



The Mt. Tron Mail

December 1998

Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation

No. 3, Volume 1

The location of the University of Peace



Mt. Tron as seen from the valley of Alvdal, primo October 1998. Photo: Knud Larsen.

Why is it so important to place the University of Peace on Mt. Tron? Why can it not be located another place, for instance on Tronsvangen or down in the Village? We will here try to sum up in short the most important reasons for a placement on the Peace Plateau on Mt. Tron.

Tradition

Per definition the idea of the University of Peace is 'a university for human spiritual manifestation in the mountains'. Swami Anandacharya - 'Baral' - who brought the idea to Norway from India, chose himself the Peace Plateau as the most suitable place for such a university. And the memorial bauta stone over him - which is also the first stone of the planned University of Peace - is situated up there. Baral's grave is also on Mt. Tron. These conditions have already made Mt. Tron known both in Norway and abroad as the 'Mountain of Wisdom' in Norway.

Mental peace and quiet

Most important of all is still the irreplaceable quiet and rest which one feels mentally being in the mountains. The mind reflects naturally the wide horizon and becomes open as the infinite heavens above. Stress and worries, and the mental narrowness we brought with us from the valley below, disappear by themselves. We feel a long-sought-for peace and harmony with ourselves and with nature. If we are given the possibility of staying for

longer periods of time in such environments, in a place especially fitted for the purpose, it will work miracles on us. Idea and location are therefore intimately woven together.

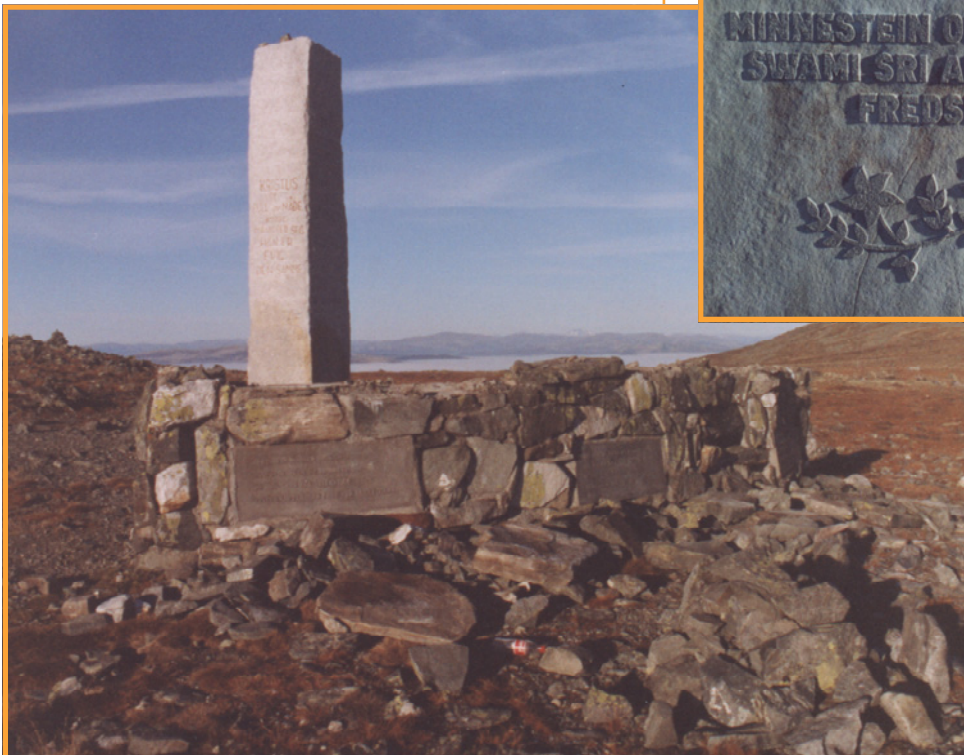
Symbol effect

In addition to this Mt. Tron is already an attraction with a large number of visitors. A peace university on the Peace Plateau will undoubtedly act as a magnet on tourists in the area. The combination of Mountain, Peace and Human Dignity - each of which has made Norway internationally known - could create a strong symbol for Norway 'in the World'. An isolated mountain with a road to the top and an international university for peace on a beautiful plateau, will be unique both nationally and internationally. Location another place will therefore lose most of the 'magic'. We see the location on the Peace Plateau on Mt. Tron as absolutely necessary for success and for the achievement of the wanted effect.

