PTSD or Something More Meaningful: Integrate Local Cultural Resources in Wenchuan Earthquake Psychological Recovery and Rehabilitation

Submitted by: China
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A book, a different look

Making Meaning, Making Lives
It illustrates how we make sense of our lives and experiences by ascribing meaning through stories that arise within social conversations and
How do we understand the disastrous experience?

We have hard-sci stories
But what do they MEAN to them?

Are they...

- PTSD victims?
- Unlucky brothers and sisters?
- Sad losers?
- Even patients?
- Needed?
- Helpless?
- Hopeless?
- ....
Are these funny?
--Humor Tradition

Funny stories like....

It was said that when this lady was saved by the foreigners, the first words she said were: So powerful the quake, it shakes me to America!
Another one...

What are they doing in the tent? They are playing Majong!!! There is a notice on the door: don't play outside of the tent, otherwise you don't look like victims!!

Yet another....

A group of victims gathered their pork, chicken etc from their fridges (powerless then), and boiled. When eating they saw the hovering helicopters. One said: Oh, they won't save us any more...
The Qiang Tradition

- A Shibi (a priest among Qiang ethnic people) drumming during a religious ritual, Wenchuan county, Sichuan Province. Photographed in 2006 by WANG Xuntu.

The Qiang Tradition

- The Qiang people worship the mountains and have their own language, costume, music and dance. The area around Longxi is therefore known as the last "Qiang People Valley."
Yu The Great -- tough tradition

- Sichuan people is famous for their toughness
My points:

- The interpretation of Sichuan people's life after earthquake may be over simplified
- The universal tragic theme of earthquake may be dis-powering in its negative implications
- At least three traditions of local culture should be integrated in recovery and rehabilitation to avoid the unnecessary cultural disaster

The end.

Thank you!