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Susanne von der Heide and Ganesh Sakya, "Mallu the Magnificent"

[116]

Asked about his legendary ride on a rhinoceros, he said that a bet with friends was what had led him to undertake such a foolhardy act. The bet was for five rupees, at the time a great deal of money for the 24-year-old Mallu - and all the more so given that the Tharus had just begun to learn how to handle money.

His plan was to jump on a rhinoceros that was cooling off in the river. Thus he stalked up to the riverbank, hidden by the tall elephant grass. Steadying himself on a rock platform in the slope, he sprang onto the animal, which had no idea of what was going on. Rhinoceroses see very poorly, but their sense of smell is all the better for it, though in this case that didn't help. Terrified, the rhinoceros ran in the direction of the jungle with Mallu on its back. Afraid that the animal could throw him, he saved himself by a sideward jump into the bush and escaped into the nearest tree. "As a reward," he said laughingly, "I had the five rupees and the pride at having done such a thing." He Then showed us a number of larger and smaller scars he had got during fights with bears.

- Susanne von der Heide and Ganesh Sakya, "Mallu the Magnificent"