



# Surviving the Dragon: A Tibetan Lama's Account of 40 Years under Chinese Rule

By Arjia Rinpoche

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## Surviving the Dragon: A Tibetan Lama's Account of 40 Years under Chinese Rule By Arjia Rinpoche

On a peaceful summer day in 1952, ten monks on horseback arrived at a traditional nomad tent in northeastern Tibet where they offered the parents of a precocious toddler their white handloomed scarves and congratulations for having given birth to a holy child?and future spiritual leader.

*Surviving the Dragon* is the remarkable life story of Arjia Rinpoche, who was ordained as a reincarnate lama at the age of two and fled Tibet 46 years later. In his gripping memoir, Rinpoche relates the story of having been abandoned in his monastery as a young boy after witnessing the torture and arrest of his monastery family. In the years to come, Rinpoche survived under harsh Chinese rule, as he was forced into hard labor and endured continual public humiliation as part of Mao's Communist "reeducation."

By turns moving, suspenseful, historical, and spiritual, Rinpoche's unique experiences provide a rare window into a tumultuous period of Chinese history and offer readers an uncommon glimpse inside a Buddhist monastery in Tibet.

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#### **Review**

“A deeply moving, vivid account that only a person who lived through these terrible events in Tibet could write. . . . This stunning book exposes the consequences of a regime without compassion. I was often moved to tears.” *Jeffrey Hopkins, professor emeritus of Tibetan and Buddhist studies, University of Virginia*

#### **About the Author**

ARJIA RINPOCHE, one of the most important religious leaders to escape Tibet since the Dalai Lama fled into exile, started the Buddhist Center for Compassion and Wisdom in Mill Valley, CA, and is the director of the Tibetan Cultural Center.

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