

VII.

COPY of an Account given by Mr. TURNER, of his Interview with TEESHOO LAMA at the Monastery of Terpaling, enclosed in Mr. TURNER'S Letter to the Honourable the GOVERNOR GENERAL, dated Patna, 2d March, 1784.

ON the 3d of December, 1783, I arrived at *Terpaling*, situated on the summit of a high hill; and it was about noon when I entered the gates of the Monastery, which was not long since erected for the reception and education of *Teeshoo Lama*. He resides in a Palace in the center of the Monastery, which occupies about a mile of ground in circumference, and the whole is encompassed by a wall. The several buildings serve for the accommodation of three hundred *Gylongs*, appointed to perform religious service with *Teeshoo Lama*, until he shall be removed to the Monastery and Musnud of *Teeshoo Loomboo*. It is unusual to make visits either here or in *Bootan* on the day of arrival: we therefore rested this day, only receiving and sending messages of compliment.

On the 4th, in the morning, I was allowed to visit *Teeshoo Lama*, and found him placed in great form upon his Musnud. On the left side stood his father and mother, on the other the officer particularly appointed to wait upon his person. The Musnud is a fabric of silk cushions, piled one upon the other until the seat is elevated to the height of four feet from the floor; embroidered silk covered the top; and the sides were decorated with pieces of silk of various colours, suspended

suspended from the upper edge, and hanging down. By the particular request of *Teeshoo Lama's* father, Mr. *Saunders* and myself wore the English dress.

I advanced; and, as is the custom, presented a white pelong handkerchief; and delivered also into the *Lama's* hands, the Governor's present of a string of pearls and coral, while the other things were set down before him. Having performed the ceremony of the exchange of handkerchiefs with his father and mother, we took our seats on the right of *Teeshoo Lama*.

A multitude of persons, all those ordered to escort me, were admitted to his presence, and allowed to make their prostrations. The infant *Lama* turned towards them, and received them all with a cheerful and significant look of complacency. His father then addressed me in the *Tibet* language, which was explained to me by the interpreter, that *Teeshoo Lama* had been used to remain at rest until this time of the day; but he had awoke very early this morning, and could not be prevailed on to remain longer in bed; for, added he, "the *English* Gentlemen were arrived, and he could not sleep." During the time we were in the room, I observed the *Lama's* eyes were scarce ever turned from us; and when our cups were empty of tea, he appeared uneasy, and throwing back his head, and contracting the skin of his brow, he kept making a noise, for he could not speak, until they were filled again. He took out of a golden cup, containing confections, some burnt sugar, and stretching out his arm, made a motion to his attendants to give them to me. He then sent some in like manner to Mr. *Saunders*, who was with me. I found myself, though visiting an infant, under the necessity of saying

saying something; for it was hinted to me, that, notwithstanding he is unable to reply, it is not to be inferred that he cannot understand. However, his incapacity of answering excused me many words; and I just briefly said, That the Governor-General, on receiving the news of his decease in *China*, was overwhelmed with grief and sorrow, and continued to lament his absence from the world, until the cloud that had overcast the happiness of this nation by his re-appearance was dispelled; and then, if possible, a greater degree of joy had taken place than he had experienced of grief on receiving the first mournful news. The Governor wished he might long continue to illumine the world with his presence; and was hopeful that the friendship which had formerly subsisted between them would not be diminished, but rather that it might become still greater than before; and that, by his continuing to shew kindness to my countrymen, there might be an extensive communication between his votaries and the dependants of the *British* nation. The little creature turned, looking stedfastly towards me with the appearance of much attention while I spoke, and nodded with repeated but slow movements of the head, as though he understood and approved every word, but could not utter a reply. The parents, who stood by all the time, eyed their son with a look of affection, and a smile expressive of heartfelt joy at the propriety of the young *Lama's* conduct. His whole regard was turned to us: he was silent and sedate, never once looking towards his parents, as if under their influence at the time; and with whatever pains his manners may have been formed so correct, yet I must own his behaviour on this occasion, appeared perfectly natural and spontaneous, and not directed by any action or sign of authority.

The scene in which I was here brought to take a part, was too new and extraordinary, however trivial, if not

absurd, as it may appear to some, not to claim from me great attention, and consequently minute remark.

