



# The Mt. Tron Mail

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*Mt. Tron seen from Tynset, with Glåma in the foreground, 18th June 2007. Photo: BP.*

## News about the University of Peace

### **The municipal land use map**

On the 10th of September we were informed by executive officer Petter Hermansen in Alvdal municipality that the land use map will be finished by Christmas and is expected to be finally accepted by June 2008. It will be sent out for comments to among others neighbouring municipalities, the county and the Foundation in early 2008. The Municipal Plan Report, which the Foundation already received for comments twice, is in reality finished and only remains to be finally accepted by the local council this autumn. Just now thematic maps attached to the land use map are made, and the wildlife map, in which the editor of The Mt. Tron Mail participated in 1997-99, becomes one of the issues. In addition Hermansen informs us that the municipality's main strategy - development in the Mt. Tron / Eastern Ridge area and protection in the Western Mountains - has wide support both in the municipality and in the county, which most probably gives the municipality free scope for development. It looks bright for the University of Peace!

### **Platforms at the local election**

For the second time the development of The Mt. Tron University of Peace is in the party manifestos at the municipal election of both the Centre Party (Sp) and the Left Wing Party (V). This says much about the interest for this project among the population of Alvdal! Now it is also certain that the new mayor comes from the Centre Party (Sp). It should therefore look bright for the University of Peace also in this respect.

### **Media publicity**

On Sunday 2nd September there was a half hour radio interview on the main Norwegian national channel (NRK P1) about the University of Peace. This programme has got several positive after effects and it may be heard by visiting NRK's homepages on the Internet. Presently another media publicity about the University of Peace can be seen on Alternativopplysningen by visiting [www.alternativ.no](http://www.alternativ.no)



# View from Mt. Tron

By Bjørn Pettersen

(To satisfy an ever increasing demand from the readers for more 'spiritual food', we reproduce the authors regular column in a local cultural newspaper)

## In search of Truth

In the innermost being of the human nature there is a deep longing, conscious or unconscious, for something we can call "existential perfection". This is given expression in the practise of, for instance shamanism, religion, ideology and philosophy. But it is also visible in all our daily work - in the urge to improve and perfect all things, and in the wish to secure a better future for our children. On the level of society this is called development and progress, or civilisation. But those who feel that life has to be something more than only material and mental wealth, devote themselves to religion or existential thought constructions of various kinds. Religion comprises as a rule an ethical codex whose essence - the principle of benevolence - is common for all the great religions. But can religion, as a system of salvation, give existential perfection? And what is really religion?

If, for instance, we look at the word "religion", it comes from Latin and means literally "re-binding". Figuratively it stands for the "re-establishing of the connection" or "the pact" with something which has to be understood as forgotten, lost or far away. No scientist of religion seems to understand either this word-meaning, or this logical deduction of the word. It is characteristic for the word that it has originated in our Western cultural sphere, because in all the Semitic religions - Judaism, Christianity, and Islam - God stands outside and above man, while at the same time there reigns a deep conflict between the two. In the East the case is completely opposite. Full harmony between man and God reigns, and the core of the holy scriptures declares that there really is no distinction between them - that they in essence are One. Therefore they don't call their teachings "religion", but "Dharma", which stands for "Universal Law".

But the one who wants to find the Truth behind all things - behind all phenomena, doctrines and ideas - has to leave all this. That one has to go beyond all man made limitations - made by society as well as self-made - and into his or her own depths - beyond mind, identity and ego. Only the one who has the courage to be completely alone has the possibility to understand what this life really is about... Only the one who completely neutrally can observe a thing as a passive witness, can see the thing as it is.

## Mystery of man

The human being is an almost incredible mystery. We have got everything - "body, mind and soul" - as a gift from birth and carry them with us throughout life, but without ever really understanding what it is - what it actually means to be a human. We may perhaps understand the physical body a little but our mind is still an unsolved mystery. Not to mention ourselves - our true identity - who are we? That is the mystery of all mysteries! Where are we coming from? - where are we going? - what is the purpose of this life?

