

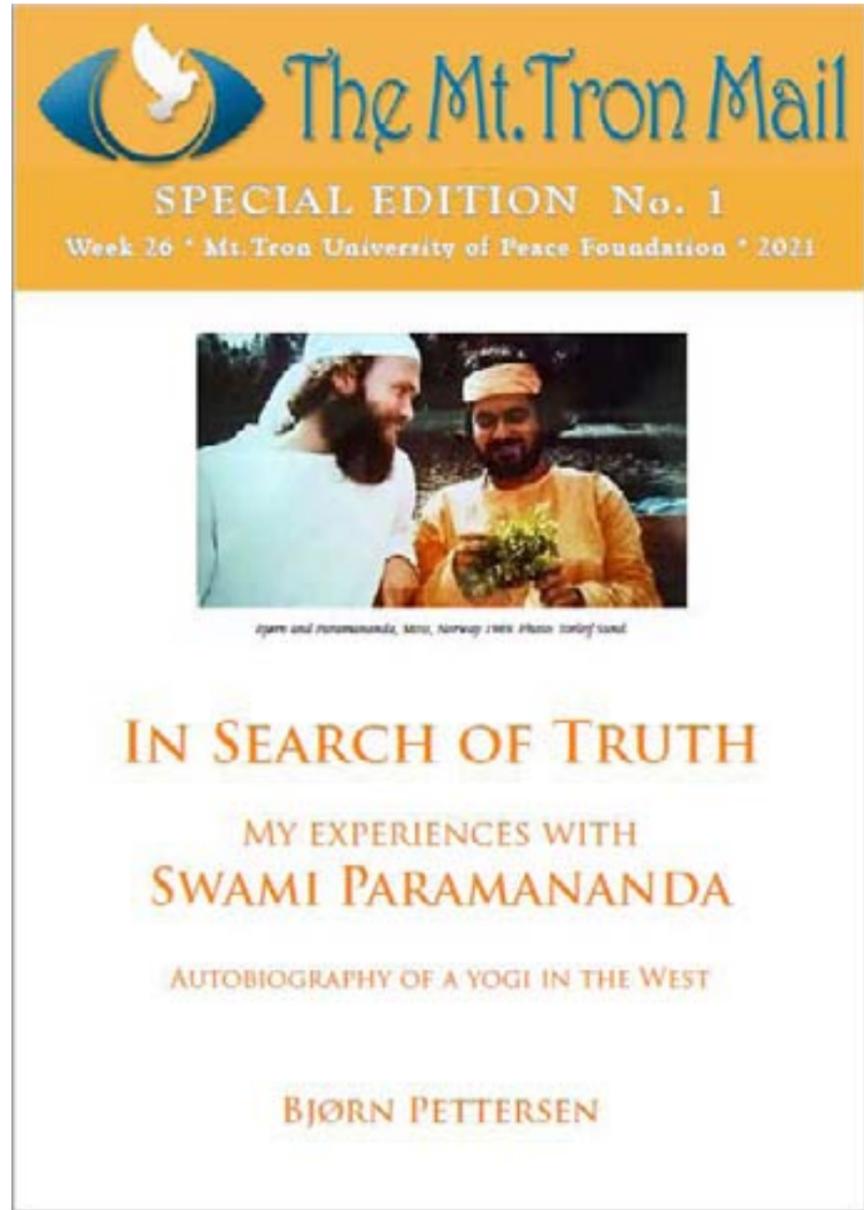


# The Mt. Tron Mail

June 2021 \* Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation \* No. 2 Vol. 24



# Announcing A New Special Edition of The Mt.Tron Mail!



## A SPECIAL EDITION – ON ITS WAY TO YOU!

Over the next year or so a special weekly edition of the The Mt.Tron Mail will feature Bjørn Pettersen's autobiography about his experiences with Swami Paramananda over 16 years, from 1983 to 1999. Now, finally, to be published for the first time, the full 260 text pages of the A4 manuscript will be reproduced here together with a huge number of selected photographs. All of this material will be completely new apart from a few photographs previously uploaded to the internet.

For ease of reading, the front page of every issue will have its own distinct cover photograph, and will display the issue and week number along with the title of the

book; the next page will always reproduce the information on author's rights; and page 3 will always show the full list of contents, showing all the sections and chapters of the whole book, with the chapters appearing in that issue underlined.

