

0. Chapter 2: A New Dalai Lama - Story Preface

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The leader of the country of Tibet is called the Dalai Lama. The people believe he is a great teacher and has been empowered with spiritual energy. And he is worshipped as a god of compassion. They believe that when the Dalai Lama dies, his mind is reborn in a new body of a child. So, all 14 Dalai Lamas have actually been the same person, reborn in different bodies over and over again.

When the 13th Dalai Lama died, he was placed in a tomb in the lotus position, as was the custom in Tibet. Then, signs began to appear that signaled he had been reborn. One of the Tibetan monks was sitting by a sacred lake one day and had a vision in the water. He saw a 3-story monastery with a gold and jade roof. Then he saw a small peasant's house that had a roof made of turquoise tiles and had oddly shaped gutters. He even saw a small brown dog sitting in the yard.

When other monks checked on the body of the last Dalai Lama, they found that the head of the body had turned from facing south and was now facing northeast. They carefully turned the head back, but it happened 2 more times. After this, the monks agreed:

They were to look in the Northeast region of Tibet for a small house with a turquoise roof. It would be near a monastery that had a gold and jade roof. In this house they would find the next Dalai Lama.

Footnotes:

1) The Office of the Dalai Lama, The story of the Dalai Lama, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet, May/03/2015, May/03/2015, <http://www.dalailama.com>

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Chapter-2-A-New-Dalai-Lama-The-Boy-Who-Became-the-Dalai-Lama>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Chapter-2-A-New-Dalai-Lama-The-Boy-Who-Became-the-Dalai-Lama>

Media Stream



Tibetan Monks

Lhasa, Tibet

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