



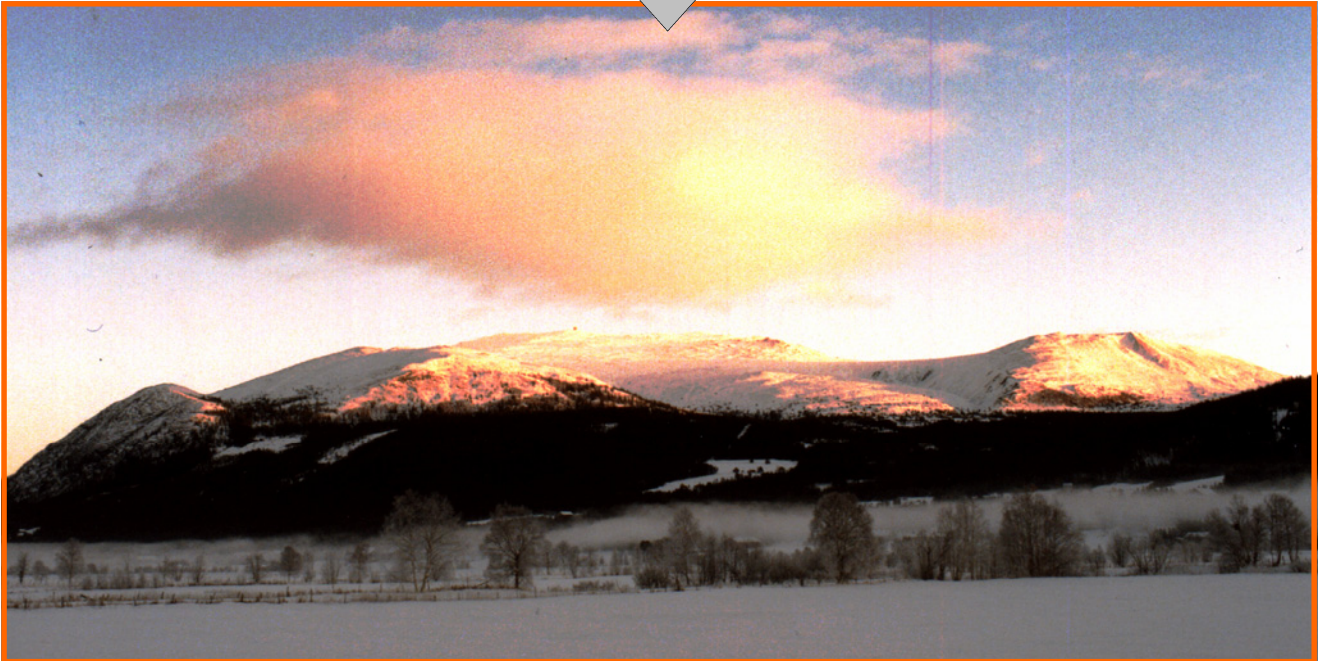
The Mt. Tron Mail

March 1999

Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation

No. 1,

Morning sun over Mt. Tron



Mt. Tron seen from the valley of Alvdal, early morning, primo February 1999. Photo: BP.

It is 1999, and we are going towards a change of millennium. In the dawn of the coming millennium, let us gather to build the first international university of peace on Mt. Tron. With the possibility of a new military training field in our immediate surroundings further south in the valley, the plans of our Trust is even in a more narrow regional perspective, of more current interest than ever. Here, we shall look at some of the most important factors for the realisation of the University of Peace:

Spiritual illiteracy

Science tells us that only between 5 and 10% of our braincells are active, while all the others only lie dormant. The logical conclusion of this is that even if we are physically adults, we are still only children mentally! This is the reason why about 90% of all education, scientific research, commerce and resources are used to feed the machinery of war and to conquer each other - and it is a sad fact that half of our so-called 'best brains' are directly engaged in war industry.

