

Tibetan Chupa

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I remember my father used to wear Chupa every important events that happened in past and still he wear it. He had many so he gave me one; I had wear that for four years and after that I made a new one because it was old. People can easily differentiate this cloth from any other clothes that exist on this world. From what I had experienced of this cloth would not be same as any other cloth that I had wear in my life. This cloth had special place in my heart because it represents my culture just by it and I got this from my father who I admire the most on the world. I always want to wear it when I was a kid but my father told me he would let me wear his when I become adult. Kids wear Chupa and it harder get because there are not many who make Chupa for kids these days. When I wear Chupa for first time, I did not know that it is heavy. Tibetan Chupa, people can make it lighter than normal Chupa. There are more options on fabric (cotton, chiffon, wool and many more) than used to be.

Tibetan Chupa is a cloth that wears regularly because of the weather of the place Tibetan live. Tibet is on plateau and most of time it is cold mostly. Tibetan Chupa helps people to stay warm. I chose this object because I had so many memories about that object (Tibetan Chupa). The Chupa was made way back before 20th century. Origin of Tibetan Chupa is from Khampa and Nomads from Tibet. Tibet Vista states, "The weather in northern Tibet is known to be cold and harsh." Tibet is located on Plateau where there is only one season and it is winter. Tibetan Chupa keeps people warm from the weather they live in. People in Tibet wear it everyday unlike these days people wear it only if there is event going. There is reason people wear it only during events these days. The weather change where we are now compare to Tibet. In the Tibet Vista, Lobsang states, "Tibetan attire and accessories, carry great significance to the culture and speaks volumes about their history, personal beliefs and the personality of the individuals wearing them." The cloth itself represents so many things. There are many things involve in process of making this cloth (Tibetan Chupa). It

is originally made from animal (Yak)'s furs, which keep us warm in cold weather. But people stop making it from animals' furs because of our leader does not want people to killing animals. Tibet is on high level ground and almost everyday is cold weather because of it s location. In the 'China Today' GUO ZHIDONG states, "The unique geographical environment, climate and religious belief of the Tibetan people created a distinctive garment style that resonates with their unique culture." As I said above that it involves many things that states in this quote. "The national museum of Asian Art, the video talks about the design and how unique it is compare to other clothes that exist on this world". The sleeves of Chupa are longer than normal shirt has. There many types of Tibetan Chupa people can make these days. I know two and there is one with fancy border and other is plain Tibetan Chupa. There is hat specific to wear with it but people do not wear anymore because of the place change and the weather. Most people wear cowboy hat with it. It gives style to it (Tibetan Chupa). It gives style to it (Tibetan Chupa). The other hat is Tibetan traditional hat (traditional fur-trimmed Tibetan) and it is more suitable to the Chupa. There is robe that use for tie the Chupa on waist and the jewelry (Tibetan ornaments) wear on Chupa to give extra look to it. China Today states, "Getting dressed in Tibetan robes requires a specific sequence. Tibetans first put on their shirts and underwear. Because the robe is longer than the person's height, they should lift and fold the hem. Generally, men lift it to the knee and then tie it with a belt at the waist." This is how men wear their Chupa and they wear jeans or gentlemen suit's pants. They usually wear only one sleeve of the Chupa.

Tibetan Chupa has become a thing that people show off to others how much wealth they have. The more fancy their Tibetan Chupa and the jewelry they wear on it tell people how rich that person is. Some people use it in fashion way and it ruins the value of it to others' point of view for the traditional dress for Tibet. My point of view of fashion is to showoff what amazing of the cloth that had made but it can be in negative like showing a tradition of country. It is good to show people what Tibetan wear and what amazing of the cloth they wear but if they change the style of the Tibetan Chupa or they put on Chupa in wrong then it

give people a new perspective of that traditional cloth. Tibetan do not mind if they present Tibetan Chupa in right way to educate people about Tibetan Chupa. The border of Tibetan Chupa and the overall used to be animals' furs but people (Tibetan) stop killing animals because of our religion leader said to us to stop killing. Nowadays they get it from other products (cottons silk, cotton, linen, and wool) and or still make it from animals furs but it is less than before. Tibetan Chupa designs have been extended to more options to choose. There types of Chupa that people can make these days. Especially, women's Chupa. There is one Chupa that looks way different than rest of the Chupa. The other is only the lower body Chupa and they wear with Tibetan traditional shirt. There are only two types of men's Chupa, which is one is simpler than other one. There is not much decoration on Chupa than other one. The robe to tie is attached to Chupa unlike men's Chupa. There is one type of Chupa women wear that has no sleeves. Tibetan people will adjust to their climate by wearing Chupa slightly different than normal weather. China Today states, "Tibetans have taken the local climate into consideration and adapted the design of their clothes to suit it. If it is hot, they wear one sleeve or take off both sleeves and tie them on the waist to keep cooler; if it's cold." I think Tibetan clothing is much more than just a cloth that people wear because there was no machine to produce that product early years. People make this by their own hands.

The name of the cloth itself means so much because it is actually the identity that I am and where I am from. For me, Tibetan Chupa means much more than just representing our culture because I got it from my father and I consider it as treasure. Besides the personal feeling towards that thing, it is an object represents so many people. The name of it brings so much meaningful things to my life. The unity, not outcast, represents a community to others who are not from my community or culture by this thing called "Tibetan Chupa". I feel proud when I talk about Chupa to others and let people know about our culture. If people see Chupa, I think it can catch people's eyes because of it looks. When I get the Chupa from my father, I do not know how to wear it as I know now. I had learned it as time goes. I am still learning about it as my life goes. Discover new

things about it and it gives me more willing to learn more about it. As I write about it, I learned that Chupa is one of the cores of our culture when we talk about Tibet. There are many things that can identify as Tibetan culture but not powerful as Chupa as represent Tibet around the world.

In conclusion, Chupa is not just a cloth people wear; it has own history related to Tibet and Tibetan. Tibetan have connection to Chupa much more than any other cloth they wear because from Chupa, others recognize us as Tibetan than the other clothes we wear nowadays. It is Tibetan identification to other people around the world. When people talk about Tibet, Chupa comes out first than any other things we do as Tibetan. The amazing thing is the Chupa has been evolve and still going. The Tibetan Chupa we wear today is way different than how it used to be. The Chupa people wear way back in 20th century or mid 19th century, the Chupa people wear at that time is thicker than now. It has change because of climate we live. Tibetan had lost their country to China in 1945 and moved to India. The climate in India is warmer than Tibet where we originally from. So they have to make it little thinner than how Chupa used to be. It has more style for Chupa these days compare to past. In the past the only different are the colors and the borderline of Chupa decorations of sleeves. In my life I had seen many different clothes and Chupa is one of the unique cloth that exist on earth. Lastly I want to state that Chupa has given me the confident and reason to live. One of proposes for me to live to educate people about Tibetan Chupa and spread Chupa around the world. The more people are aware of Tibetan Chupa then the value of that object goes up in terms of culture of that country. For women, there is one piece of cloth that they have to wear if they are married. The thing that they have to wear is called (pangden). It has stripes or should I call it pattern on to look cool. People know if women are married or not just by this piece of cloth but these days people do not wear it just to fit in the society they live.

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