Already prepared

All the above conditions show that the Peace Plateau already is naturally prepared for the University of Peace project. Besides, Mt. Tron is defined as a long-term area of development for the municipality of Alvdal, and the town council has also decided to arrange for a peace university on the Peace Plateau in their coming area plan.

Vandalism on the Monument on Mt.Tron



The Monument on Flat-Tron in October 1998.

*In the foreground lie bigger stones broken from the wall of inscriptions. These stones were originally moulded in concrete. **Insert:** The plate with inscriptions which tell that the Monument is a memorial stone and first stone of the University of*

Vandalism

Medio October 1998 an act of criminal damage was discovered on the Foundation's Monument on the Peace Plateau. Several slabs of rock were broken up from the wall of inscriptions, and all the smaller stones which visitors through a number of years had placed on top of the wall as a symbolic act of building the University of Peace, were scattered around on the ground. Larger pieces of stone had also been thrown on the bauta relief depicting Sri Ananda Acharya. The material damage has by an expert been calculated to NOK 6.000,- and the repairing work will start in the spring as soon as the road on Mt.Tron is open and the weather is favourable.

Burial place

The vandalism is also a serious attack and damage on a burial place as the ashes of Mr. Einar Beer is burried here. Mr. Beer's own wish was to have his ashes spread for the wind on the Peace Plateau, but when the government did not allow this in 1982, an application for burial by the Monument was forwarded, which was sanctioned by the government. However, as Einar Beer did not wish a privat burial place, this is not publicly known.

Police case

The criminal damage was instantly reported to the local police and a case was filed. Very soon the police got good clues mainly from local vittnesses and the case is now solved.

Religious fanatics

In the afternoon of Saturday the 3rd of October a group of twelve persons drove in three cars up to the Monument.

The group, consisting of both men and women, stayed at a local hotel at Tronsvangen and all of them residents in other parts of the country. Beforehand they had heard about the Monument. Finding the monument a memorial over 'a heathen religion' - as they later explained to the police - they started their vandalism and damage in a rage of anger. After that they sang and prayed, and blessed the country, according to their own report to the police.

Pensioners and well grown up people

This could be said to be a way of behaviour normally expected from rootless youth with behaviour disorders or mental disorders, or from satanists. The surprise was therefore great when they showed up to be well grown up people in their forties, fifties and sixties! The youngest is 31 years and the oldest 66 years!

Council of Conflict

In accordance with the spirit of the coming University of Peace the Foundation wants to give the malefactors a chance to naturally redeem their misdeeds. Instead of a usual criminal case at the criminal court, the case is wanted in the council of conflict. There we will demand that the malefactors repair all the damages on the Monument with their own hands and pay all the costs for this. The objection could be raised that this is a too mild punishment for such a crime, but there is all possibility that they after this never again will commit such a crime. It should be a help to self-help and mental therapy to build up again something which they in foolishness earlier broke down and destroyed. It then remains to see if they choose to accept our invitation....

Outlook for Mt.Tron and the Peace University project

Planning work of the municipality

On account of a very weak economy at present the Alvdal council has decided to lay down all further planning work. This also includes the part of the Mt.Tron area. In this part the municipality will arrange for the Trust's plan for a university of peace on the 'Peace Plateau'. Therefore the municipality of Alvdal will do nothing concerning this in 1999. However, in the autumn 1999 there will be a new election for the local council. Which tasks this new council choose to give priority to, for year 2000, remains to be seen.

Severance case

The Severance Court in Tynset started introductory court negotiations between the parties, that is between Alvdal municipality on the one hand and all those with rights in Mt.Tron on the other hand, in May this year. The Trust is also a party in this case, with the possession of the monument which stands on the 'Peace Plateau'. So far only one meeting has taken place, but the Court has registered as many as 170 persons or bodies claiming rights in Mt.Tron. However, it is certain that not all of these will be affected by this case, which has been raised by Alvdal council to decide the ownership of and rights to Mt.Tron and the Mt.Tron road.

