



the sky movies

# Sonam and Her Husbands

A FILM BY  
**AKASH ADHIKARI**



# LOGLINE



all rights reserved to The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd.

**SONAM AND HER HUSBANDS** - Sonam, a girl from the High Himalayan region of Nepal who struggles in her marriage with three brothers following the tradition of polyandry, decides to fight for her rights and for the future of the next generation.



# SYNOPSIS



all rights reserved to The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd.



all rights reserved to The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd.

A woman struggles against the traditional custom of polyandry and provides hope for the new generation, which seeks freedom from the lifelong chains of the inhuman ritual. Following the practice of Polyandry, Sonam, a 22 years old girl in the Himalayan Region of Nepal, is married to three brothers in a family – Karma, Lakpa and Tshering - at the same time. Sonam is obligated to accept all brothers, including the five-year-old Tshering, as her husbands. She lives her life in misery and curses her fate every day. Karma, the oldest husband, dies as the family migrates to Upper Himalayas following an animal epidemic caused by global warming. Lakpa also dies while participating in a horse-riding competition named Yarthong. As a result, the society forces Sonam to accept Tshering as her husband but Sonam, who raised and gave motherly love to Tshering, refuses to do so. She does not want the new generation to share her fate and decides to rebel against the cruel society. There is a clash between traditional thought of the old generation and the modern thinking of the new generation.



all rights reserved to The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd.



(All the character images are dummy and used for purpose of this look-book only. Casting will be finalized in pre-production.)

# CHARACTERS

SONAM



all rights reserved to The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd.

Sonam is simple natured and straightforward. She falls in love with Karma, Jigme's eldest son, and following the custom of polyandry, she accepts him and his brothers as her husband. The trouble of having to cope with multiple husbands hardens Sonam as the film progresses.

Despite of her trouble, she carries her family duty without a word of complain. Sonam becomes lonely after her loving husband Karma dies. She stands up against the demands of the society when it forces her to accept the son-like Tshering as her husband. Cornered and tortured all her life, Sonam becomes bold and rebellious by the end of the film.



## JIGME DORJE

Jigme Dorje is a 51 year old man. His face is wrinkled and his weathered body displays the years of toll of living in the harsh mountains. He keeps his hair in dreadlocks and wears Bakkhu, a traditional dress made from tweed. He hangs numerous colorful ornaments (malas) around his neck. He walks with an air of authority around him.

Jigme is the head of his family and a well-respected man in the neighborhood. He has four sons – Karma, Tashi, Lakpa and Tshering. He is widowed as his wife died six years ago while giving birth to the youngest son, Tshering. He is a man of substantial wealth. He owns many yaks and over 100 mules and horses.

Jigme is of uncompromising nature and leads his family by the iron fist. His thinking is very traditional and has a point of view that any change in the existing social order is detrimental to the inhabitants of the region.



## KARMA

Karma, Jigme's oldest son, is a handsome young man of 25. He is as strong as a bull. He has long hair and wears heavy Bakkhu and snow shoes named Docha. He keeps a machete tied to his waist. He is of reserved nature and does not make himself heard often. He looks after the family Yaks.

He falls in love with Sonam, who he marries. He does not like the fact that he has to share his wife with his brothers but he keeps quiet because he has respect for his culture and traditions. He is a loving husband and cares very much about the feelings of his wife. He is the only one who understands Sonam well. He often quarrels with his younger brother Lakpa regarding the latter's treatment of Sonam.



## TASHI

Tashi, 23, is Jigme's second son. He is very intelligent and soft voiced. He is a monk according to the Buddhist Tradition of the second son in the family having to opt for monkhood. He wears saffron Buddhist robe called Kasaya. He likes his life as a monk because it provides him escape from the hardships at home and the constant torment of his controlling father. Sometimes he plays a major role in helping settle family quarrels and misunderstandings.



## LAKPA

Lakpa, 20, is Jigme's third son. He is strong and agile. He has short hair and wears Bakkhu and Docha like his father and brother. He looks after the family mules and horses, which are used for carrying goods and transportation. He is an excellent rider and often takes part in horse racing competitions and festivals. He is of very possessive nature and likes to assert his dominance over Sonam. Lakpa is hot-headed and foolish. He often gets drunk and gets involved in fights and brawls with villagers.





all rights reserved to The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd.

## TSHERING

Tshering, six years old, is the youngest son of Jigme. He is innocent and very cute. He speaks softly and is loved by everyone. He has long hair and chubby cheeks. He wears big fur caps with large ears and a heavy dress that Sonam sewed together from the cloth of family elders.