Peace through Self-knowledge

Man suffers in the world because he doesn't know himself, and the world suffers because it doesn't have a science of man. That which is nearest us, is what we are

most ignorant about! We can send man to the Moon and to outer space, but who knows what happens to ourselves when we sleep? Sleep makes up for about one third of our lives, but its mystery science has not yet solved. Our habitual unconscious nightly sleep maintain all of our ignorance and mental immaturity, which again - directly or indirectly - is the cause of all our problems. Man himself has to come into focus, and not the phenomena outside us. We ourselves have to become the centre of research, learning and political priorities.

Human science and art of life

We need knowledge and understanding about humanity - about ourselves - both physically, mentally and spiritually. Our basis for the University of Peace is that all humans already have everything they need within themselves and thus cannot obtain anything new from outside. Biotechnology and the manipulation of genes is absolutely unnecessary for us. Just as a seed only needs water, light and heat to develop into a full plant, we also only need a few simple and natural stimuli in a favourable atmosphere to waken our latent universal possibilities. Because real education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man.

The University of Peace on Mt.Tron

A letter from the future. By Knud Larsen

The Mt.Tron Mail has received an article from Knud Larsen which is rather long and which therefore will be divided and published in several issues. Knud is a professor at the NTNU and is responsible for the drawing of the existing plans for the University of Peace on Mt.Tron. Here, in the form of a letter, he expresses his vision of the more physical aspects of location and shaping of the University of Peace.

When I visited my brother in LA at Christmas, I checked my e-mail address in Trondheim as usual, and displayed on the screen came the enclosed letter. Something had possibly gone wrong with the satellite sender a good ten years ahead in time and dispatched the letter far outside the ordinary channels - what do I know, but here it is:

TFU, Alvdal, Norway, Saturday 10th June 2010

Dear brother,

It was nice to see you again at Easter during one of my far too rare visits to New York. Had it not been for the sake of family, that

kind of urban indulgences would be even rarer. You should have been here! This is the place! Imagine an almost uninterrupted view for at least 200 degrees. In the North-East the Swedish 'Sylane', in the East a l l o f

'Femundsmarka', in the South-West 'Rondane', and in the West 'Dovre' with 'Snøhetta'. The range of vision is generally more than 100 km. Where in the world can you find anything similar? As you know, I have travelled a lot in Tibet, but did I anywhere see so far and so wide? - hardly! And the snow still covers a great part of the mountain, giving it all a wonderful supernatural expression. If there is anything like "the top of the world", then this is it! I am just back from a quick walk to Baral's gravesite and am waiting for the weekend course to start. You know that the courses here mostly are centered around "The Art of Life". This subject is very wide and new aspects are included all the time. Recently a scientist from Tasmania published an exciting work on the Net about the relationship between space and human beings; i.e. the space in which we live and work. This scientist we have managed to get here, as he was already going for a trip to England. I will return to this subject later. With the dubious thought of alluring you to come here, even if you already think yourself a master of the noble art of life, I shall first describe for you the access to this place along with its unusual esthetical and natural qualities.

Last night I went to bed before nine to be able to get up

as early as possible. I drove for four hours from Oslo this night, and I had to spend much time to avoid all the mooses on the road. They are very active especially in the early hours of dawn. At about six I turned from the main road in Alvdal and up through the forest towards Mt.Tron. The small mountain farms and cottages of Tronsvangen were still in the shadow of night, while the rays from the morning sun stood as a fan above the mountain peak. By the brook one could see that the snow melting was well on, the water was rushing down with such a speed that the spurt stood above the little bridge. The dear old rugged mountain pines follow the road for another 200 metres when most of the vegetation ends. I was glad I had the car today. Usually, when many people come, all the people are fetched at Tronsvangen where they leave their cars. But this time we won't be so many, so then we can drive all the way up ourselves. The mountain road is no highway even if thought the quality is much better now than in the nineties. It is narrow and steep. But the view is irreproachable. It is, of course, the

second highest mountain road in the country. And then the access to Flat-Tron, which the 'Peace Plateau' really is named, is very dramatic. One sees the plateau from Tronsvangen, but as one drives on higher and higher, it