The book is divided into six sections. Each section has nine chapters. There is a Prologue, an Induction of six chapters and a Deduction of seven chapters, an Epilogue, and a Glossary of Sanskrit words, Bengali expressions and Indian names; Footnotes; and at the very end an Appendix about the Mt.Tron University of Peace.

## FAILING PUBLISHING HOUSES

While two of the bigger publishing houses in Norway declined to take up this book, experience, both nationally and internationally in relation to publication of the biography of Sri Ananda Acharya, makes it clear that, with a feeling of resignation about the increasingly failing publishing houses, it would be futile to offer it to others and better to abandon the traditional method and to publish in this way instead.

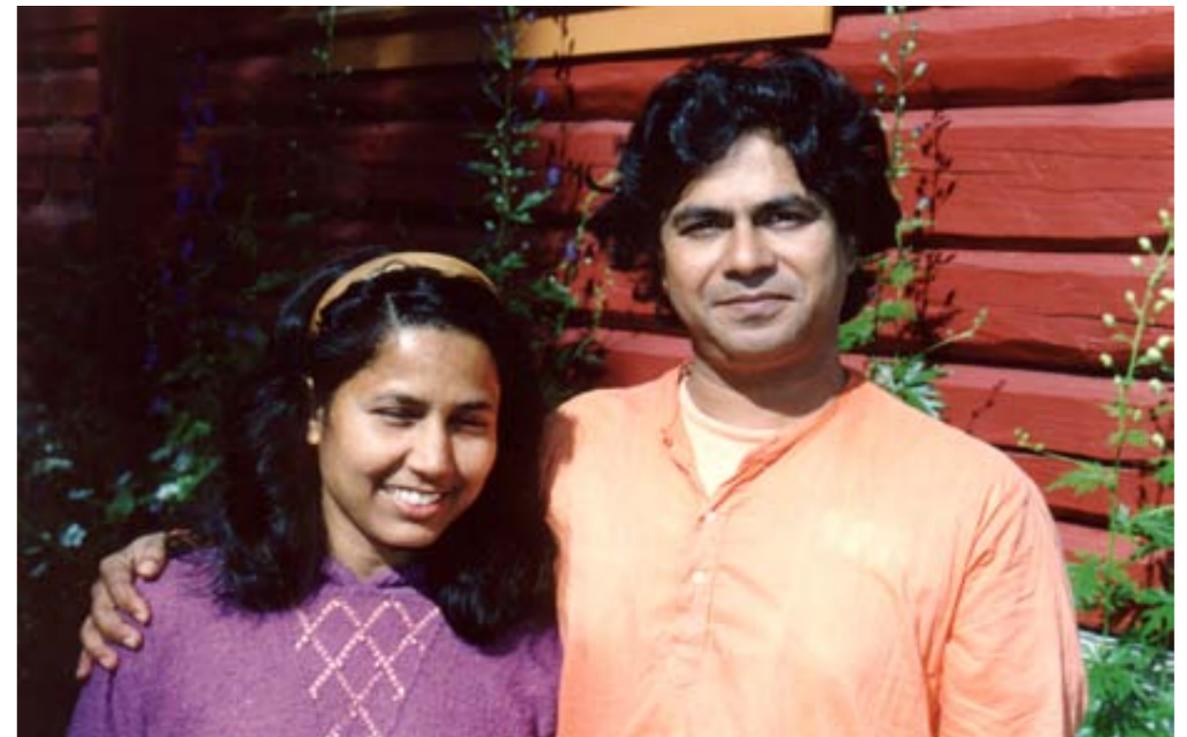
There is a lot of illegal cooperation among the big actors in the book market, and in Norway the biggest publishing houses have practically a monopoly on all the parts of the process, not the least in distribution. They are not serious in their great cultural responsibility of educating society, but seem to be motivated only by money and profit.

## FROM FRIEND TO FRIEND

Now, that the decision of publishing the book this way has been taken, it is a very good feeling and everybody who has been briefed about it, thinks it is a good idea.

The Mt.Tron University of Peace Foundation will thus be the publisher, and it will be distributed in PDF form free of charge to friends and interested persons all over the world. Very many, especially in India, have been waiting a long time for this book!

The intention is, eventually, to make a hard copy paper edition printed and published here in Norway, together with an international edition which will be available from Amazon.



Paramananda and Tripti Ma at Shantibu, Alvdal, Summer of 1993. Photo: BP.

