The background of the cover features a vibrant scene of Tibetan prayer flags in red, green, yellow, and blue hanging from a string at the top. Below them, a range of rugged, grey mountains stretches across the horizon under a bright blue sky with soft white clouds. A golden eagle is shown in flight on the right side of the sky. In the foreground, two fluffy dogs sit on a light-colored, sandy or dusty ground. The dog on the left is black and white, with long, shaggy fur and a white chest. The dog on the right is white with brown patches on its ears and face, also with long, shaggy fur.

THE TASHI CHRONICLES

Tails from Tibet

Leadership Lessons for Young Lives

Written by Philip Martin
Illustrated by Beata Banach



Tashi

www.TheTashiChronicles.com

Dedication



To **Donna**, the Love of My Life.
The best thing that ever happened to me
and the Greatest “Dog Mom” ever.
To **Sashi** (October 21, 2011 – November 20, 2020)
Like the ‘daughter’ I never had and the Source
of My Inspiration for this Book.

Love Always, Philip

THE TASHI CHRONICLES

Tails from Tibet



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FOR YOUNG LIVES

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Explore further and discover more with Tashi and her friends on their adventures at <https://www.TheTashiChronicles.com>.

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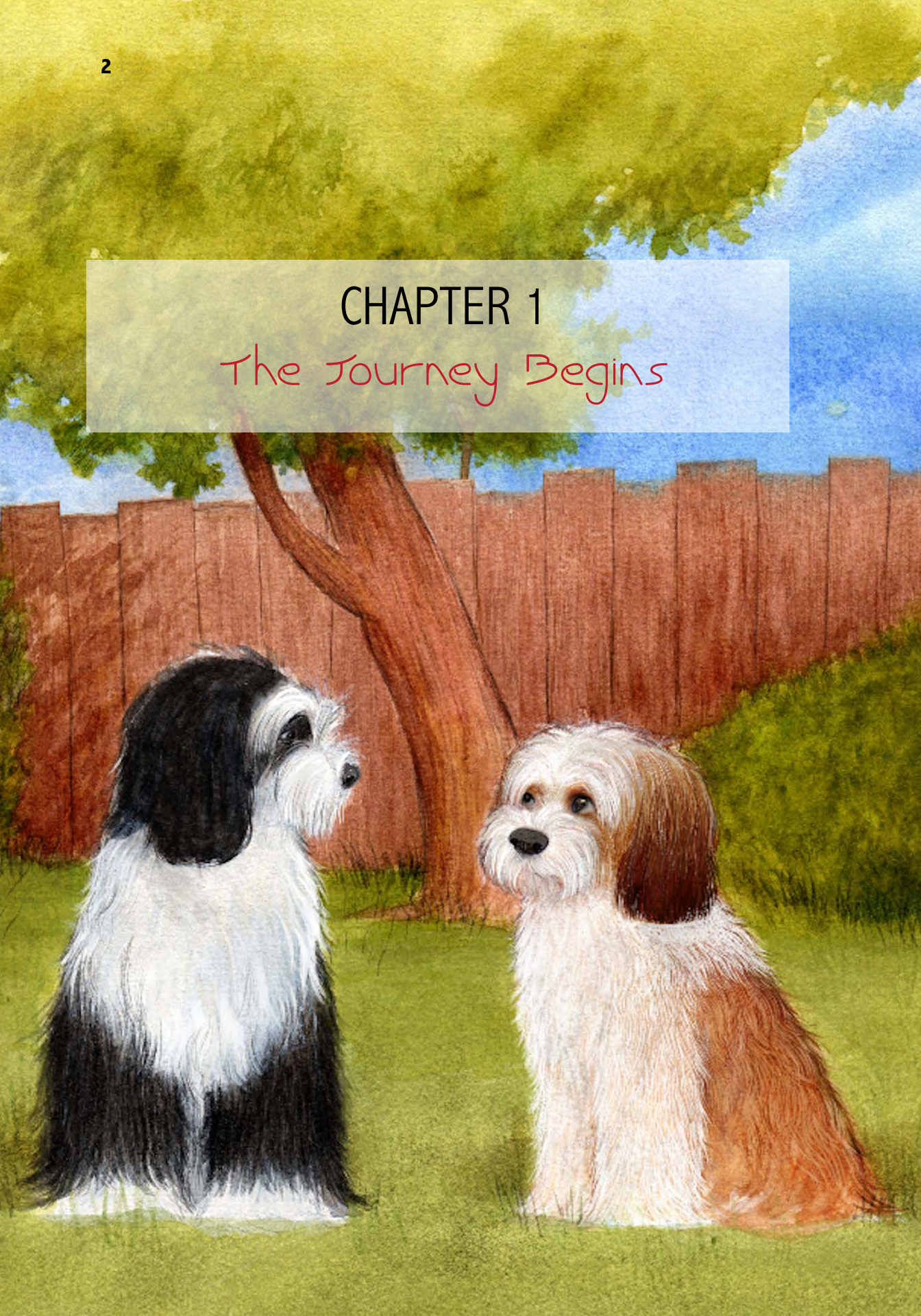
Tails from Tibet