Sørkletten and Flat-Tron, seen from Tronsvangen. Photo: BP.

disappears behind Sørkletten during a very long stretch. Only after some extra steep climbs and turns towards the North, the plateau again show up as one rounds Sørkletten and drives towards the West. In reality it is the top of Mt.Tron one sees first, and then the plateau reveals itself underneath as a huge saddle-shaped plain. Here it is rather barren - only stones and moss, and only after a while one discovers the University of Peace as a minor building far away from the road in the middle of the stone and moss desert. Materials from the site are used in walls and in the roof. The premises almost seem to disappear in this vast expanse of nature and only the light reflection from the solar energy panels on the roof, discloses the presence of humans. I parked my car in the enclosure shielded by a wall of natural stones. With backpack I started to walk along the footpath. A signboard shows the way to the building because you can't see it from the car parking. There is a several hundred metre walk on a curved footpath which passes by the Monument. The wooden marking sticks of winter was still along the path, some places in patches of snow. The building soon appeared and smoke came from the chimney - there were people in the kitchen. I was glad I was the first - it would be nice to taste a cup of coffee at the large kitchen table.

Swami Sri Ananda Acharya

En short biography by Bjørn Pettersen

Part I: From Bengal to Alvdal

Introduction

As announced in the previous issue of The Mt.Tron Mail (3/98), we hereby start - from this issue onwards - a regular column on Swami Sri Ananda Acharya, or 'Baral' as he is locally called. As we know, Sri Ananda lived and worked in Alvdal for as much as 27 years - from 1917 to 1945, and his grave, and a memorial over him, are to be found on Mt.Tron. His lifework is the direct cause of the establishing of both Swami Sri Ananda Acharya Trust (1975) and Mt.Tron University of Peace Foundation (1993). It is therefore only natural that our readers should be acquainted with the man behind the idea of the University of Peace. Initially in this column will therefore, in serial form, a short biography about his childhood and youth in India appear, together with his travel to, and stay in, Europe until his arrival in Alvdal - a period of his life barely known to any living man, and also never before described or published. In due course this column will also serve samples from his rich and varied authorship. We hope our readers will find this material interesting, and we wish all good 'Baral reading'.

Childhood

Sri Ananda Acharya, or 'Baral' as he is called by the locals of Østerdalen in Norway, was born in the early morning on Thursday 29th of December in 1881, by the shores of the river Ganges in the Bengal town of Hooghly in Eastern India. His family name was Surendra Nath Baral.

Surendranath was the eldest brother in a family of ten children, five brothers and five sisters. His father, Babu Gobardhan Baral, who was known for his great charity and beneficence, worked in the near by Calcutta as a chief consultant at the National Bank of India Ltd. His mother, Srimati Sauravamayee Dasi, was a kind of religious mystic who never visited any temple, for - as she used to say; "Divinity is in the heart, and I worship it there".

The family was very wealthy and lived in a big and august old building with many rooms and several floors. In the centre of the building was an inner open courtyard. And in the one end of the courtyard, towards the Ganges, was the ancient family temple with columns facing the courtyard. Outside the building towards the shores of the Ganges, they had a large garden with many types of fruit-trees and flowers of all kinds.

The very first school he went to was a school in connection with Bandel Church, a now over 400 year old catholic church which is one of the oldest christian churches in India and which was built by Portugese immigrants. It was probably at this school that he for the first time saw a big world map, and when the little boy saw the Scandinavian peninsula he found it looking like a cat, which instantly made him exclaim: "To that tiger I will go when I have grown up!".

