

THE LOHIT VALLEY

THE EASTERN-MOST VALLEY OF INDIA
Arunachal Pradesh, October 2007

DETAILED REPORT



The Lohit river as it emerges in the Assam plains,
near Parshuram Kund

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Expedition dedicated to memory of Lt. Nawang Kapadia



The Walong Inscriptions

One of the important discoveries on this trip was finding of the rock with Chinese inscriptions. The rock was below Walong and had ancient inscriptions (highlighted here for better clarity). It was observed and mentioned by Ronald Kaulback (*Geographical Journal*), in 1910, hence it is more than a Century old. There have been few references to this rock with Chinese writings in red in the India-China history of this region. (See pages 8 and 9 in this report) The antiquity of the figures on the rock, what it represents and its connection to Kaulback's mention of a Stone inscription 2 miles south of Tinai, on the right bank of the Lohit (which is exactly where this rock is situated). Our member Sangeetha researched about writing on this rock at the Bhandarkar Institute of Oriental Studies, Pune.

The inscriptions on the Stone were made with a kind of red dye (made out of mineral dyes, probably iron ore) and the pictorial depictions needed to be deciphered. A 1927 edition of the book *Chinese Characters* by Dr. L. Wieger and S.J Darmet provided clues on what the upright characters could have represented. According to the book, such characters were the origin of the Chinese script and the book dates the characters to the pre-Christian era.

The clockwise Eastern Swastika character "Fang" (right) represents the four regions of space of two dimensions. The extended meaning could be square, regular, correct or a rule. It can specifically mean : "this region".

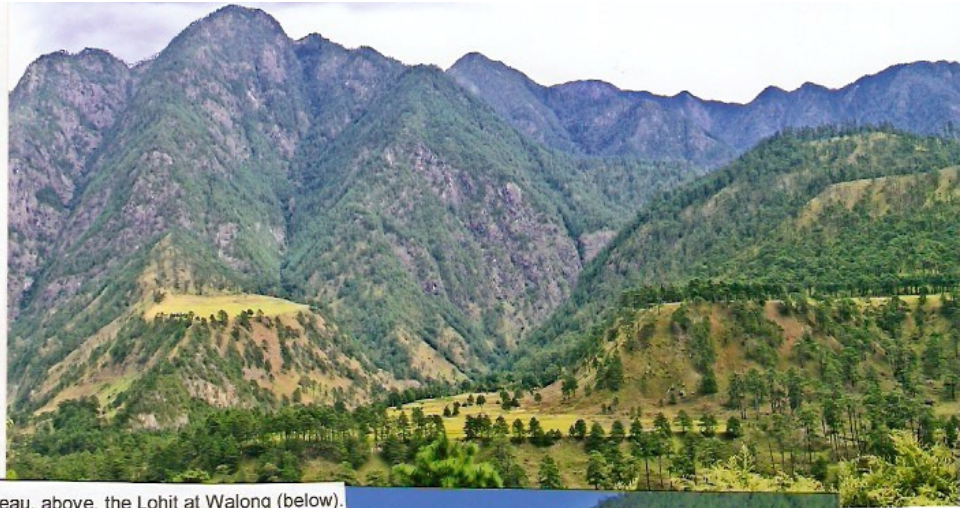
The anti clockwise Western Swastika Character may represent "Chi" meaning seven, a numerical sign. "Chi" is a less angular character than the one on the stone. The slanted swastika between the two clockwise swastika was not found in the book but is similar to "Chi" as represented in the book.

The man like character with a shallow bowl-like head (left, top) represents an ancestor and the figure with a circle for the head represents a man (if upright as in figure on left 2 bottom) and a son (if kneeling). If the man is below the ancestor it represents an offering. The character with a split head and horns (left top on the picture on right) is similar to "Shu" which represents glutinous grain or rice.

