



## *Claude Feillâtre - Little Nepal*

Elaine: Following on with the two boys, I am now talking to someone who is involved with the association, ONG. Perhaps you could introduce yourself.

Claude: OK, my name is Claude, Claude Feillâtre. I'm from Brittany, from near St. Malo. It's about 12 years ago now I, um, I did this association, and because I used to, to spend two years in a, in a temple in Nepal, not in Nepal exactly, north of Thailand near the border of Burma, and I used to be a monk. And I went to India, then I went to Lumbini in Nepal, the place where Buddha were was born, and then I went to Kathmandu and I met some, some people, and the people took me to different village, and I saw the real life of Nepal, you know, because most of the time if you go with a travel agency they show you some good place of Nepal but not the real life, you know. And I fall in love with Nepal, really, so for me to do something, you know, to help these people. They never asked me for money, for nothing, so now it's about 12 years we have this association in Nepal. So we have three village, we take care of three village and for, with finance, 100% to the kids in the village. Most of the schools is about 200 kids, and then if the boy or the girl is getting good at school, we send him or her to Kathmandu and to do like the BAC. And if he is very good, after we are ready to help him you know to go to the foreign country you know for to study. So now we are very proud because just a few months ago we have one of the students is a doctor, so he gets the license, and we have one boy now in the Philippines is in the third year of medicine, and we have a couple of boys in, uh, in France, one do Pushpa is doing university in Rennes, Kanshan want to do the School of Dinard, and we have one more who is doing, how I don't know how you say in English, Science Politic. And now we have about six girls who are nurses. So we have about 20, 20 students that you have to take care of every year, so it is a lot of money, it's a lot of money. And so we have different ways to collect money. We do for the presentation, we do some market and some action, and mostly we do a lot and sometimes it is every two weeks we do something. But what we do also we take people to Nepal and that the people can see exactly how we spend the money in the different village. And since I think for me the best way, you know because the people trust you after this they see that we spend the money for the kids, you know. And when the people come with us to Nepal for about two weeks they spend, we ask them, for the, you know for the food, for the place to stay, for the transportation, about 500 euros, it is nothing, you know. So we don't make money on that. But the people are so happy when they come back. Most of them they organise something in France. Like evening to play cards, or you know a tournament of football, or something like that. And they send us after the profit of the day. So the way of the association to make money. We don't want to ask always money to people. You know, it is, you know. So we like that the people .....

Elaine: It's not part of the Buddhist philosophy, is it?

Claude: Exactly. You know, exactly. We want that the people give money ...

Elaine: But to give from their heart.

Claude: Exactly. So this is the best way. So about Glenn, Glenn I did not know him and it's Pushpah who knew somebody, a lady who knew the mother of, or who know the mother of Glenn, and Pushpah to me. Ah, you know in Brittany we have one boy who is going to Nepal. So I don't know that, how you know that? And he say yes, I saw on Facebook and maybe we can help him or something so we



took contact and er, that is a good boy. It's a good boy what he did, it is really good you know because he is only 16 years old.

Elaine: Very extraordinary. But what he showed, is just really, it's just the beginning of whole humanitarian.....

Claude: Yes, and very simple guy, he's very you know, he's ... we are part of him now so he is doing good. And I hope that after we want to take him back to Nepal to, to show him the real, the real life. You know because what he didn't went to the best place in Nepal. He went to some good place but most of the time he was in the cities, you know, all the big village, you know. What you have to.... when I take my people, you know the people don't hear that the kid have to walk about two hours to go to school. One hour and half, two hours to go to school. It's you know, but nobody complain, and I remember a few years ago we, we bought ambulance for one village, so we took the ambulance. One lady came after you know the ceremony and say, ah, thank you. Now we are only three hours to drive from the other hospital from the emergency place. And for her it was like a for us five minutes walk. You know, three hours. So it's....

Elaine: Thoroughly rewarding work though, isn't it, what you're doing. You must love every day.

Claude: Oh yes, you know it's people don't realise how lucky for us to be in France. You know, to be happy. It's, it's why. In Nepal you know it is good. In Nepal what is really good is the family, it is very important. Impossible, to, to send the grandmother or the grandfather to a retirement house. For them it's ... they love France, but they don't understand that we can do that. You know, for them, it's impossible. Over there you have to be happy with what you have, not what the different people they have. You know, what you have it's, it's good, it's enough, you know.

Elaine: The less you have sometimes the happier, I think.

Claude: Yes, mmm.

Elaine: Less to worry about.

Claude: So there is, you know, I just want to tell the people if they have a few days, little bit of money go to Nepal. The Nepali people they need you for tourists, you know, to make money and Nepal is not an expensive place. You know you go to Nepal if you can buy some airline tickets for 500 euros, go and back, I know that you spend almost nothing so maybe you go to Spain for 1000 euros for 15 days. You spend more here to one week or two weeks in Brittany.

Elaine: Oh exactly. Well I think, Claude, your explanation and enthusiasm will really, really excite people to want to follow this path. So when are you going back there?

Claude: In two weeks. For two months, or three months.

Elaine: So, you'll have to take some crpes with you.

Claude: Yes, I do. I do, I do. Yes. I do.



Elaine: And butter.

Claude: Oh yes. I do. We do ourselves some French in the village we show the people how we do crêpes, or something like that. You know most of the time we have to learn a lot from these people, oh yes.

Elaine: What a wonderful exchange.

Claude: Oh yes, it is.

Elaine: Well, thank you very much indeed for your time, thank you.

Claude: Okay, and who knows, maybe we will take you one day with us.

Elaine: Yes. Absolutely.