



The Mt. Tron Mail

June 1999

Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation

No. 2, Volume 2

The activity plans for the University of Peace



Mt. Tron seen from the main road at Tynset, primo June 1999. Photo: BP.

What will be happening in the University of Peace on Mt. Tron? We will here take a brief look at the main activities which are under planning, both on the *individual level* and on the *collective level*:

Art of Life-course

This will be the very foundation of all activities in the University of Peace and will appear in the shape of a three-month basis-course during spring (March, April, May) and during autumn (September, October, November). During the three months of summer (June, July, August), a short version of three weeks will be offered. The course is divided in three steps:

1. *Learn the language of body* - This will be a kind of 'survival class' where, through knowledge of the body's echology, we will learn how to survive in the world. Focus will be directed on food-habits and life-style; physical relaxation and exercises.
2. *Read the mind* - This will be a 'silence class' where, through mental training, we will learn how we can relax, concentrate and observe our mind. It will be insight into own psychology in peaceful and harmonious surroundings.
3. *Know your Self* - This will be a 'philosophy class' where the great and fundamental questions in life will be focused in light of our own self-identity and self-integrity.

Peace- and human rights conferences

On the collective level of the plans of activity for the University of Peace, great *international conferences* for peace and for human rights, are the most important. We know there is a need to find suitable places for such arrangements, and we suppose that the Foundation itself either functions as initiator and organizer, or that the whole, or parts of the whole building complex, may be rented out to such organizers.

Festivals

There will also be made efforts to arrange international festivals, first of all a *music festival* for indigenous people and sacred music, but also more traditional folk music is possible, especially where these meet internationally and new spontaneous music is created.

Other activities

There will be open weekend *seminars* throughout the year, except during the three months of winter (December, January, February), where the level of activity for the most part goes into 'hibernation', except from the possibilities of an alternative Christmas celebration. For the rest, there will be held *exhibitions, concerts, theatrical performances*, and other events.

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. The article started in the previous issue, 1/99.

The sun had now fully risen above the distant mountains in the East. It was as if the light came from below as the footlights in a theatre. The buildings threw a long shadow over the plateau, and in the West the first rays of the sun gleamed on the peaks of Rondane. TriptiMa, who were sitting on the 'morning bench' outside the main entrance with her lemon and honey tea and enjoyed the morning scenery, waved her hand in welcome. She went in front of me towards the kitchen. In the courtyard it was still so dark that I could see the faint reflection from the candle light in the ceiling of the meditation hall. Freshly brewed ground coffee is one of the typical offers of the kitchen, and sitting with a steaming cup by the large table in the kitchen's south wing with a view towards three corners, and with the company of dear friends from my first visit five years ago, one feels that one has arrived. My room was the usual no. 305 with the best view westward, and with a view from the spacious entrance corridor over the courtyard and the dining hall towards the mountains of 'Femundsmarka' in the East.

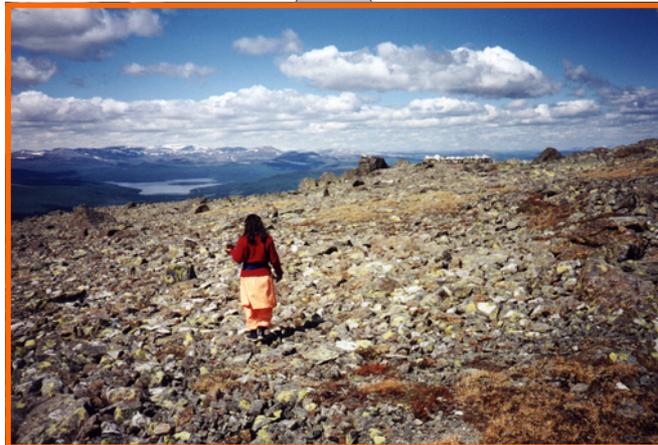
There had been other occupants since last time as the Tibetan thanka with the green Tara had been replaced with a framed poster from a Bruce Lee film. As you may know, he has become more and more popular since the shedding of light over the more philosophical aspects of his work. A quick checking at the data base revealed that the Tara was free, and I decided that I should change Bruce for the Tara from the picture store room in the basement later.

Soon I was running on the path westward after a change into warm and windproof clothes. The lights of Alvdal came within sight down by the river Glåma which still was covered in darkness and the haze of early morning. The path, which quite recently has been marked all the way round Mt.Tron in nearly the same height as the Peace Plateau, passes the grave of Baral. It was too far to make the whole tour today (5-5 ½ miles), but I will do it later. The grave, which lies straight West of the mountain top, is marked by a garland of stones on a small plateau above some big rocks. It is a beautiful place, quiet, near the heavens, and with such a far distance to the horizon that the bowing of the Earth is nearly visible. It is quaint to think of

how Einar Beer was searching for this place day after day until he finally found it after the directions of Baral, and how the burial procession looked with the coffin on a kind of sledge pulled by two horses over this sloping mountain side strewn with rocks in all sizes. I didn't sit long because it was cold in the shadow from the mountain, but to have this sight of Mt.Rondane and Mt.Snøhetta flooded in sunlight was well worth the trip.