LEADERSHIP LESSONS
FOR YOUNG LIVES

CHAPTER 1

The Journey Begins



Tashi is a tan and white Tibetan Terrier. She is just sixteen months old and lives in a beautiful home and wonderful community with her adopted parents. Her name means “good fortune” in the Tibetan language — and Tashi certainly knows how remarkable her life is already.

One day Tashi overhears her parents talking about a family tree and she wonders what this means. Tashi is still a young pup and new to her family. She wants to know as much about them as possible, especially where she comes from.

Tashi has an older sister named Sashi who is eight-years-old. Tashi notices that Sashi looks just like her, except her coat is black and white. Both Sashi and Tashi have soft hair hanging down over their eyes and long, draping hair that goes to the ground. Their coats are silky, soft, and wavy and the hair appears to almost float as they trot around.

“Sashi, what is a family tree?” asks little Tashi. “Is there one in our backyard? Have we seen one on our walks?”

Sashi lets out a pup laugh. “Oh, Tashi, that is really cute! A family tree refers to a person’s or a pup’s heritage or bloodline. It’s who our ancestors are and where we come from.”

“Oh, okay! That makes sense!” exclaims Tashi. “I always wondered why you and I look so much alike, yet so different from other dogs.”

“That’s a *paw*-some observation, Tashi,” replies Sashi. “We have a double-coat that helps keep us warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Our ancestors come from villages in the country of Tibet, which is far away from here and way up in the Himalayan Mountains.”

“Wow!” exclaims Tashi. “That is so amazing! Can you tell me more?”

“Absolutely,” continues Sashi, “the hair over our eyes protects us from the fierce winds, snow, and cold. The small pads on our feet help us walk in the snow, just like doggie snowshoes. We are also excellent guard dogs and can climb mountains. We are very agile.”

“I can’t believe it! I can climb mountains and guard the house, too? It is no wonder we look and move the way we do!”

“Yes, Tashi, that is our heritage and where we come from. It is also why we act the way we do and possess the talents we have. It makes us very different from other dogs!”

“Please tell me more?” begs little Tashi.

“I’ll do something better,” says Sashi, “I’ll show you!”

Just then, a giant golden eagle sweeps in and lands right between the pups. Tashi’s eyes are as big as frisbees.

“Tashi,” says Sashi, “this is my friend, Yeshe. Yeshe has watched over me for years, and we have shared many wonderful adventures together. I have learned a lot from him.”

“Hello, Yeshe. That is a very unusual name,” says Tashi. “What does it mean? I am eager to learn. Will you take me on an adventure, too? Where will we go? How do we get there?”

Sashi chuckles. “So many questions, little one. Be patient, and you will find the answers.”

