



# What the Lotus Said: A Journey to Tibet and Back

*Eric Swanson*

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Yes, it's about Tibet, but not the mystical wonderland of Western imagination. There is magic, to be sure -- saints who pass invisibly among prison guards, ceremonies that stop torrential rain, and a ferocious landscape that inspires uneasy reverence. But the country described in these pages is incontestably real, harsh, and shocking.

*What the Lotus Said* is the story of Eric Swanson's journey through East Tibet in the company of a Tibetan lama and several other Americans. The ostensible purpose of the trip is humanitarian supporting fledgling schools and bringing medical aid to nomads—but Swanson, a self-confessed “spiritual shopper,” nurses private hopes of enjoying a peak experience in a cave once inhabited by the eighth-century mystic who transcribed the classic *Tibetan Book of the Dead*. Through episodes alternately comic and harrowing, Swanson gradually discovers the liberating power of disenchantment, and in a startling turn of events, at last deciphers his lama's cryptic statement that Tibetan Buddhism offers Westerners a way to die.

Written in a fragmentary style evocative of the classic text that inspired Swanson's journey, *What the Lotus Said* introduces the reader to the irreducible complexities inherent in the search for spiritual solace.

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#### **Jeanne Crank:**

Spent a free time to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book might be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the e-book untitled What the Lotus Said: A Journey to Tibet and Back can be excellent book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

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