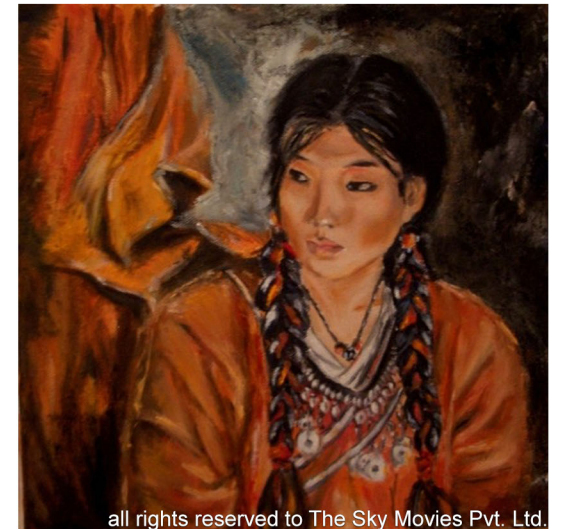
His mother died while giving birth to him so he has never felt motherly love. As the film progresses, Tshering grows into a fine young man with excellent aptitude for horse riding and an impeccable skill in archery. He does not like the old traditions and customs of his society. He thinks Sonam as his mother and hates the fact that the society considers them as husband and wife.

He believes in himself and has a characteristic of defiance, as shown by his refusal to accept Sonam as his wife and insistence on marrying Pema, the girl he loves.

## PEMA

Pema is a beautiful young girl of 18 with red cheeks and dark black hair. Her face glows with radiance and she looks like a Himalayan princess. She wears shirts and pants while going to school and wears Chuba while she is at home.

She lost her parents at a very early age and was educated up to high school in the city by her relatives. She came back to her village after high school and established a primary school, where she teaches. She does not believe in Polyandry and thinks each man and woman must have a free will of their own. She falls in love with Tshering and because Tshering is already married to Sonam, their love becomes a critical turning point in the story.



all rights reserved to The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd.

(We will use trained, experienced and professional artists for major roles. For artists with short and minor roles, we will use local people. We will provide acting workshop and short trainings to these local artists.)



# HIMALAYAN REGION OF NEPAL

## LOCATION



The story of 'Sonam and Her Husbands' takes place around Mustang and Dolpa district, which are situated in the High Himalayan region of Nepal.





## MUSTANG



The district of Mustang is located between some of the highest mountains in the world like Dhaulagiri (8,167 m), Annapurna I (8,091 m), and Nilgiri (7,061 m). People in the region speak traditional Tibetic languages like Thakali and Gurung. The entire district of Mustang is located inside the Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP).

One of the largest and deepest rivers of Nepal, the Kaligandaki, flows through the district. Mustang receives very little rainfall and has many high-altitude deserts. It stays cold throughout the year. Winters are especially harsh with heavy snowfall.





all rights reserved to The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd.

Upper Mustang lies on the northern part of Mustang and covers about two thirds of the district. It is also known as the Last Forbidden Kingdom. It is one of the most protected regions on earth. There are many caves in Upper Mustang, located at the sides of tall hills and cliffs. The Chooser cave, for example, has up to 50 rooms and 4 individual levels linked by ladders.



all rights reserved to The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd.



all rights reserved to The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd.





all rights reserved to The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd.

Although the district lies on the ancient trade route between Nepal and Tibet, there is little facility of transportation. Shooting of movies in the region is a huge challenge. Helicopters, horses and yak caravans are necessary for transportation of equipment, cast and crew. Lower Mustang has some accommodation facilities like lodges, tea houses and home-stays but accommodation is hard to find in Upper Mustang so it is necessary to stay in tents for most of the shooting.



all rights reserved to The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd.



all rights reserved to The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd.



## DOLPO



all rights reserved to The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd.

The district of Dolpo is situated between the Tibetan Plateau and the Dhaulagiri range. Beautiful peaks like Dhaulagiri (8,167 m), Churen (7,381 m), Kanjiroba (6,221 m), Mukot (6,638 m) and Putha Hiuchuli (7,246 m) lie in the region. The Shey Phoksundo National Park and the Shey Phoksundo Lake, the deepest lake in Nepal, lie in Dolpo. Big rivers like Karnali and Bheri flow through the region.





all rights reserved to The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd.

Most of the region is covered with snow throughout the year. Transportation is extremely limited. Dolpo is connected with the rest of Nepal by Jufal airport but there are no roads in the region. Horses, yak caravan and helicopters need to be hired for transportation of equipment, cast and crew. Lodging facility is also not properly available in Dolpo so staying in tents is necessary for most of the shooting.



all rights reserved to The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd.



all rights reserved to The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd.





all rights reserved to The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd.



all rights reserved to The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd.

There is a time lapse of 20-25 years in the movie and filming must be done during all four seasons. Therefore, it is necessary to travel repeatedly to the high Himalayan region. Major turning points of the movie take place during the horse racing festival of Yarthong and the archery competition of Metha. Great effort is required to film the events during these festivals.



all rights reserved to The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd.



all rights reserved to The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd.





all rights reserved to The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd.



all rights reserved to The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd.

