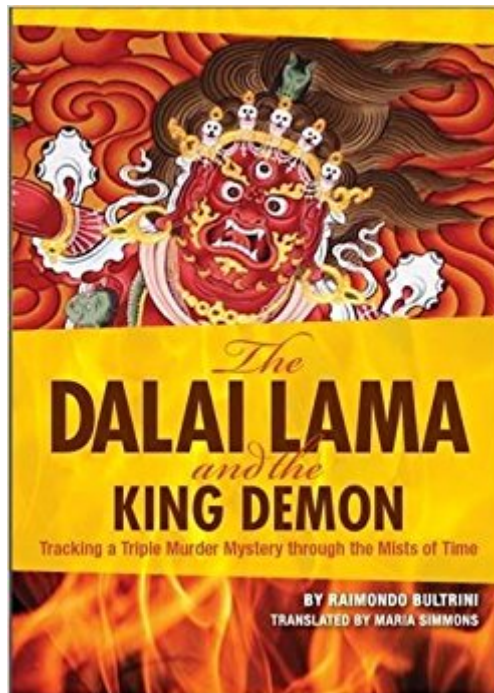


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The Dalai Lama And The King Demon: Tracking A Triple Murder Mystery Through The Mists Of Time



Synopsis

A triple homicide committed a few hundred yards away from the residence in exile of the Dalai Lama opens the doors to an unknown universe for Superintendent Rajeew Kumar Singh of the Indian police. He goes over every step of the crime and identifies its perpetrators as members of an exclusive cult dedicated to a demonic spirit with fearsome earthly powers. The chief suspects include the leading figures of a society devoted to the cult of Gyalpo Shugden, whose headquarters are to be found in the heart of Delhi's Tibetan exile neighborhood. Raimondo Bultrini, an investigative journalist, decides to open a new trail by reconstructing the mystical aspect of the events. The Dalai Lama himself, determined to combat the sectarian outlook fostered in the name of the "seeking demon" by a group within the clergy of the Gelukpa school of Tibetan Buddhism, reveals to Bultrini hitherto secret religious and historical details regarding the impact of the cult. Recent events and developments seem to bear out his perspective, since many Gyalpo Shugden followers have found common ground with the Chinese authorities. The links between these renegade lamas and the Communist regime are becoming stronger, creating an alliance aimed at removing all traces of the Dalai Lama's lineage from Tibet's future. This is the first major exposé of this intriguing struggle at the heart of the mysticism and politics surrounding the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan quest for freedom.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book gives a good historical and contemporary analysis of the Shugden "controversy". Most

importantly, it goes into the political dimensions of the issue, demonstrating how it was never just a spiritual or religious disagreement. The sad truth is that this deeply rooted cultural issue is being exploited to split the Tibetan people, thus working toward the complete destruction of a people and their culture for the short term benefit of a small group of elites. What is happening in Tibet and in the Tibetan refugee community should be an object lesson for those around the world who feel increasingly disillusioned and cynical about far less extreme attacks on freedom and self-determination. Instead, it is a non-story to our centralized news conglomerates, who prefer to concentrate on political horse races and the latest tales of violence, depravity and disaster. I suppose this is all too political of me, so stepping down from my soapbox, let me emphasize that much of this book reads like a murder mystery and political intrigue. I would give it 5 stars, except for the glaring grammatical mistakes. I read the e-book, so I cannot say if it is also the case with the printed version. It is almost funny, in that most of the errors are correct if you make the right selection, e.g., "I hope you are is the kind of person people that can will enjoy it despite its the problems;-} "

i agree that this is a great cautionary tale of high political dudgeon. without getting into the particulars of the events i have to say i agree with some of the reviewers. i remember when i first saw the shugden protestors outside an appearance of the dalai lama and i was shocked. after some research i was reminded of the cult the "children of god". it's hard when you are involved in a cult to break free of the mind lock of the teachers. and that's why i would avoid inserting myself in the discussion. at any rate, this is not a well written book, too many errors even in the print edition. hard going because of that. but a necessary read for practitioners of tibetan buddhism. that said, the chinese have never missed an opportunity to turn a schism to their advantage.

It was hard to decide between three and four stars as a rating because this book is important, fascinating, and frustrating. It needs editing, and it badly needs an index. The story starts in Dharamsala, northern India, site of the Dalai Lama's exile since 1959, with a famous and vicious murder by knives of an important monk and his two assistants. Indian police trace the story back to a Tibetan dissident group in southern India, part of an international drive to oppose the Dalai Lama's efforts to stop the worship of a Tibetan gyampo or demon. The apparent murderers probably crossed through Nepal into Tibet and eventual sanctuary in Kham, a Tibetan-majority region east of Tibet and in the far west of of Szechuan Province, China, a place Tibetans regard as properly belonging as part of greater Tibet. The author, an Italian journalist and student of Tibetan Buddhism, spent

years researching both the murders and the historical background of the Gyalpo Shugden controversy, demonstrating clearly that it has created deep divisions among Tibetan Buddhist addicts in Tibet, India, and throughout Europe and the United States. Since the Dalai Lama's outright opposition to Shugden worship became most explicit in the early 1990's, there have been repeated public demonstrations by Tibetan and Western Buddhists in which they declare that the Dalai Lama is a liar and has tried to deny them their freedom of religion. Of greater geopolitical significance, the Chinese Government has intervened cleverly to exploit the divisions and to gain greater control of Tibetans and the politics of Tibetan separatism and demands for autonomy. Shugden adherents, the author claims, have allied themselves with China in opposition to the Dalai Lama's leadership. All of this, and the fascinating historical background of the arguments over Shugden, is well researched and documented in "The Dalai Lama and the King Demon" BUT: It is very clear that the book escaped any editing process. The text clearly is the English language translator's first cut, where on every page there are word choices left undecided -- such as two verbs or tenses alongside each other in the same sentence awaiting a decision of which to use. You get used to this eventually as you read through the book but it is always a bit jarring. With lots of religious terms and historical events and Tibetan names, an index is essential -- but there is none. Still, there is no other source quite like this one for a considerable amassing of important information on the Shugden controversy, politics within the Tibetan exile community and in Tibet itself, and the historical roots of divisions in Tibetan Buddhism. Anyone with a real interest in Tibet should read it.

Important to read for every Buddhist, even though this translation is not as well edited as the Italian original. The story and research as well as sequences of events that are put together in this book was done after exhaustive research and interviews with the main parties involved. What unfolds is an excellent example of detective work that leads to the front doorstep of the Shugden sect HQ, it also uncovers the all too willing involvement of the Chinese communist regime in aiding the agenda of the Shugden sect to bring down the Dalai Lama and the traditional Tibetan Buddhist way of life. A definite must read, very intriguing and a story very well delivered.

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