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Pongpran Korawis

Tenzin Gyatso

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Tibet had been invaded and controlled by Chinese government. They governed Tibet with communism. Tibetans had limited freedom. As Tenzin Gyatso became the 14th Dalai Lama¹ or the leader of Tibet, he was the leader that deserved to be honored and praised because he fought with Chinese government for a freedom and brought and better living condition to Tibetans.

People believe that Dalai Lama was a rebirth of former Dalai Lama. Dalai Lama will choose a person to be the next Dalai Lama before he died. After 13th Dalai Lama died, Lhamo Thondup, which was the old name of 14th Dalai Lama, was recognized to be the 14th Dalai Lama from most of his things which are similar to what the previous Dalai Lama had owned even though he kept saying that all the things were belonged to him.² He was renamed Tenzin Gyatso and was announced to be 14th Dalai Lama. He studied about religion until he was 15 years old. At that time, he had completely become the Dalai Lama, the political and spiritual leader of Tibet, who had a complete power to rule the country. However, China did not want Tenzin Gyatso to be the Dalai Lama so that Chinese government ordered the Chinese muslim, Ma Bufang, to slow down the transportation of Dalai Lama from China to Tibet and prepare his army for invading Tibet. China also sent army of Republic of China³ to invade Tibet. The Dalai Lama sent representative to china to make an agreement. He

¹ Wikipedia contributors. "Dalai Lama." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 19 January 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dalai_Lama>

² Wikipedia contributors. "14th Dalai Lama." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 19 January 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/14th_Dalai_Lama>

³Chaos.umd contributors. "The people's Republic of China." *Chaos.umd*. 19 January 2013. <<http://www.chaos.umd.edu/history/prc.html>>

proposed the Five Point Peace Plan⁴ for Tibet but China did not care about what the Dalai Lama called for. This caused a rebellion. He sent representatives to many countries, such as United States, Norway, Russia, but none of them gave help to Tibet which the reason was that Tibet was not a significant country. The Dalai Lama knew that china wanted to kill him, because he was afraid of death, he and many other followers fled to India which was the only place that gave him an asylum. At that time, People's Republic of China considered the Dalai Lama as a separatist who did not follow the communist philosophy.

After the invasion, the Dalai Lama had done many ways for Tibet to become self- governing and to be free from china. He set up Tibetan Government in Exile⁵ in India to govern Tibetans who had fled to India with him. He attended many conferences and made a speech about his ideas of Tibet in the future. He hoped that Tibet would become democratic with no aggressive violence and he wanted other countries, especially China, to consider the human right was important. He was also the writer which his books are mostly about Buddhist philosophy and the leadership of leaders during the international conflicts. Some of his books are about the environmental problems. Apart from India, the Dalai Lama gave the speech at many countries both in Europe and America which most of them were big and significant countries such as United States, United Kingdom, or France, in order to make those countries knew Tibet and recognized the significant of human right. This would help him fight against Chinese government and Tibet would become autonomous and the country could be completely self-governing. Many universities and constitutions are interested in his ideas so they invited him to give the speech to their students or

⁴ Dalailama contributors. "The five point peace plan." *Dalailama*. 20 January 2013. <
<http://www.dalailama.com/messages/tibet/five-point-peace-plan>>

⁵ Wisegeek contributors. "Why is Tibetans government in exile." Wisegeek. 19 January 2013. <
<http://www.wisegeek.org/what-is-the-tibetan-government-in-exile.htm>>

workers. He was very popular among those students. When they knew that the Dalai Lama would come and give a speech, all of them would cancel everything and come to listen to him. He gained so many prizes and awards from those universities such as the Congressional Gold Medal⁶. In 1989, the Norwegian Nobel Committee⁷ gave him the Nobel Peace Prize⁸ for his attempt to call for the liberation of Tibet with his tolerance and resistance of aggressive violation. This award is also for his strongly support on the peaceful solution and the mutual respect. However, he donated all of prize money to Indian charities, Save The Children.

The Dalai Lama also concerned about people's living condition and social environment. He said that the abortion is considered to be illegal and immoral in the Buddhist perspective, however, it can be ethically acceptable if the birth will bring the problems to family. He also said that it is ethically acceptable if the person shot someone who tended to harm him for self-defense, however, that shot must not cause someone the death. For animal conservation, because of the Tibetan old culture which meat was the main food and everyone was almost the omnivore⁹, he persuaded his people to become vegetarian to reduce the consumption of meat. He also campaigned for reducing the wearing of animal skin clothes. For the economic of the country which was governed by Chinese government at that time, he was a Marxist¹⁰ and he believed that Chinese did not have a true Marxist policy. Chinese government improved the living standard but it was for making profit, not every people that have

⁶ Wikipedia contributors. "Congressional Gold Medal." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 20 January 2013. < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congressional_Gold_Medal>

⁷ Nobelprize contributors. "The Norwegian Nobel Committee." *Nobelprize*. 19 January 2013. < http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/prize_awarder/committee.html>

⁸ Nobelprize contributors. "Nobel Peace Prize." *Nobelprize*. 19 January 2013. < http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/>

⁹ Biography contributors. "Humanitarian work." *Biography*. 19 January 2013. < <http://www.biography.com/people/dalai-lama-9264833?page=3>>

¹⁰ Wikipedia contributors. "Marxism." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 20 January 2013. < <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marxism>>

the better life, whereas Marxism is about moral ethics. He even concerned about sexuality. The old Tibetans believed that sex was not appropriated with Buddhism. It brought the happiness for a while but would lead to many problems later and they did not accept the homosexual. The Dalai Lama said that if two persons, for both homosexual and heterosexual, agree to have sex which does not harm other people, it is acceptable. So, the society should accept gay and lesbian. His attitudes have changed the Tibetans' living conditions a lot.

Before the announcement about the retirement of the 14th Dalai Lama, he said that there will not be the next Dalai Lama as a political leader of Tibet anymore. Tibet needs the leader that comes from election and it can be a woman and he will spend the rest of his life as a simple monk but still be prestigious. Therefore, the Dalai Lama is the leader who deserves the honor and praise since he had dedicated all of his life to fight against the Communist Chinese government and call for the democracy for Tibetans.