



The Mt. Tron Mail

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Mt. Tron seen from state highway 3 at Auma on the municipal border between Tynset and Alvdal on July 15th 2008. Photo: BP.

Alvdal's municipal plan nears completion: farther step forward for University of Peace!

Petter Hermansen at the Alvdal municipality administration, said the following on telephone to the Foundation's chair person on October 29th: When the proposed Municipal Plan for Alvdal 2008-2020 is presented for first to the Executive Board in January next year (2009) the Municipality's land use plan will definitely include The Mt. Tron University of Peace's project on the Peace Plateau. The complete Municipal Plan is expected to be presented for public hearing during March 1st to 15th 2009. In the period up to Christmas all the planned development areas in the Plan, including the University of Peace on the Peace Plateau, will be subject to a consequential study. All who are waiting for the Mt. Tron University of Peace therefore anticipate a very exciting time from now onwards!

Read more about this on page 3!

View from Mt. Tron

By Bjørn Pettersen

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

The Fulfilment of Life

Did you think that life is only for material prosperity and emotional happiness? Did you think that if you only live up to the requests and expectations of society, you have honoured your duty to life? And did you think that if you only fulfil your wishes and dreams in life, your sorrows will be extinguished and you will be eternally happy? Or did you think that if you only believe in God you are secure and you will achieve eternal life and happiness in the hereafter?

Life is like a long journey on which we never seem to reach our presumed destination. For every new mountain peak we leave behind, there always appear new landscapes and new horizons in the distance before us. Why is always that drive there which makes us move forward in our lives? And why are we never really satisfied? What is it that we always reach for, consciously or unconsciously? That is our Self - our indefinable and unutterable inmost being, beyond all imaginations, thoughts, intellect and ego - and beyond our waking, dream and deep-dreamless-sleep stages of mind. That is our real identity, independent of our names, titles or other artificial identities, which only awaits our "coming home" - that we realise who in truth we are. But our body's mighty apparatus of senses always draws our attention outwards. It makes us always look for another - a life partner or soul mate - who we believe and hope will satisfy all our deepest needs. Or it makes us search in others' knowledge - in literature, in science and in art - to get answers to our grinding questions about ourselves. No one seems to do like "the old woman against the stream", who through learning the language of her own body and reading the scriptures of her own mind, came to know her Self. In the deepest deep of your inner being is the source to all that you are and all that you'll ever be - and also all that which you still don't know and of which you are not conscious, but which you seek unconsciously through everything you do. There lies the answer to all your longings and to all your yearnings and hopes. There you can quench your thirst from the immortal source of eternal life, and there you can bathe and eat and dress in the inexhaustible stream from the luxurious horn of plenty.

Nothing of real and lasting value lies outside your self. Life's destination and highest achievement is to realize your Self, which is the summum bonum or final good of life, and its very fulfilment.

Self-Realization

What does it mean to "realize oneself"? In the Genesis of the Bible it is said that God created the human being "in His image", i.e. similar to Himself. Jesus confirmed this by saying that the first and greatest commandment is that "you shall love God with all your heart and mind and soul", but there is also another commandment which is just as great - "you shall love your neighbour as your self". From the standpoint of love all these three therefore have equal status - God, yourself and your neighbour. But as Christianity does not allow philosophy, and as philosophy in our Western cultural sphere is only speculative, the human's relation to God has always been mysterious. Indian philosophy, on the other hand, which is practical and not speculative, has always maintained that there is no distinction between the human soul and the soul of God - yes, that actually there are not many souls but that in reality there is only one single Soul who, through the endless diversity and variety of life forms in this creation, apparently emerges as many. This overwhelming, accepted and established seemingness, which appears as real and which causes our identification with the part instead of the whole, makes our ignorance about ourselves, God and life, and which again causes all of our problems both individually and collectively. The one who sees and experiences this through his or hers own body and mind, realizes the Self or God.

