

0. Chapter 4: From a Peasant to a King - Story Preface

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The 14th Dalai Lama was born in a cowshed, the 8th of nine children born to a poor couple who lived in the northern part of Tibet. Mountains surrounded their village and the father grew barley. The family paid heavy taxes to the local estate owner who owned the land they farmed, and although they did not have much, they never went hungry.

The life of this little boy and his family changed overnight. The monks moved the family to the capital of Tibet—a city called Lhasa. There were no roads and long trips had to be taken on foot or by mule. The trip took them 2 years, and the Dalai Lama was 4 years old by the time they got to Lhasa.

The boy began to live in a 1000 room palace built against the mountains. His family became very rich, and they lived in a beautiful mansion of their own. But the Dalai Lama could no longer live with his parents, because he had to live with the monks who were charged with training him to be the most revered leader of the country. He had no children to play with, but was kept very busy by his teachers.

Everyday, he studied scripture, physics, ceremonies, and learned to debate. He also learned math, astronomy, and many different languages. He was also taught about the long history of his beautiful, ancient country and its 7 million people.

He was very young, but he learned very fast.

Footnotes:

1) The office of the Dalai Lama, Discovery as 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-4-From-a-Peasant-to-a-King-The-Boy-Who-Became-the-Dalai-Lama>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Chapter-4-From-a-Peasant-to-a-King-The-Boy-Who-Became-the-Dalai-Lama>

Media Stream



Dalai Lama's Birthplace

Taktser

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The 2-year-old Dalai Lama

<http://www.nbcnews.com>

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