

A Cultural Model of Nature in China.

I hypothesize the model as being made up of the following three propositions:

- 1) All things flow according to the temporal rhythms of the world;
- 2) Humans follow these rhythms regulating their desires and expectations accordingly. When desires expand out of control, they need to repair the synchronization through animal sacrifice;
- 3) If the synchronization could not be resumed, nature will flow away, and humans will be left behind. In other words, I consider such a flow between the predictable, rhythmic nature and the uncertain human desires as a Kachin cultural model of nature and environment.

The key to the model is the idea of rhythmic flow, and villagers told me a couple of social phenomena that illustrate their idea of flow.

Climate climbs up the hills, animals move away, and cash crops move along.

Kachin girls prefer to marry Chinese men in the city, and boys have to take wives from Burma.

Wealthy Chinese come into the mountain areas building their nice houses and enjoying the environment, while the poor Kachin migrate into cities doing hard manual jobs.

“Humans and things always move. Before, we Kachin followed the mother land wandering in the mountains. Now, we chase money and go to the city.” A villager so concluded. [8/13/2014]