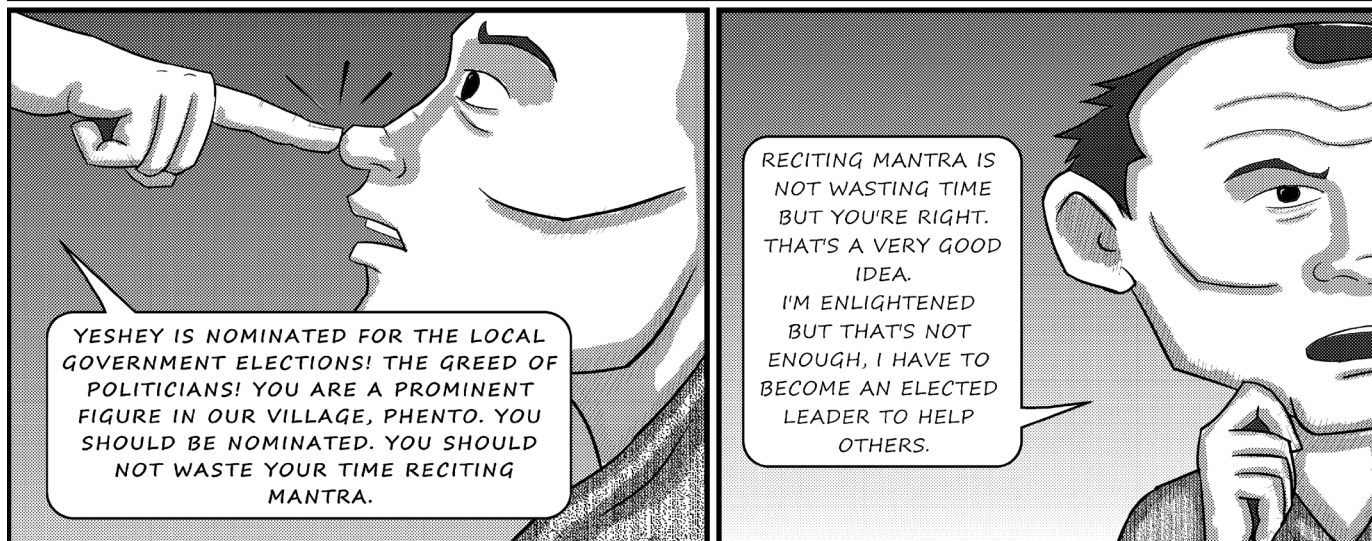
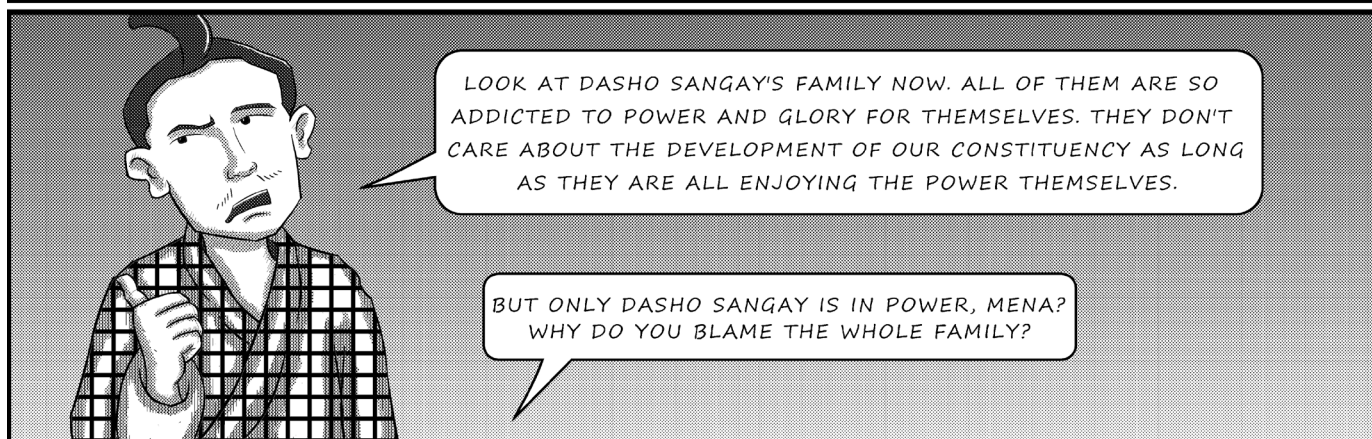
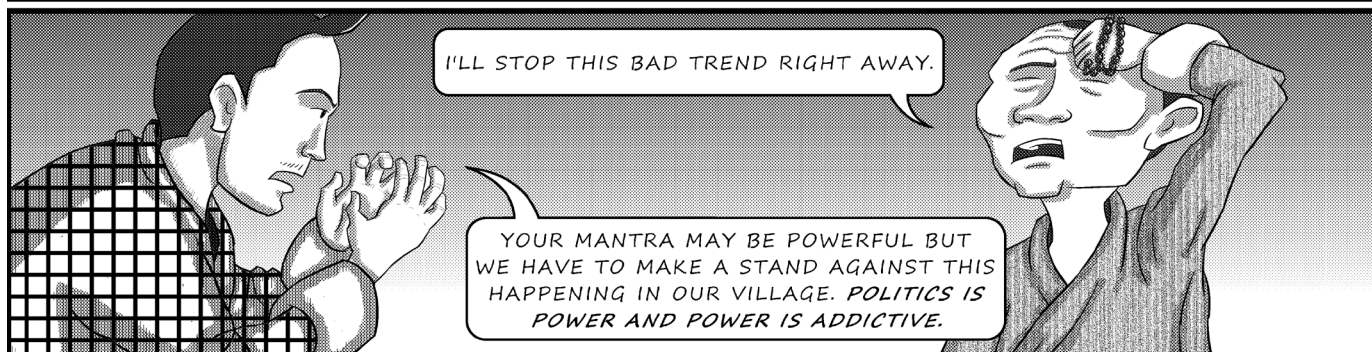
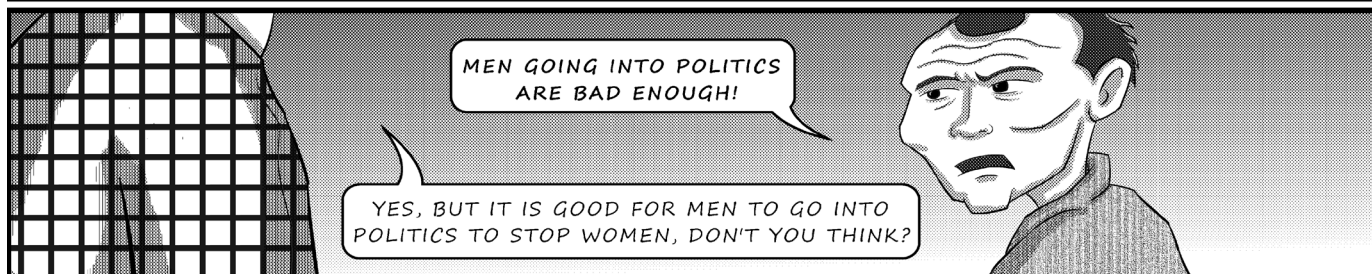
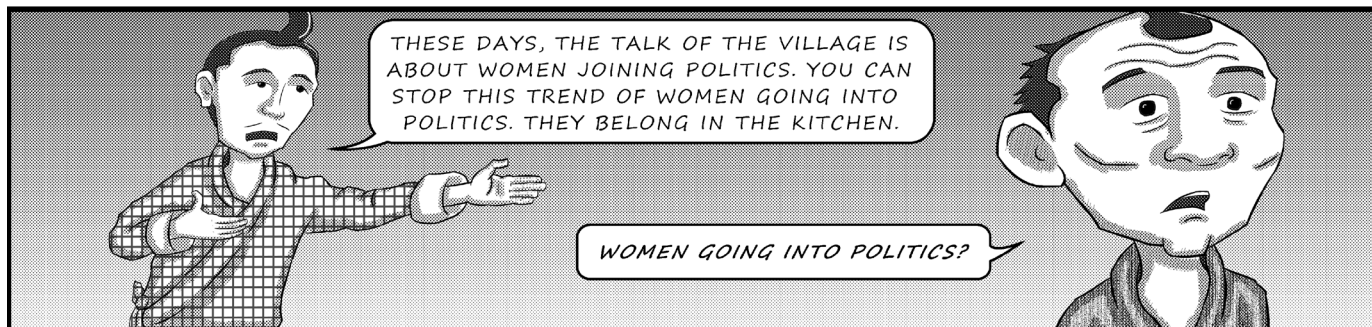
AP DOLEY IS STILL SHOCKED TO HEAR YESHEY'S INTEREST IN POLITICS.

I WILL NOT ALLOW IT!



SO, FOR INSTANCE, IF I WERE STANDING AGAINST HER, I COULD COUNT ON YOUR SUPPORT?

OF COURSE YOU COULD. IT WOULD BE BETTER THAN MY OWN DAUGHTER STEPPING INTO POLITICS.



SANGAY IS IMPRESSED WITH WANGCHUK'S WORK AS A REPORTER COVERING RELEVANT STORIES.

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON NOW? I DARE SAY IT INVOLVES ME SINCE YOU ARE HERE?

I'M DOING A STORY ON WOMEN IN POLITICS, I HEAR YOUR WIFE MIGHT BE RUNNING FOR THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS, SO IT INVOLVES YOU IN A SENSE.

I SEE, AND YOU WANT MY VIEWS ON THAT? I'M AN MP AND HAVE NO SAY IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

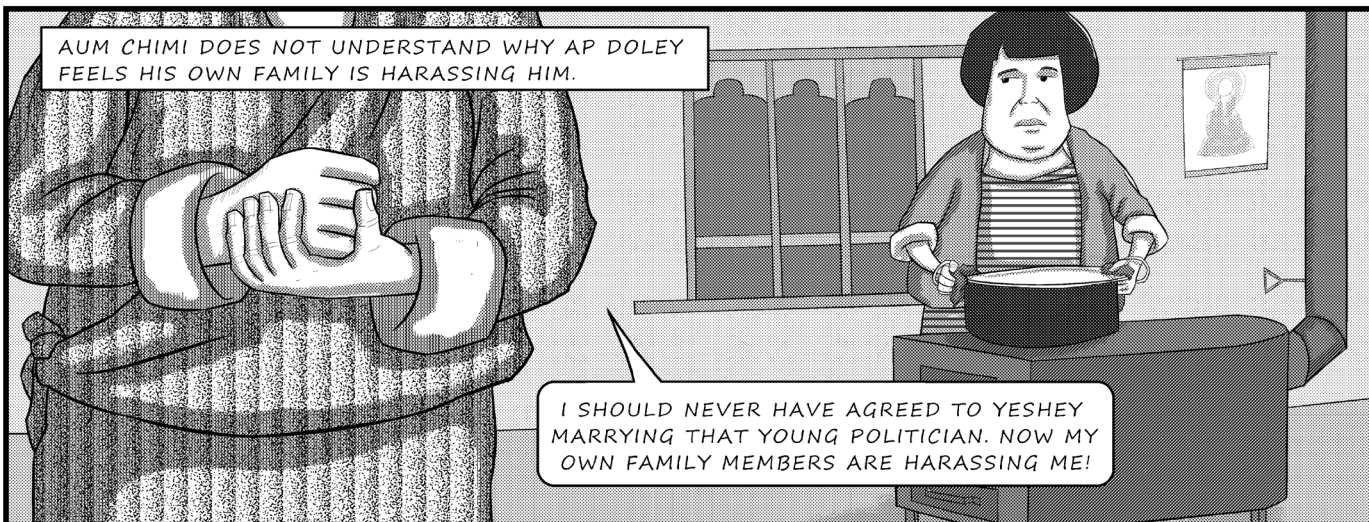
PEOPLE ARE ACCUSING YOU OF NEPOTISM; THEY SAY YOU WANT TO KEEP IT ALL IN THE FAMILY BY NOMINATING YOUR WIFE FOR THE GUP'S POSITION. WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON THAT, LA.

SANGAY IS SURPRISED HOW PEOPLE DECIDE FOR OTHERS. YESHEY HAS NOT MADE ANY DECISION ON STANDING FOR THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

AMAZING RUMOURS. MY WIFE HAS NOT TOLD ME OF ANY DECISION ON HER PART TO STAND IN LOCAL ELECTIONS, BUT EVERYONE ELSE KNOWS ABOUT SUCH A DECISION!

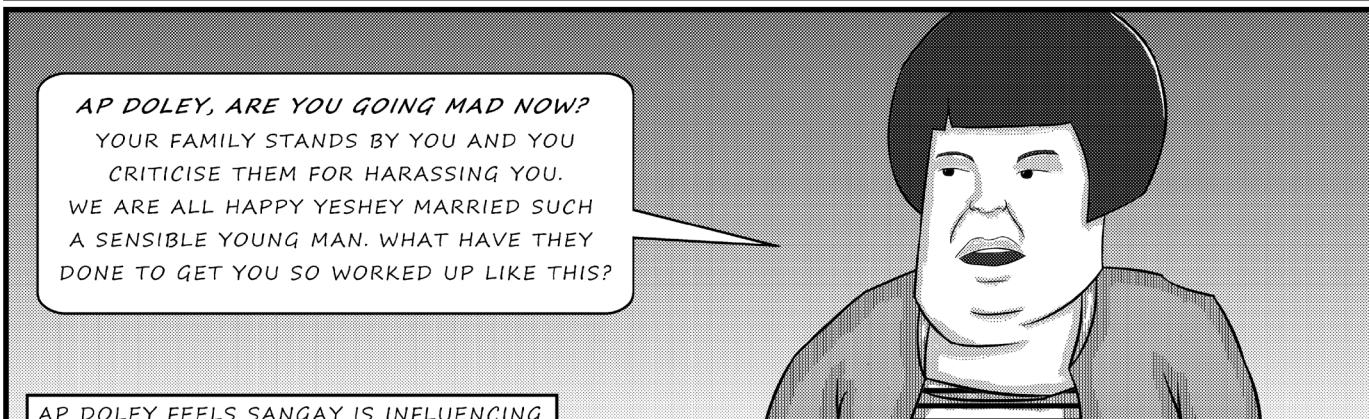
WITH YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE, DON'T YOU THINK IT WOULD BE GOOD IF MORE WOMEN STOOD FOR PUBLIC OFFICE?

YES, IT WOULD BE DEFINITELY GOOD TO HAVE MORE WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING POSITIONS. THE POLICIES WE MAKE NEED A BALANCED VIEW FROM BOTH MEN AND WOMEN AND WITH VERY FEW WOMEN IN ELECTED POSITIONS, IT'S NOT BALANCED AT THE MOMENT. IF YESHEY WANTS TO GIVE IT A GO, SHE HAS MY SUPPORT. I'D ENCOURAGE HER.



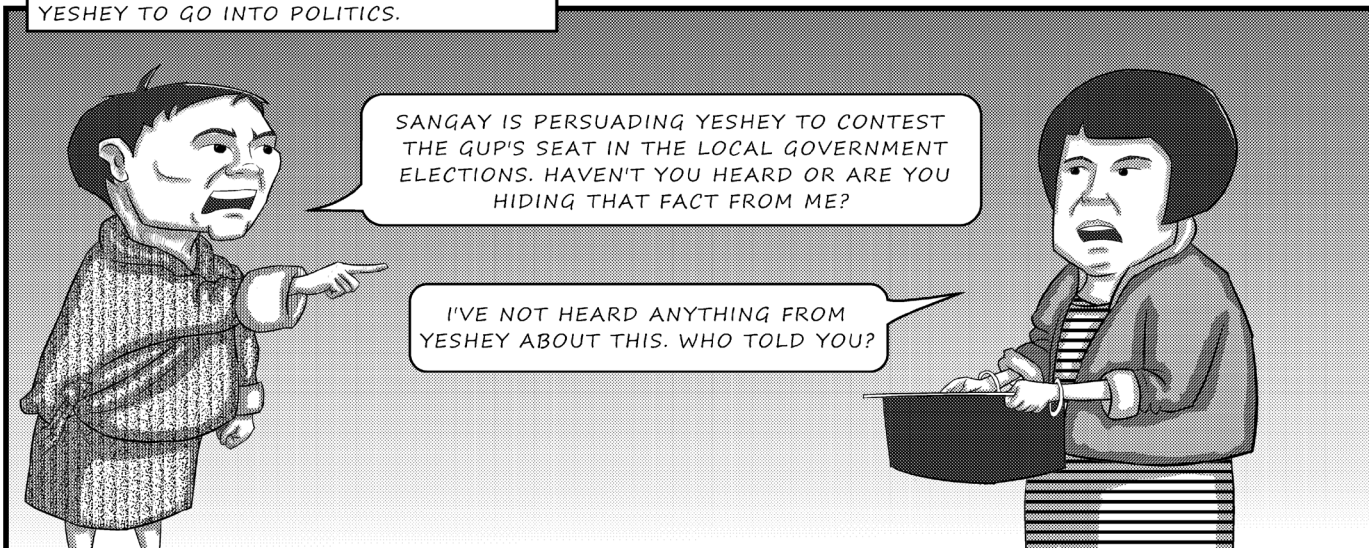
AUM CHIMI DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHY AP DOLEY FEELS HIS OWN FAMILY IS HARASSING HIM.

I SHOULD NEVER HAVE AGREED TO YESHEY MARRYING THAT YOUNG POLITICIAN. NOW MY OWN FAMILY MEMBERS ARE HARASSING ME!



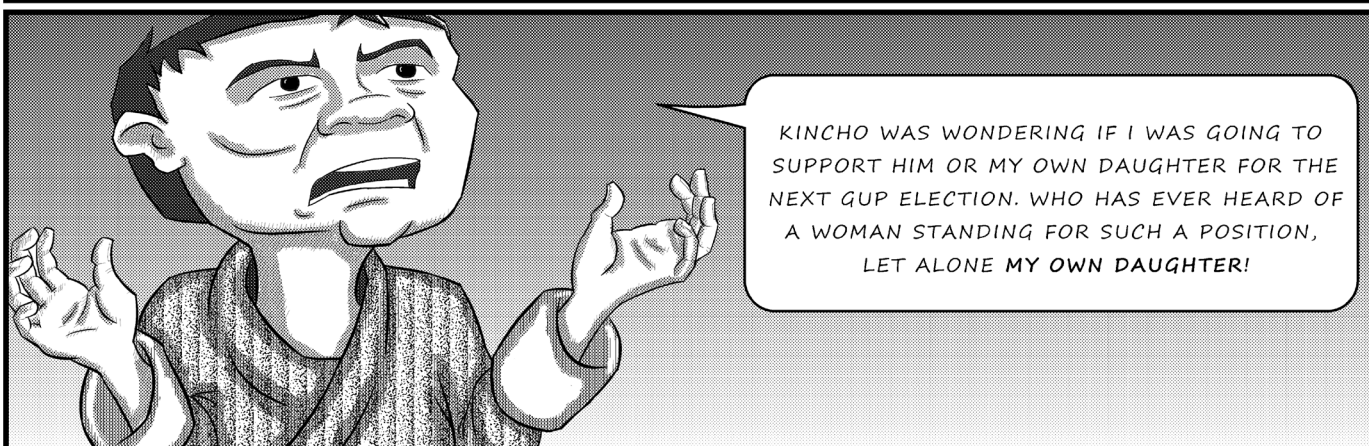
AP DOLEY, ARE YOU GOING MAD NOW? YOUR FAMILY STANDS BY YOU AND YOU CRITICISE THEM FOR HARASSING YOU. WE ARE ALL HAPPY YESHEY MARRIED SUCH A SENSIBLE YOUNG MAN. WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO GET YOU SO WORKED UP LIKE THIS?

AP DOLEY FEELS SANGAY IS INFLUENCING YESHEY TO GO INTO POLITICS.



SANGAY IS PERSUADING YESHEY TO CONTEST THE GUP'S SEAT IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS. HAVEN'T YOU HEARD OR ARE YOU HIDING THAT FACT FROM ME?

I'VE NOT HEARD ANYTHING FROM YESHEY ABOUT THIS. WHO TOLD YOU?



KINCHO WAS WONDERING IF I WAS GOING TO SUPPORT HIM OR MY OWN DAUGHTER FOR THE NEXT GUP ELECTION. WHO HAS EVER HEARD OF A WOMAN STANDING FOR SUCH A POSITION, LET ALONE MY OWN DAUGHTER!

SEDAY IS COMPLAINING HOW PITIFUL HER LIFE IS COMPARED TO YESHEY WHO IS LIVING IN THE CITY AND WHOSE AMBITION KNOWS NO BOUNDS.

SONAM AND DECHEN, BEHAVE YOURSELVES!
YALAMA!!
I MIGHT GO CRAZY WITH THE AMOUNT OF THINGS I HAVE TO DO AROUND HERE.



CHILDREN WHO ARE BECOMING MORE UNMANAGEABLE BY THE DAY, AND NEVER ENDING HOUSEHOLD WORK AND ANIMAL CARE- IT'S ENDLESS! I'M SO UNLUCKY. LOOK AT YESHEY LIVING IN THE CITY WITH NOTHING TO DO THE WHOLE DAY. SHE SHOULD BE HERE TO HELP WITH SOME THINGS AROUND. SHE'S ALWAYS THE PAMPERED ONE, AND IT'S ANNOYING THAT SHE DOESN'T EVEN COME TO HELP. AND DID YOU HEAR SHE'S GOING TO STAND FOR THE GUP ELECTIONS!



CALM DOWN, CALM DOWN. ARE YOU SURE, SEDAY? DID YESHEY TELL YOU HERSELF?

NO. WHEN DOES SHE HAVE THE TIME TO TELL ME HERSELF? SHE IS TOO BUSY ENJOYING HERSELF IN THE CITY! BUT THE NEWS IS ALL OVER THE VILLAGE.



WE DON'T KNOW IF YESHEY INTENDS TO STAND FOR THE GUP'S OFFICE. IF SHE DOES WISH TO STAND, I'M SURE IT'S A WISH TO SERVE.





