

# FLASHBACK FRIDAY – MEETING THE DALAI LAMA

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Eighteen years ago, October 9,

2003, I had the privilege to meet and have an unforgettable conversation with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. It was at a luncheon hosted by India's Ambassador to the US at his residence in Washington. His Holiness loved my telling him how I had passed out over a thousand pictures of him during my three overland expeditions crisscrossing Tibet. "Illegally, yes?" he asked, as the Chinese make this a crime. "Oh, very illegally!" I answered as we both chuckled.

The Ambassador asked where he was born. His answer, "very remote village in far northern Tibet." He was startled when I interjected, "Yes, I know, I've been there – I even bought a *doonchen* (telescoping 15 foot-long Tibetan prayer horn) in your village." "A *doonchen*?" he exclaimed. "You mean...?" and put his hands to his lips to make this really loud WHOOOH like the horn makes. I nodded and did the same, WHOOOH. We belly laughed, while all the diplomats and Congressmen did not know what was going on.

Then he wrapped his hands around mine and I felt an electric energy run through my body. It was his blessing. I will treasure it all my life. (*Glimpses of Our Breathtaking World* #60 photo ©Jack Wheeler)

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