Radar station

The council of Alvdal decided unanimously to expropriate in Mt.Tron on the 29th of October, for the purpose of carrying through a regulation plan for the area. The expropriation includes area for the radar station of the Aviation Authorities, road and power connection. The Alvdal council expropriated already in the early summer, but the decision was made invalid by the County Administration because the parties in Mt.Tron had not been correctly informed in advance. At the same time the Aviation Authorities had also started the building of a road into the construction area, which had to be stopped. The Aviation Authorities are therefore one year behind their construction schedule. In connection with the local regulation plan for Mt.Tron, botanical registrations have been undertaken by the Norwegian Institute for Soil- and Forest Mapping (NIJOS). The results show that no vegetation of special value will be lost as a result of the planned radar station.

The University of Peace

In connection to the local authorities, the Foundation's project for a university of peace on the 'Peace Plateau' on Mt.Tron is now in a phase of waiting. But our planning work and work to keep the public informed keep on with a new positivity and intensity!

Appeal to the local authorities in Nord-Østerdal! By Kåre Fiskvik, Tynset Hotel.

The plans for a university of peace on Mt.Tron is probably one of the most interesting touring products which has been launched in recent times in Nord-Østerdal. In my opinion this is the greatest "gift" to the development of touring in the northern valley in many years, if it will be realised like the Mt.Tron University of Peace Foundation wishes!

Mt.Tron - already a target of touring

What which makes it especially interesting is that Mt.Tron *already is a target of touring*, considering the fact that one easily can go by car to the top of this magnificent mountain during summer. And when we observe the fact that the Aviation Authorities have construction plans for the top of the mountain, it is unintelligible that there are objections to the building of a *peace university* on Flat-Tron (the 'Peace Plateau'). In this comment I shall not mean anything about what the plans for such a building should contain or which function it is intended for, but keep strictly to how I think this will turn out as viewed from a touring enterprise's and tourist's standing point.

No expences for the local communities

A *monumental building* up on Flat-Tron ('Peace Plateau') will for many *be enough in itself* to view as a part of their tour to the top of Mt.Tron. The Aukrust

Centre, the University of Peace and the top of Mt.Tron will all together represent an exciting touring target. The infra structure is there. And, best of all - *it will not cost the local municipalities anything else than giving the Foundation permission to buil on Flat-Tron.*

Trade development at its best

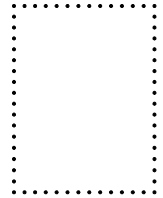
This, I think, is trade development at its best. First of all it is a good project. It will come as a supplement to the existing trades and industries in the region. *It is unique, it won't cost a fortune, and it has a great potetial to be well and inexpensively marketed.* In this there lies the fact that Norway, in its peace preserving work, might very well make use of such a building. Most of us know how the media then would take care to place Nord-Østerdal on the map. In my opinion only Røros ('Mining Town') and the Aukrust Centre has something of the same marketing potential in Nord-Østerdal to-day.

Appeal!

So dear politicians, trade department people, environmental department people; do contribute in such a way that this project soonest possible will be realised in the way the Foundation wishes! My opinion is that this is the best touring project which has been launched in Nord-Østerdal in recent times, both in terms of environmental consequences, economy and marketing possibilities!

The Mt.Tron Mail

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Retour address:

Mt.Tron University of Peace Foundation
Shantibu
2560 Alvdal
NORWAY

To:

The Mt.Tron Mail

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Address: "Shantibu", 2560 Alvdal, Norway

Telephone: +47 62 48 78 56
E-mail: fredsuni@online.no
WEB-pages: <http://home.sol.no/~bjpetter>
Postal giro account: 0809 2227007
Bank account: 1895.26.50935
Sparebanken Hedmark
SWIFT address: SHEDNO22ALV

Thanks for this year, and welcome into the next!

Thanks for understanding!