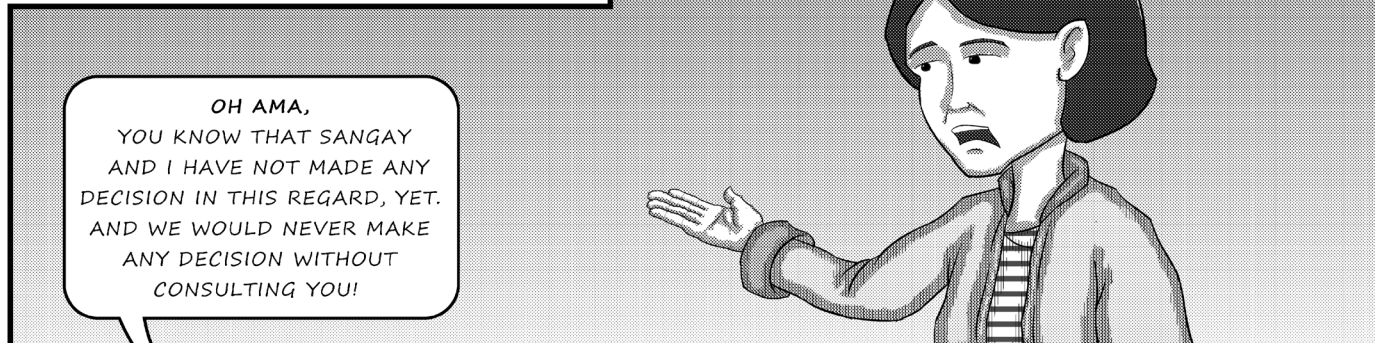
YESHEY, HAVE YOU HEARD THE LATEST RUMOUR FROM GAKITHANG?

OH YES, YES. I'VE HAD A FRANTIC CALL FROM MY MOTHER ABOUT ME CONTESTING THE GUP'S POST SOON!

WELL, I'M SURE YOU WOULD MAKE AN EXCELLENT ADMINISTRATOR, AND BESIDES, THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING. WHY NOT?



I CAN THINK OF MANY REASONS WHY NOT. YOU TWO SHOULD BE THINKING OF BUILDING YOUR HOME AND FAMILY. I DON'T THINK THERE'LL BE TIME FOR ANYTHING ELSE, LET ALONE BEING A GUP. YOU'LL ONLY BE EXPOSING YOURSELF TO MORE CRITICISMS AND RUMOURS BY ENTERING INTO A MAN'S DOMAIN. YOU ONLY HAVE TO LOOK AT SANGAY TO SEE HOW MUCH HE HAS TO PUT UP WITH JUST BECAUSE HE'S AN MP.



OH AMA, YOU KNOW THAT SANGAY AND I HAVE NOT MADE ANY DECISION IN THIS REGARD, YET. AND WE WOULD NEVER MAKE ANY DECISION WITHOUT CONSULTING YOU!



WELL, I WANT MY DAUGHTER-IN-LAW WITH ME AT HOME!

PHENTO MEETS JIGME SELLING MOMO AND TAKES THE CREDIT OF JIGME'S SUCCESSFUL MOMO SELLING BUSINESS.

WANG RANA MEDICAL SHOP

THIMPHU BHUTAN

CHIMPU'S DRAYAN
ENTERTAINMENT AND

MOMO FOR SALE,
MOMO FOR SALE,
COME AND EAT SUMPTUOUS
MOMO!

NO
SMOKI

WOW, AN HONORED GUEST!

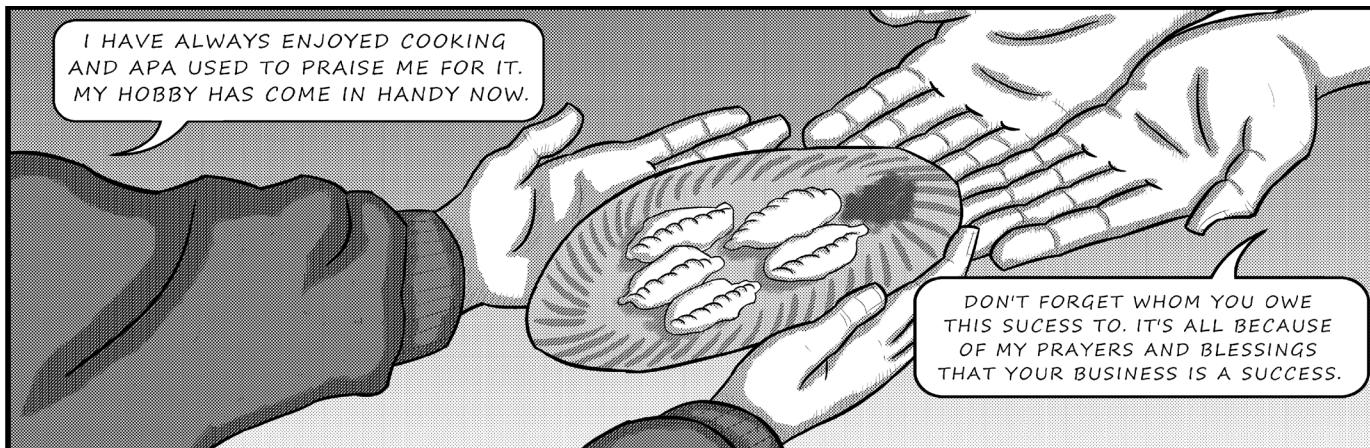
OM MANI PADME HUNG... TEY, JIGME, LOOKS
LIKE YOU ARE DOING A BRISK BUSINESS. NOW
YOU MUST FEED ME FREE MOMO WHENEVER
I AM IN TOWN AND YOU WILL DO WELL.

Aaah... AUE PHENTO, YOU HAVE
NOT CHANGED A BIT. COME,
COME, BE MY GUEST. EAT AS
MANY MOMO AS YOU CAN.

SO YOU COOK THESE DELICIOUS MOMO YOURSELF?
WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO DO IT?

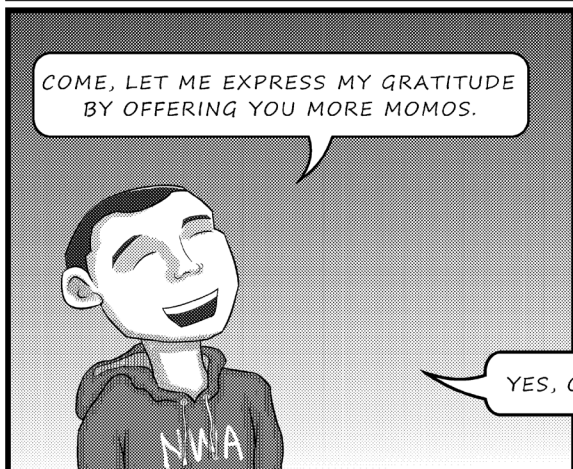
SLURP!

MY MOTHER PASSED AWAY WHEN I WAS LITTLE AND
APA WAS ALWAYS BUSY AS A GUP. SO I HAD TO
LOOK AFTER MYSELF A LOT AND IT HAS PAID OFF.

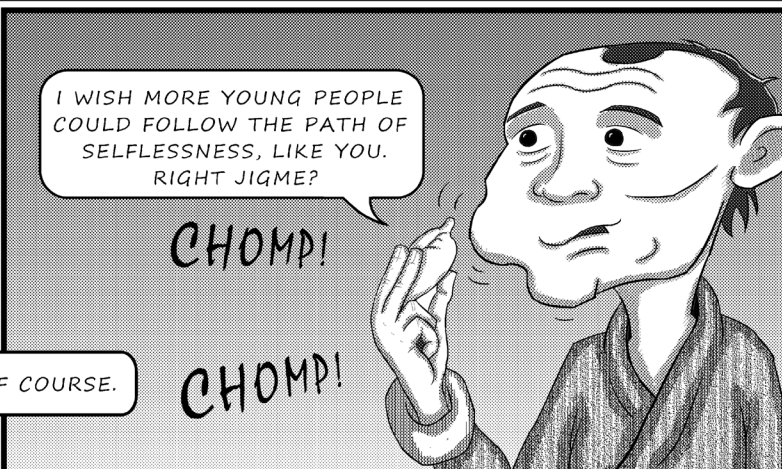


I HAVE ALWAYS ENJOYED COOKING AND APA USED TO PRAISE ME FOR IT. MY HOBBY HAS COME IN HANDY NOW.

DON'T FORGET WHOM YOU OWE THIS SUCCESS TO. IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF MY PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS THAT YOUR BUSINESS IS A SUCCESS.



COME, LET ME EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE BY OFFERING YOU MORE MOMOS.



I WISH MORE YOUNG PEOPLE COULD FOLLOW THE PATH OF SELFLESSNESS, LIKE YOU. RIGHT JIGME?

CHOMP!

CHOMP!

YES, OF COURSE.



MANY PEOPLE ARE AGAINST WOMEN ENTERING POLITICS, WHAT ABOUT KINCHO?

WANGCHUK HOTEL

I'VE NOTICED, WHENEVER I'VE INTERVIEWED YOU, IT'S BEEN *SANGAY THIS, SANGAY THAT*. INSTEAD OF CONCENTRATING ON ISSUES, YOU'RE ALWAYS ATTACKING ONE PERSON. I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU STAND ON PARTICULAR ISSUES. TAKE WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS, FOR INSTANCE. WHO KNOWS WHERE YOU STAND ON THIS ISSUE?

WELL, AS YOU KNOW, MANY PEOPLE ARE AGAINST WOMEN ENTERING THE POLITICAL ARENA!



IT IS POLITICS, YOU KNOW. I CAN'T GO AGAINST WHAT THE PEOPLE THINK. BUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU? YOU USED TO BE MY SUPPORTER; NOW YOU'VE TURNED AGAINST ME.

I'M NOT FOR OR AGAINST ANYONE; I'M TRYING TO REPORT THE TRUTH.

AP GUP IS IN THIMPHU AGAIN, WORRIED ABOUT JIGME.

BEFORE I ONLY CAME TO THE CITY WHEN MY OFFICIAL DUTIES CALLED ME AND NOW I HAVE PERSONAL BUSINESS TOO. DID YOU SEE JIGME RECENTLY?

YES, I MET HIM A COUPLE OF TIMES. ASHA GUP, YOU SHOULD BE REALLY PROUD OF YOUR SON.

PROUD? I WOULD BE PROUD IF HE HAD A JOB AND SHOWED SIGNS OF SETTLING DOWN.

YOUR FEELING IS UNDERSTANDABLE. AFTER ALL, YOU SENT HIM TO GET ALL THAT EDUCATION HOPING A DECENT JOB FOR HIM. BUT YOU MUST ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT HE'S DOING SOMETHING THAT MATTERS TO HIM. HE TOLD ME HE WILL NOT BE A MOMO SELLER HIS WHOLE LIFE. SO GIVE HIM TIME. HE'LL BE FINE AND HE'S DOING A GOOD JOB SERVING THE TSA-WA-SUM.

HOW IS JIGME GOING TO SERVE THE TSA-WA-SUM SELLING MOMO?

THAT'S THE PATH HE'S CHOSEN, AND HIS AIM IS NOT TO JUST MAKE MONEY. SELLING MOMO IS JUST A WAY TO SUPPORT HIMSELF WHILE HE DOES SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT. HE'S PASSIONATE ABOUT FINDING OUT YOUTHS' CONCERNS FROM THE YOUTH ON THE STREET. HE'S A PUBLIC SERVANT AT HEART, LIKE YOU, ASHA GUP. YOU HAVE DONE A GREAT JOB INSTILLING THAT IN HIM.

PHENTO DENIES GIVING UP THE PATH OF SPIRITUALITY.

IF YOU ARE SO COMMITTED TO YOUR SO-CALLED CALLING, WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS? HOW DOES THIS TALLY WITH THE SPIRITUAL PATH THAT YOU HAVE ADOPTED? DO YOU WANT TO RUN FOR LOCAL ELECTION IN ORDER TO GUIDE EVERYONE ON THE PATH OF ENLIGHTENMENT?

I'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO MAKE A STAND. I HEAR THAT MY VILLAGE WOMEN NOW WANT TO RUN FOR GUP. UNTHINKABLE!!

SO, WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

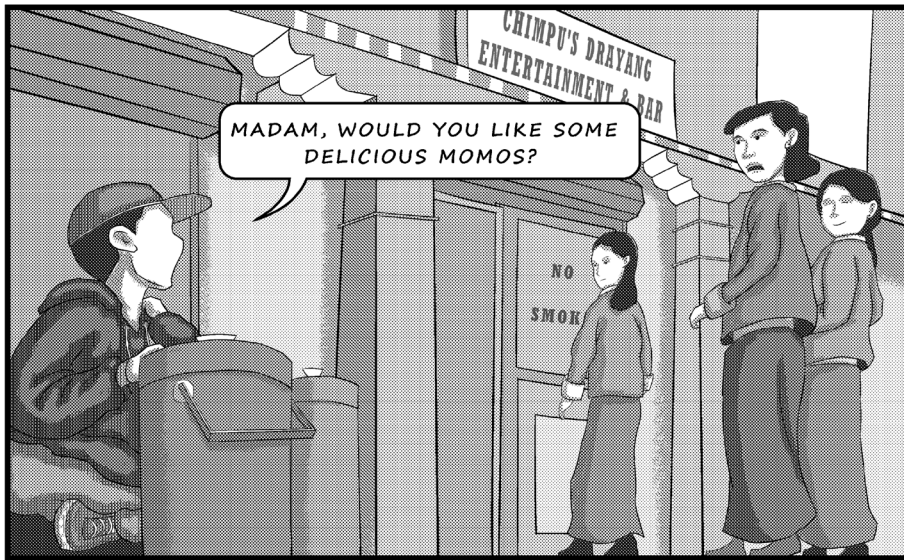
EVERYTHING IS WRONG! THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY, IT'S MEN WHO HAVE RULED AND WOMEN HAVE BEEN AT HOME. I'M RUNNING TO MAINTAIN OUR TRADITION. IF A WOMAN BECOMES GUP, WE WILL HAVE DROUGHTS AND FAMINES IN OUR GEWOQ.

THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO. THESE ARE NEW TIMES NOW. WOMEN ARE EDUCATED TOO AND TAKE UP JOBS. MOREOVER WE NOW HAVE DEMOCRACY. AND IN A DEMOCRACY, SURELY BOTH WOMEN AND MEN SHOULD BE EQUAL. IT WILL BE UP TO THE PEOPLE WHETHER THEY VOTE FOR A WOMAN OR NOT. WE ALREADY HAVE A LADY GUP AND NOTHING'S HAPPENED TO THAT GEWOQ.

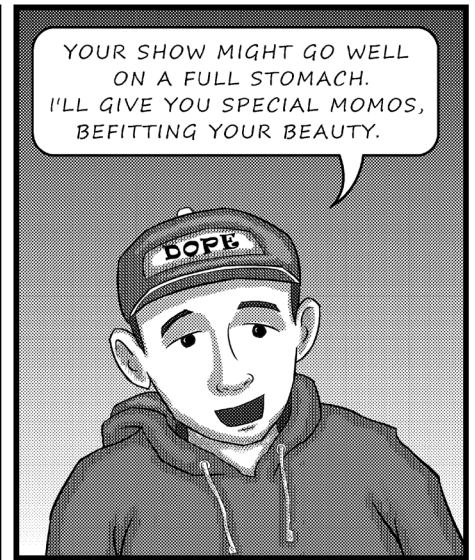
PHENTO DOESN'T BELIEVE IN WOMEN IN POLITICS. WOMEN BELONG IN THE KITCHEN AND THEY SHOULD LEAVE THE POLITICS TO THE MEN.

AH, I FEEL SORRY FOR THAT GEWOQ WITH THE LADY GUP. IT'S RIDICULOUS! I DON'T BELIEVE IN THIS NEW DEMOCRACY. THE WOMEN MIGHT BE EDUCATED, BUT THEY DON'T HAVE TO STAND FOR ELECTIONS. EDUCATION IS NO EXCUSE TO CHANGE OUR CULTURE AND TRADITION.

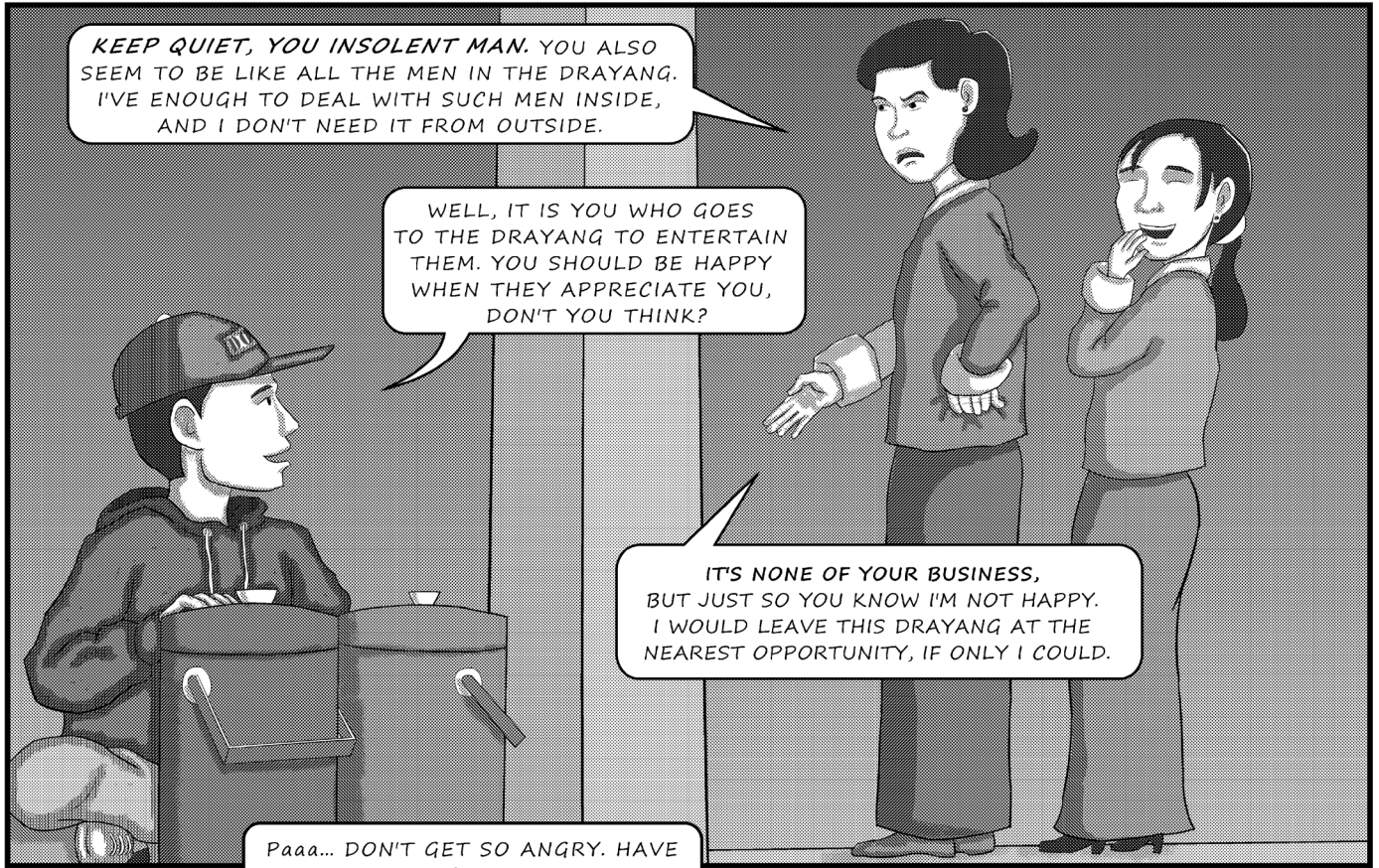
YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN DEMOCRACY BUT YOU ARE REGULARLY STANDING IN ELECTIONS, WHENEVER THERE IS ONE. IF YOU WERE TO BE ELECTED, THEN I SUPPOSE YOU WOULD CONSIDER DEMOCRACY TO BE OKAY! IF WOMEN WANT TO STAND FOR ELECTIONS, LET THEM. THERE ARE SOME OF US WHO WELCOME THE BALANCE IN OUR LEADERSHIP.



MADAM, WOULD YOU LIKE SOME DELICIOUS MOMOS?



YOUR SHOW MIGHT GO WELL ON A FULL STOMACH. I'LL GIVE YOU SPECIAL MOMOS, BEFITTING YOUR BEAUTY.



KEEP QUIET, YOU INSOLENT MAN. YOU ALSO SEEM TO BE LIKE ALL THE MEN IN THE DRAYANG. I'VE ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH SUCH MEN INSIDE, AND I DON'T NEED IT FROM OUTSIDE.

WELL, IT IS YOU WHO GOES TO THE DRAYANG TO ENTERTAIN THEM. YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY WHEN THEY APPRECIATE YOU, DON'T YOU THINK?

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, BUT JUST SO YOU KNOW I'M NOT HAPPY. I WOULD LEAVE THIS DRAYANG AT THE NEAREST OPPORTUNITY, IF ONLY I COULD.

Paaa... DON'T GET SO ANGRY. HAVE MOMO AND WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT.



NO THANK YOU, AND KEEP YOUR MOMO TO YOURSELF.

WANGCHUK VISITS AUM CHIMI'S HOUSE TO INTERVIEW AP DOLEY AND YESHEY. AUM CHIMI IS UPSET WITH THE CHAOS THE REPORTER IS CREATING IN THE FAMILY AND SAYS HE'S HARASSING AP DOLEY.

AUM CHIMI, I'M NOT HARASSING ANYONE BUT JUST TRYING TO DO MY JOB. IT ISN'T ALWAYS PLEASANT, BUT TELLING THE TRUTH IS IMPORTANT FOR THE COUNTRY. I'M DOING A STORY AND IT HAS BROUGHT ME HERE AGAIN.

WHY ARE WE ALWAYS YOUR TARGET FOR ANY STORY YOU DO? JUST GO BEFORE MY HUSBAND SEES YOU.