We know much more about the natural sciences - about astronomy and about all possible phenomena in the world around us - than we know about ourselves. In fact, that which is closest to us - ourself - is what we know the least about. For instance, in the morning who can give an account after a long night of what has happened during the many hours of sleep? Every night most of us spend from six to eight hours in nearly total unconsciousness, or altogether about one third of our lives. For this reason science has found that we use only a small part of our brain capacity - the rest just lies there inactive and latent. Isn't it reasonable to presume that the world will appear totally different for us if the remaining major part awakens into life? - that man will become a completely different creature?

Sleep is one of our great everyday mysteries. We wake up in the morning fresh and fit even though we were dead tired when we went to bed. Without sleep we cannot live - it is like a source of new life. Still, it sustains all our ignorance, forgetfulness and folly - just because we give ourselves up to this unconscious darkness. The one who can solve the mystery of sleep will at the same time also solve the mystery of death, because death is nothing but a prolonged sleep. A single human's life and death is like one long day and one long night. So from the point of view of Life there exists no "death" - only a temporary darkness of transformation. And just like the sun rising before a new day "with blank papers and crayons", so is every new birth a new possibility with new strength to enlighten our inner darkness.

Man is everything and has everything, but does not know it. He is the architect of his own life and "the blacksmith of his own luck", and "as he sows so will he reap". We are ourselves the cause of war and peace and the key to the very Mystery of Life itself.



View from Tronsvangen towards Mt. Rondane, 16th October 2006. Alvdal lies hidden in mist while Tronsvangen is basking in the autumn sun. Photo: BP.



# Visitor from India



*Prashanta on a forest walk in Tronsvanglia 24th August this year. Photo: BP.*

**Sridam Debnath** or **Prashanta**, as he is usually called, is 51 years old and comes from the state Tripura far east in India, with Bengali as his mother tongue. He came to Norway on the 21st of August as a guest at the Mt.Tron University of Peace Foundation and is now staying at Shantibu in Tronsvanglia in Alvdal. This is his first time outside India and he is enjoying himself immensely: "This is almost heaven!", he says.

In his home village he practises as a homoeopathist and has gradually gained 27 years of experience. His working hours are from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day except Friday. In average he treats about 60 persons daily and has nearly 70% full cure, which is very good. He can cure most diseases and has also good experience with a wide spectre of purely mental disorders. In addition he also treats animals and even plants. The best result is found among patients who are vegetarians or lacto vegetarians.

"Homoeopathy is a divine art of healing given by the gracious God to the suffering humanity", says Prashanta and quotes the father of homoeopathy, Samuel Haneman. He quickly becomes enthusiastic when the conversation switches on to homoeopathy. "Homoeopathy is the best of all 'pathies'. It first works on man's causal body (deep unconscious mental level), then on the astral body (subconscious mental level) and then on the physical body (conscious manifested level), and it gives a fully painless treatment and cure", says Prashanta. In this way homoeopathy works on the very cause of the diseases and gives lasting cure without side effects. Prashanta is also a yogi and renders excellent advice and guidance on yoga therapy.

Prashanta started his homoeopathic practice on the instigation and inspiration of Swami Paramananda in Banagram in West Bengal, who authorised him in the art of healing. He has also spent 9 months with Paramananda's guru - Ramanand Avadot - in Uttar Kashi, Himalaya, when he was nearly 160 years old.

It is possible to have consultations with Prashanta at Shantibu during his time here. Because of sudden illness in his family after he arrived Norway, there is a possibility that he might return to India on short notice, but for the time being it seems that he may perhaps stay into October. It is one of Prashanta's characteristics always to help his fellow human beings in distress.



*Prashanta studies Mt.Tron with binoculars. Photo: BP.*



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*Winter is approaching...*

*The southern edge of Mt. Tron has got new snow, 22nd October 2006. Photo: BP.*