When one walks back, for a long time the river Glåma is seen down to the right of you. Straight ahead, 'Sørkletten' peeps forth after a while, and while one moves out of the mountains shadow, one follows the rounding of the mountain to the left and ascends a little upward to the Peace Plateau. But one doesn't see the buildings before one has nearly arrived the road, because the plateau has the shape of a saddle and slants down on both sides of the road which practically follows the top of the saddle.

I don't know if you can picture it to yourself, but try to imagine Mt.Tron as a flat, rounded cone with the top at 5465 feet. About 1,8 miles south of the top there is a smaller top named 'Sørkletten', at about 4330 feet. Between Sørkletten and the top's south side there is a South-North-bound ridge of elevation, and from it the terrain first slopes faintly and then falls steep to both sides. The road follows the ridge and climbs in a zig-zag pattern up the mountains south side to the tele communication plant on the top. The University of Peace lies a couple of hundred metres east of the road on 4000



On the way to Baral's grave on Mt.Tron. Here is seen TriptiMa some years earlier. The white stones on the grave can dimly be seen in the horizon to the right. Photo: BP.

feet, where the faint slope of the terrain ends and the steep part starts.

When one moves on foot one also observes that the landscape is not at all the desert of your first impression. Water trickles everywhere and one has to jump from one tussock to another not to wet your socks. There is a low vegetation between the many loose stones and I have come across both grouses and other of the mountains smaller birds here.

The buildings are growing straight up from this landscape. The walls are made of stones from the surroundings, the roof is covered by the surrounding's vegetation, and only the wood is brought up from the valley and painted with natural colours. It has been laid down much care in the preserving and restoring of the landscape all the way to the building walls, because here the tracks are erased very slowly. There is no garden and no place of residence outside except from the 'morning bench' and a couple of other benches outside the kitchen towards the road. When one is outside one has to move to keep the warmth, but in the inner open courtyard it is cosy and here TriptiMa's flowers and herbs grow.

(To be continued).

Swami Sri Ananda Acharya

A short biography by Bjørn Pettersen

Part I: From Bengal to Alvdal

(Continued from the previous issue, 1/99)

Youth

While Sri Ananda went to college he came in touch with the political currents, and that time pulsated with the great efforts of making a national government and freedom from the British tyranny. The dominating atmosphere in Bengal at that time was that the English had to leave India at any cost! It was a desperate longing for freedom after several hundred years of brutal occupation and suppression. At this time he

was also a leader for the revolutionary youth in Bengal who worked for liberation from the British hegemony. But Sri Ananda was a philosopher and seeker of Truth even in those stormy days, and pupils under his tuition at that time, he often took with him on trips to North India to practise Yoga. He even spent a whole year in the French colony Pondicherry in South India in the ashrama of the famous Sri Aurobindo who earlier had been the national resistance leader, but who then lived in exile here and already had renounced the resistance work for the benefit of Yoga and meditation.

During this college time he started to undertake long journeys and pilgrimages throughout the Indian subcontinent, and he was always keen on getting to know all kinds of people from the most different parts and casts of society. He visited famous places and pilgrim centres of various kinds, and not the least the great centres of sanskrit learning in various parts of India. Here he studied for shorter or longer periods under prominent teachers, both men and women, who were all experts in their fields. In this way he got intimate knowledge of all the various philosophical schools and the whole spectre of spiritual cultural tradition of India.

After attending Governments Arts College in Hooghly, Sri Ananda started to study at the University of Calcutta. Here he first took his B.A. degree without efforts, and then - some

months later with much travelling and little reading - he passed the exams in Mental and Moral Sciences with Honours and received his Master of Arts degree. This happened in the year of 1908. He had already for several years given private tuition to yonger schoolboys, and after finishing his university studies he also taught for a while at the University of Calcutta.

Professor of philosophy

In 1910 he was appointed professor of philosophy and logic at the Maharaja's College of Burdwan, some miles west of Hooghly, only 29 years of age. Here he quickly became very popular among the students who called him 'father', and he had great success teaching the students who all passed their exams. The money he earned he gave away to those of his students who were poor and could not pay for books or study fees. To his father's great dismay he never sent any of his wages home, as is

the custom and duty of the eldest son as soon as he earns his own money.

During all of his stay in Burdwan he practised Yoga and his mind became more and more introverted - and after a while his state of mind became like that of a Yogi when he withdraws into a remote cave for uninterrupted meditation. As time passed it became more and more difficult for him to teach his students. His mind more and more got absorbed in the inner unity, and outer tasks therefore became more and more impossible to accomplish. Also because of repeted attacks of malaria it became difficult for him to performe his duties. He therefore realised that he had to give notice to quit his professorship. The parting was dramatical, and as he left Burdwan Railway Station by train after about two years of service as a professor, more than 500 students and teachers were left on the platform crying.

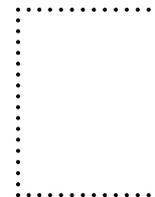
(To be continued).