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE

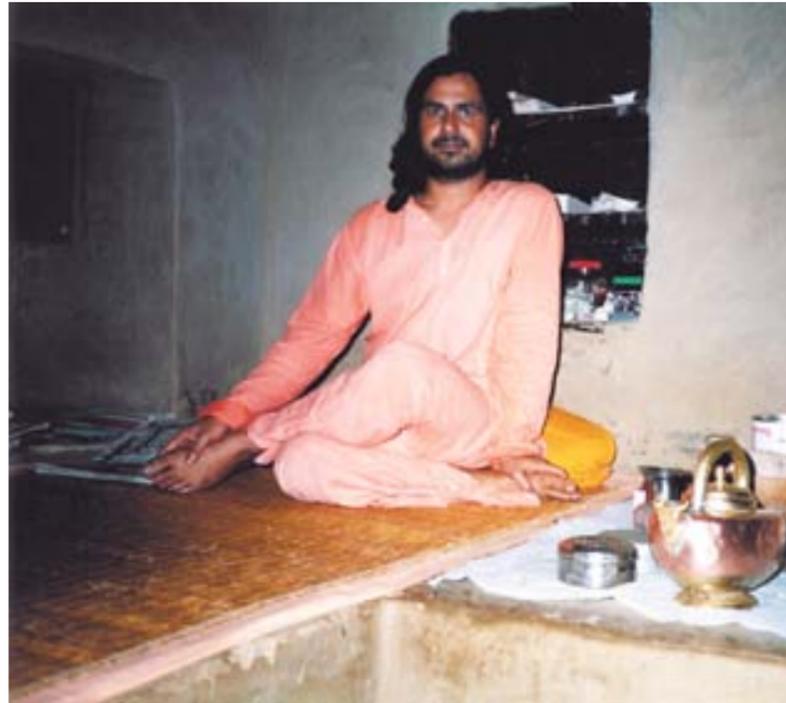
Apart from the fact that the book 'In Search of Truth' gives an account of the author's unique life history as a truth-seeker, it is primarily interesting for the self-experienced and intimate portrait it gives of one of the most remarkable human beings who has ever lived on this planet. Swami Paramananda is a one of a kind human like no-one else anywhere.

Through the portrayal in this book we get glimpses of his personality and universality, his unconditional love and unending wisdom. He may seem to be too good to be true, and many may object that such a human cannot exist. But here we can read a first-hand account, which is

only one of many existing among friends in India. What impressions he made on us who lived together with him is one thing - they will always be limited by the individual's understanding and capacity of expression - but another thing is **those words and the message that he wrote himself. This message is of the greatest importance for man of today and of the future.**

For the author it is an honour and a great privilege to be allowed to impart something of this here, not least that which he did *not* write himself, but asked Bjørn to pass on to humanity. Bjørn feels he can wait no longer for other channels of publication to open up, nor sit on this extremely important material for years, and it is hereby published in this way in full freedom.

## ... A New Special Edition ... (cont.)



*Paramananda in his simple, yet beautiful, small clay hut with straw roof, as is common on the countryside of Bengal. The picture is taken in his main ashram in Banagram, July 1990, after his one year stay in Norway 1989-90. Photo: BP.*

### A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE BOOK

By way of introduction to “In Search of Truth” Bjørn describes some of the most important happenings in his life prior to his first meeting with Paramananda, which were decisive about how they met. And we get a glimpse of how he came from **Tronvik** (beach) at Jeløy island by Moss to **Tronfjell** (Mt. Tron) in Alvdal.

The main content of the book presents Swami Paramananda to us, as we follow Bjørn’s interaction and being together with him, in India, in Norway, and in other European countries. The description of the first, unique meeting between them, on the platform at Burdwan Railway station in Bengal, has become a recurring story which “all” friends in India ask Bjørn to narrate again and again. We learn how Bjørn was initiated and how he learned the art of meditation - and, not least, how he learned to communicate mentally with Paramananda.

The journey to South India is described and how together they experienced Mummidivaram Balyogi, a “living Shiva” who until then had been sitting motionless for 44 years in meditation, without touching food or drink - an almost incredible happening of great importance. Bjørn’s falling ill with malaria and following stay alone in Omkaram, a desolate Shiva temple on the outskirts of a vast jungle among wild animals and wild indigenous people

who had never before seen a white man is fascinating reading.