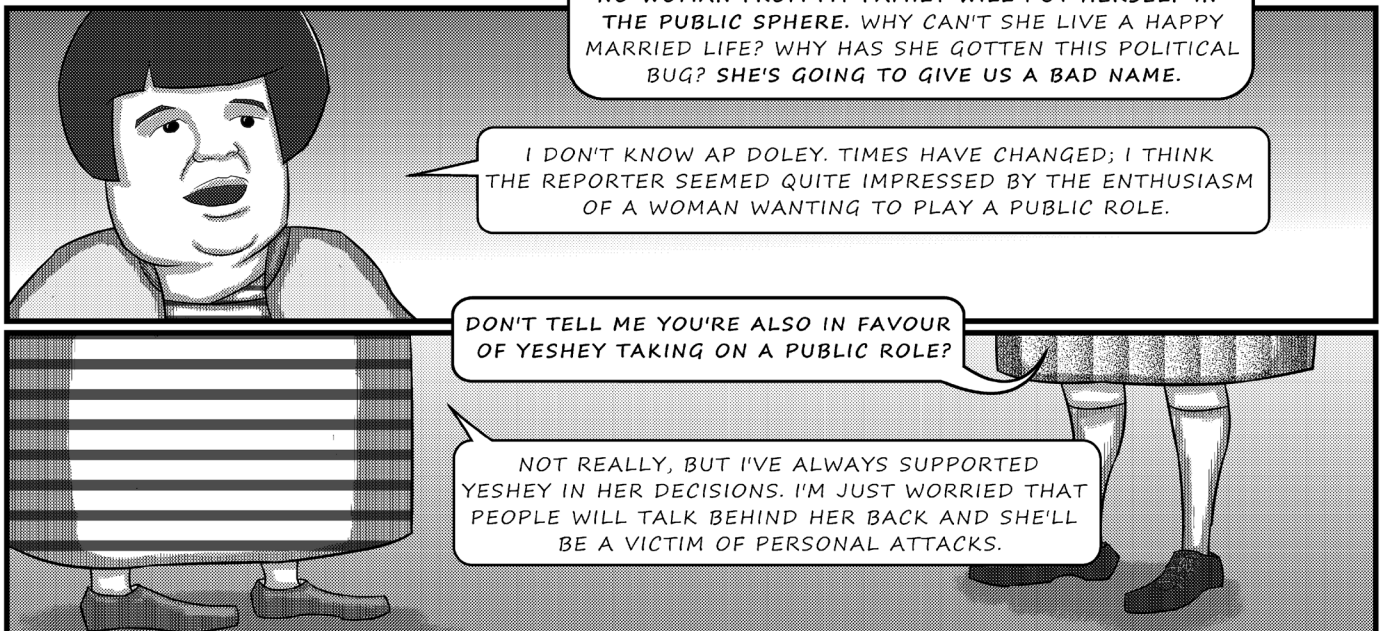
AMA, I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YESHEY IF SHE IS HERE. I'M NOT HERE TO MEET AP DOLEY OR ANYONE ELSE.

YESHEY? WHY?

I'M DOING A STORY ON WOMEN IN POLITICS AND I HEARD YESHEY MIGHT BE CONTESTING FOR THE GUP'S POSITION IN THE UPCOMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS. I WANT TO CONFIRM THAT AND GET HER VIEWS.

YESHEY IS LIVING IN THE CITY NOW WITH HER HUSBAND, SO THERE'S NO USE COMING HERE. GO BEFORE AP DOLEY SEES YOU.

CREAK!



WANGCHUK AND KINCHO ARE CYNICAL ABOUT EACH OTHER'S PRESENCE IN THE VILLAGE.



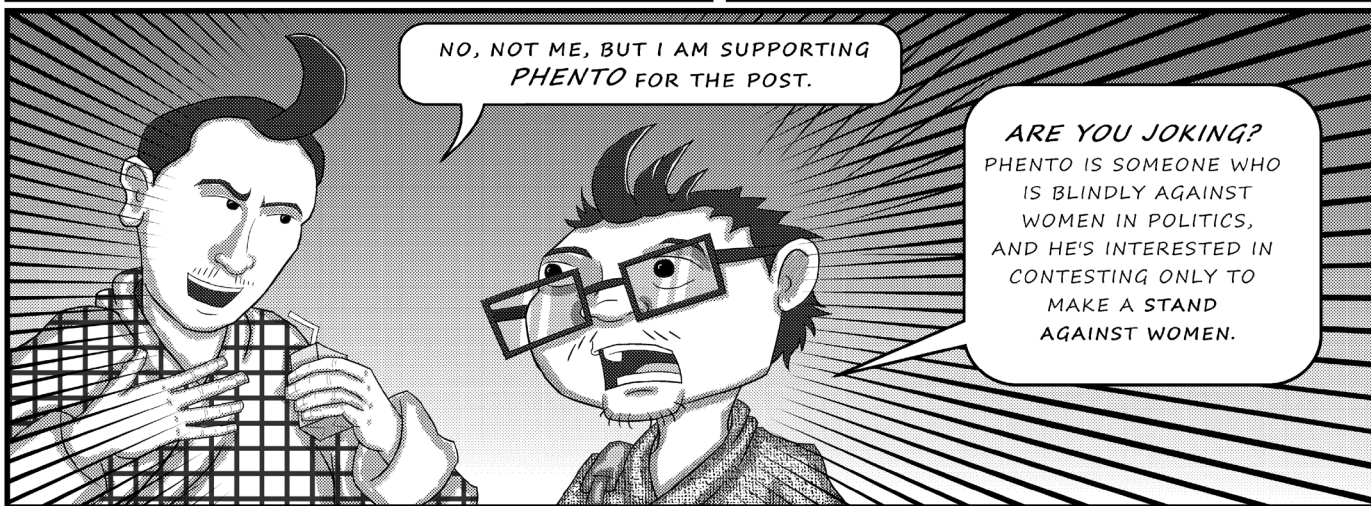
SRUPPPP...

SEEING THAT YOU'VE TAKEN SUCH LIKING TO THIS VILLAGE, ARE YOU THINKING OF RUNNING FOR THE UPCOMING LG ELECTIONS?



NO, NOT ME, BUT I AM SUPPORTING PHENTO FOR THE POST.

ARE YOU JOKING?
PHENTO IS SOMEONE WHO IS BLINDLY AGAINST WOMEN IN POLITICS, AND HE'S INTERESTED IN CONTESTING ONLY TO MAKE A STAND AGAINST WOMEN.



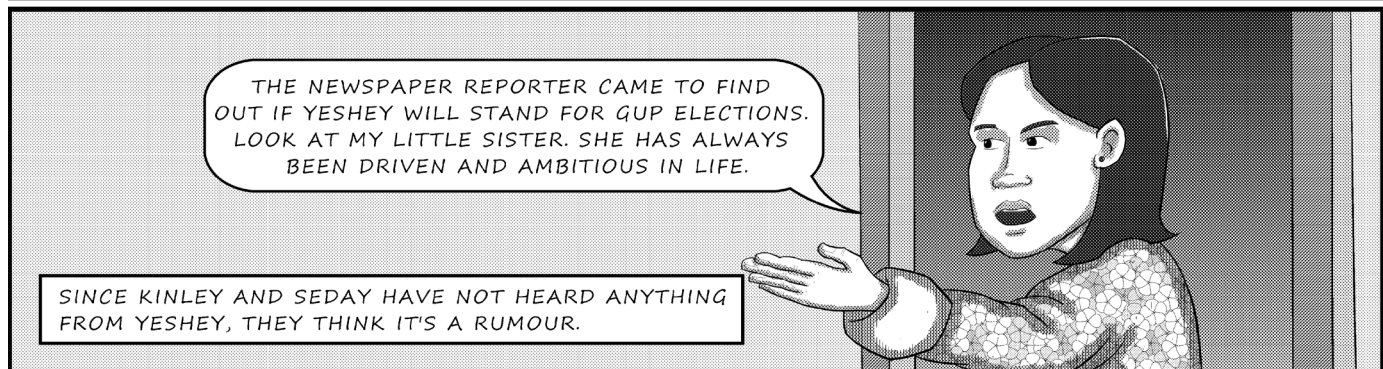
WANGCHUK, JUST BECAUSE I'M SUPPORTING PHENTO DOESN'T MEAN THAT I DON'T SUPPORT WOMEN IN POLITICS. PLEASE DON'T MISUNDERSTAND. I AM NOT SAYING THIS IS MY POSITION.

NO,
BUT YOU ARE SUPPORTING SOMEONE WHO CLEARLY HAS THAT POSITION.





KINLEY, YOU'RE BACK. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR DAY AT THE DZONG BUT IT WAS ALL HAPPENING HERE TODAY.

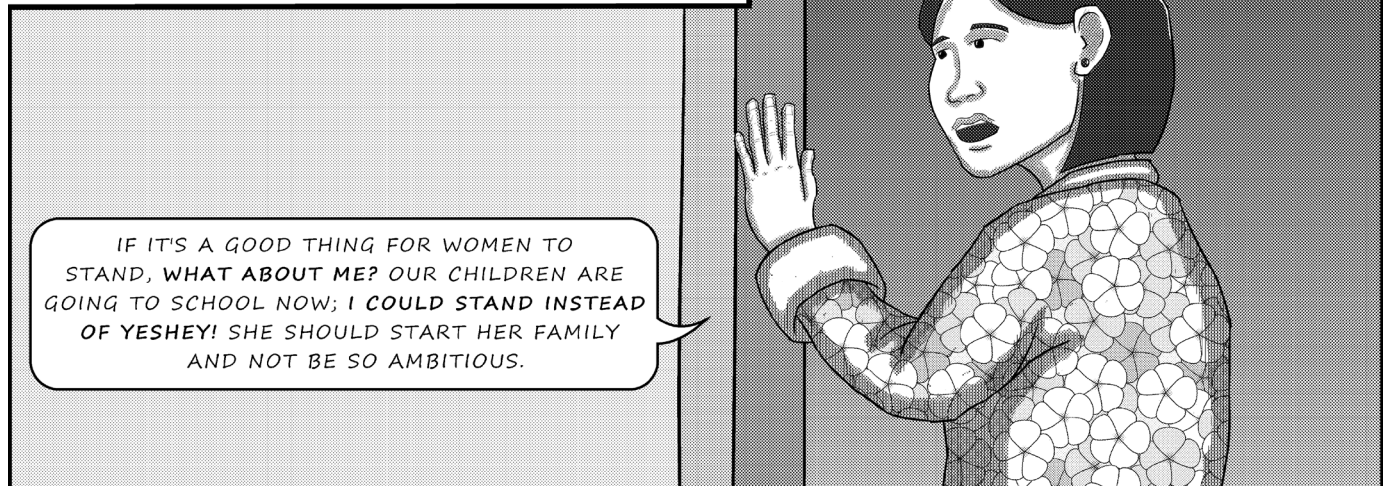


THE NEWSPAPER REPORTER CAME TO FIND OUT IF YESHEY WILL STAND FOR GUP ELECTIONS. LOOK AT MY LITTLE SISTER. SHE HAS ALWAYS BEEN DRIVEN AND AMBITIOUS IN LIFE.

SINCE KINLEY AND SEDAY HAVE NOT HEARD ANYTHING FROM YESHEY, THEY THINK IT'S A RUMOUR.



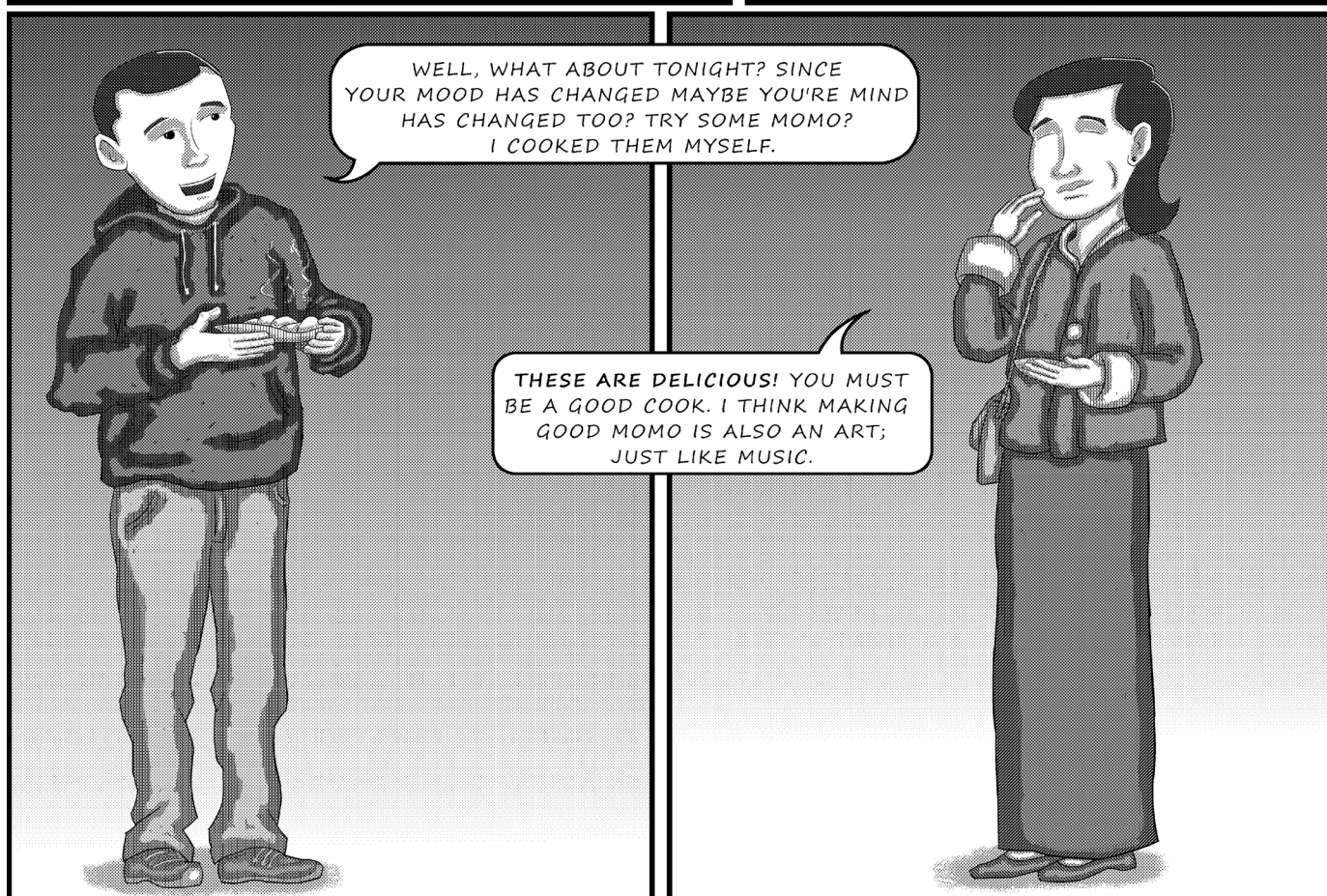
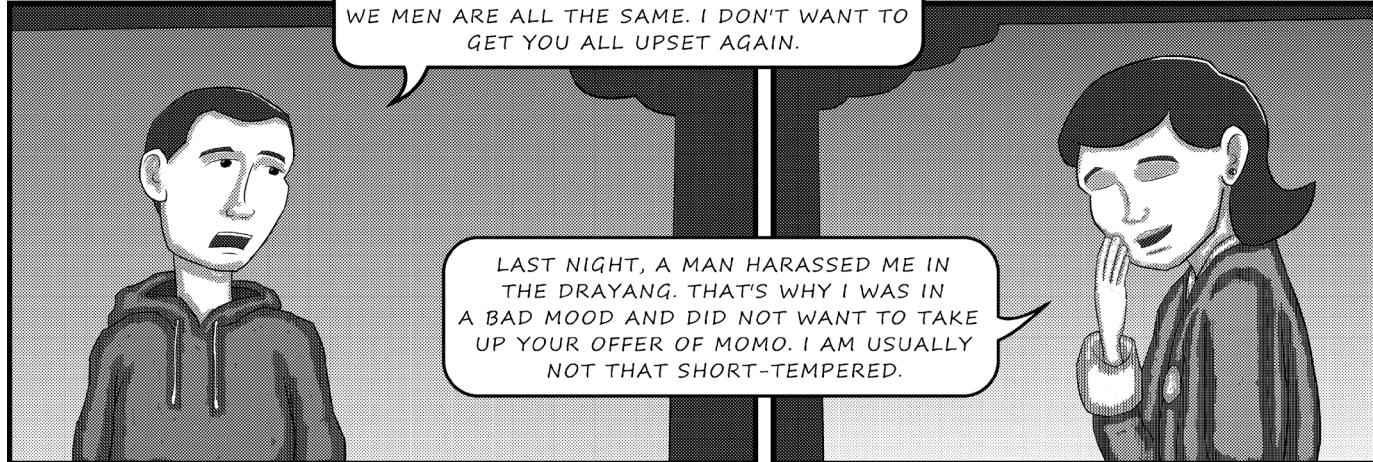
BUT MAYBE MORE WOMEN SHOULD STAND FOR ELECTIONS. THERE ARE FEW WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT AND IN DECISION-MAKING BODIES TODAY. IMAGINE, ONLY ONE WOMAN GUP, ONE WOMAN DZONGDA, AND ONE FEMALE MINISTER IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY.



IF IT'S A GOOD THING FOR WOMEN TO STAND, WHAT ABOUT ME? OUR CHILDREN ARE GOING TO SCHOOL NOW; I COULD STAND INSTEAD OF YESHEY! SHE SHOULD START HER FAMILY AND NOT BE SO AMBITIOUS.

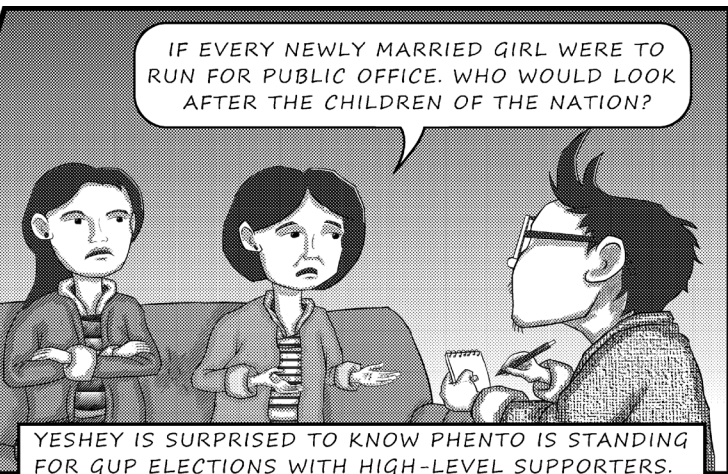


HOW CAN I TALK TO YOU? APPARENTLY, ALL WE MEN ARE ALL THE SAME. I DON'T WANT TO GET YOU ALL UPSET AGAIN.





BUT I HAVE NEVER OFFICALLY SAID I AM GOING TO STAND FOR ELECTIONS.



IF EVERY NEWLY MARRIED GIRL WERE TO RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE. WHO WOULD LOOK AFTER THE CHILDREN OF THE NATION?

YESHEY IS SURPRISED TO KNOW PHENTO IS STANDING FOR GUP ELECTIONS WITH HIGH-LEVEL SUPPORTERS. EVERYONE THINKS HE IS A JOKE.



IT'S A COMMENDABLE DECISION. THERE IS EVEN A CANDIDATE RUNNING AGAINST YOU ON ANTI-WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE TICKET! AND HE'S GOT SUPPORT.

WHAT?! THIS IS FUNNY! AND WHO MIGHT THAT BE? I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!



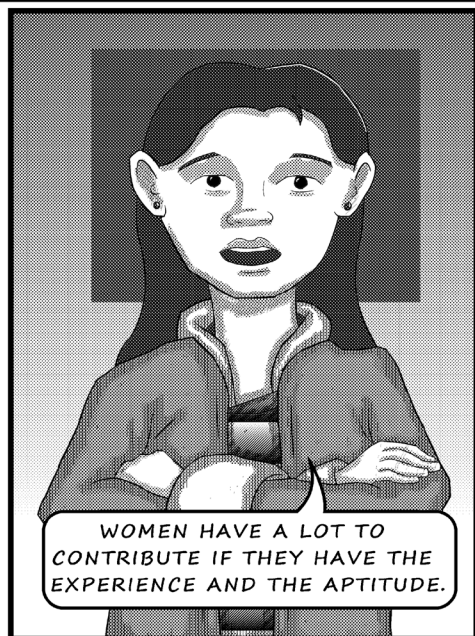
PHENTO!



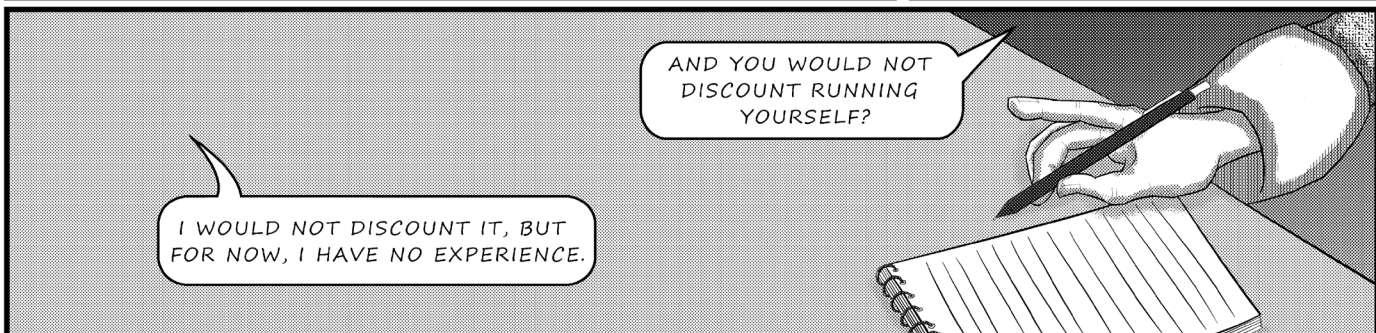
HEARING KINCHO SUPPORTS PHENTO IS NO SUPRISE FOR YESHEY.

WELL, YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE, CONSIDERING YOUR EARLIER STORY INSTIGATED BY KINCHO ON THE ALLEGED FUNDING OF SANGAY'S CAMPAIGN.

YES, I KNOW BETTER THAN TO BELIEVE EVERYTHING KINCHO TELLS ME. THAT'S WHY I CHECK EVERYTHING NOW. YOU MAY NOT BE RUNNING, BUT WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON WOMEN RUNNING FOR PUBLIC OFFICE?



