

## SYNOPSIS

### Lost Horizon

The story opens with a conversation among some old school friends who gather for a dinner. One fellow named Sander then comes and tells his exciting experience when he is still in Baskul' service. **An** airplane, carrying four passengers, is missing mysteriously on its way from Baskul to Peshawar and is expected crush somewhere. Among the four passengers is a man called Conway, who works in Consular Service in Baskul for several years. When the party is over, two of them, Rutherford and the narrator have a long talk about "Glory" Conway , their remarkable peer when they were still in Oxford. Rutherford tells the narrator that he, by chance meets the man in China who is suffered from amnesia. On their way back to England by ship, Rutherford narrates everything he could recall about the man, but it absolutely is not an easy job.

One night, when they are listening to a piano recital, Conway, after the show is over, plays some strange composition that is never heard before by even one of the guests. Then, Conway says that the composition he just played is Mozart's work, but never publishes. He explains that one of Mozart's pupil teaches it to him. All of them there feels so strange about it, because Mozart is died two centuries ago. Later that night, he gets his memory back. Yet, Conway does not show happy about it, instead he feels quite sad for what he is remembered. He describes his odd yet fantastic experience to Rutherford who puts them in manuscript form, and the next day the man disappeared again for several months.

Four passengers, a British Consul Hugh Conway, Vice-Consul Captain Charles Mallinson, a missionary Miss Roberta Brinklow and an American Henry D. Bernard, are brought on the Maharajah of Chandapore. In an altitude, Mallinson suddenly notices that the pilot is not the one they are told to be and that the plane is flying off course. After some times, the plane lands harshly on a unknown land and they figures out that the pilot is a Chinese. They are surrounded by armed Asiatic men when the plane is refueled. Soon after it is finished, they continues their flight into a

extraordinary high icy mountains. There, the plane crashes down and the pilot died, but before it he mumbles about a lamasery nearby. Not long, some men approach when they are trying to find the Lamasery. One of them named Chang greets them in a perfect English and tells them that he is willing to be a guide.

The road to the valley was really severe; but eventually they arrive at the lamasery of Shangri-La which affect Conway strangely. The valley is a beautiful one and the lamasery, to their surprise, contains modern appliances that seems so impossible to be existed in that kind of place. The next morning, they are brought to see the whole valley, and as they walks the four companions are questioning about things regarding the place. Yet, Chang only answers a little of them and keeps the rest as secret. Everybody, except Mallinson, are so amazed by the beauty and peace of the place. Conway, especially grows even exciting to see a Chinese art collections and a grand piano in one pavilion they visits. There, he sees Lo-Tsen, a Manchu princess, for the first time, and happens to like her ever since. Aside from that, Conway is also so dazed by the magnificent library that contains world's best literature.

On the second day of her staying, Conway finds out

that they are brought to Shangri-La deliberately, by order of High Lama, whom they are not allowed to meet. Yet, not very long, Chang happily brings a news to Conway that the High Lama wishes to see him immediately. Meeting High Lama made so many secrets clearly answered. Conway listens to High Lama story and then realized finally that the old man was Father Perrault, the 18th century capuchin monks who is reported missing. His vivid explanation about the establishment of Shangri-La and the mystery of the evergreen persuades Conway to stay in Shangri-La.

Conway, from High Lama's clarification, discovers that people would have along life in Shangri-La, because the aging process goes so slowly due to their use of drugs and practice of yoga. Chang and Lo-Tsen are both young for this reason. Moreover, he also learns about a Vision of being live longer and then after a century loosen from emotional passion and that is how the lamas' life in the lamasery. This vision brings him to a deepest interest of being a dweller there.

The meeting with High Lama grows more often, which rarely happens since the community established. These meetings yield an admiration to the old man for the man is a very wise man who seems to have a strong

spiritual aura. They talk much, but this talk is not allowed to disclose to his three other companions. Meanwhile, Mallinson is still annoyed by the fact that they would remain in Shangri-La for an unlimited time. He ceaselessly asks about the possible time the porter would come, while the other two, are happily pursuing their interests. Conway, who knew that they will not be able to leave the place, worries about Mallinson, and wonders how he is going to face this reality.

At the time being, his meeting with Lo-Tsen grows intensely that causes him to love the lady even more. Yet, the conversation between them is rare that Conway doubted about the lady's feeling to him. Yet, as he remembers that they will have so many times in Shangri-La, he becomes pleased and dreams to be one with the princess. He thinks that Time will change their relationship into a deeper one. The idea delights him very much until one day Mallinson comes to him and declares that *he* also has a feeling about the girl.

In one meeting with High Lama, Conway is so surprised to hear that the High Lama will die soon and he places Shangri-La's advancement in Conway's hand. He is so upset for this fact, because he does not know anything about leading a lamasery. He went outside and gazed to the valley, and suddenly he felt a strange

power in him to be the master of Shangri-La. In the middle of this realization, he is awoken by Mallinson, who excitedly tells him that the porter is there and he expects Conway to come with him and Lo-Tsen, who is waiting.

Conway's dream is scattered, and he refuses to join Mallinson. To prevent Mallinson to go out, Conway assures him that there is nowhere better than Shangri-La and tells him that Lo-Tsen is not what he thinks she is. Nevertheless, Mallinson does not want to listen to nonsense, and to his anger, he accuses Conway as coward. Disregarding Conway's feeling, Mallinson walks away, but a short while, he returns, and begs Conway to go with him. Conway, at this situation, discloses all about Shangri-La, but unable to give proofs when Mallinson questions about it. At the end, Conway decided to leave his Utopia because, there are nothing else that could detain him; the High Lama is death and the girl he loves, dedicates her love to Mallinson.

At the closing part, it is told that Rutherford is searching for Conway and Shangri-La, but finds nothing. He details his investigation to the narrator. They both wonder whether Shangri-La really exists, and whether Conway will ever find it.