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VI. DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS ON HIMALAYAN TOPICS

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This study is a description and social analysis of the temple-villages of the Lama People of Helambu, Nepal. It is an ethnographic account, based both on fieldwork and epigraphic research, which reflects the importance of the wider civilization, and historical circumstance. It concerns two local social orders, one based on the temple, and the other on kinship. There are two main underlying themes: the first is hierarchy and equality; the second is the tactical use by men, in their concern with status, of ideas and institutions. There are three Parts to the work, and whereas the first looks at the region as a whole, the other two Parts view the region through the village.

Part One is primarily historical in its development. It introduces the theme of hierarchy and equality as an ethnic idiom, and then proceeds with an account of the establishment and economic growth of the temple-villages. This latter concerns lineage fission, political circumstance, land-tenure and economic changes over a period of three hundred years.

Part Two is an account of the village order that centers on the temple. It is a discussion, progressively, around three related motifs: the household and the temple, the monk and the layman, and the priest and the client. Part Three is an account of the kinship-based order. Here the exposition moves from the local lineage to the family, and then to affinity and marriage.

In the conclusion the various historical strands of the economy, the temple, and kinship, are considered together. The work is accompanied by Appendices that include important historical materials on the villages of the region.