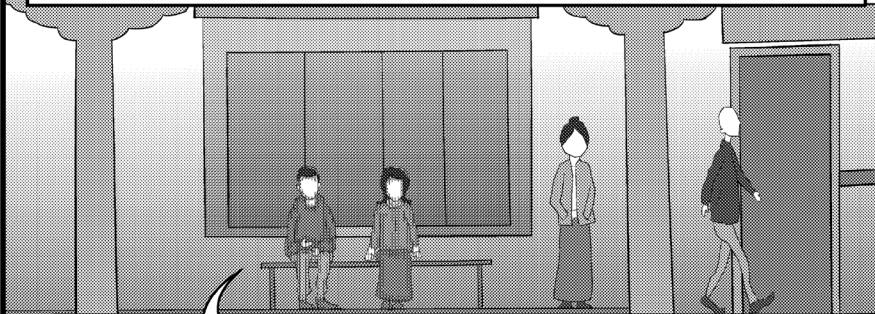
WOMEN HAVE A LOT TO CONTRIBUTE IF THEY HAVE THE EXPERIENCE AND THE APTITUDE.



AND YOU WOULD NOT DISCOUNT RUNNING YOURSELF?

I WOULD NOT DISCOUNT IT, BUT FOR NOW, I HAVE NO EXPERIENCE.

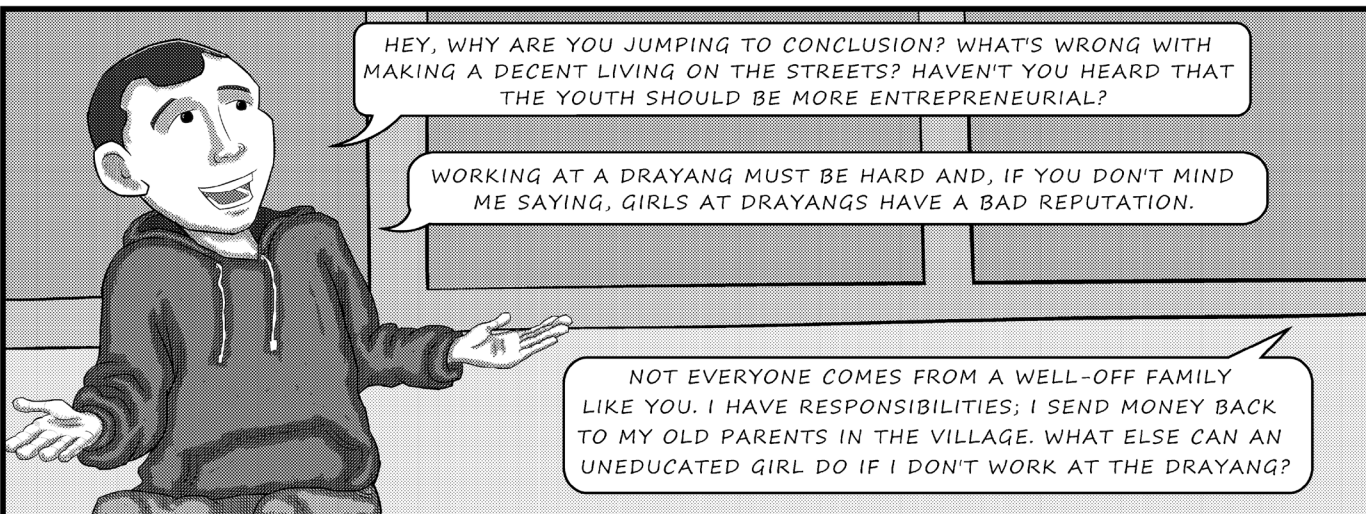
YITHO AND JIGME ARE GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER. YITHO WONDERS WHY JIGME WITH A GOOD EDUCATION AND COMING FROM A DECENT FAMILY IS SELLING MOMO ON THE STREET.



YITHO, YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE THE KIND OF GIRL WHO NORMALLY SINGS IN A DRAYANG. YOU ARE ALSO FROM A GOOD FAMILY AND YOU DON'T ENJOY ALL THE ATTENTION FROM THE MEN.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN *THE KIND OF GIRLS*? YOU THINK ONLY CERTAIN KIND OF GIRLS WORK IN DRAYANGS?



HEY, WHY ARE YOU JUMPING TO CONCLUSION? WHAT'S WRONG WITH MAKING A DECENT LIVING ON THE STREETS? HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THAT THE YOUTH SHOULD BE MORE ENTREPRENEURIAL?

WORKING AT A DRAYANG MUST BE HARD AND, IF YOU DON'T MIND ME SAYING, GIRLS AT DRAYANGS HAVE A BAD REPUTATION.

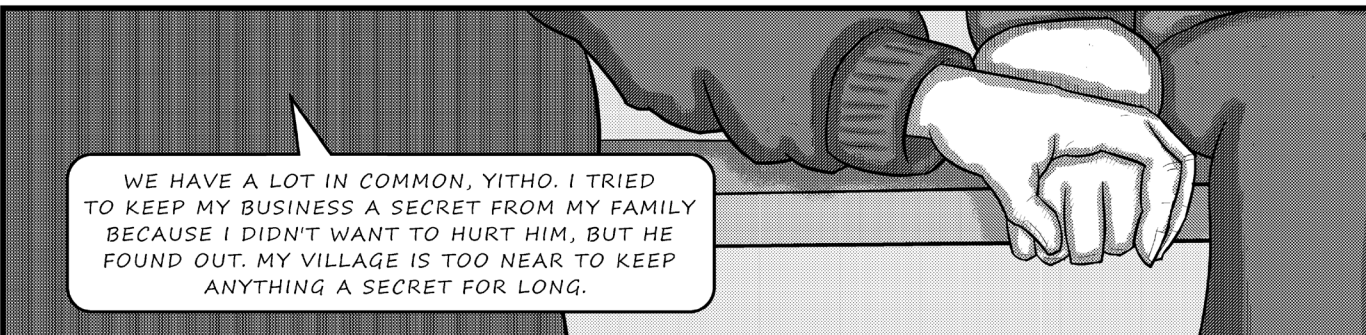
NOT EVERYONE COMES FROM A WELL-OFF FAMILY LIKE YOU. I HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES; I SEND MONEY BACK TO MY OLD PARENTS IN THE VILLAGE. WHAT ELSE CAN AN UNEDUCATED GIRL DO IF I DON'T WORK AT THE DRAYANG?



YITHO'S PARENTS THINK SHE IS A HOUSEMAID IN THIMPHU. JIGME THINKS MAIDS ARE NOT TREATED AND ARE PAID WELL.

THERE ARE OTHER WAYS OF EARNING MONEY IN THIMPHU.

I AM SURE THERE MUST BE, BUT NOT EVERYONE IS AS CREATIVE OR SUCCESSFUL AS YOU. MY PARENTS THINK I AM WORKING IN SOMEONE'S HOME. BUT ALL I HAVE IS MY VOICE, I LOVE SINGING, SO THIS IS THE IDEAL PLACE FOR ME. WHEN I'M UP THERE ON THE STAGE, I FORGET THE PLACE AND THE LEERING FACES. I'M ABLE TO KEEP UNWANTED ADMIRERS AT ARM'S LENGTH. I PREFER THIS TO WORKING AS A CLEANER OR AS A HOUSE HELP.



WE HAVE A LOT IN COMMON, YITHO. I TRIED TO KEEP MY BUSINESS A SECRET FROM MY FAMILY BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO HURT HIM, BUT HE FOUND OUT. MY VILLAGE IS TOO NEAR TO KEEP ANYTHING A SECRET FOR LONG.

RUMOURS ABOUT ABOUT YESHEY CONTESTING IN THE GUP'S ELECTIONS..

IT'S KINCHO. HE'S SPREADING THE RUMORS THAT OUR FAMILY WANTS TO HOLD ON TO THE POWER.

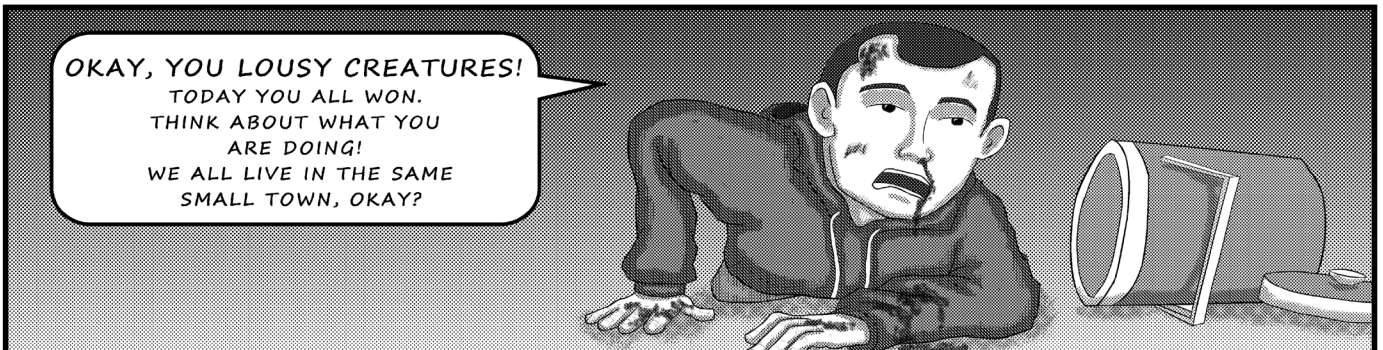
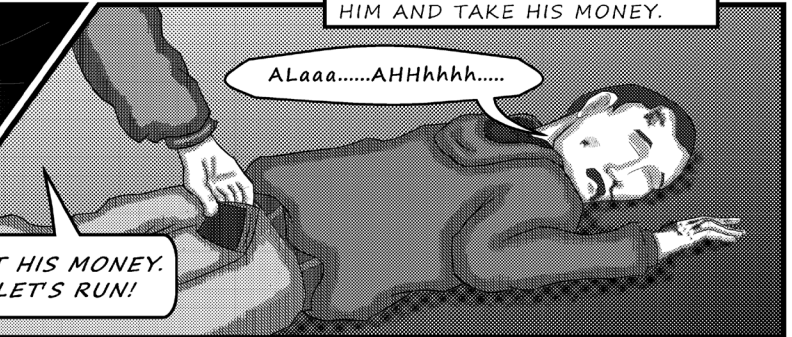
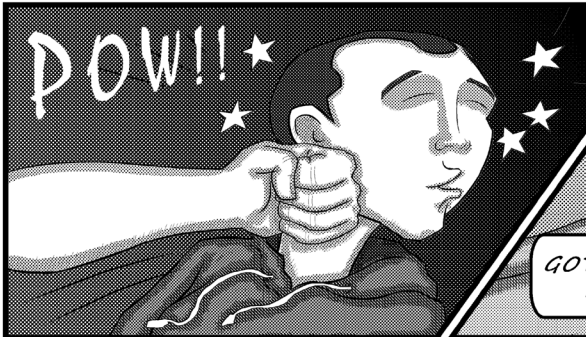
I'M YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED. HOW COULD I POSSIBLY RUN FOR THE GUP'S POSITION? HE HAS MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS EXPERIENCE! IN ANY CASE, YOUR MOTHER IS NOT KEEN ON THE IDEA.

AMA THINKS IT WILL EXPOSE YOU TO MUD-SLINGING AND ALL THE COMPETITION AND TENSION THAT SURROUND ELECTIONS. I WENT THROUGH A LOT, IF YOU REMEMBER, AND AMA DOESN'T WANT THAT FOR YOU.

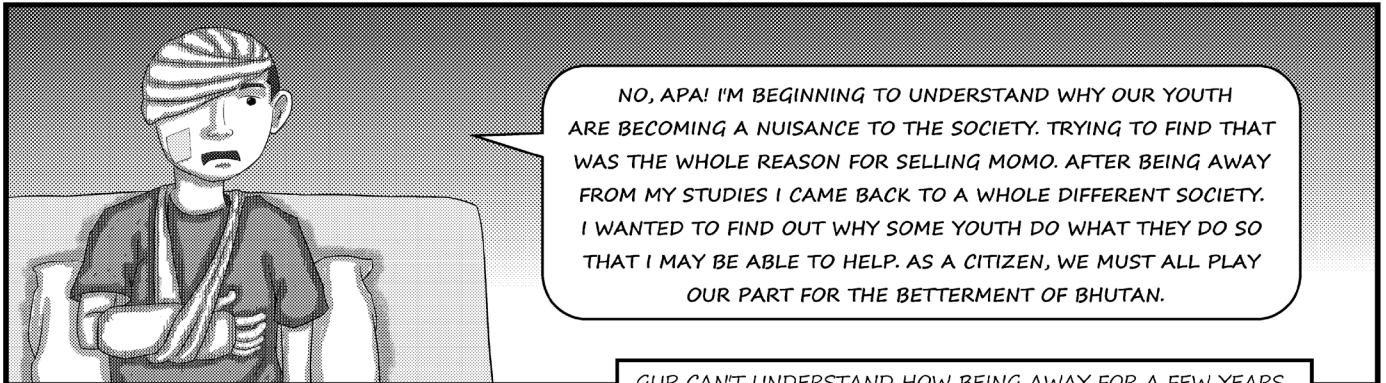
THE MUD-SLINGING HAPPENS ANYWAY. BUT I WILL STAY HOME AND BE A GOOD WIFE AND A GOOD DAUGHTER-IN-LAW FOR AMA, ESPECIALLY AFTER YOUR APA'S DEATH.

THANK YOU, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAY HOME TO BE A GOOD WIFE. YOU SHOULD LIVE YOUR DREAMS TOO AND FULFILL YOUR WISHES. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A GUP, I'M WITH YOU ALL THE WAY.

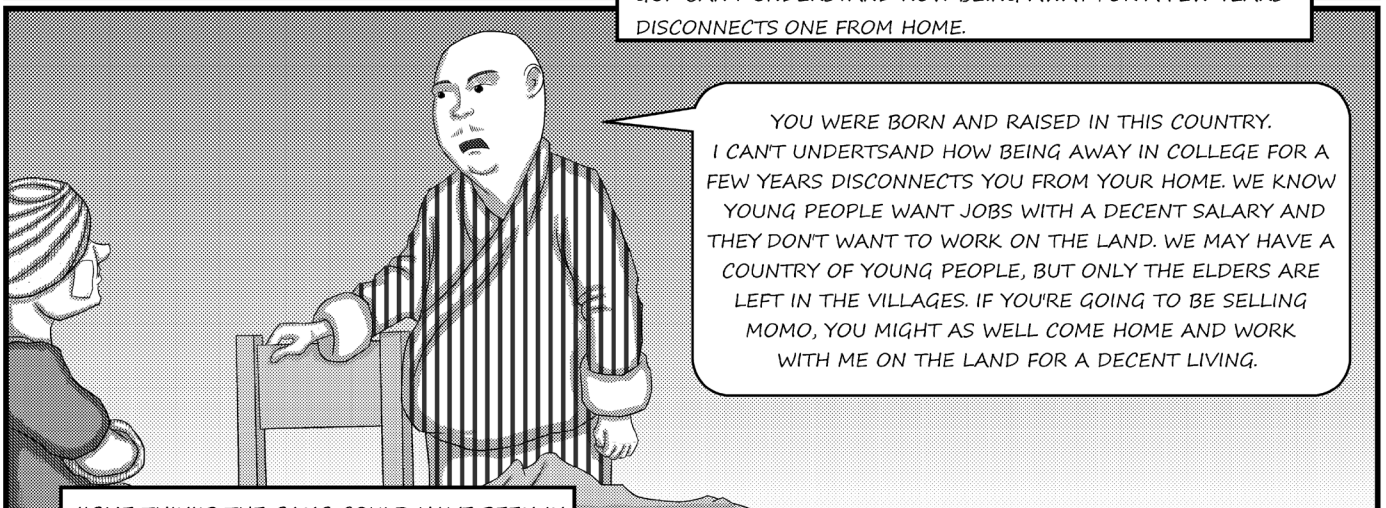
YES, MAYBE ONE DAY, BUT FOR NOW, I DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE. AS FOR RUMORS, LET PEOPLE THINK AND SAY WHAT THEY WANT. I DON'T REALLY CARE AS LONG AS THE IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN MY LIFE UNDERSTAND ME.



GUP PANICS HEARING JIGME WAS MUGGED AND BEATEN ON HIS WAY HOME FROM THE DRAYANG.

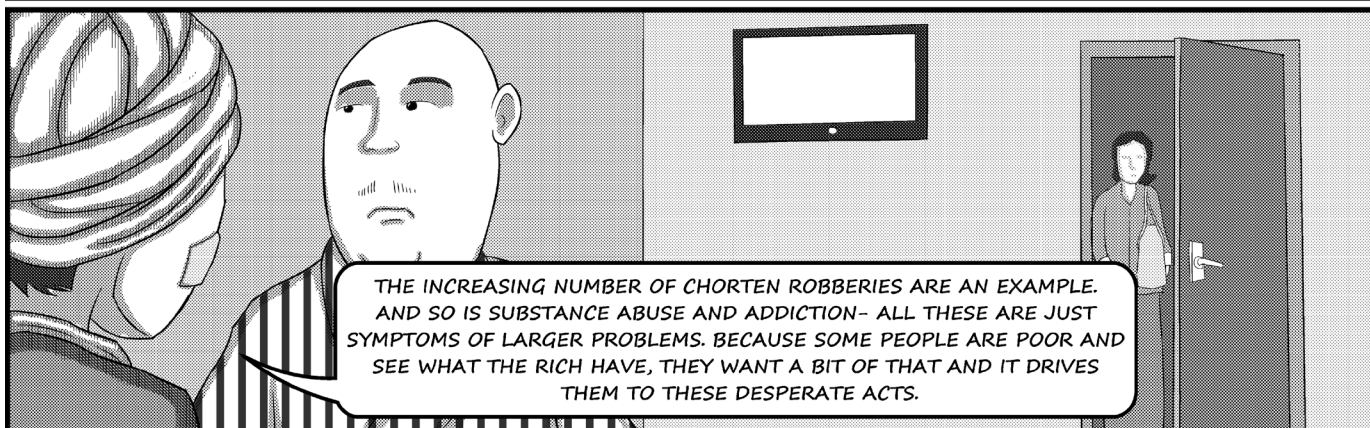
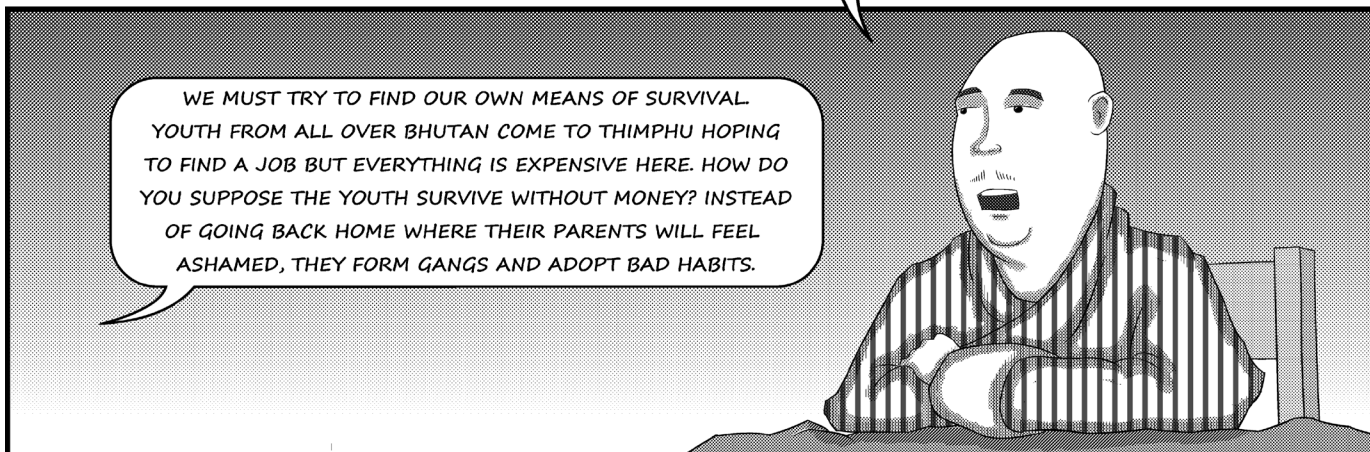
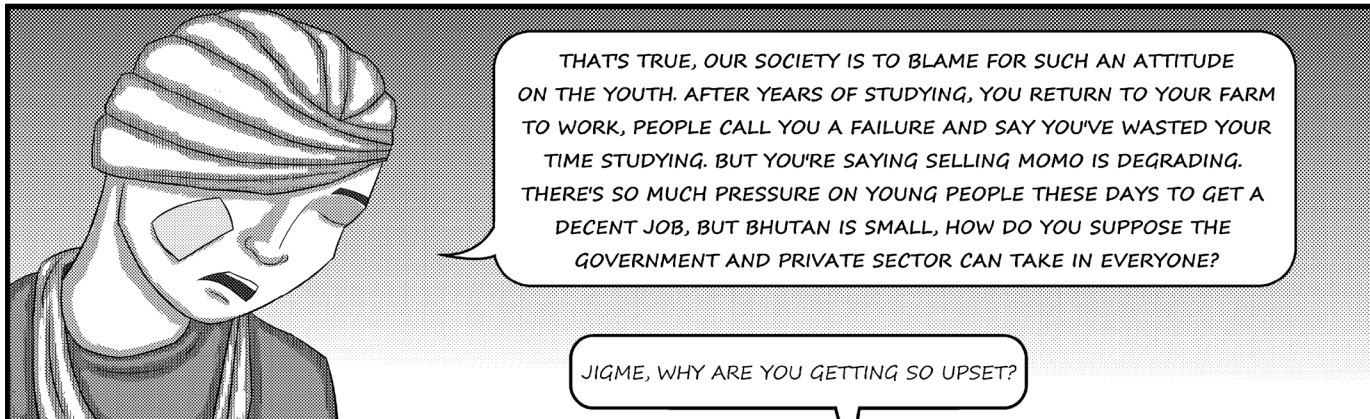


GUP CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW BEING AWAY FOR A FEW YEARS DISCONNECTS ONE FROM HOME.



JIGME THINKS THE GANG COULD HAVE BEEN IN NEED FOR MONEY TO HAVE ACTED THAT WAY.





PHENTO COMES TO AUM CHIMI'S HOUSE TO CAMPAIGN, BUT SHE THINKS HE'S HERE TO TALK ABOUT AP DOLEY'S INVOLVEMENT WITH KUENGA RABTEN.

TODAY IS A DAY WHEN I, A SPIRITUAL MAN, HAVE BEEN FORCED TO ENTER SOCIETY, TO TAKE A STAND AGAINST YOU, AP DOLEY, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE IN BRINGING THIS EVIL UPON US.

