

The Rolwaling Legacy Project (RLP) 1971-2021 (2023) In Brief

A small group of international travelers/educators from Canada, Scandinavia, and Nepal will travel to the Rolwaling Valley in Nepal in Oct/Nov 2023 under the imagined watchful eye of the 1971 Anti-Expedition Group (Arne Naess, Nils Faarlund, Sigmund Kvaloy Setreng). These three prominent Norwegians challenged the mountaineering conventions of the time by showcasing another way to travel, one that honored the sacredness of a yet unclimbed mountain in respect of local traditions. Their intentions were NOT to climb the sacred mountain Tseringma (Gauri Shankar) newly opened to foreign climbing applications, but rather to spend time in the immediate communities engaging in cultural practices and understandings. They would climb Tseringma only to the height deemed appropriate to the Buddhist communities' spiritual leaders.

Their message in 1971 continues to ring true today and will be our 2023 group's mantra. This can be distilled down to three central intentions/pillars:

- 1) Honoring local traditions'
- 2) Place responsive pedagogy/learning
- 3) Ethically grounded travel

The three Norwegians called their meaningful cultural journey an Anti-Expedition, now referred to by surviving member Nils Faarlund as [The Tseringma Pilgrimage 1971](#). In tribute to the 1971 journey, we will call our travels The Rolwaling Legacy Project 1971-2021 (2023). The 1971 group produced a film for Norwegian television, gave presentations and wrote about their experience, each in their own way. We will advance their intentions 50+ years later in three ways:

- 1) Return the 1971 film to the community.
- 2) Promote the three central intentions/pillars of the journey mentioned above. We plan to film our 2023 story and blend our footage/experience with the 1971 footage/experience. Nils Faarlund has been interviewed (September 2019) about his time and we bring a degree of scholarship within our group to the three men and their writings/careers. We also plan to host an event/campaign in Kathmandu following our travels. This is largely made possible by our Nepalese colleague Nar Bahadur Lama (Jigme) who is supporting us as guide and advisor on all our initiatives. Jigme is co-founder and guide with [Nomadic Skies Expeditions](#). There will be presentations/writings/government meetings beyond the film to support our messaging as well as keeping the 1971 story/messaging alive.
- 3) We will spend time in the Beding community volunteering at the Rolwaling Sangag Choling Monastery School. Given our COVID postponed 2021 plans, we have arranged funding starting in 2021 (10K X 5 years) to improve facilities at the school. Since 2021, funds have been used to install a new water system, provide additional kitchen and dining facilities and we hope moving forward, the building of a girls dormitory.

We are currently seeking grant funding and financial support for travel, filmmaking and events to showcase our initiatives in Kathmandu and internationally under the guidance of NB Lama Jigme.

Bob Henderson Co-ordinator, Author-Educator

Margot Peck, Educator

NB Lama Jigme, Educator-Author-Guide

Mike Beedell, Photographer-Film Maker

Torbjoern Ydegaard, Author-Educator