



The Mt. Tron Mail

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Mt. Tron on a clear summer day, seen from Tynset with the river Glomma in front, 9th July 2008. Photo: BP.

Only a Bird

I am not God nor His messenger -
I am only a singing bird.
I am not a Poet nor his Muse -
I am only a singing bird.
I am nor prophet, I am not sage -
I am only a singing bird.
I fly in the heavens across the seas
and come to sing at thy door,
Each dawn when the morning god
smiles on the ocean,
Each eve when the twilight god
sings at the earth's ends,
Each night when the god of thy heart
sits in silence, alone with the god of my heart.

*From **Snowbirds** (1919) by Sri Ananda Acharya.*

View from Mt. Tron

By Bjørn Pettersen

(Previously published in the author's regular column in the Norwegian cultural paper *Breidablikk*)

The Dictatorship of Plutocracy

In our Western culture, in which we take so much pride, economics sits on the throne with we humans at best in the second row. The political parties say that they gladly place the human being at the centre of politics, but the political issues are always overridden by the budgetary ones, nationally as well as locally. Here in our own playground "Norway Ltd." is a well known and acknowledged concept. Here the interest for business economics is in force with constant growth and monetary profit as the goal. All persons elected by popular vote seem to believe - or at least give that impression - that they fight for human values and development. But the reality is that they are only "throttle valves" in a big machinery of society where all constitute the fuel. The human being in itself has no value other than as a measure of economical resource and has no priority in society whatsoever.

From our first day at school until we finally receive our licence (read: diploma) for earning money, all our formal education is a continuous race for acquiring more points, while all the subjects we have learnt have been viewed in the light of how to utilize the acquired knowledge economically, all for our adaptation to the industrial society of commerce. In the business society human relations are based on effective economics where mother, father, children and grandparents have a minimum of contact through arrangements of kindergardens and old persons' home arrangements, and where the home becomes merely a place for sleeping and storing one's personal belongings. And much which earlier was natural and obvious human behaviour now has to be learned from theoretical experts on very expensive courses. In the industrial state's impenetrable jungle of law and in the anabolic might of forms of bureaucracy, we are effectively deprived of the possibility of being fellow human beings and to do something good for each other.

In the mechanical society we have distanced ourselves so far from nature as to have lost the perspective on humanity - on ourselves. In our own little society - which international living-condition research based on economics says is the best country in the world to live in - the result is that statistics show we have the highest suicide rate. Here young people don't find living worth while any more. At the same time diseases related to stress and lifestyle, anguish and nervous disorders soon make "everybody" visit the psychologist and "half" the population receive social security.

In Western culture we have achieved everything, but lost ourselves. We have all possible material welfare and economic security but lack naturality and spirituality.

What is Spirituality?

There is no expression to cover the Sanskrit word *adhyatmika* in any of the European languages, so accordingly, here in the West we do not have any good words to express a truth-seeker's nature and general mental condition. Our spiritual directs the attention to 'spirits' and 'spiritism' which is completely different from '*adhyatmika*'. And herein lies part of the reason why it is so difficult for people in the West to grasp a 'non-spiritistic' meaning of the concept 'spiritual' (in the absence of a better word we still have to use 'spiritual'). For with the traditional meaning of the word people usually understand something that - just like religion - is outside themselves which they can perceive almost like a subtle metaphysical sense-impression through the so-called 'sixth sense'. A grey area where everything from elves, spirits and ghosts to demons, angels and extraterrestrial beings exist, and where spirit mediums find a huge and lucrative market. In to-day's alternative "New Age" society it is called 'channelling' and every self-respecting so-called 'spiritual person' is doing either this or 'healing' or both.

But 'spirituality' in an '*adhyatmic*' sense has nothing to do with such primitive phenomena. Here 'spirituality' means to place the human being in the centre both inwardly and outwardly. Seven qualities are always prevalent in spirituality: simplicity, naturality, love, self-sacrifice, universality, conscience and wisdom. This is nothing outside ourselves, i.e. something 'non-human' or 'super-human'. A spiritual person feels equality, unity and concord - a deep intuitive feeling and insight that 'the same heart is beating in all of us'.

A good mother who loves all her children equally and makes no distinction between them, and who loves her friends' children and her children's friends, shows spirituality, whereas a great 'guru' ('spiritual guide') who considers himself highly elevated over, and keeps his distance from everybody else, is far away from spirituality. And one who is always prepared to help his fellow human beings and willingly give up his own benefits for the advantage of those who need them more, shows spirituality, whereas a dogmatic religious leader or a charismatic clairvoyant healer who profits from others' ignorance and suffering, is miles away from all spirituality. Spirituality is insight, far-sight and humanity. Without common humanity there is no spirituality.



Panorama of Mt. Tron seen from Tronsvanglia in Alvdal (near Shantibu), 16th June 2008. Photo: BP.

An account of the most important articles in The Mt.Tron Mail 1998-2008

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(Model of 2001. Pre-project 02.02.2002)

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Paramananda Mission in India

Live Paramananda! In memory of Swami Paramananda - By Bjørn Pettersen

Spiritualness, art of life and naturality (From "Naturality and Love" by Sw. Paramananda)

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Unique cultural event on Mt.Tron - on the spot of the planned University of Peace!

Shikha Chandra on Mt.Tron 4th august 2000

Mt.Tron in a birds-eye view! (Aerial photographs of Mt.Tron)

International Peace Symposium in Australia

Symposium for Peace in Australia

"In the Bosom of Universal Peace". (Keynote address delivered at the Symposium

"Pathways to Peace" at the Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia, Sunday 28th September

2003 by Bjørn Pettersen)

"Ahimsa - The Practice of Non-violence". (Workshop held at the Symposium "Pathways to

Peace" at the Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia, Sunday 28th September 2003 by Tripti

Chatterjee)

A journey to the centre of the World. Mt. Kailash and Manasarowar in Tibet

"The world is my home, all living beings are my brothers and sisters, selfless service is my religion". (107-year-young Teresa Hsu)

Letter of support to the University of Peace (from Heart to Heart Service, Singapore)

"Exited to realize the Mt.Tron University of Peace". Alvdal's new Mayor Olov Grøtting

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Mt. Tron partly shrouded in dramatic summer clouds, seen near the town centre of Tynset, 6th August 2008. Photo: BP.