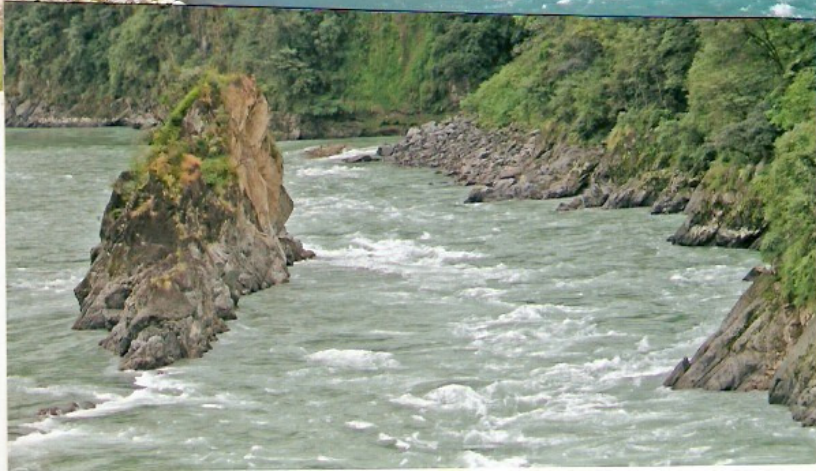
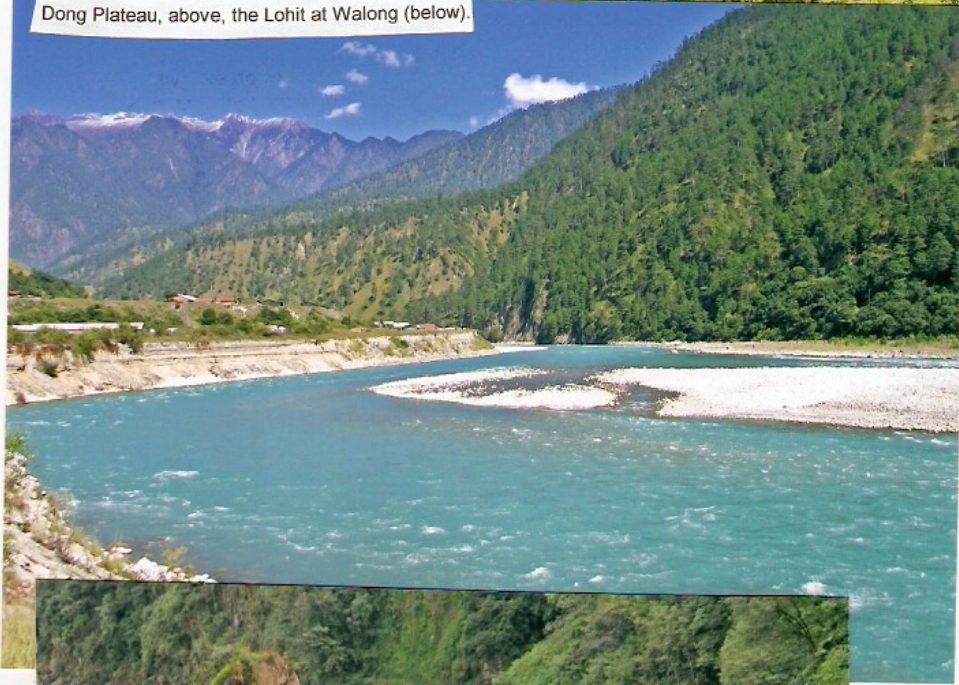
This writing could mean "This region is the land of farming of our ancestors". However find of this rock is of great significance and opens up exciting possibilities for further research.



