



Karmapa, who, like the Dalai Lama before him, braved snowy mountain paths and escaped to Dharamsala to the government in exile. The Karmapa was greeted by tearful Tibetan Buddhists and spoke 5 these words to them.

“The important issues for a Buddhist are love, mercy, praying for world peace and peace of mind. As long as you follow the Dalai Lama, freedom will certainly be returned to Tibet.” 10

The Dalai Lama and the Karmapa are considered as “living Buddhas,” an existence unique to Tibetan Buddhism. They are respected as a reborn Buddha, or holy priest. Tibetan Buddhism has many denominations and recognizes around 300 saintly men. But the one who is respected most is the Dalai Lama. However, because of his advanced age, people are worried about his successor. The arrival of the Karmapa 15 has removed these worries.

The Tibet problem is clearly a modern international issue. China stations at least one-third of its nuclear weapons in Tibet and is developing nuclear weapons in several nearby provinces. The Dalai Lama said China wants to maintain a powerful influence over India, the other Asian giant lying south of Tibet. Likewise, India’s Department 20 of Defense claims that its nuclear testing program was begun not out of fear of Pakistan, but as a countermeasure to China’s activities.

In addition, the movement to support Tibet and the Dalai Lama is gaining momentum worldwide. For example, big Hollywood stars such as Richard Gere, Sting, Harrison Ford and Julia Roberts have all voiced their strong support for Tibet and the 25 Dalai Lama.

[Notes]

the Himalayas, Karakoram, and Kunlun mountain ranges ヒマラヤ, カラコルム, 崑崙山脈
 nomad 遊牧民 nun 尼僧 Qinghai and Sichuan provinces チンハイ (青海) 省とスーチョワン (四川) 省
 dominion 支配権, 統治権 valiantly 雄々しく, 勇敢に Lhasa ラサ. チベット自治区の首都. ラマ教の聖都. Lassaとも書く. pillar 大黒柱, 中心人物 asylum 亡命
 Dharamsala ダラムサラ. インド北部にあるチベット亡命政府の本拠地. ダライ・ラマ, カルマバ17世など有力活仏も集結している. denomination 宗派, 教派, 分派