



Lama Ole Nydahl

Copenhagen, 22 December 2014

My dearest Diamond Way students and friends,

2014 became a many-faceted year, so I think we can all benefit from an overview...

That Kunzig Shamarpa left us so early, leaving a gaping space in our transmission till he sees fit to bless us with a new incarnation, was a profound loss. May we remember his timeless example and fulfill whatever wishes he held. It is so reassuring that Gyalwa Karmapa Thaye Dorje, following centuries of reciprocity between the two, will find and recognize the next Shamarpa incarnation and thus guarantee the continuity of our Karma Kagyu lineage.

Here generally about our year: It started as so often with an eventful tour through the snows of Russia to Vladivostok, this time setting out after a big lecture in Minsk in Belarus. From the Russian Far East we continued to our centres in Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong, which we visit every year – and all had good growth. Next we flew to South Africa, where I had not been since 1978. The power of nature from North to South there is beyond anything I could remember. Joining a television program for a half million viewers straight from the airplane started weeks of torrential rains around Johannesburg, an event I so often seem to trigger around the world. We had to push our bus out of the mud several times going south, and later received letters to please stop

the rain. Cape Town with the Table Mountain and the Indian and Atlantic Oceans was indescribable, and our two South African groups were a joy to spend time with.

The next stop was England and the opening of the Beaufoy, our castle in central London, followed by the first private screening of Marta's and Adam's heart-warming "Hannah" film on the 7th anniversary of her death. After that we trekked in unbelievable nature and enjoyed magic days and nights on the southwestern coast of Ireland, in areas of timeless enchantment.

Following the annual lectures and Conscious Dying courses in Latin America and hardly having slept for months, which was also due to the inspiration of Alexandra, a most extraordinary Venezuelan lady - who is now my wife after we were wedded by HH the Karmapa - on June 9th in Karma Guen the print on my three Phowa texts became unreadable and I had to ask for a pause. Two days after that, on June 11th with the sun and moon both clearly visible on the sky of Karma Guen for days and strong gusts of wind shaking the area, Kunzig Shamarpa left us.

Dr. Alexander Kirgis, a top and idealistic spine surgeon and close Dharma-friend from our Munich centre, kindly offered to replaced the discs between my vertebrae from a life of many accidents, with titanium implants. Today they make formerly vulnerable parts of my upper spine look like I had never boxed or forgotten to watch my altitude when parachuting.

Also this became a time to counterweigh some tendencies towards overly organizing our work, which had gotten somewhat out of hand - at least for my independent Danish taste. For this purpose, to make as many as possible able to take part harmoniously in the wide range of suggestions generated by our bright idealists, I drew from the fine Danish tradition of Ombudsman to listen to, modify and share different views which naturally appear among independent and critical people. Our friends holding this job are a necessary addition to

and balance our many-sided work. Having the same goal, there can only be benefit from testing a variety of solutions.

Manifesting today for the seventeenth time as the knower of past, present and future (the meaning of DUSUM KHYENPA, the name given already to his first incarnation) the great 16th Karmapa had composed additional verses to the traditional Mahakala invocation, of which we were only using the main part. Sherab Gyaltzen Rimpoche has recently brought this passage to our attention and enabled us to use it for the protection of our lineage and for my health and long life. Furthermore, after having inaugurated our magnificent new gumpa in the EC with the splendid Sakyamuni Buddha during the summer course, Rimpoche had the kindness to complete the wonderful seven-meter stupa in our retreat centre at Tenovice, Czech Republic, placing the Buddha's blessing squarely in the hills of western Bohemia.

And what have the last three months of the year brought about?

We celebrate Magi's work of so many years, where she has been hosting our different lineage holders and Rimpoches. She is the link between the Himalayas, Bhutan and the Atlantic, and without her help for Lopön Tsechu Rimpoche we would not have the giant stupa at Benalmadena in Spain.

We rounded the world again, teaching in Central Europe, USA, Chile and Uruguay with daily tight calls to Russia where the Rubles that our idealistic helpers and friends had collected for the vast Moscow centre we are creating were falling through the floor. Luckily our long-time plan survived the worst drama, but the market is still nervous.

And the sum-up of the year's insights?

The usual – that we must remember our roots: We appeared and became strong due to the timeless power of the 16th Karmapa and our equality and horizontal grass-root friendships. For forty years this has attracted the finest of freedom-

loving people. Setting idealism and inner growth as our goals is the guarantor for continuing to inspire the brightest of minds in an ever more valueless and bureaucratic world. Right organization is a useful tool towards this most noble of aims but must never eclipse our inner focus. Unique insights of “Aha” and “I can actually benefit others” make the Buddhas celebrate.

May we never waver from that path of freedom!

Yours, Lama Ole

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lama Ole". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lama" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Ole".

With countless best wishes from Alexandra, Tomek, Caty and Gerge

Copenhagen, 22 December 2014, 45 years to the day since Hannah and I were totally overwhelmed by a Black Crown ceremony given by the great 16th Karmapa at the Swayambhu Stupa in Kathmandu when we met him for the first time.