



Folktale based on a story narrated by Dali Maya Lama in 2012 in Kapurgaun village, Lamjung, Nepal.
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Yolmo is a Tibeto-Burman language spoken in Nepal, and is related to Tibetan and Sherpa. It is also known as Yohlmo, Hyolmo, or Helambu Sherpa. The majority of speakers live in the Helambu area north of Kathmandu, but there are also half a dozen villages in the Lamjung region who are also speakers. Lamjung Yolmo is slightly different to the main variety of Yolmo, and its speakers have developed their own traditions and practices.

One practice is the making of bamboo baskets, which they keep for use around their own houses, or sell to people in neighbouring villages. Older Lamjung Yolmo people are proficient basket makers, but fewer younger people are learning to weave baskets. There are only around 700 speakers of Yolmo in Lamjung, and like the practice of basket weaving, the language is highly endangered.



tòŋla tòŋbola túppa
तोहडला तोहडबोला तुप्पा



The man cuts bamboo with his sickle.





òoleni túptimaraᅇ dèn pèdimaraᅇ áába
ओलेनि तुपतिमाराडः देहन पेहदिमाराडः स्याबा



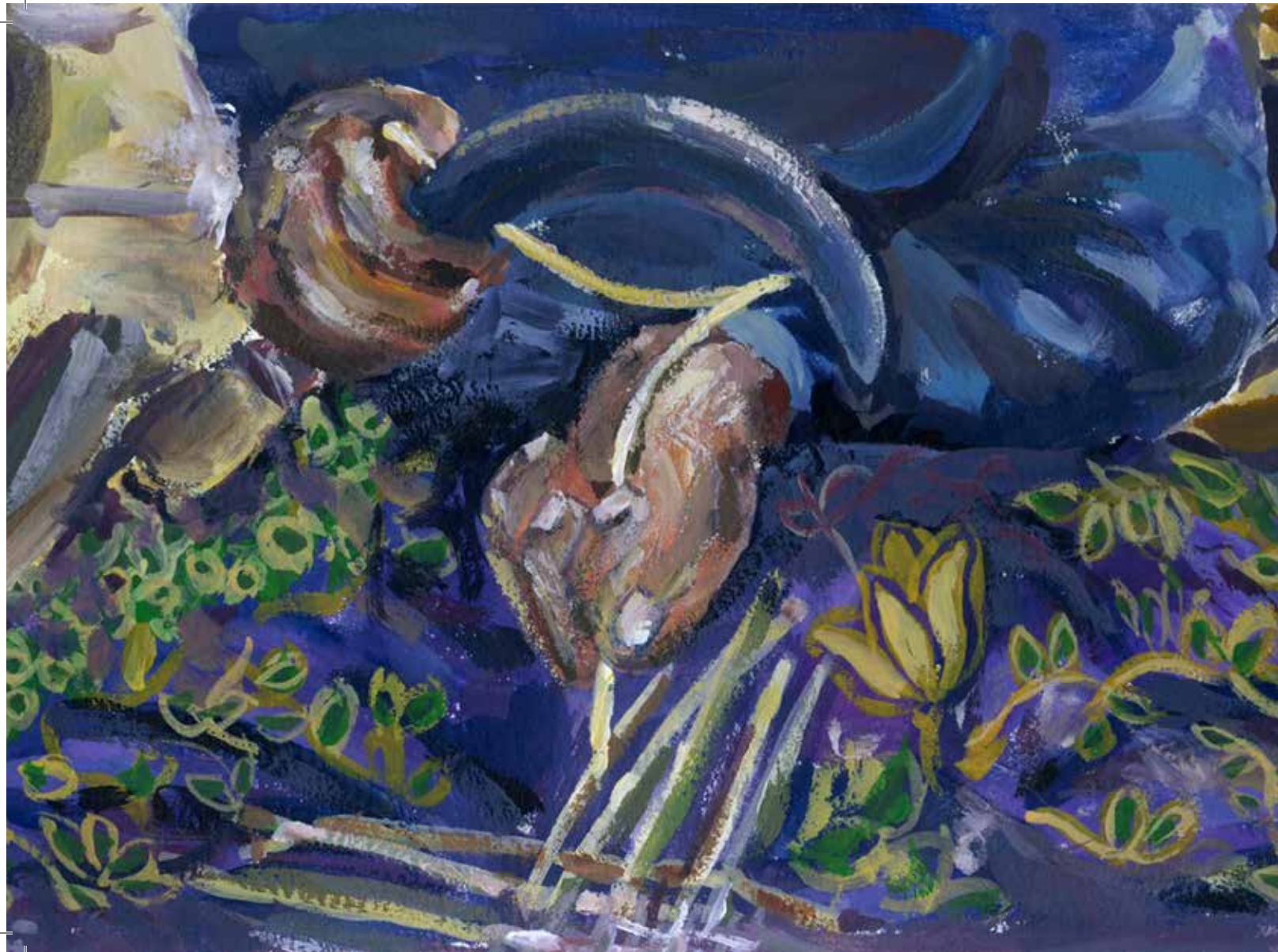
The basket is begun by splitting the bamboo.

nàngidi kyúrsin
नाहङ्गिदि क्युरसिङ्



The inside section of the bamboo is thrown away.





phídi dàlo zòsin
फिदि दाहलो जोहसिङ्



The basket is made with the outside of the bamboo.