There is a sequence in the movie where the main characters migrate to the upper Himalayan range to save their cattle from an animal epidemic. The shooting of the migration part is a huge challenge as it involves movement of a large number of people and animals through high altitude and narrow passes. Despite of all the difficulties involved in shooting, we will get excellent results with unique cinematic experience. This will help capture the imagination of audiences all over the world.



all rights reserved to The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd.



all rights reserved to The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd.



# DIRECTOR'S VIEW



I got an opportunity of traveling to some northern Himalayan districts of Nepal in 1996 and it was during those treks that I first heard about polyandry. I couldn't believe that a custom like polyandry was still in practice. Each woman has thousands of dreams, including the warm love of her husband and a life full of happiness. But the women in the region are deprived of such happy life and are exploited in the name of giving continuity to the tradition of polyandry.

I decided to explore further about the matter. I went back to the Himalayan region a number of times following my first visit and researched more about the subject.

Searching for the reasons why polyandry has been surviving as a social custom, I found out that there were socio-economic causes behind it. People continue it to keep their property intact by preventing brothers from splitting up, provide security to women as it allows at least one husband to be with the wife at a time and as a measure of family planning.

I questioned myself, is polyandry really the demand of the topographical situation of the Himalayas? Or is it the result of conservatism and false belief that is rooted inside uneducated people? Isn't it necessary to bring about changes in the thinking of those who have faiths in polyandry in tune with the changing times?

We filmmakers have the ability to change the world. Our stories reach out to people from all walks of life. I believe that we need to make use of this power to highlight social issues that have remained neglected for so long.

I have thus decided to make a film about the subject and take this story to the world. 'Sonam and Her Husbands' is my attempt to give voice to the women who are suffering and help change their lives. Sonam is the protagonist of the movie and her character represents real-life women whose basic human right to live freely is destroyed by the practice of polyandry.

The film will include the idea that a new movement, as per the aspirations of the new generation of the 21st century, is a must for the emancipation of women suffering from polyandry, their freedom and the right to live a dignified life.

Let's hope for a new change with tomorrow's Sunrise.



## DIRECTOR/PRODUCER'S BIO



Akash Adhikari is the President of the Producers Association of Nepal and one of the top directors in the country. He is also an Executive Member of Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FNCCI) and a Chairperson of the Film and Entertainment Forum at the Federation.

Mr. Adhikari is the founder and CEO of production company The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd. and also owns Kindle Cine Studio, a complete production and post production hub. He introduced the RED Digital Camera to Nepal when most of filming was done with outdated camera and equipment. He also brought many other international standard equipment for filmmaking and started a technological revolution in the Nepali cine industry. The entire film industry has benefitted from his technological imports.

He works as a producer, director, actor, script writer and songwriter. As a filmmaker, he had a glorious debut in the industry – winning the Best Director Award with his first movie 'Ranabhoomi'. Since then, he has directed many acclaimed movies, including hits like 'Panchhi', 'Krodh', 'Kathmandu', 'Kohinoor'

and 'Kanchhi'. Mr. Adhikari has won numerous awards for his movies, including the Best Actor National Award of the Year (2008) for movie 'Janayuddha'. His movie 'Kohinoor' set the record for the highest earning Nepali movie of all time.

He is also actively involved in social work and travels frequently to the remote places of Nepal for volunteering works. His non-profit organization, 'Flame of Hope Nepal', supports underprivileged and disaster struck people throughout the country. His hobbies, apart from filmmaking, include travelling, writing, swimming, listening to music and reading biographies.



# THE SKY MOVIES



*The Sky Movies is a Movie Production and Distribution company based in Kathmandu, Nepal. It was established in 1999 by Producer/Director Akash Adhikari. The company has overseen production of many commercially successful and critically acclaimed movies like 'Panchhi', 'Krodh', 'Kathmandu', 'Kohinoor' and 'Ke Ma Timro Hoina Ra'.*

*The company currently provides film production and distribution services complemented by a range of both technical and location-based capabilities for Nepali and international films, documentaries, tele-films and celluloid cinema. With full Government of Nepal accreditation, it is uniquely placed as the foremost cinema production house in Nepal.*





"SONAM and HER HUSBANDS" Official Registration:

#Writers Guild of America, West, Inc.

Documentation of Registration

#Registration : 1731937

#FORM PA United States Copyright, NY. PAu2-978-160

#Nepal Govt. Copyright#008, Reserved in The Sky Movies Pvt. Ltd.

AKASH ADHIKARI

Writer/Director

President: Nepal Film Producer's Association

Contact: +9779851041361

theskymovies@mail.com.np

www.theskymovies.com