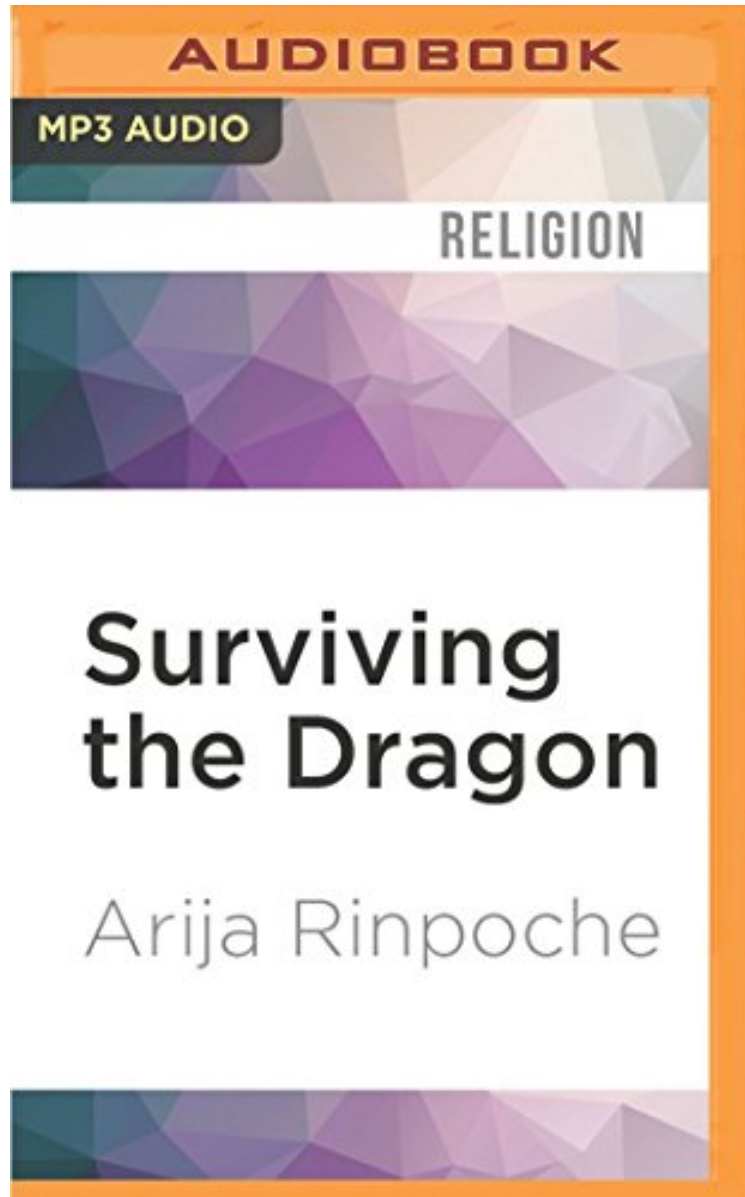


[DOWNLOAD] Surviving the Dragon: A Tibetan Lama's Account of 40 Years under Chinese Rule

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

Arija Rinpoche

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Arija Rinpoche : Surviving the Dragon: A Tibetan Lama's Account of 40 Years under Chinese Rule before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Surviving the Dragon: A Tibetan Lama's Account of 40 Years under Chinese Rule:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Arjia Rinpoche: Triumphant over the Dragon By Nigel Jones Arjia Rinpoche is an extraordinary person who has led an extraordinary life in tumultuous times. Besides believing in reincarnation and that one lives life after life in the search for enlightenment, he has led many different lives in this one life, constantly looking for a way to remain true to his traditions and values in the face of an implacable foe. Born to a poor nomad family, he was recognized as a child to be the reincarnation of the recently deceased Arjia Rinpoche and as such the abbot of one of the greatest monasteries in all Tibetan Buddhism, Kumbum. As he was adapting to this change from a nomadic to a pampered life, his world, and Tibet itself, came crashing down under the onslaught of the Chinese Communist Army. As the monks were either killed or dispersed, Kumbum was systematically destroyed and Rinpoche was forced into prison-like labor camps. Over the decades, as Communist rule vacillated, restoring Rinpoche to his traditional position became a convenient move by the government and Rinpoche leveraged this to rebuild his monastery and protect and improve Tibetan culture. Due to his natural talents he rapidly moved up the Chinese hierarchy and was reunited with the somewhat enigmatic Panchen Lama, a lama whose various lives became inextricably linked with Rinpoche's. The Panchen Lama died, the Chinese rejected the Dalai Lama's choice and installed their own puppet Panchen Lama. And so the stage was set for Rinpoche's destiny to change dramatically again. After constantly balancing his ability to help his fellow Tibetans with the compromises of his governmental position, he was forced to become the tutor of the puppet Panchen Lama, a move that finally forced him to a point beyond his willingness to cooperate with the Communist regime. Rinpoche made a hair-raising escape into exile in America. And in a wonderful irony, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, asked him to take over a major monastery in America to become Kumbum West. This is a wonderfully written book by a charismatic and compassionate man who has dedicated his life to helping others in every way he can. I think everyone from every background will find it fascinating and inspiring to read.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Surviving the Dragon By Jangchub Lhamo Arjia Rinpoche's autobiography "Surviving the Dragon" is a stirring portrait of Tibet from the start of the Communist Revolution through the late 1990s. This book has rejuvenated my desire to practice and to appreciate the freedom I enjoy to do so--just the freedom to recite the Refuge Prayer without fears of recrimination is truly amazing. This book points out the dangerous path of extreme political ideology and fanaticism along with the degradation of culture immersed in a purely materialist society. Tibet serves as a cautions road map for any nation divided by political extremism. Arjia Rinpoche also writes a textured and intimate portrait of the previous Panchen Lama. I never quite knew what to think of the Panchen Lama before reading this book. Now, I truly appreciate the Panchen Lama's motivations to try to save the culture of Tibet while wrestling with the dragon of political and ideological extremism.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Somerthing for Everyone By Love Life One not need to be a Buddhist to appreciate this absolutely fascinating, candid and heartfelt autobiographical account of Tibet and the Chinese takeover over during the past decades. This book shows how the best intended people can loose their focus and how people who are truly victims can grow from tragedy, betrayal, loss and forgiveness. As a Buddhist practitioner, this book gave me a deeper understanding of many of the Buddhist teachings from a Tibetan perspective. The lives these monks led, while for many years were devastating, laid the foundation for many of their incredibly intuitive and compassionate teachings. I highly recommend this book for anyone who wants to appreciate the wonderful life we live here in America and learn how to be a more compassionate and forgiving person.

On a peaceful summer day in 1952, 10 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 listeners an uncommon glimpse inside a Buddhist monastery in Tibet.

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.