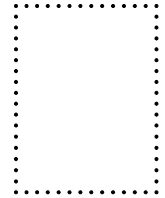
Once in his childhood he had a dreadful experience. It was that day when he saw an Englishman whipping an Indian laborer until he was smeared with blood. Then he felt that life had become unbearable and as in a sudden flash he saw that he would become a *sannyasin* - a free and holy wanderer who has renounced family, career and own ambitions in this world for the sake of helping and enlightening needy fellow human beings. He had always taken an interest in those simple yet impressive wanderers, who sometimes came to their house for food and rest. After this experience he constantly thought of becoming a *sannyasin*. About the next seven years of school he later said that he could never learn anything. Nothing would stick to his mind because there was no teaching of religion. During this time he was mentally absent from school even though he was physically present - he only sat and daydreamed of becoming a *sannyasin*. At night he used to go down to the Ganges for meditation, like the *sannyasins* use to do.

Sannyasa

About three years after this incident Surendranath met such a *sannyasin* who wished to have him as his disciple, and thus Surendranath actually became a *sannyasin* already in his early youth. He was given the name *Swami Anandacharya*, or **Swami Sri Ananda Acharya**, as he himself chose to write it later on. 'Swami' is a title which all initiated *sannyasins* bear and which means 'master', while 'ananda' means 'divine bliss' and is a suffix which characterizes all *sannyasins*. 'Acharya' means 'learned', or also 'teacher' or 'professor'. *Anandacharya* therefore, in a figurative sense, means 'he who is learned by divine ecstasy'. 'Sri' is a common title of courtesy for men in India, like our sir, but it originally means 'beautiful'. With the exception of various formal situations and other wordly incidents in foreign countries later in life, he always used his new *sannyasin* name after this initiation.

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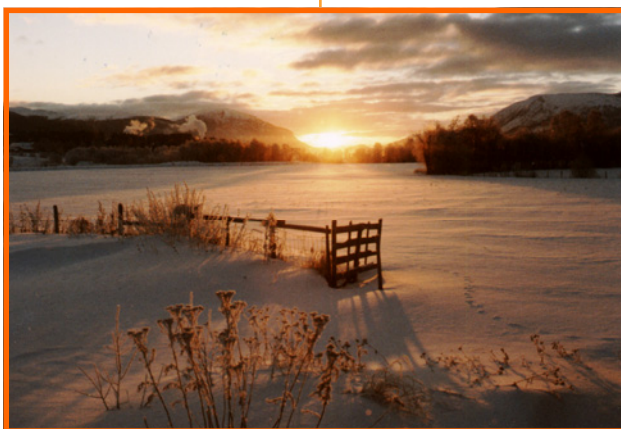
Exclusive newsletter

The Mt.Tron Mail is an exclusive local newsletter with fresh colour images from Alvdal and current news from Mt.Tron about the development of work with the plans for the University of Peace. At the same time it imparts the completely special and unique cultural history of an Indian authorship in Norway, and a bridging between East and West - India and Norway.

The newsletter is completely 'homemade'. It is put together in a text and picture editorial programme on PC in the office of Shantibu at Alvdal. And from no. 3/98 it is also printed here. Printing and finishing process takes about 20 minutes for each copy, with a recommended capacity of only 20 colour copies per day. So it takes a few days to send out The Mt.Tron Mail. After an A3-format colour printer was purchased, the costs of printing have been

reduced to nearly a third of previous costs, even though all pages together with enclosures are being printed in colour. Still, the costs of production is comparatively high. This is because the number of subscribers is still not big enough to let a professional printing house do the job. In 1998, the income from the subscription of support gave no profit more than means for buying the new colour printer. The Mt.Tron Mail therefore is a rather expensive and exclusive paper. We hope that this will change in 1999, so that we can expand our work of information and perhaps also expand this newsletter. Therefore, renew your subscription NOW, and pay

your subscription of support for 1999. We also hope you will help us finding new subscribers. The next issue comes in June.



A new day breaks in Alvdal. View from Storsteia, Alvdal, January 1999. Photo: BP.