

---

# Surviving the Dragon

---

## Visit to Knoxville by Arjia Rinpoche

Director of the Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center

**Thursday and Friday, March 25 and 26, 2010**

Arjia Rinpoche, Director of the Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center in Bloomington, Indiana, is one of the most important religious leaders to escape Tibet since the Dalai Lama. He will be sharing the inspiring and extraordinary survival story of the turbulent years he spent in Tibet during the Cultural Revolution, which included 16 years in a forced labor camp.

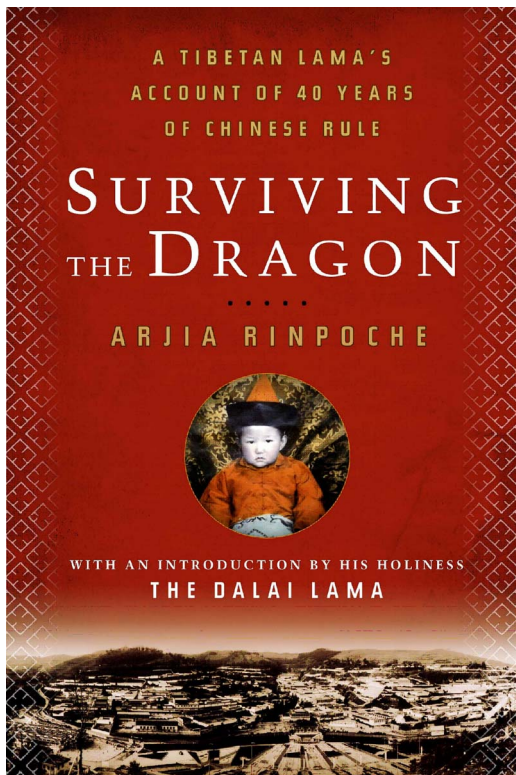
**March 25, 6:00 pm**     **Reading and book signing at Carpe Librum Booksellers**

**March 26, 3:30 pm**     **Discussion at UTK University Center, rooms 223-224**

**March 26, 7:30 pm**     **Community forum at Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church**

*All events are free and open to the public. More information available at [tvuuc.org](http://tvuuc.org) and [lslk.org](http://lslk.org)*

Sponsored by Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Losel Shedrup Ling, the UTK Department of Religious Studies, and the Institute for Interfaith Relationship



## *SURVIVING THE DRAGON: A Tibetan Lama's Account of 40 Years of Chinese Rule* by Arjia Rinpoche (Rodale Press)

Arjia Rinpoche (Lobsang Tubten Juimai Gyatso), recognized at the age of two as the reincarnation of the founder of the Gelupa Sect of Tibetan Buddhism, is one of the most important religious leaders to escape Tibet since the Dalai Lama. In *Surviving the Dragon*, he shares the inspiring and extraordinary survival story of the turbulent years he spent in Tibet during the Cultural Revolution.

Abandoned as a young monastic, Rinpoche witnessed the torture and arrest of monks and was forced to leave and attend a Chinese school where he secretly continued to practice and study with his religious tutors. He also worked in a forced labor camp for 16 years. In the following years, Rinpoche stayed safe from physical harm, but was forced to comply with China's anti-Tibet agenda and take part in religious rituals designed to undermine the authority of the Dalai Lama. On New Year's Day in 1998, he traded his saffron robes for jeans, t-shirt, and sunglasses in order to escape Beijing with four of his family members by boarding a plane bound for Guatemala. With the help of the Dalai Lama, he reached New York a few months later.

Rinpoche's unique experience provides a rare vantage on this tumultuous period of Chinese history as well as a glimpse of life inside a Buddhist monastery in Tibet.