òoleni bàktal jí zòdimaran pìtçaan nàngi
ओलेनि बाहकताल डिच जोदिमाराड पिहच्यड नाहडगि



Cut two small strips off a piece of bamboo and...





míima túpsin òole míima ònge
pèdi kyònsin ɕì tínsin

मीमा तुपसिङ् ओले मीमा ओङगे
पेहदि क्योहङसिङ् स्थि तिङसिङ्



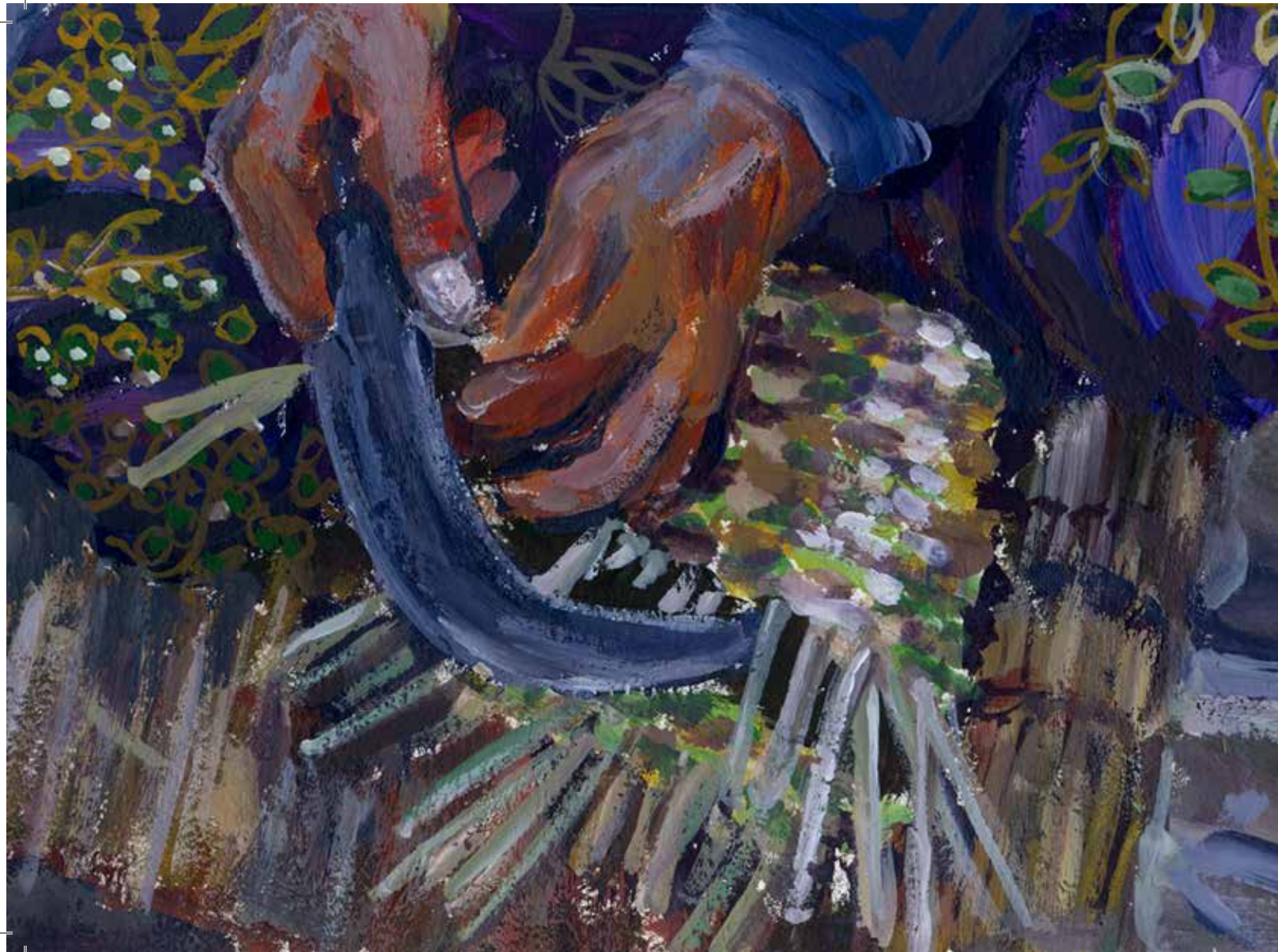
*...do it again with another piece.
Next spread out these four pieces.*

òoleni táta dèndà pèdi lúsin dèndà pèdi táta
ओलेनि ताता देहनडा पेहदि ताता



This is how the basket crossbeams are made.





dàlo tháagandi zòsin
दाहलो थागानदि जोहसिङ्



Weave and make the basket.



About the Illustrator:

Bi Jingying is a Mathematics & Economics student at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. She is from Shandong, China, and is interested in painting. She would like to continue to make contributions to sustaining endangered languages in Asia.