The birthplace of Sri Ananda in Hooghly, Bengal, India. Part of the inner courtyard, with the ancient family temple in the background. Photo: Torleif Sund, December 1986.

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News from Mt.Tron

The vandalism on the Peace Plateau

In an earlier edition of The Mt.Tron Mail (3/98), we wrote about the vandalism on the Foundation's monument on the Peace Plateau in October '98. On Monday the 11th of January this year the two parties met in the local Council of Conflict in Alvdal. The representative of the other party at once confessed the misdeeds and strongly regretted the incident. He also asked himself, on behalf of his group, to be allowed to rebuild and restore what had been damaged. In this way the parties quickly came to concord. The agreement which was entered and signed the same day, says that the other party will restore the monument to its original condition within the 15th of July 1999. The Foundation is looking forward to building activities on the Peace Plateau this summer, and hopes that this will have spreading consequences and speed up the process for the building of the University of Peace.

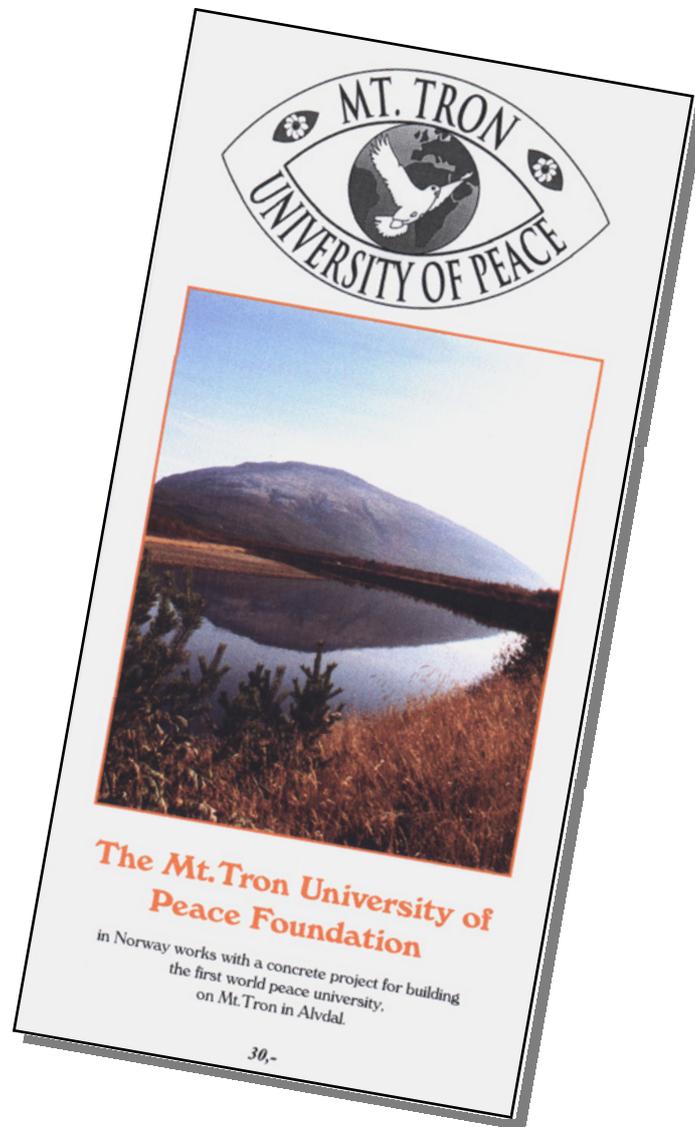


The monument on Mt.Tron. Here with Einar Beer a few days before the inauguration in 1979.

The road is ready on Mt.Tron

The road from the telecommunication tower to the site of the Avian Authorities on 'Tylldalstoppen' was commenced around the 10th of May and ended about one week later. According to the plan of the Avian Authorities the building work for the radar station has already started from the 1st of June. The construction work was stopped last summer because of lack of proper hearing of the case, and the Avian Authorities is therefore one year behind its original time-scheme. About NOK 25 million will be laid down on the mountain top before the station is in full operation from the New Year. The contractor Jan Inge Gjermundshaug, who has built the road, says to the local newspaper that the project is positive for the Mt.Tron road and that increasing activity on Mt.Tron dictates that this second highest car road in the country, has to be well maintained.

Folder about the University of Peace



Recently a folder about the Foundation's project for a university of peace at Mt. Tron, was made. Here you will get a general view of most of to-days situation about the University of Peace. Help us spreading information about the University of Peace!

Apart from particulars about the Foundation and the project, the folder contains particulars about the location of the University of Peace, and about idea and goal. You will also find information about the Foundation's newsletter "The Mt. Tron Mail".

The folder is printed in colour in large A3-format, and contains 5 photos from Mt. Tron, together with 3 sketches of the University of Peace. It costs NOK 30,-.

The publication can be obtained from **Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation, 2560 Alvdal, Norway**. You are welcome to send a fax or call on phone **+47 62 48 78 56**, or send an e-mail to **fredsuni@online.no**