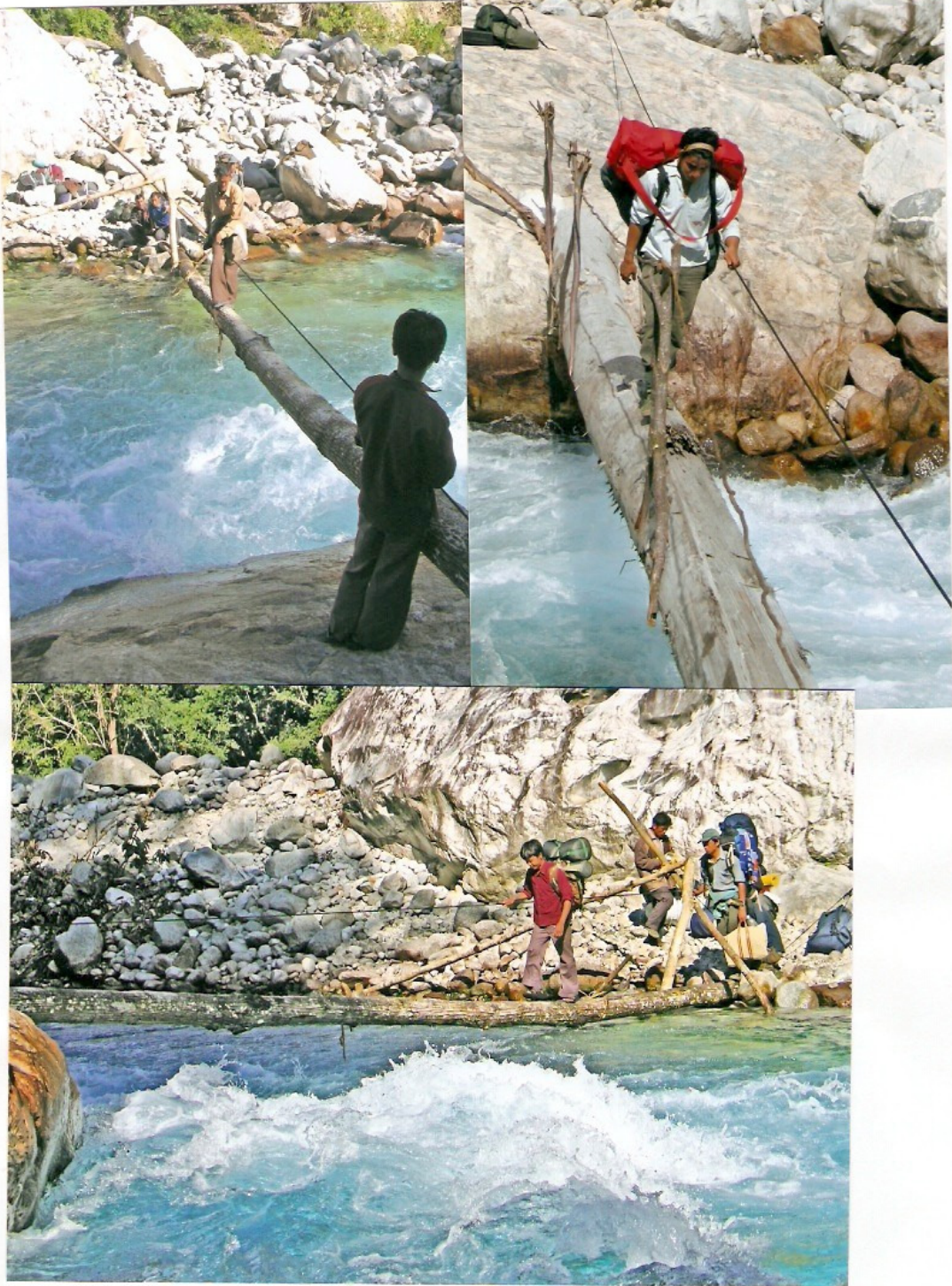
Gambling at Walong (top, left)
Porter smoking opium (bottom left)
Burmese pagoda at Chonkham (top right)
A Mishmi villager (right bottom)



Dong Plateau, above, the Lohit at Walong (below).



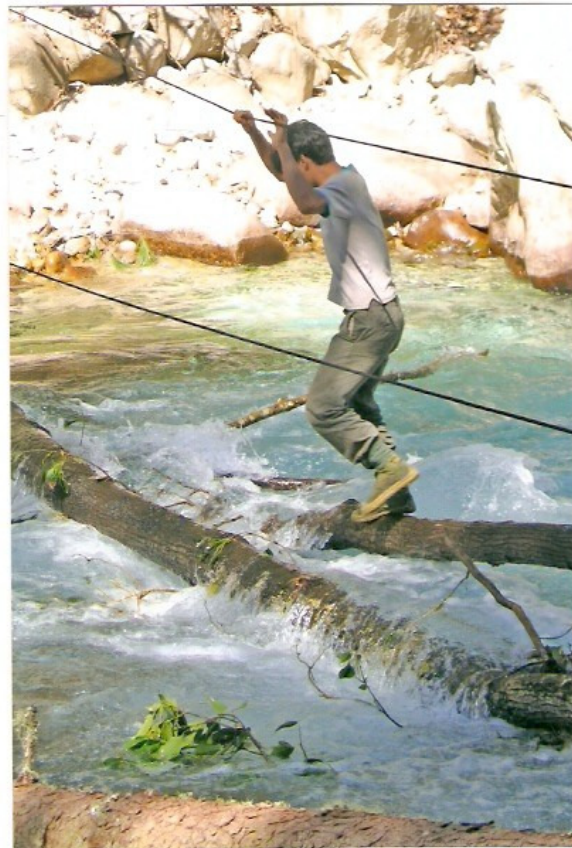
Parshuram Kund.



"Single Log" bridges in the Sat Ti valley, slippery and dangerous to cross.



The "bridge" that stopped us. Notice this logs,
water flowing over the bridge.
To cross one had to transfer from
one log to the other over water-logged branches.



Discovery of the
Walong Inscriptions
near helipad.
Rock was in thick forest.
The area surrounding the
rock was cleared by us.





Forest of Sat Ti valley. Banana tress at bottom, Indo-Malayan forest in centre and pines on the top.



The Lohit at Dong, and the Namti Plains (in background) where much fighting took place in 1962.

Hot Springs at Dong (left)