Teeshoo Lama is at this time about 18 months of age. He did not speak a word, but made most expressive signs, and conducted himself with astonishing dignity and decorum. His complexion is of that hue which in *England* we should term rather brown, but not without colour. His features good, small black eyes, an animated expression of countenance; and altogether I thought him one of the handsomest children I had ever seen. I had but little conversation with the father. He told me he had directions to entertain me three days on account of *Teeshoo Lama*; and entreated me with so much earnestness to pass another on his own account, that I could not resist complying with his request. He then invited us for to-morrow to an entertainment he proposed to make at a small distance from the Monastery, which invitation having accepted, we took our leave, and retired.

In the course of the afternoon I was visited by two officers of the *Lama's* household, both of whom are immediately attendant on his person. They sat and conversed with me some time, enquired after Mr. *Bogle*, whom both of them had seen; and then remarking how extremely fortunate it was the young *Lama's* having regarded us with very particular notice, observed on the very strong partiality of the former *Teeshoo Lama* for the *English*, and that the present one often tried to utter the name of the *English*. I encouraged the thought, hopeful that they would teach the prejudice to strengthen with his encreasing age; and they assured me that should he, when he begins to speak, have forgot, they would early teach him to repeat the name of *Hastings*.

On the morning of the 6th, I again waited on *Teehoo Lama*, to present some curiosities I had brought for him from *Bengal*. He was very much struck with a small clock, and had it held to him, watching for a long time the revolutions of the moment hand: he admired it, but with gravity, and without any childish emotion. There was nothing in the ceremony different from the first day's visit. The father and mother were present. I staid about half an hour, and retired, to return and take leave in the afternoon.

The votaries of *Teehoo Lama* already begin to flock in numbers to pay their adorations to him. Few are yet admitted to his presence. Those who come, esteem it a happiness if he is but shewn to them from the window, and they are able to make their prostrations before he is removed. There came to-day a party of *Kilmaaks* (*Culmuc Tartars*) for purposes of devotion, and to make their offerings to the LAMA. When I returned from visiting him, I saw them standing at the entrance of the square in front of the palace, each with his cap off, his hands being placed together elevated, and held even with his face. They remained upwards of half an hour in this attitude, their eyes fixed upon the apartment of the LAMA, and anxiety very visibly depicted in their countenances. At length, I imagine, he appeared to them; for they began all together by lifting their hands, still closed, above their heads, then bringing them even with their faces, and after lowering them to their breasts, then separating them: to assist them in sinking and rising, they dropt upon their knees, and struck their heads against the ground. This with the same motions was repeated nine times. They afterwards advanced to deliver their presents, consisting of talents of gold and silver, with the products of their country, to the proper officer, who having received them, they retired apparently with much satisfaction.

Upon enquiry, I learnt that offerings made in this manner are by no means unfrequent, and, in reality, constitute one of the most copious sources from which the *Lamas of Tibet* derive their wealth.

No one thinks himself degraded by performing these humiliations. The persons I allude to, who came for this devout purpose, were attendant on a man of superior rank, that seemed to be more engrossed than the rest in the performance of the ceremony. He wore a rich satin garment, lined with fox skins; and a cap with a tassel of scarlet silk flowing from the center of the crown upon the sides all round, and edged with a broad band of *Siberian fur*.

According to appointment, I went in the afternoon to make my last visit to *Teeshoo Lama*. I received his dispatches for the Governor-General, and from his parents two pieces of satin for the Governor, with many compliments.

They presented me with a vest, lined with lambskins, making many assurances of a long remembrance, and observing that at this time *Teeshoo Lama* is an infant, and incapable of conversing, but they hoped to see me again when he shall have become of age. I replied, that, by favor of the *Lama*, I might again visit this country: I looked forward with anxiety to the time when he should mount the Musnud, and should then be extremely happy in the opportunity of paying my respects. After some expressions and protestations of mutual regard, my visit was concluded. I received the

the handkerchiefs, and took my leave; and am to pursue my journey toward *Bengal* to-morrow at the dawn of day.

(Signed) SAMUEL TURNER.

A true Copy,

E. HAY,

Secretary to the Governor General and Council.

To