Yeshe introduces himself. “Hello, little pup. My name is Yeshe. It means ‘Wise One,’ and my ancestors also came from Tibet. I would love to take you on one of our magical journeys. It is important to understand where you come from and why you are the way you are. Would you like to take a journey to your homeland of Tibet?”

“Really!” Tashi exclaims, jumping around with excitement. “But I thought Tibet was very far away?”

Yeshe remarks, “It is, Tashi, very far away, but just like you and Sashi have special gifts to help you do amazing things in life, so do I. Now, jump onto the back of my wings — both of you — and let’s go see where you come from.”





CHAPTER 2
It starts with trust



"I'm not sure about this," Tashi says softly, unsure of what Yeshe suggests. "Is this safe? I'm a dog, not a bird."

"Yes, Tashi, it is safe. I've done this many times before," says Sashi soothingly. "Yeshe won't let anything bad happen to us. The only way to get to see new things and experience new adventures is to be brave and fearless. You become brave by doing things outside your comfort zone."

"But what if we fall? Aren't we going to be high in the sky? I'm used to sniffing the ground, not the clouds!" Tashi persists.

"I'm glad you're cautious, but as long as you follow Yeshe's instructions, you'll be fine. Learning to trust was hard for me, but it gets easier every time. Courage, like trust, is grown by doing new and, sometimes, scary things. You never know what you can do until you try."

Still full of questions, Tashi continues to ask, "Won't Mom and Dad miss us? Should we tell them where we're going? Can we pack some snacks? Won't I need a winter coat?"

"Tashi, I already told them we were going on an adventure, you just ate, and you're wearing your coat! Soon you'll see that you already have everything you need. Yeshe and I have done this many times before, and I am your older sister, so I will take excellent care of you. You can hold my paw if that makes you feel safer."



“You need not worry, Tashi,” says Yeshe. “I’m a golden eagle, and flying is what I do. Like you and Sashi are guard dogs up in the Himalayas and companions to the monks, I am a majestic bird representing freedom, strength, and loyalty. I’m not a chicken,” Yeshe adds with a chuckle.

Sashi bursts out laughing, “I should say not! Chickens don’t even fly because well ... they’re chicken!”