WAI, PHENTO! YOU WERE ALSO INVOLVED WITH THE ROGUE KUENGA RABTEN!

KUENGA RABTEN IS HISTORY! NOW IS THE TIME FOR YESHEY, WHO IS STEPPING INTO POLITICS.

WHO SAYS SHE IS?

SHE WILL NOT, SINCE I'VE TAKEN A STAND AGAINST WOMEN STEPPING OUT OF THE HOME AND INTO THE POLITICAL ARENA.

AND WHAT IS SO WRONG WITH THAT? AT LEAST WOMEN WOULD NOT BE JOKERS LIKE YOU.



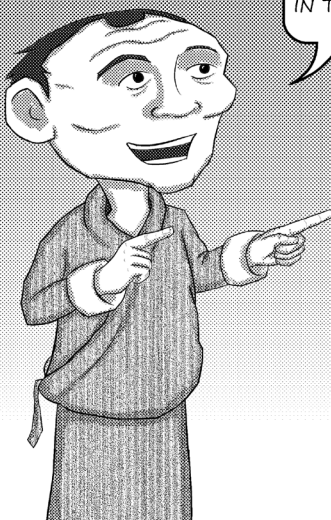
THE ROLE OF A WOMAN IS TO LOOK AFTER THE HOME, NOT THE COUNTRY! LEAVE THAT TO MEN, NOT WOMEN WHO CAN'T EVEN ENTER GOENKHANGS. THEY ARE INFERIOR BECAUSE IT TAKES SEVERAL LIFETIMES BEFORE THEY CAN HOPE TO BE REBORN AS MEN.

THAT'S A MISINTERPRETATION OF THE DHARMA. WOMEN ARE EQUALLY CAPABLE OF BEING ENLIGHTENED. AS LONG AS WE ARE GIVEN THIS PRECIOUS HUMAN LIFE, WE SHOULD USE IT WELL AND MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY.



PAA WAI, AUM CHIMI, DON'T YOU THINK WOMEN WILL BE UNABLE TO HANDLE THE JOB OF A GUP ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY BECOME MOTHERS?

I BELIEVE THAT WOMEN SHOULD COME INTO THE PUBLIC SPHERE. WOMEN WHO GO INTO PUBLIC OFFICE DO THINGS WITH A VERY DIFFERENT APPROACH, AND WITH A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR NEEDS.



SO, AP DOLEY, I CAN COUNT ON YOUR SUPPORT IN THE COMING ELECTIONS?

I'M NOT SO SURE. I THINK PHENTO HAS A POINT.



YESHEY AND AUM PEMA LAUGH ABOUT PHENTO STANDING AGAINST YESHEY WHEN SHE IS NOT EVEN CONTESTING IN THE ELECTIONS.



YAA, LOOK AT THE NEWS YESHEY.

THE GUP'S SON, JIGME, WAS ATTACKED BY A GANG.
WHY IS HE SELLING MOMO ANYWAY?
OH, WHAT IF IT WERE SANGAY IN HIS PLACE?
I FEEL SO SORRY FOR THE POOR GUP.

AYYY, NOT EVERYONE JUST WANTS TO FOLLOW THE
CONVENTIONAL PATH OF EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT.
JIGME IS A FREE SPIRIT, AND I AM SURE HE WILL COME
OUT OF THIS ALL THE STRONGER.

THIS PHENTO IS NOTHING
BUT A LOT OF NONSENSE.

HE MAKES SENSE. I THINK A WOMAN'S
PLACE IS AT HOME, NOT IN THE PUBLIC
SPHERE. THEY SHOULD TAKE CARE OF
THE HOUSE.

I THINK THAT THE PUBLIC SPHERE ALSO
NEEDS A WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVE.
WOMEN THINK AND MAKE CONSIDERATIONS
BEFORE THEY DO ANYTHING.

JUDGING BY THE LAST ELECTIONS,
ONLY A FEW WOMEN GOT ELECTED.
BESIDES, THEY LOOK MOST UNGRACIOUS
WHEN THEY'RE CAMPAIGNING AND
SPEAKING SO ROUGHLY AGAINST THEIR
MALE COUNTERPARTS.
ARE YOU IN FAVOUR OF YESHEY STANDING?

NO, I DID NOT SAY THAT.

GUP IS ANGRY WITH JIGME FOR BRINGING SHAME TO THE FAMILY BY SELLING MOMOS AND DATING A DRAYANG GIRL.

JIGME, YOU ARE NOT ONLY GIVING YOURSELF A BAD NAME BY SELLING MOMO, BUT ALSO DRAGGING THE FAMILY NAME THROUGH THE MUD BY GOING OUT WITH SINGERS FROM DRAYANGS.

WAI, APA, I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANYTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF. I'M EARNING AN HONEST LIVING. I DID NOT STEAL OR DO ANYTHING THAT WOULD GIVE THE FAMILY A BAD NAME. AND WORKING IN A DRAYANG IS AN HONEST JOB LIKE ANY OTHER.

SELLING MOMO ALMOST COST JIGME HIS LIFE. GUP IS FRUSTRATED.

AND LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU BECAUSE OF THIS OCCUPATION YOU HAVE CHOSEN. YOU WERE ROBBED AND ASSAULTED.

IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION TO YOU, I WILL NOT SELL MOMO MY WHOLE LIFE. UNTIL SUCH A TIME COMES WHEN I'VE FIGURED OUT WHAT I'D LIKE TO DO WITH MY LIFE, I WILL KEEP SELLING MOMO TO SUPPORT MY LIVING. BUT APA, DON'T YOU WONDER SOMETIMES WHY OUR YOUTH ARE FORMING GANGS?

DOESN'T IT BOTHER YOU AS A GUP THAT YOU MAY HAVE A PART TO PLAY IN LOOKING INTO THIS MATTER? DO POLITICIANS REALLY DO RESEARCH AND TALK TO THE YOUTH? WHY ARE YOU STOPPING ME FROM FINDING OUT ABOUT PROBLEMS THAT POLITICIANS SHOULD BE HELPING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT? PEOPLE LIKE US ARE CONSIDERED TO BE LESSER INDIVIDUALS ALTHOUGH WE DO OUR BEST TO BE INDEPENDENT. SOME EVEN SEND MONEY BACK HOME TO THEIR VILLAGES, LIKE YITHO. AN ATTITUDE LIKE YOURS IS EXACTLY WHAT IS MAKING OUR YOUTH JOBLESS.

THE ONLY PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES MATTERS ARE THOSE IN THE GOVERNMENT. JIGME IS UPSET WITH HIS FATHER'S COMMENTS.



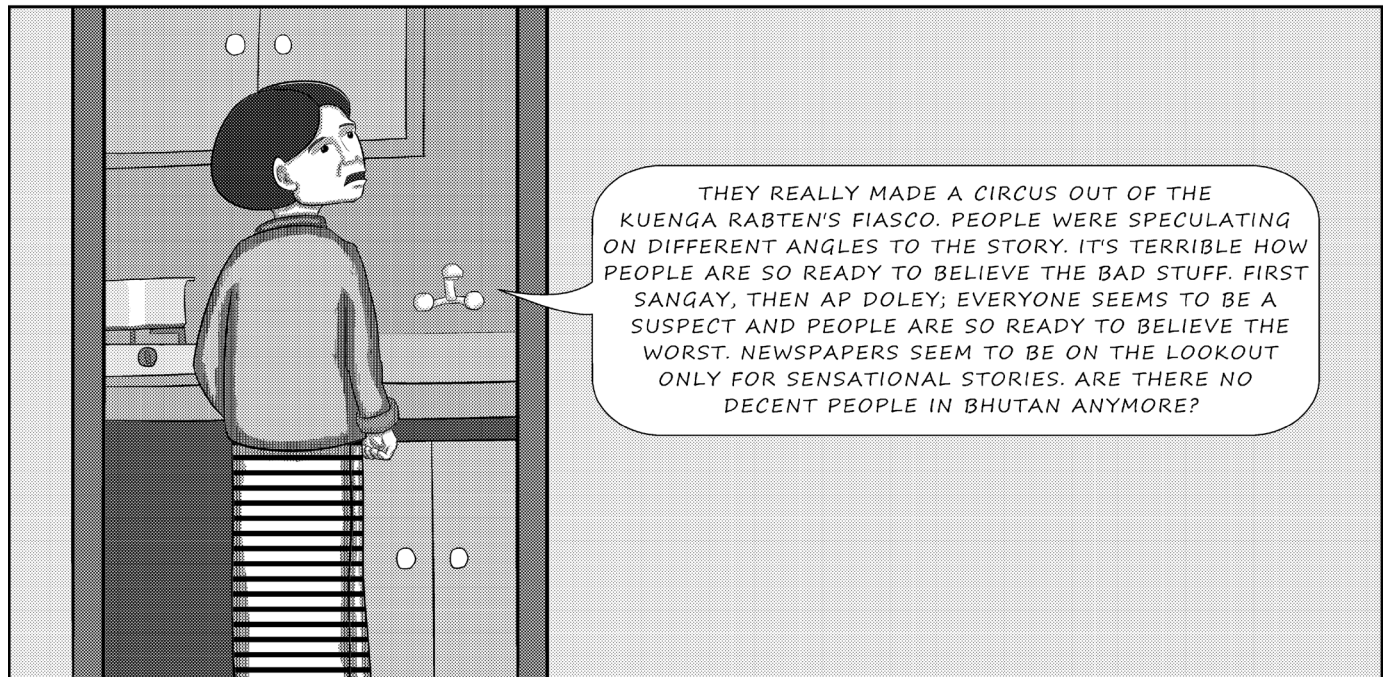
WAI, KUZUZANGPO, AUM CHIMMI,
HOW COME YOU ARE HERE TODAY?
DIDN'T YESHEY TELL YOU SHE'S
COMING TO THE VILLAGE?

THAT'S WHY I AM HERE, AUM PEMA. I WANTED
TO TALK TO YOU WHEN SANGAY AND YESHEY ARE
NOT AROUND. IT'S ABOUT THE RUMOUR THAT YESHEY
WISHES TO CONTEST THE GUP'S ELECTIONS. SHE
SAYS SHE'S NOT BUT SHE HAS BECOME A SYMBOL
OF WOMEN STEPPING INTO THAT ROLE.

OH, YOU ARE NOT ALONE, AUM CHIMI.
THE REPORTER CAME TO TALK TO YESHEY
ABOUT IT, BUT YESHEY HAS MADE IT QUITE
CLEAR SHE IS NOT INTERESTED.



OH, I AM VERY RELIEVED TO HEAR THAT.
IT IS NOT REALLY WHAT WE NEED, SINCE
WE ARE JUST GETTING OVER AP DOLEY'S
INVOLVEMENT WITH KUENGA RABTEN.



THEY REALLY MADE A CIRCUS OUT OF THE
KUENGA RABTEN'S FIASCO. PEOPLE WERE SPECULATING
ON DIFFERENT ANGLES TO THE STORY. IT'S TERRIBLE HOW
PEOPLE ARE SO READY TO BELIEVE THE BAD STUFF. FIRST
SANGAY, THEN AP DOLEY; EVERYONE SEEMS TO BE A
SUSPECT AND PEOPLE ARE SO READY TO BELIEVE THE
WORST. NEWSPAPERS SEEM TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT
ONLY FOR SENSATIONAL STORIES. ARE THERE NO
DECENT PEOPLE IN BHUTAN ANYMORE?

THE MOTHERS ARE RELIEVED YESHEY DENIED ALL THE RUMOURS. BUT THEY ARE NOW WORRIED ABOUT THE NEWS REPORTERS AND THEIR STORIES.

OUR REPORTERS SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT ISSUES THAT ARE AFFECTING THE COUNTRY. LAST YEAR THE PAPERS REPORTED ON THE RUPEE CRISIS AND HOW MUCH WE'RE IMPORTING. NOW WHAT'S THE UPDATE ON THAT? WHY DON'T THEY REPORT ON HOW MUCH THE FARMERS ARE ALL NOW TRYING TO GROW MORE VEGETABLES TO REDUCE IMPORTS?



I KNOW. IF THE STORIES TALKED MORE ABOUT HOW A FEW PEOPLE ARE DOING GOOD WORK, THEN THEY SHOULD BE AN INSPIRATION TO THE OTHERS. SANGAY TOLD ME ABOUT FOUR GRADUATES WHO LEASED LAND FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND TOOK UP FARMING AS THEIR PROFESSION. THAT IS AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHER YOUTH TO FOLLOW.



IF ALL WE HEAR IN THE NEWS IS CORRUPTION AND FAILURES, OUR GRANDCHILDREN WILL ONLY THINK THAT EVERYONE IS CORRUPT. I HOPE THE PARLIAMENT CAN DO SOMETHING TO REMIND US THAT THERE IS MUCH THAT IS GOING RIGHT IN BHUTAN AND THERE ARE PEOPLE SERVING THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY WELL.



SINCE YOU'RE WORRIED THAT YESHEY MIGHT CHANGE HER MIND, I'VE A PLAN TO PREVENT THAT. IF I WENT ON PILGRIMAGE SOON, THE YOUNG COUPLE CAN HAVE THIS FLAT TO THEMSELVES FOR A WHILE. THAT SHOULD KEEP HER BUSY AND AT HOME! HOW ABOUT YOU COME ALONG, AUM CHIMI?





SANGAY AND YESHEY, I'M PLANNING ON GOING ON A PILGRIMAGE FOR A FEW MONTHS. I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GO BUT SINCE SANGAY WAS ALONE, I COULDN'T. BUT NOW WITH YOU HERE, YESHEY, THIS IS THE BEST TIME. THE TWO OF YOU WILL ALSO ENJOY BEING ALONE WITHOUT YOUR OLD MOTHER AROUND.

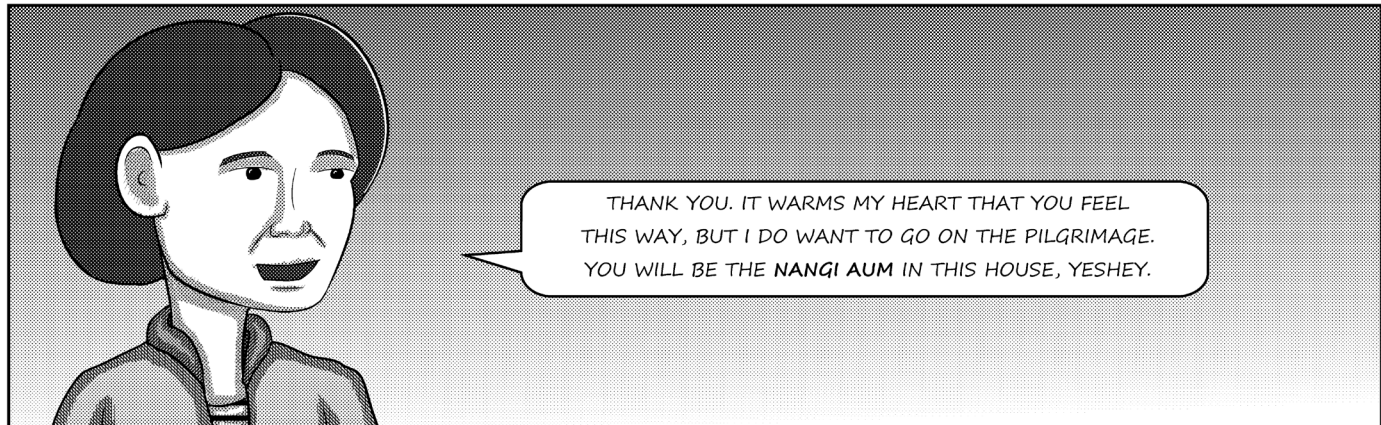
HOW CAN AMA SAY THAT? WHAT WILL I DO WHEN SANGAY IS AT OFFICE? WHO WILL KEEP ME COMPANY? WE LOVE HAVING YOU AROUND, AMA.



THESE DAYS, YOUNG PEOPLE CAN'T WAIT TO LIVE ON THEIR OWN, ESPECIALLY ONCE THEY ARE MARRIED. ISN'T THIS THE TREND THESE DAYS? WHO WANTS TO HAVE AN OLD MOTHER AROUND ALL THE TIME?

NOT US, AMA. I'VE GROWN UP IN A LARGE FAMILY AND I'LL NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO IN AN EMPTY HOME IF YOU'RE GONE.

THIS IS THE PROBLEM IN OUR TOWNS NOW, FAMILIES LIVING APART. THERE'S NO SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND BELONGINGNESS. NEIGHBOURS DON'T TALK TO EACH OTHER. FORGET TALK- THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW EACH OTHER. THAT'S WHY I THINK HOUSES ARE BEING ROBBED EVEN IN DAYLIGHT. AMA, DO REMEMBER THAT THIS IS YOUR HOME AND DON'T FEEL AS IF YOU HAVE TO MAKE A SPACE FOR US.



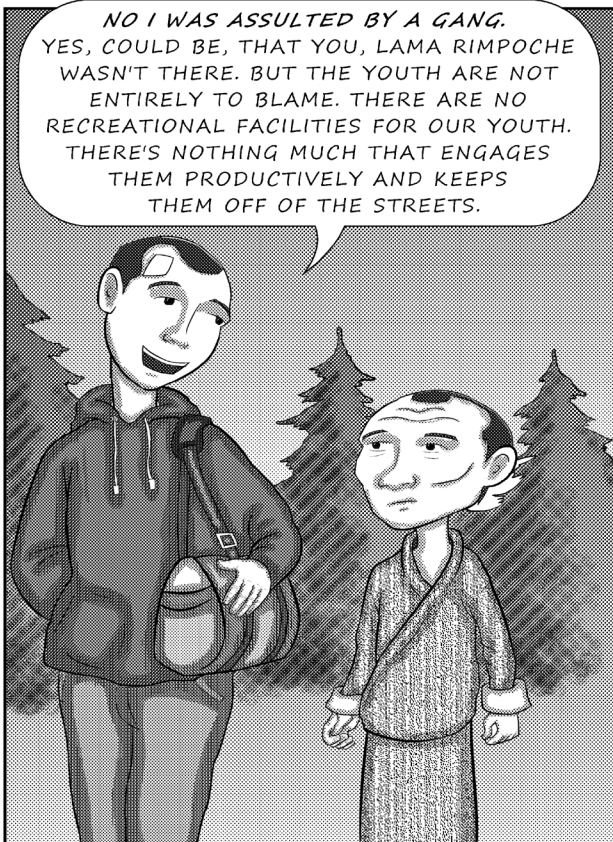
THANK YOU. IT WARMS MY HEART THAT YOU FEEL THIS WAY, BUT I DO WANT TO GO ON THE PILGRIMAGE. YOU WILL BE THE NANGI AUM IN THIS HOUSE, YESHEY.



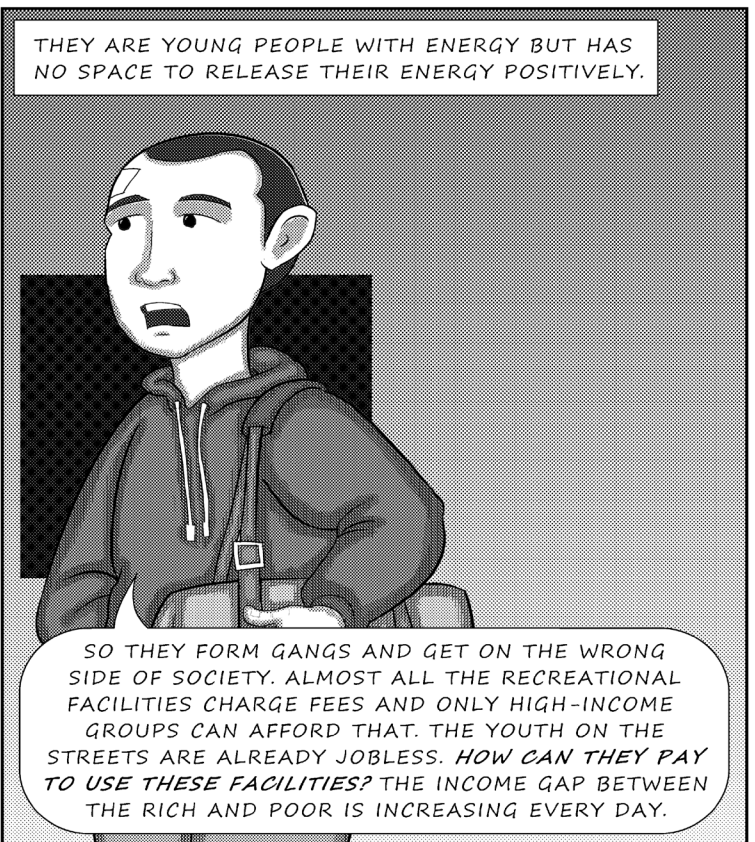
WAI JIGME, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?



I HOPE YOU DIDN'T GET BASHED UP BY YITHO, HAHA.

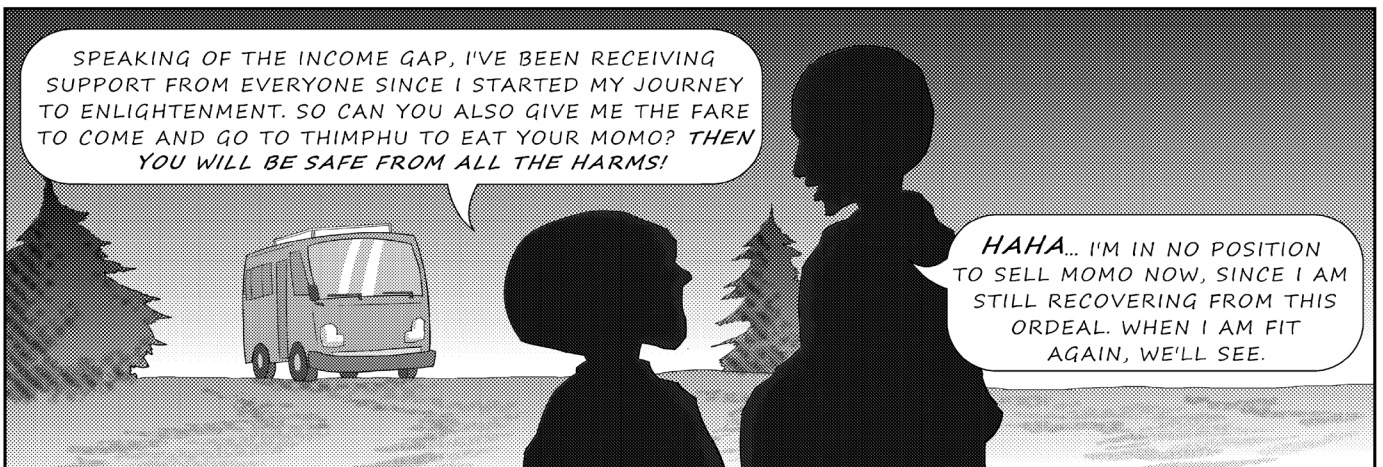


NO I WAS ASSULTED BY A GANG. YES, COULD BE, THAT YOU, LAMA RIMPOCHE WASN'T THERE. BUT THE YOUTH ARE NOT ENTIRELY TO BLAME. THERE ARE NO RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR OUR YOUTH. THERE'S NOTHING MUCH THAT ENGAGES THEM PRODUCTIVELY AND KEEPS THEM OFF OF THE STREETS.