It has been an eventful year with lots of visitors to Shantibu and many new acquaintances with interest for the University of Peace. We in the Mt.Tron University of Peace Foundation wish to thank all those of you who show understanding and support our work by subscribing to The Mt.Tron Mail! It is important for us in our work to reach out with information about the University of Peace, that you support us in this way!

Invitation to establish a reader's corner

This first year we started late with the first issue in May. There will therefore only be three issues this year. But from next year it is our intention to maintain regular services with four quarterly issues. We have a lot of good material which we wish to

pass on through The Mt.Tron Mail, and from the next issue we think to publish a regular 'Baral-column' and hopefully regular elements from Swami Paramananda.

Moreover, we invite our readers to contribute with positive and interesting articles with connection to the establishing of the Mt.Tron University of Peace. Let us make The Mt.Tron Mail into an active forum which serves its purpose!

More subscribers

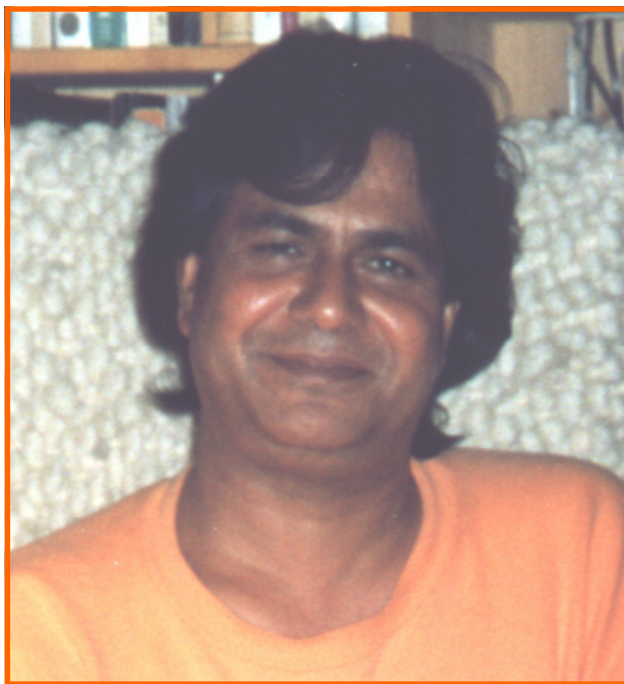
Because of this it is possible that the number of pages in the Mail will be somewhat extended, if the economy allows it. Everything depends on our getting more subscribers. All our readers are

therefore called upon to help finding new subscribers. We know you are out there, so please come to our meeting!

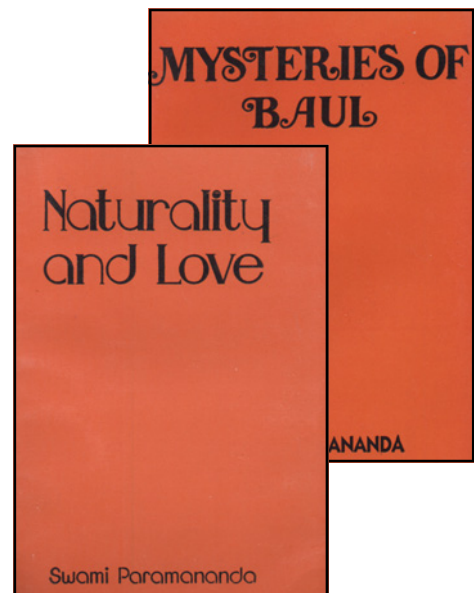


Sunrise at the 'Peace Plateau', ultimo October -98.
Rendalssjøen in the background. Photo: BP.

Books by *Swami Paramananda*



*Swami Paramananda, Oslo, ultimo September 1998.
Photo: Knud Larsen*



2 books in English by **Swami Paramananda**:
'**Naturality and Love**' (95 pages, paperback) and '**Mysteries of Baul**' (95 pages, paperback) is for sale at NOK 50,- pr. piece by communication to Bjørn Pettersen, Shantibu, 2560 Alvdal, Norway
Phone: +47 62 48 78 56.