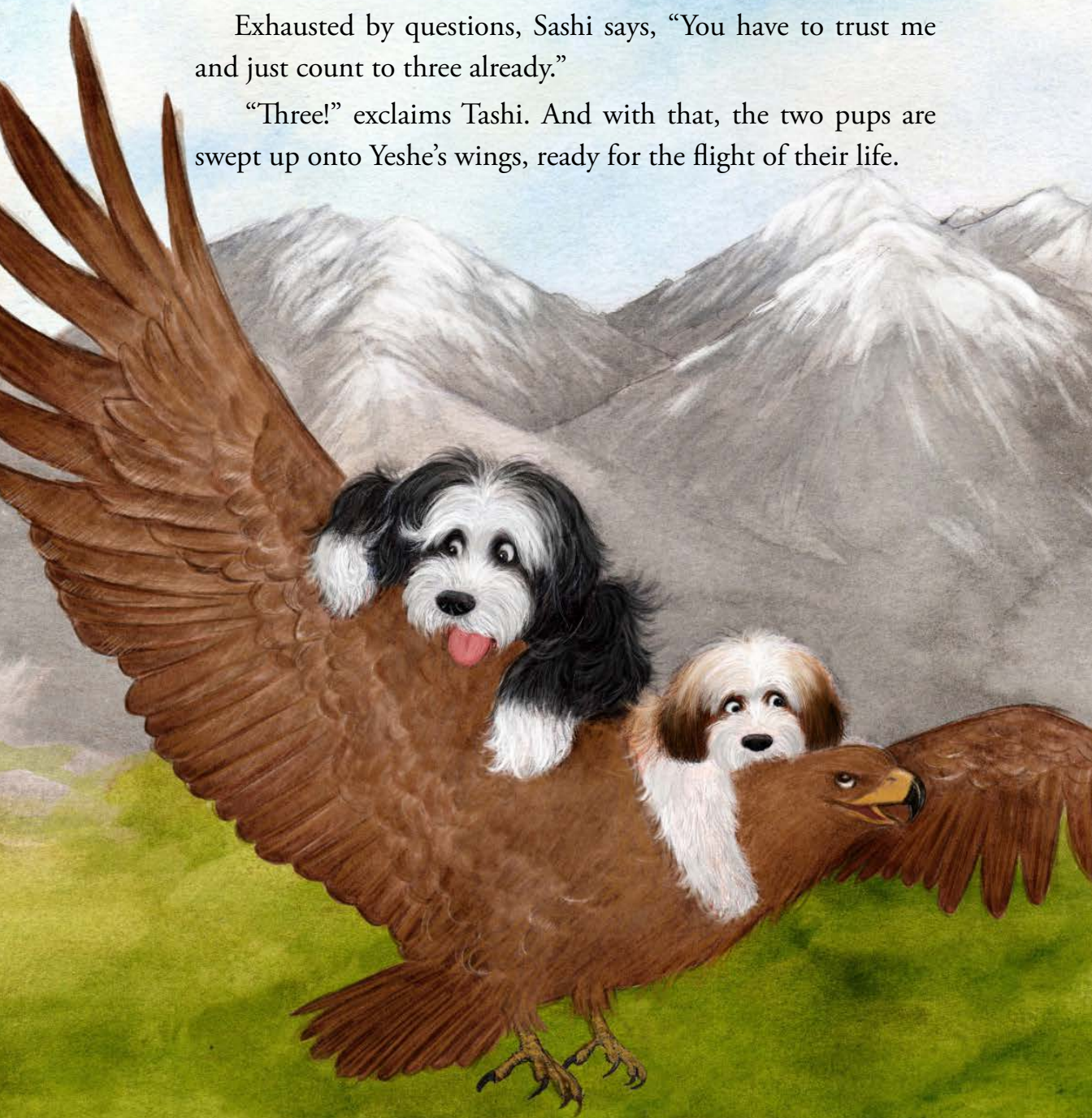
Yeshe bows his head and spreads his giant, golden wings, signaling the pups to climb aboard. “Tashi, close your eyes and count to three.”