THEY ARE YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ENERGY BUT HAS NO SPACE TO RELEASE THEIR ENERGY POSITIVELY.

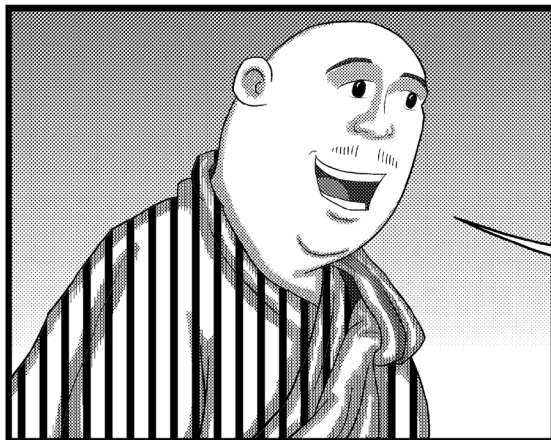
SO THEY FORM GANGS AND GET ON THE WRONG SIDE OF SOCIETY. ALMOST ALL THE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES CHARGE FEES AND ONLY HIGH-INCOME GROUPS CAN AFFORD THAT. THE YOUTH ON THE STREETS ARE ALREADY JOBLESS. HOW CAN THEY PAY TO USE THESE FACILITIES? THE INCOME GAP BETWEEN THE RICH AND POOR IS INCREASING EVERY DAY.



SPEAKING OF THE INCOME GAP, I'VE BEEN RECEIVING SUPPORT FROM EVERYONE SINCE I STARTED MY JOURNEY TO ENLIGHTENMENT. SO CAN YOU ALSO GIVE ME THE FARE TO COME AND GO TO THIMPHU TO EAT YOUR MOMO? THEN YOU WILL BE SAFE FROM ALL THE HARMS!

HAHA... I'M IN NO POSITION TO SELL MOMO NOW, SINCE I AM STILL RECOVERING FROM THIS ORDEAL. WHEN I AM FIT AGAIN, WE'LL SEE.

GUP IS WORRIED JIGME IS GOING TO SELL MOMO AFTER HE RECOVERS.



YOU WILL LEARN TO APPRECIATE WHAT YOUR SON IS DOING ASHA GUP. I CAN SEE HE HAS IDEALS AND HE WANTS TO DO SOMETHING TO BENEFIT THE COUNTRY. I HAVE EVEN ENTERED INTO A PACT WITH YOUR SON.

THAT HE WILL GET A JOB AND SETTLE DOWN?

NOT EXACTLY, BUT HE'LL SHARE WHATEVER HE FINDS ON YOUTH PROBLEMS. I, AS CHAIR OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE, CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.



MEANWHILE, HE WILL GET BEATEN UP AGAIN OR EVEN KILLED; WHO WOULD BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING? HE LOOKS UP TO YOU, SANGAY. WHY DON'T YOU TALK HIM OUT OF IT?



THE NEWSPAPER HAS A STORY ON YESHEY STANDING FOR GUP. AP DOLEY QUESTIONS IF POLITICS IS WOMAN'S WORK.

WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT YESHEY BEING A STANDARD-BEARER FOR WOMEN'S ROLES IN POLITICS?

YESHEY WOULD BE VERY GOOD IN POLITICS, ONCE SHE GAINS SOME EXPERIENCE. IT'S ABOUT HAVING WOMEN IN THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE. WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT GENDER BALANCE FOR YEARS, AND WHEN IT'S HAPPENING, WE'RE RESISTING IT!

I AM FED UP WITH THIS NEW BREED OF POLITICIANS. DASHO KARMA, OUR EARLIER MP, WAS BETTER TO ME THAN SANGAY. SANGAY DOES NOTHING FOR ME.

WELL, THAT IS BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN ELECTED IN ORDER TO SERVE HIS CONSTITUENTS, NOT HIS FAMILY.

AP DOLEY WANTS TO STOP YESHEY FROM STANDING FOR ELECTIONS.

WE HAVE TO STOP YESHEY FROM MAKING A FOOLISH MOVE AND FOLLOWING HER HUSBAND INTO ELECTIONS. KINLEY, WHY DON'T YOU STAND FOR THE GUP POSITION!

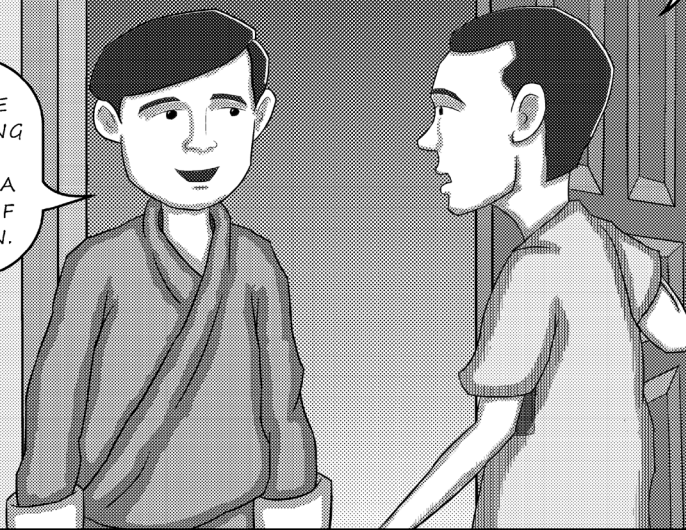
I HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT, BUT I AM AFRAID I WOULD BE NO BETTER TO YOU THAN SANGAY.

SANGAY VISITS JIGME AFTER THE GANG INCIDENT. HE WONDERS IF JIGME HAS FILED A POLICE REPORT.



NO, I'M INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT THIS GANG CULTURE RATHER THAN BRINGING THEM TO JUSTICE.

IT COULD BE THE FILMS THAT ARE INSPIRING THEM OR MAYBE THE MISTAKEN NOTION OF HAVING TO FORM GROUPS TO DEFEND THEMSELVES IN WHICH CASE, IS A CLEAR INDICATION OUR SENSE OF COMMUNITY IS BREAKING DOWN.



IN TOWN, NO ONE CARES ABOUT ANYTHING UNLESS IT AFFECTS US PERSONALLY. IT'S A SAD DEGENERATION OF THE STRONG COMMUNITY BOND THAT WAS PREVIOUSLY THERE.



WHOSE FAULT IS IT? CREATING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY. I CAN'T IMAGINE YOUTH IN THE VILLAGE HAVING TO FORM GROUPS TO DEFEND THEMSELVES. HOW DID WE ADOPT THIS 'US VERSUS THEM' ATTITUDE? AREN'T WE ALL RESIDENTS AND CITIZENS OF ONE LARGER COMMUNITY? AND THERE'LL ALWAYS BE DIFFERENCE IN A COMMUNITY, WE JUST NEED TO LEARN TO LISTEN TO DIVERSE VIEWS.



SO WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS NOW?
I HOPE YOU'RE NOT JOINING A
GANG TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
GANG CULTURE?

HA HA...
I WOULD LIKE TO GAIN THE
CONFIDENCE OF THE GANG,
TO FIND WHAT DRIVES THEM
TO THIS WAY OF LIFE.

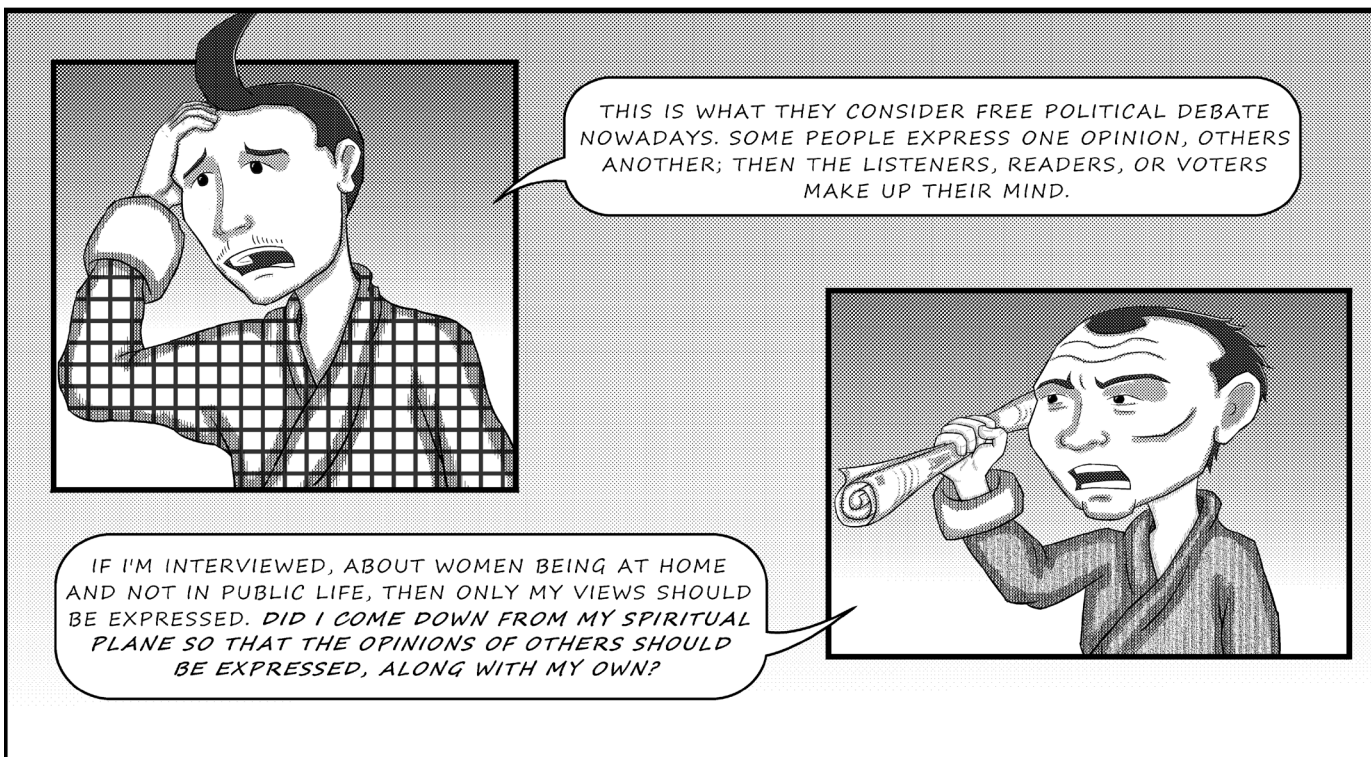
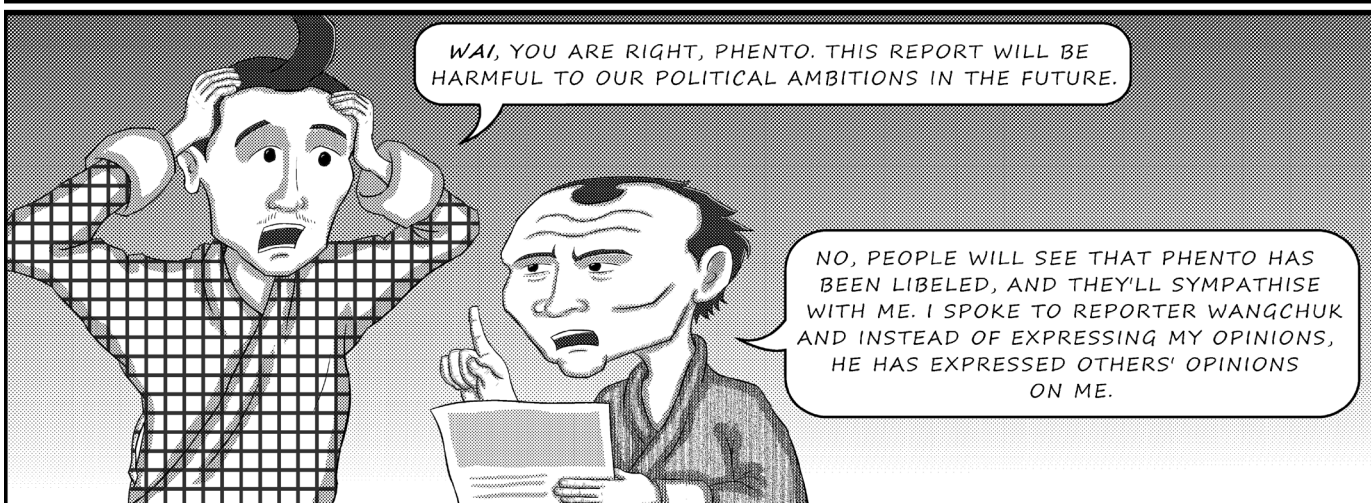
WELL, WHATEVER YOU FIND OUT,
REMEMBER TO SHARE WITH ME.
WE HAVE A PACT, REMEMBER?

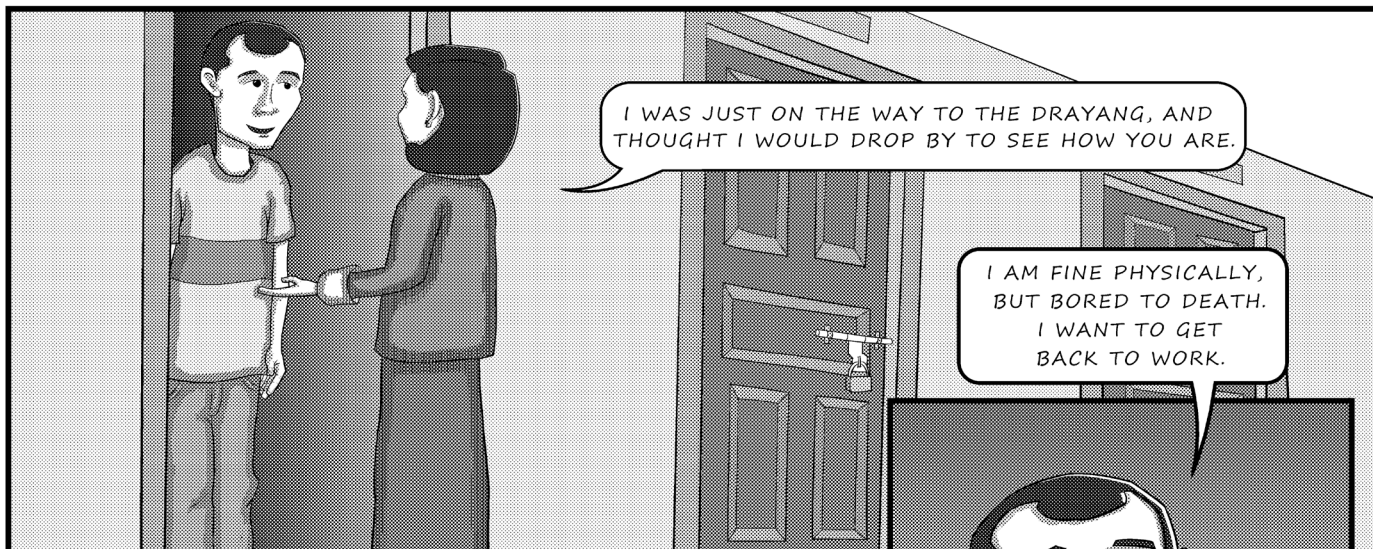


LAS LA. I'LL DO THAT.
I ALSO WISH THE MEDIA WOULD
START **CHANGING** HOW THEY REPORT ON YOUTH NOWADAYS.
THEY ALWAYS FOCUS ON THE NEGATIVE, THEY WROTE I WAS
ROBBED BY A GANG. THEY SHOULD REPORT WHAT LED THE
GANG TO ROB ME. THEY DON'T TRY TO DIG DEEPER AND
UNDERSTAND WHY PEOPLE DO SUCH THINGS. THE STORIES
ARE SO SIMPLISTIC, THERE'S NO FLESH IN THEM.
WE NEVER UNDERSTAND THE ISSUES.

I AGREE THAT THE PRESS PORTRAYS
THE YOUTH IN A NEGATIVE LIGHT.
IT'S ALMOST ALWAYS ABOUT THOSE WHO ARE IN
CONFLICT WITH THE LAW, OR SELECT A FEW
WHO HAVE TOPPED THE CIVIL SERVICE EXAMS.
WHY DON'T THEY WRITE MORE ABOUT YOUTH
WHO ARE MAKING A DECENT LIVING OR THINKING
OUT OF THE BOX?
LIKE THEY DID ABOUT YOU SOME TIME AGO.

THERE IS A STORY ON PHENTO AND KINCHO OPPOSING WOMEN IN POLITICS. PHENTO WONDERS IF INSULTING EACH OTHER IS THE MEANING OF DEMOCRACY.





I WAS JUST ON THE WAY TO THE DRAYANG, AND THOUGHT I WOULD DROP BY TO SEE HOW YOU ARE.

I AM FINE PHYSICALLY, BUT BORED TO DEATH. I WANT TO GET BACK TO WORK.



I MISS THE HOT MOMO YOU USED TO FEED ME BEFORE AND AFTER MY SESSIONS IN THE DRAYANG, BUT I WISH YOU WOULD NOT GO BACK THERE.



I'M NOT THE TYPE OF PERSON TO BE COWERED. DON'T WORRY; I'LL BE BACK IN A DAY OR TWO, AND LOOKING OUT FOR THE GANG THAT ROBBED ME. I KNOW WHO THEY ARE.

THEY'LL BE WARY OF YOU. THE GANG WILL DO SOMETHING EVEN WORSE, THINKING THAT YOU MIGHT REPORT THEM TO THE POLICE!

ACTUALLY, I'VE NO INTENTION OF REPORTING THEM ANYWHERE. I JUST WANT TO UNDERSTAND WHY THEY'RE ADOPTING SUCH A GANG CULTURE AND HURTING PEOPLE. I DON'T BELIEVE OUR YOUTH ARE LIKE THAT INSTINCTIVELY. DASHO SANGAY SUPPORTS MY PLAN.



OH, HE'S THE MP FROM OUR CONSTITUENCY. I WAS HIS PARTY WORKER DURING THE CAMPAIGNS. I STOPPED WORKING AS IT'S DIFFCULT TO GET THINGS DONE THROUGH THE POLITICAL SYSTEM.



FUNNY GUY. YOU GAVE UP A JOB WITH THE LOCAL MP TO SELL MOMO.



WELL, YOU'RE ALSO FUNNY; YOU GAVE UP THE CHANCE TO WORK IN NICE PEOPLE'S HOMES TO BECOME A SINGER AT A DRAYANG.

LET'S MAKE A DEAL. IF YOU GIVE UP SINGING IN THE DRAYANG, I WILL GIVE UP SELLING MOMO OUTSIDE THE DRAYANG. WHERE THERE IS SINGING, THERE WILL HAVE TO BE MOMO!



IF YESHEY RUNS FOR GUP, SEDAY WILL TOO AND THINKS SHE HAS MORE EXPERIENCE THAN YESHEY.

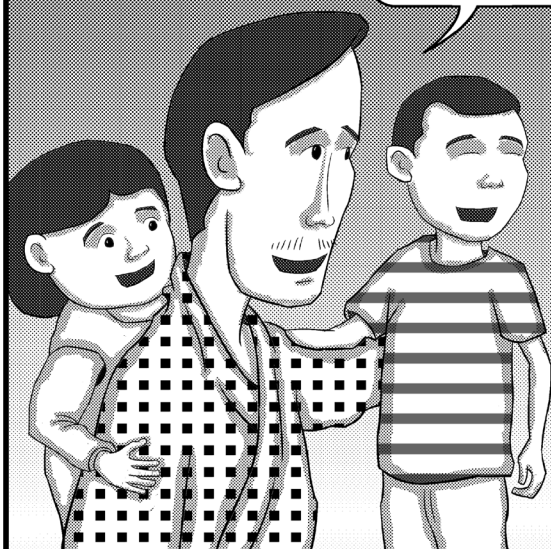


APA HAS ALWAYS BEEN SOFT WHEN IT COMES TO YESHEY. IF SHE IS REALLY DETERMINED, HE WILL EVENTUALLY GIVE IN. ANYWAY, EVEN IF SHE WERE TO GET ELECTED AS THE NEW GUP, I DON'T THINK SHE'S GOT ANYTHING TO OFFER, EXCEPT THE FACT THAT SHE IS THE WIFE OF OUR MO. EXPERIENCE-WISE, I AM MORE ELIGIBLE. I AM ALSO OLDER AND MY HUSBAND SERVES IN THE DZONG. THEREFORE, I MAKE AN IDEAL CANDIDATE, *DON'T I?*



YOU'LL HAVE COMPETITION, SEDAY. APA WANTS ME TO CONTEST.

REALLY? IF YOU WILL, THEN I WON'T. YESHEY'S HUSBAND IS AN MP AND MY HUSBAND WILL BE A GUP! BUT WILL YOU?



WANGCHUK INTERVIEWS THE QUP ABOUT WHY HE IS NOT CONTESTING FOR THE POST AGAIN.

I FIND THAT RATHER UNUSUAL.
WHY HAVE YOU DECIDED TO STEP
DOWN?

TIMES ARE CHANGING. I'M ALSO DISILLUSIONED WITH THE PERSONAL
NATURE OF DEBATE NOWADAYS. AFTER TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS OF BEING A QUP,
IT'S NOW TIME TO HAND OVER THE REINS TO THE YOUNGER GENERATION. I WELCOME
A YOUNG AND BRIGHT QUP WITH NEW IDEAS TO DEVELOP OUR GEWOQ.

WANGCHUK WONDERS IF THERE WERE
CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS BEFORE DEMOCRACY.

