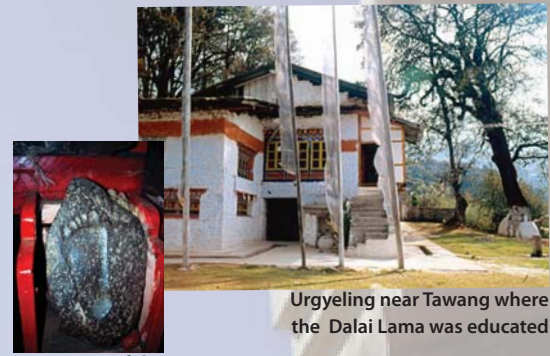


The Sixth Dalai Lama

On the White Wings



Tawang monastery
in Arunachal Pradesh



Footprint of the
Dalai Lama

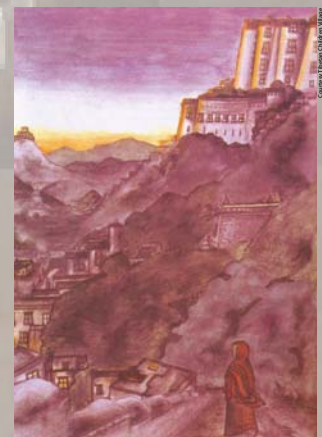
Ugyeling near Tawang where
the Dalai Lama was educated



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 Gyaltsso
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

