

The Great Fifth Dalai Lama

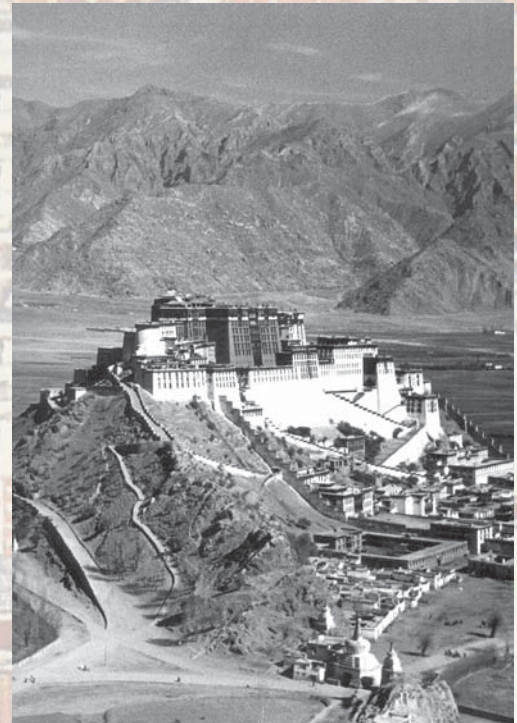
A Harmonious Blend



Bronze of the Fifth Dalai Lama



Ngawang Lobsang Gyatso was born in 1617, at a time when Tibet was going through a period of turmoil. However, after the Qoshot chieftain, Gushri Khan took control over Tibet, the spiritual and political power was handed over to the young Lama. In 1642, he became the Fifth Dalai Lama.



The Potala Palace in Lhasa

He ordered the construction of the Potala Palace on the Red Hill, where King Songtsen Gampo had built a fort. Though the Potala would only be completed after his death, the Dalai Lama used it as his residence. Lhasa became the capital of Tibet.



Former residence of the Dalai Lamas in Ganden monastery



The Dalai Lama, Gushri Khan and Sangye Gyatso



Audience between the Dalai Lama and Emperor Shunzhi

In 1652, he went to Beijing to meet the Manchu Emperor Shunzhi. While in the Chinese capital, the Dalai Lama stayed at the Yellow Palace, specially built for him by the emperor. They are said to have met as equals.

The Fifth Dalai Lama, a great scholar versed in Sanskrit, established the Ganden Phodrang, a form of governance characterized by an 'harmonious blend between the secular and the spiritual'. For the first time since the Religious Kings, Tibet had a centralized form of government. He died in 1682 before the construction of the Potala was completed. His Regent Sangye Gyatso, kept his death secret until its completion.

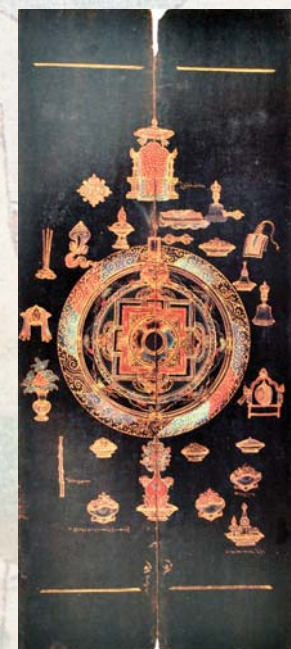


Illustration of the Secret Visions of the Fifth Dalai Lama



Desi Sangye Gyatso also founded the Chakpori School of Medicine



Medical text written by Desi Sangye Gyatso