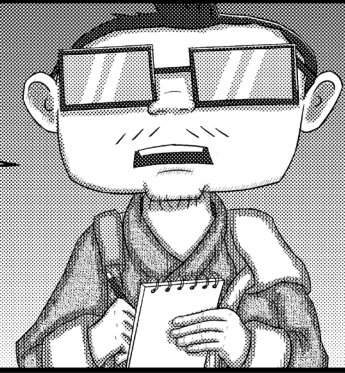
IN THE OLD DAYS, THERE WERE NO POLITICAL DEBATES.
THE ONLY ELECTIONS WERE LOCAL ELECTIONS.
AND THERE WERE NO POLITICAL PARTIES.
NOW THAT THERE ARE MANY PARTIES CONTESTING ELECTIONS,
TWO THINGS HAVE HAPPENED.
POLITICAL DEBATES HAVE BECOME PERSONAL, EVEN VINDICTIVE.
SINCE THE PLAYING FIELD HAS BEEN LEVELLED BY DEMOCRACY AND
EVERYONE IS CONSIDERED EQUAL, PEOPLE ARE FORGETTING THEIR
CULTURE OF RESPECT AND CIVILITY. TO WIN VOTES, PEOPLE SMEAR
EACH OTHER'S REPUTATIONS AND NAMES.

YES, AS WE SAW IN THE LAST NATIONAL ELECTIONS!

I HOPE THE NEXT ELECTIONS WILL BE BETTER.
THE LAST ONE TAUGHT US SOME LESSONS.
I SAW AN AUM GET UP AND PLEAD
WITH THE CANDIDATES TO BE NICER TO EACH OTHER.
DIFFERENCE IN OPINION ARE TAKEN SO PERSONALLY.
NOW, FOR A NEW POLITICAL SYSTEM, YOUNGER PEOPLE
HAVE TO COME ON TO THE POLITICAL SCENE.
HOPEFULLY THEY'LL BE ABLE TO ACCEPT DIFFERENT
VIEWS AND KNOW THAT THEY HAVE TO EARN
PEOPLE'S RESPECT.

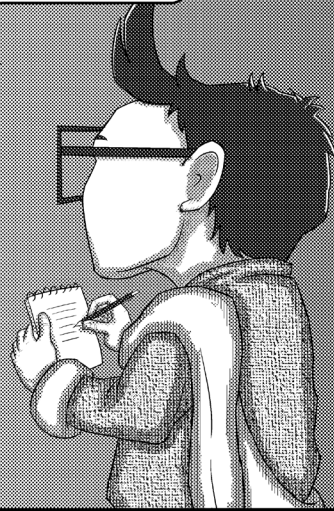
I WISH OTHERS WERE LIKE YOU AND WERE NOT SORE ABOUT LOSING.
WHAT OTHER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED BECAUSE OF POLITICAL
PLURALISM AND SEVERAL PARTIES COMING ONTO THE SCENE?

WITH POLITICAL PLURALISM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT- THE GUP'S
POSITION- HAS ALSO BECOME POLITICAL
IN FACT, IT IS APOLITICAL POSITION; IT'S AN ADMINISTRATIVE POST.



SO WHAT IS THE SOLUTION ACCORDING TO YOU?

EDUCATE PEOPLE THAT
GUPS ARE APOLITICAL, AND NO
GUP CAN OPENLY SUPPORT ONE
PARTY MEMBER OR PARTY
DURING THE ELECTIONS.

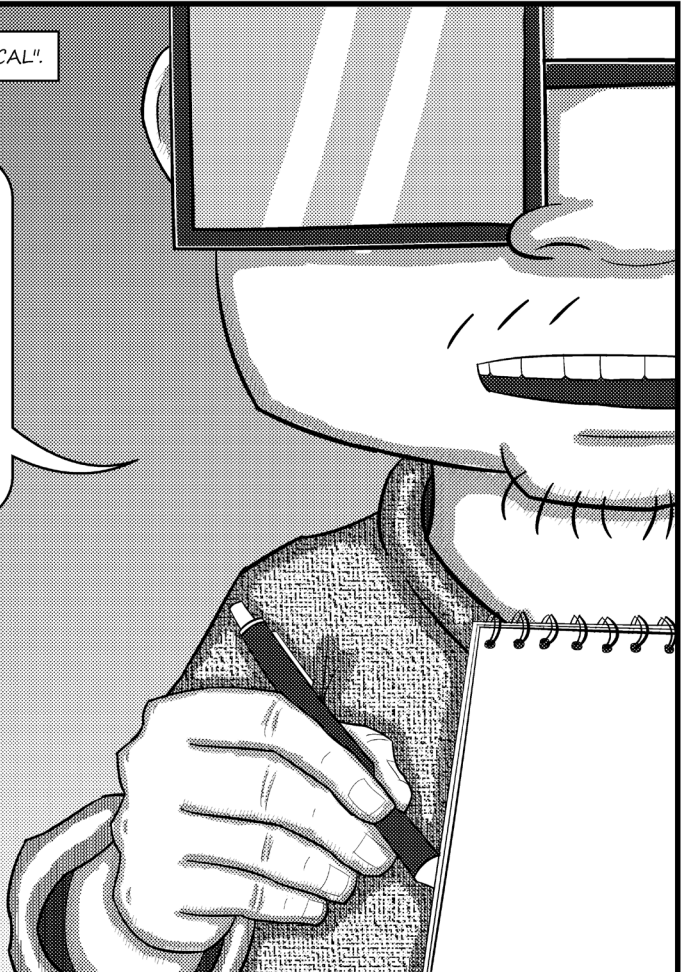


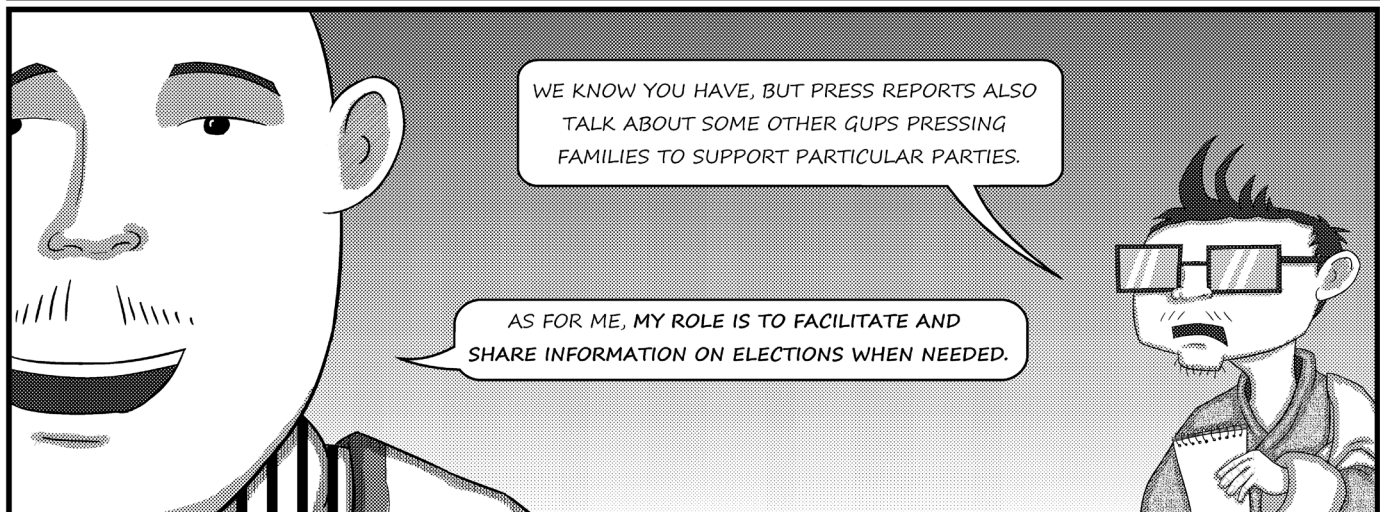
THERE'S CONFUSION AROUND THE IDEA OF BEING "APOLITICAL".

WE KEEP REPORTING ABOUT THE NEED TO BE
'APOLITICAL', REFERRING ONLY TO PEOPLE IN THE
CIVIL SERVICE.

IF YOU LOOK AT IT ANOTHER WAY,
ALL DECISIONS ARE POLITICAL,
WHETHER THEY'RE ABOUT VOTING,
OR SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS
WHETHER WE BUY LOCAL PRODUCE OR
SUPPORT OPEN TRADING ALONG
THE BORDER.

WITH THE EMPHASIS ON THE NEED TO
BE 'APOLITICAL', PEOPLE HAVE BECOME
UNCOMFORTABLE WITH SHARING THEIR
VIEWS ON GOVERNANCE AND THAT'S
ADDING TO THE TENSION.





JIGME AND YITHO ARE TALKING ABOUT JIGME'S EFFORT TO BECOME FRIENDS WITH THE GANG MEMBERS.

SO HOW'S YOUR PROGRESS IN BEFRIENDING THE GANG WHO ATTACKED YOU?

YOU ARE FUNNY. BEFRIENDING INDEED! ANYWAY, I RAN INTO THEM AND THEY WERE ABOUT TO RUN AWAY BUT I CALLED AFTER. TOLD THEM I MEANT NO HARM AND THAT I JUST WANTED TO TALK. THEY WERE SUSPICIOUS. THEY MUST HAVE THOUGHT I WAS PLANNING REVENGE.

JIGME IS TRYING TO FIND OUT WHY MANY YOUTHS IN THE URBAN TOWNS ARE TURNING TO SUBSTANCE AND ALCOHOL.

YOU TOLD ME WHY YOU ARE DOING THIS BUT I STILL THINK YOU ARE OUT OF YOUR MIND.

WELL, THEY ARE ACTUALLY NOT BAD YOUTHS. THAT UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT WAS PROBABLY BECAUSE OF DRINKING; WE ARE BOUND TO MAKE MISTAKES WHEN UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL. I'M MORE INTERESTED IN WHY THEY RESORT TO ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE. IT SURELY, ISN'T ALWAYS FOR RECREATION OR FUN BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY HEALTHIER WAYS TO HAVE FUN LIKE PLAYING FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL THAN DRINKING AND DRUGS.

THE DESIRE FOR MATERIAL GAIN AND NOT HAVING THEM, THE INCOME GAP CAN BE A CAUSE TOO.

I HEAR FROM MY FRIENDS AT THE DRAYANG THAT SOME ARE RESENTFUL OF OTHERS WHO HAVE THE MEANS FOR RECREATION AND OTHER THINGS. MANY OF US ARE THERE TO MAKE A LIVING AND UNDERSTAND THE HARSHER REALITIES OF LIVING IN THIMPHU.

I'LL HAVE TO COME AND TALK TO ALL DRAYANG FRIENDS. I KNOW THE GROUP IS ACTUALLY MADE OF GOOD BOYS AND IF WE CAN GET THEM THE HELP THEY NEED, THEY CAN STAY OUT OF TROUBLE.

IF I WERE YOU I WOULD NOT GO ANYWHERE NEAR THEM. IT IS ASKING FOR TROUBLE! STAY OUT OF THEIR WAY!

KINLEY IS PERSUADING AP GUP NOT TO RESIGN. GUP HOPES THE NEXT GUP WILL GENUINELY SERVE THE GEWOQ.

I HAVE DECIDED NOT TO CONTEST ANYMORE. AS FOR THE NEXT GUP, I HOPE WE GET SOMEONE WHO GENUINELY CARES FOR THE GEWOQ AND WHOSE HEART IS IN SERVING THE PEOPLE. SOME ADDED EXPERIENCE IN THE LOCAL GOVERNANCE IS ALSO A PLUS POINT.

IN FACT, YOU WOULD FIT THE BILL EXACTLY.

ASHA GUP, I'VE BEEN MORE OR LESS FORCED TO AGREE TO CONTEST THE POST BY ALL THE RUMORS OF YESHEY STANDING FOR THE SAME POST.

MY FAMILY AND NOW YOU, THINK I SHOULD STAND FOR GUP. I COULD NEVER BE AS GOOD AS YOU. YOU ARE A LEGEND.

THANK YOU SUCH KIND WORDS, KINLEY. THE GUP CAN BE MALE OR FEMALE; IT DOESN'T MATTER AS LONG AS THEIR HEART IS IN WHAT THEY ARE DOING.

SANGAY IS TRYING TO TEAM JIGME UP WITH THE REPORTER, WANGCHUK. JIGME IS WONDERING WHY SANGAY IS INTRODUCING WANGCHUK TO HIM.

I'D LIKE YOU TO TEAM UP WITH A REPORTER. HE WROTE ONE STORY ABOUT HOW I HAD FINANCED MY CAMPAIGN FROM THE PROFITS OF KUENGA RABTEN'S ILLICIT BUSINESS!

FLAT NO: 13

TOILET

THAT'S FUNNY, I WAS WITH YOU IN THE CAMPAIGN. YOU DID NOT EVEN HAVE ANY MONEY TO PAY YOUR PARTY WORKERS! ALTHOUGH WE HAVE THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, THE NEWSPAPERS WRITE WHATEVER THEY WANT WITHOUT ANY VERIFICATION. I'VE STOPPED READING PAPERS AND MUST HAVE MISSED YOUR STORY.

CLICK!!

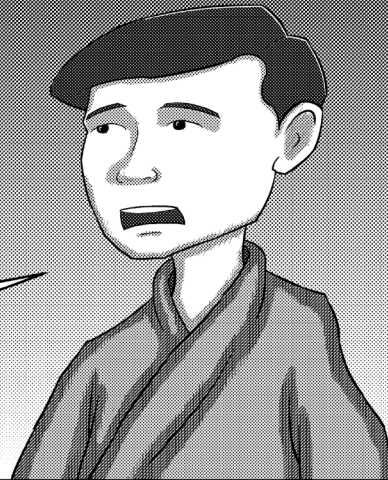
WANGCHUK BECAME A BETTER REPORTER AFTER HIS ASSOCIATION WITH KINCHO, WHO MISLED HIM.

SINCE THEN, HE WROTE GOOD STORIES, AVOIDING CHARACTER ASSASSINATION AND INSTEAD, GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF ISSUES.

THAT'S FINE, BUT WHAT HAS ALL THIS GOT TO DO WITH ME?

THE NEWS REPORTER IS INTERESTED IN THE SAME ISSUE AS JIGME.

THE REPORTER HAS BEEN RESEARCHING INTERESTING ISSUES LIKE WOMEN'S ROLE IN POLITICS, THE SMUGGLING OF ANTIQUES AND THE ISSUE OF GANG CULTURE IS ONE THAT'LL INTEREST HIM



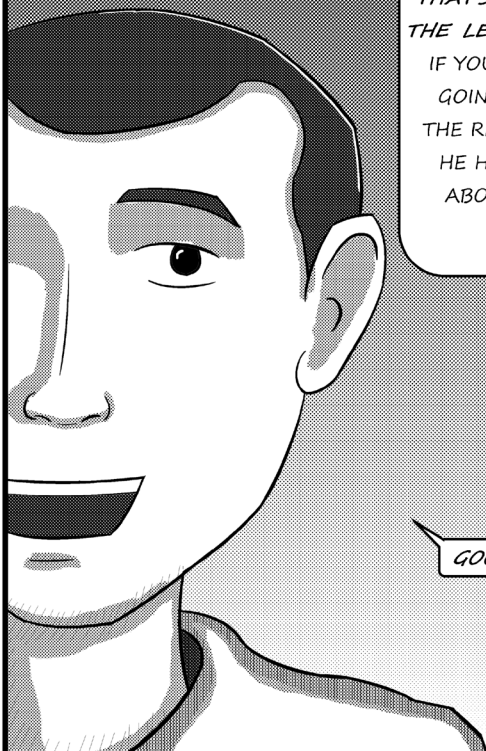
THE GANG MIGHT FEEL THREATENED IF THEY SEE BOTH OF US GOING AFTER THEM FOR INFORMATION. IT'LL TAKE TIME TO BUILD THEIR CONFIDENCE AND FOR US NOT TO BE PERCEIVED AS A THREAT.

SANGAY SUGGESTS IT IS BETTER FOR WANGCHUK TO LEAD THE RESEARCH SINCE JIGME HAS BEEN ATTACKED.



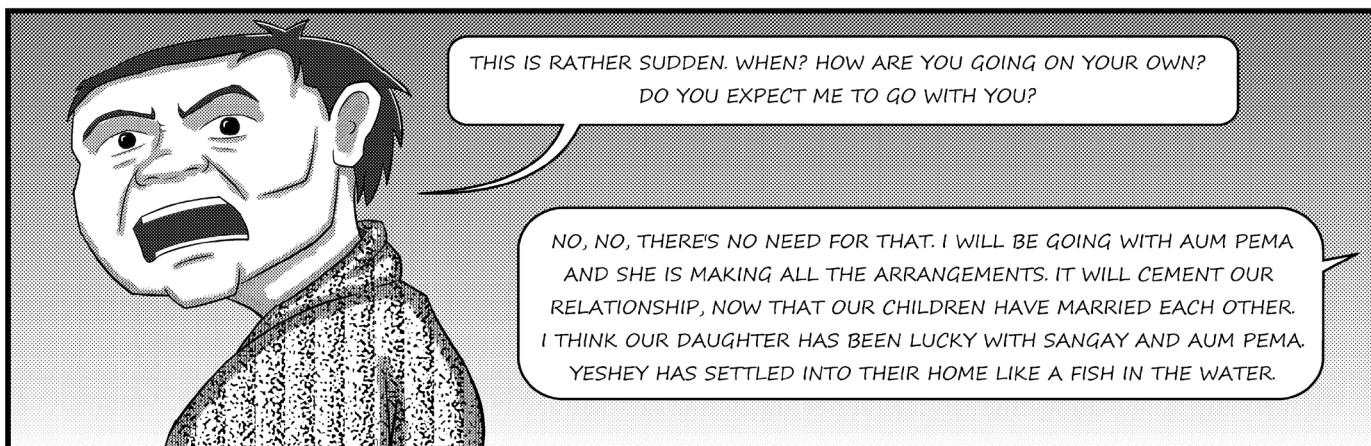
THAT'S WHY I WOULD LIKE THE REPORTER TO TAKE THE LEAD ON YOUR RESEARCH INTO GANG CULTURE. IF YOU LEAD, THEN THE GANG WILL THINK YOU ARE GOING TO HAND THEM OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES. THE REPORTER WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT BETTER. HE HAS A REASON FOR WANTING TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WHAT IS FORCING THEM, AND WHAT LIES BEHIND RESORTING TO GANG CULTURE.

GOOD POINT!



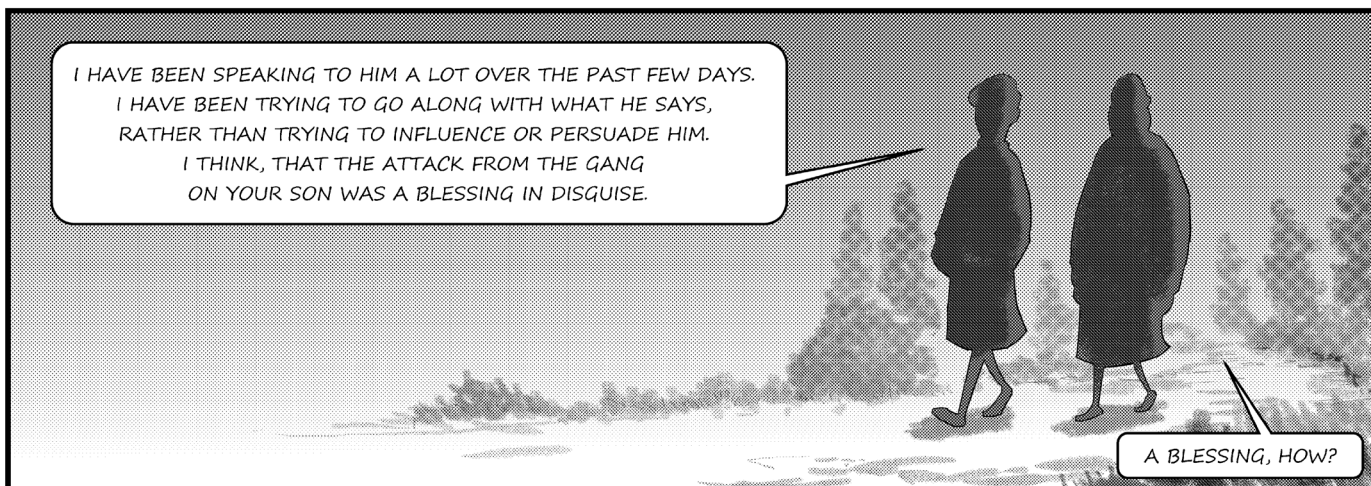


THERE HAS BEEN SOMETHING I HAVE BEEN MEANING TO TELL YOU. I'M PLANNING TO GO ON A PILGRIMAGE.



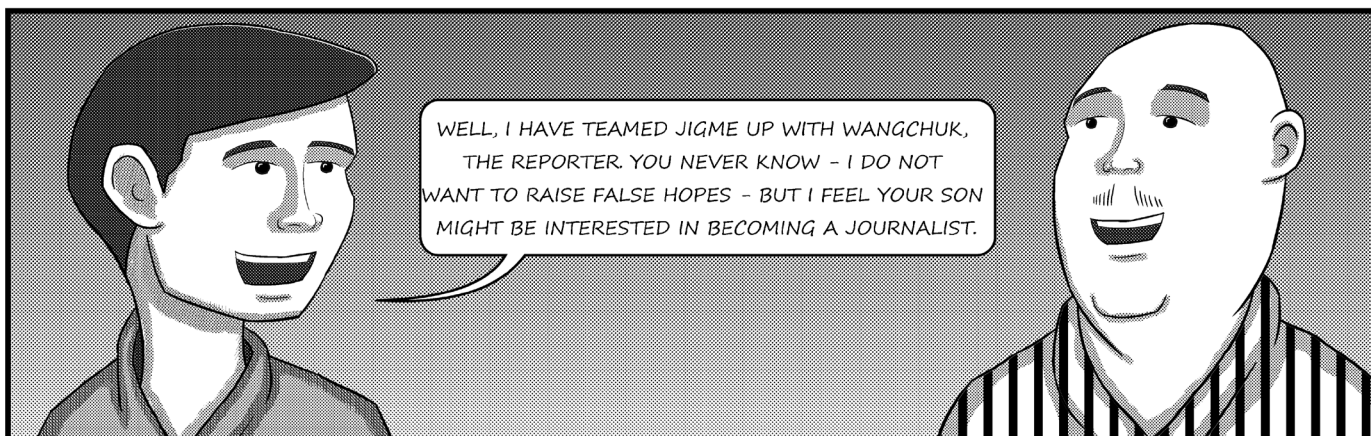
THIS IS RATHER SUDDEN. WHEN? HOW ARE YOU GOING ON YOUR OWN? DO YOU EXPECT ME TO GO WITH YOU?