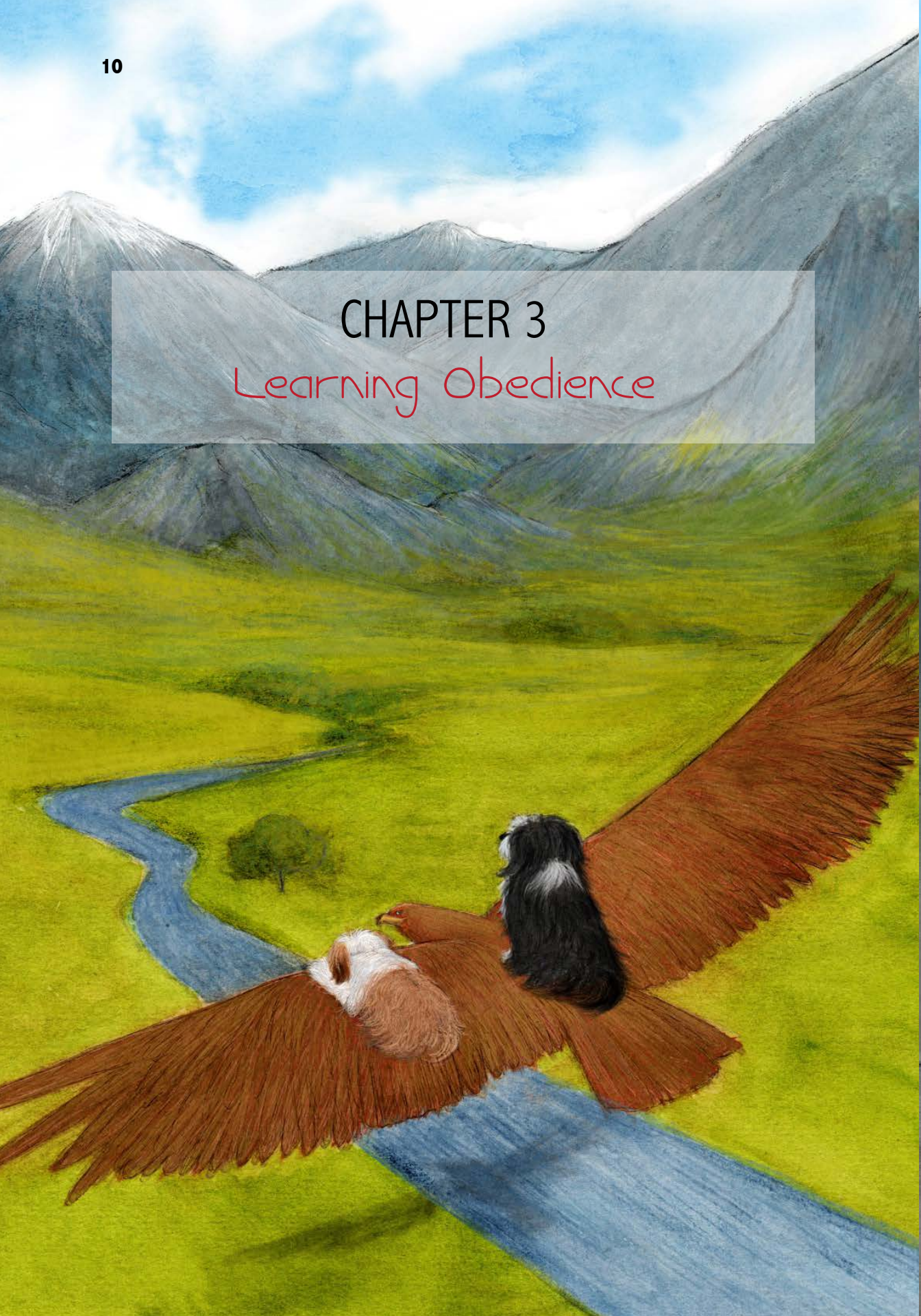
Tashi begins, “One, two, two-and-a-half, two-and three-quarters, hey, what’s a monk?”

Exhausted by questions, Sashi says, “You have to trust me and just count to three already.”

“Three!” exclaims Tashi. And with that, the two pups are swept up onto Yeshe’s wings, ready for the flight of their life.



CHAPTER 3
Learning Obedience



As the three friends soar over the land and sea, Tashi is in amazement at the scenery below. “Wow, this is awesome, Sashi. Thank you for bringing me, and for making me open my eyes and look down.”

“You’re very welcome, sister, but please, when we land, do not run off. You will see and smell many new things, but it is very important that you stay nearby and listen to Yeshe and me. Not everything new is going to be good,” Sashi reminds her sister.

Just then, the clouds parted and Yeshe exclaims, “Prepare for landing, ladies!”

The girls hold onto Yeshe’s majestic wings for three final flaps, cresting just above a mountain and freefalling gracefully to the ground. Yeshe lands on a plateau in the beautiful country of Tibet, taking a few steps to slow his momentum and keep his balance with the dogs aboard.

The beauty of the land seemed to render Tashi speechless, but only for a moment. Yeshe lowers his head and wings for the two dogs to climb off.

“Wonderful flight, Yeshe. You are a very good pilot,” remarks Sashi.

As they get re-oriented after the magical flight, Yeshe turns to the two dogs and says, “My plan is to hike along these mountain tops and eventually get to the special region known as the Lost Valley. It is said to be the specific area where your ancestors actually came from.”

