

# The Sixth Dalai Lama

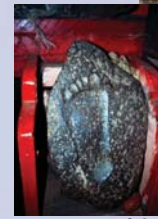
## *On the White Wings*



Tawang monastery  
in Arunachal Pradesh



Ugyeling near Tawang where  
the Dalai Lama was educated



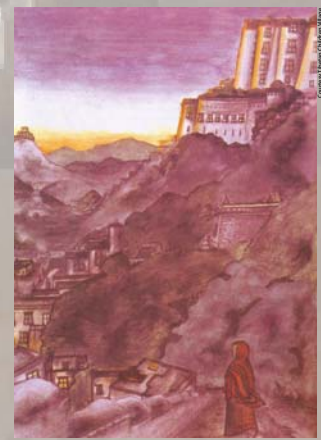
Footprint of the  
Dalai Lama



Tsangyang Gyatso  
the 6th Dalai Lama

Tsangyang Gyatso was born in 1683 in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh. He was already an adolescent when he was taken to Lhasa to be enthroned by his guru, the Panchen Lama Lobsang Yeshe, as the 6th Dalai Lama. Still remembered for his exquisite poetry which has been sung for generations around a fire with a few cups of Tibetan beer, he is also considered a great tantric master who could appear at different places at the same time.

He consistently refused to take monk vows and preferred the pleasures of life, visiting at night the taverns in Shol below the Potala Palace and writing poems. He loved freedom and was suffocating in the dark rooms of the Potala. He felt oppressed in the midst of power struggles between Tibetan aristocrats, Mongol chieftains and the Chinese Emperor. He is said to have died in 1706 after being kidnapped by the Qosot Mongols.



Shol village  
below the Potala



Lukhang Pavilion where  
he often spent time

*In my Palace, the place of Heaven on Earth  
They call me Rigzin Tsangyang Gyaltso  
But below, in the village of Shol  
They call me Dangzang Wangpo,  
The profligate, for my lovers are many.*

His *Secret Biography* says that on his way to China, he escaped the Mongols and secretly left for Inner Mongolia as a wandering monk. Later he settled in Alashan in Inner Mongolia where he passed away in 1746. He is said to have built several monasteries and had thousands of disciples.

His last poem announced his return in Eastern Tibet as the Seventh Dalai Lama:

*Oh White Crane!  
Lend me your wings  
I shall not fly far  
From Lithang, I shall return*



He probably visited  
these monasteries, saw  
these dunes in Alashan