NO, NO, THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT. I WILL BE GOING WITH AUM PEMA AND SHE IS MAKING ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS. IT WILL CEMENT OUR RELATIONSHIP, NOW THAT OUR CHILDREN HAVE MARRIED EACH OTHER. I THINK OUR DAUGHTER HAS BEEN LUCKY WITH SANGAY AND AUM PEMA. YESHEY HAS SETTLED INTO THEIR HOME LIKE A FISH IN THE WATER.



I HAVE BEEN SPEAKING TO HIM A LOT OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS. I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GO ALONG WITH WHAT HE SAYS, RATHER THAN TRYING TO INFLUENCE OR PERSUADE HIM. I THINK, THAT THE ATTACK FROM THE GANG ON YOUR SON WAS A BLESSING IN DISGUISE.

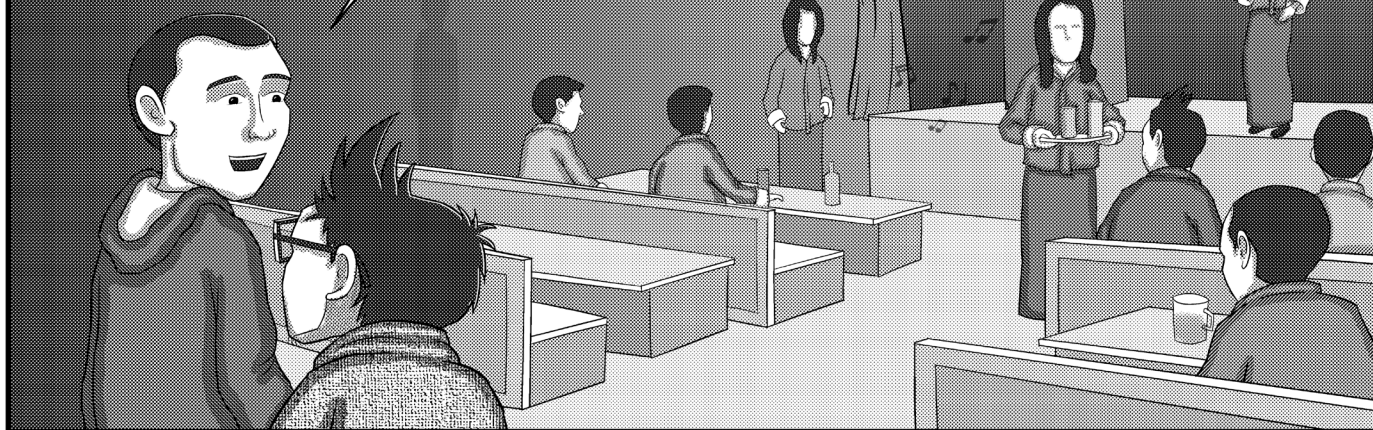
A BLESSING, HOW?



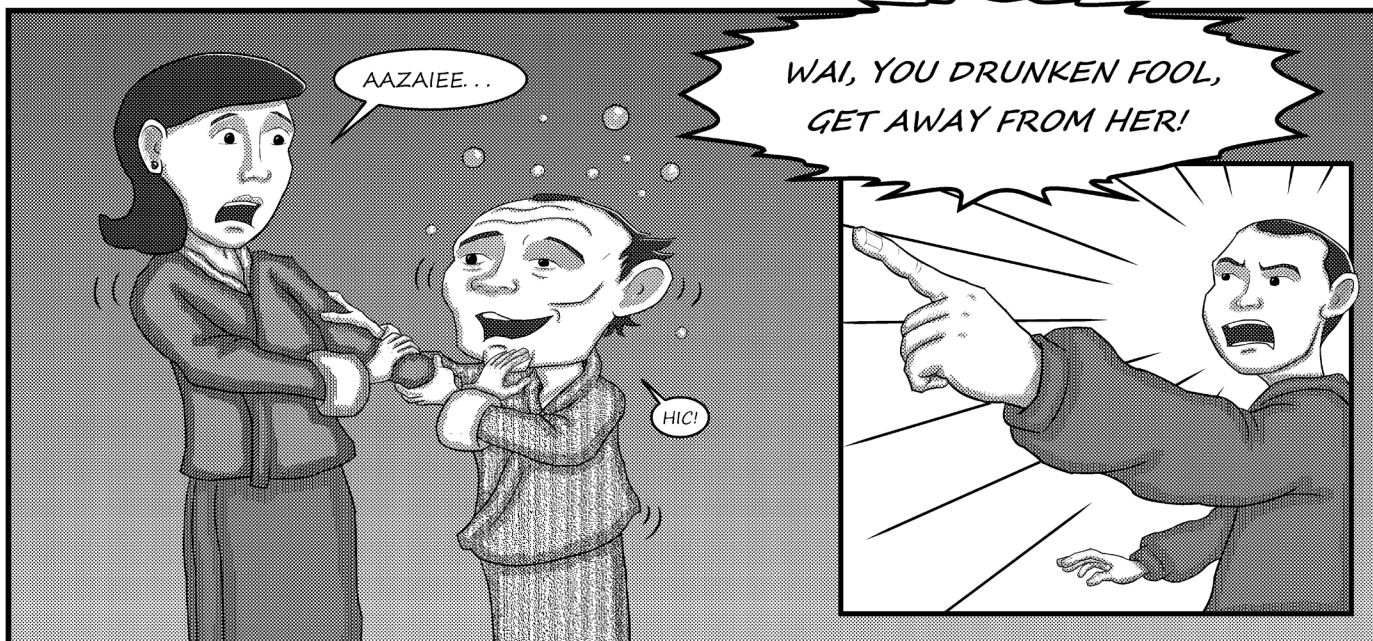
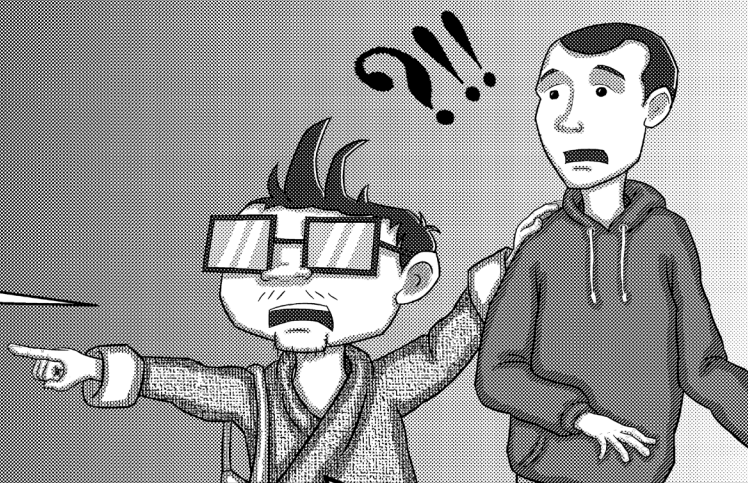
WELL, I HAVE TEAMED JIGME UP WITH WANGCHUK, THE REPORTER. YOU NEVER KNOW - I DO NOT WANT TO RAISE FALSE HOPES - BUT I FEEL YOUR SON MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A JOURNALIST.

JIGME AND WANGCHUK HAVE BECOME GOOD FRIENDS WORKING TOGETHER ON THEIR INVESTIGATIVE STORY. JIGME MIGHT FIND HIS CALLING AS A JOURNALIST.

THIS IS WHERE MY GIRLFRIEND WORKS. SHE LOVES SINGING, BUT DOES NOT LIKE THE HARRASSMENT SHE GETS FROM SOME OF THE AUDIENCE. SHE IS A DECENT GIRL, BUT EVEN MY FATHER THINKS SHE IS OF A DOUBTFUL CHARACTER, AND HOW WRONG HE IS! NOW, WHERE MIGHT SHE BE?



OH, LOOK! PHENTO! HE MADE A STAND AGAINST WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS OR PUBLIC LIFE. BUT DOES NOT SEEM TO MIND WOMEN BEING INVOLVED IN SINGING IN THE DRAYANG! IN FACT, HE SEEMS TO BE PESTERING A LADY SINGER. THAT WOULDN'T BE YOUR GIRL, WOULD IT?

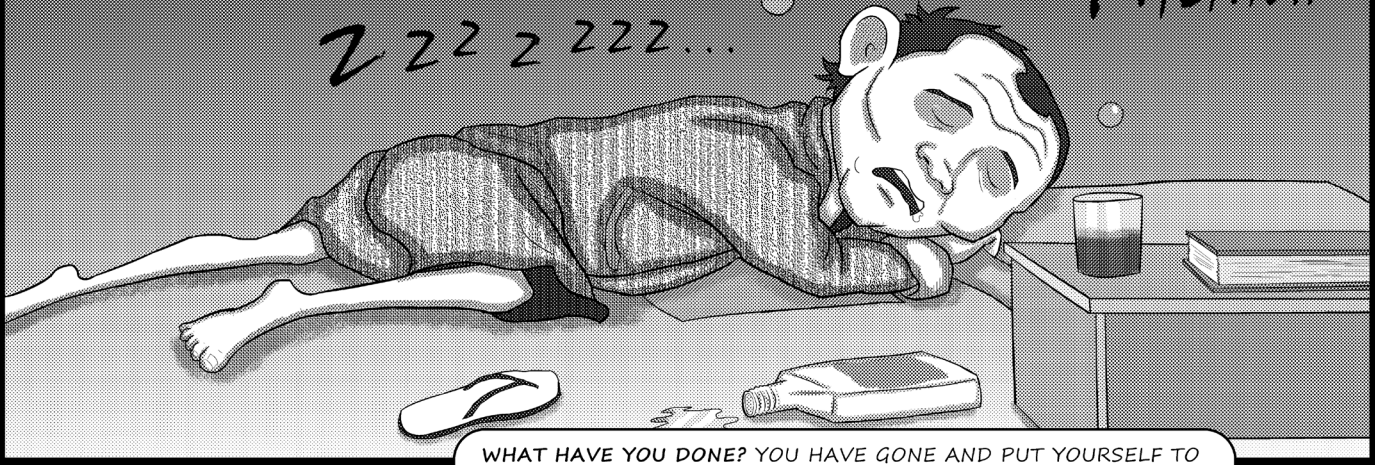




KINCHO ENLISTED PHENTO FOR THE GUP ELECTIONS. NOW HE IS ANGRY WITH PHENTO FOR HIS ACTIONS IN THE DRAYANG AS IT IS RUINING HIS POLITICAL AND SPIRITUAL REPUTATION.

PHENTO!!

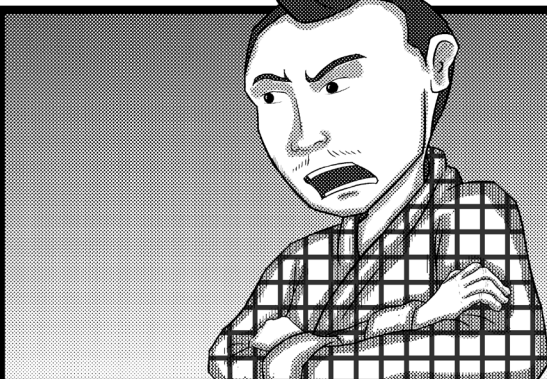
Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z...



WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? YOU HAVE GONE AND PUT YOURSELF TO SHAME IN FRONT OF WOMEN. HOW ARE YOU GOING TO REPAIR YOUR REPUTATION? YOUR PRETENSE TO BE A SPIRITUAL PERSON HAS BEEN EXPOSED FOR WHAT IT IS: **A BUNCH OF LIES!**

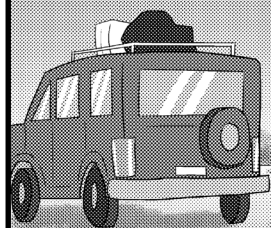


Wooo . . men IN POLITICS- NO GOOD,
WOMEN ON THE STAGE IN THE DRAYANGS- VERY GOOD.
WOMEN'S PLACE IS ON THE DRAYANG STAGE,
NOT ON THE POo . . POLITICAL STAGE.
OURS IS A PRINCIPLED STANCE.

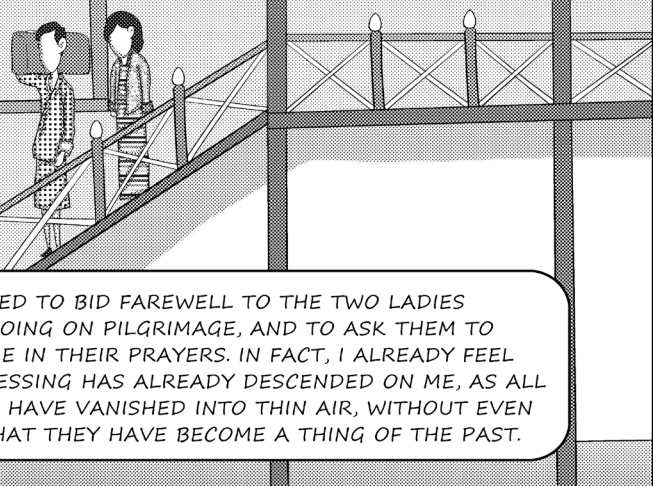


YES, BUT IN ORDER TO PROMOTE OUR PRINCIPLED POSITION, WE NEED TO PROJECT A CLEAN IMAGE, NOT TO BE FOUND IN THE DRAYANG.

EVERYONE HAS GATHERED TO WISH AUM PEMA AND AUM CHIMI A SAFE SPIRITUAL TRIP.



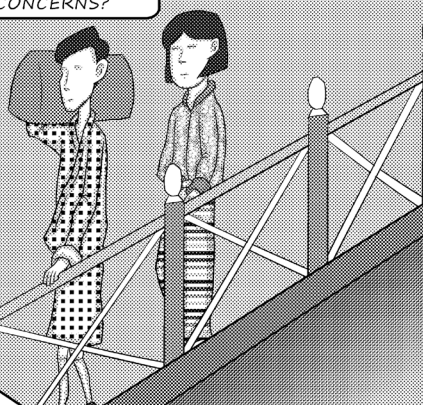
I WANTED TO BID FAREWELL TO THE TWO LADIES WHO ARE GOING ON PILGRIMAGE, AND TO ASK THEM TO REMEMBER ME IN THEIR PRAYERS. IN FACT, I ALREADY FEEL THAT THEIR BLESSING HAS ALREADY DESCENDED ON ME, AS ALL MY CONCERNS HAVE VANISHED INTO THIN AIR, WITHOUT EVEN REALISING THAT THEY HAVE BECOME A THING OF THE PAST.



I AM GLAD TO HEAR THAT, ASHA GUP. WHAT WERE YOUR CONCERNS?



I AM SO RELIEVED YOU HAVE AGREED TO STAND FOR GUP. NOW LET'S HOPE YOU GET ELECTED. AFTER SERVING FOR SO LONG, IT MAKES ME HAPPY TO KNOW WE HAVE GOOD CANDIDATES STANDING.



GUP IS GLAD SOMEONE EXPERIENCED IS GOING TO STAND FOR ELECTIONS.



I WAS WORRIED THAT SOMEONE WHO WAS NOT EXPERIENCED ENOUGH MIGHT REPLACE ME. I AM NOT REFERRING TO ANY OF THE LADIES WHO SOUGHT TO ASPIRE TO THE POSITION. I MEANT PHENTO!

I AM HAPPY MY HUSBAND HAS DECIDED TO STAND, BUT I STILL FEEL THAT IN THE FUTURE, WOMEN WOULD DO A GOOD JOB AS A LOCAL LEADER.



AP GUP BELIEVES THAT WOMEN WILL BE BETTER THAN MEN IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

I DARE SAY THAT WOMEN WILL BE EVEN BETTER THAN MEN IN THE ADMINISTRATION SINCE THEY ARE THE SOLE ADMINISTRATORS OF THE HOUSEHOLD. BUT I AM ALSO CONFIDENT THAT YOUR HUSBAND WILL MAKE A GOOD OFFICIAL WITH HIS ADMINISTRATION EXPERIENCE AT THE DZONG.

IT IS FOR THE VOTERS TO DECIDE, NOT ME, NOT EVEN ASHA GUP. WHOEVER TAKES THE PLACE OF GUP WILL HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME LIVING UP TO OUR PREDECESSOR.



EVERYONE IS THANKFUL FOR EACH OTHER AND THEIR SUPPORT.

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY A WORD OF APPRECIATION FOR MY HUSBAND, AP DOLEY. HE HAS GIVEN HIS BLESSING TO ME GOING ON PILGRIMAGE, ALONG WITH AUM PEMA.

THAT IS VERY GOOD, AP DOLEY. NOW WE ARE OLD AND IT IS IMPORTANT TO GO ON PILGRIMAGE AND TURN TO SPIRITUALITY.

I'D LIKE TO JOIN AUM CHIMI IN THANKING AP DOLEY. NOW I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY SINCE I WILL HAVE A FRIEND ON PILGRIMAGE. SANGAY AND YESHEY WILL REST EASY TOO.

APA, EVEN THOUGH SANGAY AND YESHEY WILL NOW PROBABLY STAY IN EVEN ON WEEKENDS TO LOOK AFTER THEIR FLAT, DON'T WORRY. KINLEY AND I WILL LOOK AFTER YOU WELL AND GIVE YOU A COMPANY.

OF COURSE! AND YOUR GRANDCHILDREN WILL KEEP YOU BUSY SO YOU WON'T MISS AUM CHIMI TOO MUCH.

THAT'S GOOD! NOW ON THIS PILGRIMAGE THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS THAT AUM PEMA AND I HAVE TO SEEK BLESSINGS FOR.

YES, FIRST OF ALL, FOR THE NEW COUPLE, YESHEY AND SANGAY, THEY ARE SYMBOL OF THE NEW GENERATION AND THE NEW POLITICAL SYSTEM IN OUR COUNTRY. AS GUP SAID, AS IT IS TIME FOR THE OLD GENERATION TO MAKE WAY FOR THE NEW GENERATION, SO I AM HAPPY TO LEAVE MY HOME TO THIS NEW COUPLE.

YES, AND WE HAVE HAD SO MANY TESTS AND TRIALS OVER THE LAST YEAR OR TWO. BUT WE ARE LUCKY THAT OUR FAMILIES HAVE EMERGED STRONGER FROM IT. WE HAVE TO OFFER OUR THANKS AS WELL AS RECEIVE BLESSINGS ON THIS PILGRIMAGE.

WELL, MY SON JIGME RETURNED FROM HIS STUDIES AND HE HAS BEEN GONE FOR A LONG TIME. ALL MY HOPES ARE INVESTED IN HIM. I HAVE BEEN TRYING EVERYTHING TO PERSUADE HIM TO SETTLE DOWN AND FIND A JOB. I SHOULD ONLY HAVE LEFT THE TASK TO SANGAY.

AND HOW WAS THAT?

SANGAY GUIDED JIGME BY NOT FORCING HIM INTO ANY JOB. BUT GUIDED JIGME ALONG THE WAY.

THE RESULT, MY FRIENDS, IS HERE BEFORE US. HERE IS A **FULL-PAGE** ARTICLE IN OUR NATIONAL NEWSPAPER, WRITTEN BY MY SON JIGME AND WANGCHUK, THE REPORTER.

CONGRATULATIONS! IT LOOKS LIKE AN IMPRESSIVE AND THOROUGHLY RESEARCHED ARTICLE.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

IT IS AN INVESTIGATIVE ARTICLE ABOUT THE GANG CULTURE THAT IS EMERGING IN OUR URBAN YOUTH. LIKE OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM, OUR MEDIA IS ALSO ENTERING A NEW PHASE.

I WAS THINKING IN TERMS OF THE OLD SYSTEM, IN OUR DAY, WHAT OTHER OPTION WAS THERE FOR WELL-EDUCATED YOUTH? NOW, LIKE OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM, OUR MEDIA IS ALSO BLOSSOMING. AND THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF NEW ISSUES FOR OUR JOURNALISTS TO COVER. SANGAY HAD THE INSIGHT TO SEE THAT MY SON HAD THE SENSITIVITY TO BE ABLE TO COVER THESE ISSUES. THIS WAS SOMETHING THAT I, AS HIS FATHER, WAS UNABLE TO SEE. WHEN MY SON RETURNED FROM INDIA, HE WAS ESTRANGED FROM ME. THANKS TO SANGAY, I HAVE MY SON BACK.

YITHO HAS GIVEN UP HER JOB AT THE DRAYANG BUT HER LOVE TO SING HAS NOT GONE. JIGME WONDERS IF SHE IS GOING BACK TO THE DRAYANG.

IT'S NOT FOR ME TO PRESSURE YOU IN ANY WAY TO GIVE UP YOUR SINGING IN THE DRAYANG. I HAVE FOUND MY VOCATION ON LIFE, BUT IF YOURS IS SINGING AND ENTERTAINING, THAT IS FOR YOU TO DECIDE.

YOU BEGAN BY SELLING MOMO, WE MET AND YOU GOT BEATEN UP BY A GANG AND IN THE COURSE OF INVESTIGATING GANG CULTURE, YOU BECAME A JOURNALIST. YOU WILL GO FAR IN YOUR PROFESSION AS YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT OTHERS DON'T.

AND WHAT MIGHT THAT BE?

FOR YOU, IT'S NOT MONEY THAT'S IMPORTANT. YOU REALLY CARE ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE DOING. YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

IN THE OLD DAYS, A MOMO SELLER AND A DRAYANG SINGER HAD A LOT IN COMMON. NOW, WHAT WILL A JOURNALIST HAVE IN COMMON WITH A SINGER IN THE DRAYANG? MAYBE I WILL HAVE TO DO A DRAYANG STORY.

GOOD IDEA, BUT YOU HAD BETTER NOT TELL TOO MUCH ABOUT IT. LIKE ABOUT THEM ...

... FALLING IN LOVE WITH MOMO AND MOMO SELLERS!

HE HE HE!!

HA HA HA!!

THE END.