If you know that you are not your physical body, and that you are nothing of all that your mind contains, either your thoughts, feelings, wishes or wills, but that all these are only something you have in order to experience life. - If you acknowledge that, even if all of your body cells have been replaced and renewed many times, and even if you have changed your opinions, attitude, feelings and perhaps even your nature many times during your life, your "I-feeling" beyond everything has never ever changed - because you feel yourself exactly the same to-day as you have always done as long as you can remember. - If you experience that you, in spite of intense ups and downs, hardships and ease, joys and sorrows in life, are not carried away or overturned but keep your composure and perspective, and at the same time experiences that your life becomes more and more focused and conscious. - If you love God (the All - the Absolute), your Self and your neighbour (all living creatures) in equal high measure and with all your heart and mind and soul. - Yes, then you realize your Self and enjoy freely this ever-wondrous life!



A panorama photo of Mt. Tron seen from Tronsvanglia, 24th August 2008. Photo: BP.

The University of Peace nears concrete public endorsement!



A model of the Mt. Tron University of Peace manipulated into an aerial photo, correctly places on the Peace Plateau.

The time is rapidly approaching when, at last, we can expect to receive clarification that the Foundation actually will be granted the building site and permissions on Mt. Tron for the University of Peace. It might, therefore, be useful at this point briefly to review a project that for various reasons has been underway for a considerable time, as many by now might possibly have lost sight of the broader perspective.

The project starts

The Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation was established in February 1993. The first written sketch to the project was made and sent to the municipality of Alvdal and met with a positive response. At that time we were informed by the mayor that the Foundation's plans could be included in the municipality's land use plan when the existing municipal plan of 1985 was due for renewal in 1995. When that time came, in 1995, the Foundation produced a project prospectus and made a formal request to the municipality. Unfortunately, work on the new municipal plan failed to occur, but the Executive Board, on October 12th 1995, resolved to prepare for our project in the coming municipal plan.

Meanwhile the Foundation worked perseveringly to farther our plans and in 1996 the architect professor Knud Larsen at NTNU in Trondheim was drawing his first sketch project for the University of Peace. This, together with a detailed presentation of the whole project, was delivered before the Executive Board the same year.

The municipality starts a land consolidation case

Land ownership on Mt. Tron was unclear. To sort this out and put an end to the great confusion regarding the ownerships on Mt. Tron, the municipality concluded there was an urgent need to initiate a case at the land consolidation court of Nord-Østerdal, and did so in the autumn of 1997, "with thought on the preparation of plans for a variety of usage on Mt. Tron..."

This court was adjourned on March 16th 2004 after nearly seven years of extensive and complicated proceedings. The result was, inter alia, that all bare mountain above the tree line on Mt. Tron was divided into four blocks of joint ownership distributed between 105 parties in total. The Peace Plateau, where the Foundation wishes to build the University of Peace, falls its entirety under sector 3 with only 8 parties. The outcome of this court case, which was absolutely necessary for the further development of our project on Mt. Tron, was as positive as could be for the Foundation.

In the meantime Knud Larsen drew entirely new drawings in 2002 and the Foundation produced the "Preliminary Project 20.02.2002", which was amended and renewed the following year as "Preliminary Project 03.03.2003". In 2003 a detailed project description was also printed and published in full colour large format and sent to the municipality of Alvdal.

Working on the municipal plan begins

After a decade of chronic budgetary and staffing constraints the municipality finally felt able to afford and advance the work with the municipal plan, initiating new activity on February 1st 2005, in which the Foundation from the very beginning was involved as a regular consultee. It is this work that is now nearing completion and the final approved product is expected to be settled in the summer of 2009. Then the further progress of the Mt. Tron University of Peace will be decided.

The project's progress

We hope that all our readers will understand that the Foundation depends on taking one step at the time - and that we have been and remain, unavoidably, completely dependent on the arrangements the municipality of Alvdal adopts in its dealings with us at any given time, for our further progress.

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The journalist Haldis Nergård from Adresseavisen at the monument on Mt. Tron, in connection with a major feature in "Ukeadressa" on the 9th of August this year about Mt. Tron, Baral and the University of Peace. The photo is taken August 1st 2008 by BP.