We also get a close insight into Bjørn’s sadhana or truth-seeking, with all its problems and challenges, during a one year intense period at Shantibu, after he tried to commit suicide a second time but was “miraculously” saved by Paramananda in the nick of time and thereafter guided closely by him; until they meet again in India and Bjørn, by the grace of Paramananda, finally experiences what he has been searching for all the time, which causes a complete transformation in his spiritual life.

Bjørn’s cousin, Asgeir, who accompanied him to India twice, dies under tragic circumstances, and some of the nightmarish happenings in connection with that are described. After that, on return to Norway, Bjørn has an “extreme” experience at Shantibu which causes him to make a decision for the rest of his life and which he has followed ever since.

Later, another journey to India commences, this time with a mission to bring Paramananda to Norway. But before that, in the Himalayas, Paramananda teaches Bjørn about Baul. A teaching he says will be the new teaching for the world in the future and which he first describes as a combination of Wisdom-Yoga and Tantra. After that they fly together to Norway and it is the first time that Paramananda is outside the Indian subcontinent.

Shortly after the arrival in Norway and Alvdal, Paramananda narrates the incredible story of his life to four listeners at Shantibu. This story is so unique and fantastic as could possibly be, and all were listening reverently with rapt attention in silent amazement. Later, when he and Bjørn were alone at Shantibu, he also told about the rebirth of Anandacharya in Norway - something that first deeply upsets Bjørn, but which later gives him great relief.

During all of this first stay in Norway, which lasted a whole year, Paramananda taught Bjørn much about the Vedanta philosophy and about Baul, which he then explained as a combination of Wisdom-Yoga, Devotion-Yoga and Tantra-Yoga, which comprises the whole of the human being, intellectually, emotionally and sexually. During this first visit, there is a three month journey around Europe visiting friends, mainly by train, and a car journey with friends in Norway, first to the Western Coast and later to North Norway.

The first meeting with Tripti Ma (Samhita Prana, Paramananda’s first female disciple) is described earlier, and now, how on Paramananda’s advice, she later travels to Norway and how life at Shantibu changes from being a house of a hermit to becoming an active centre for truth-seekers from all over the world, especially during Paramananda’s second visit to Norway. After that the Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation is also established.

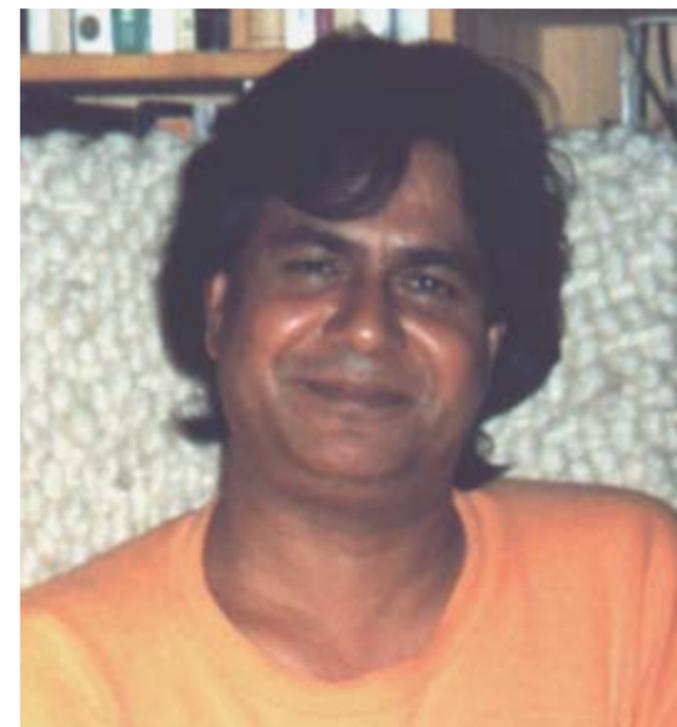
During Paramananda’s third visit to Norway the “Art of Life” course takes place and we get a concrete example of what the contents of the University of Peace will become in

the future. He gives a phenomenal course in which all the principles of his teaching are being dealt with, and for the very first time he allows Bjørn to take notes while he speaks.

When Paramananda comes for the fourth and last time to Norway he gives several messages and predictions, among others his own death, but also the death of Bjørn, together with talking in detail about the Third World War. Less than one and a half years later he leaves his physical body in India, and the dramatic circumstances, especially the immediate aftermath, are detailed.

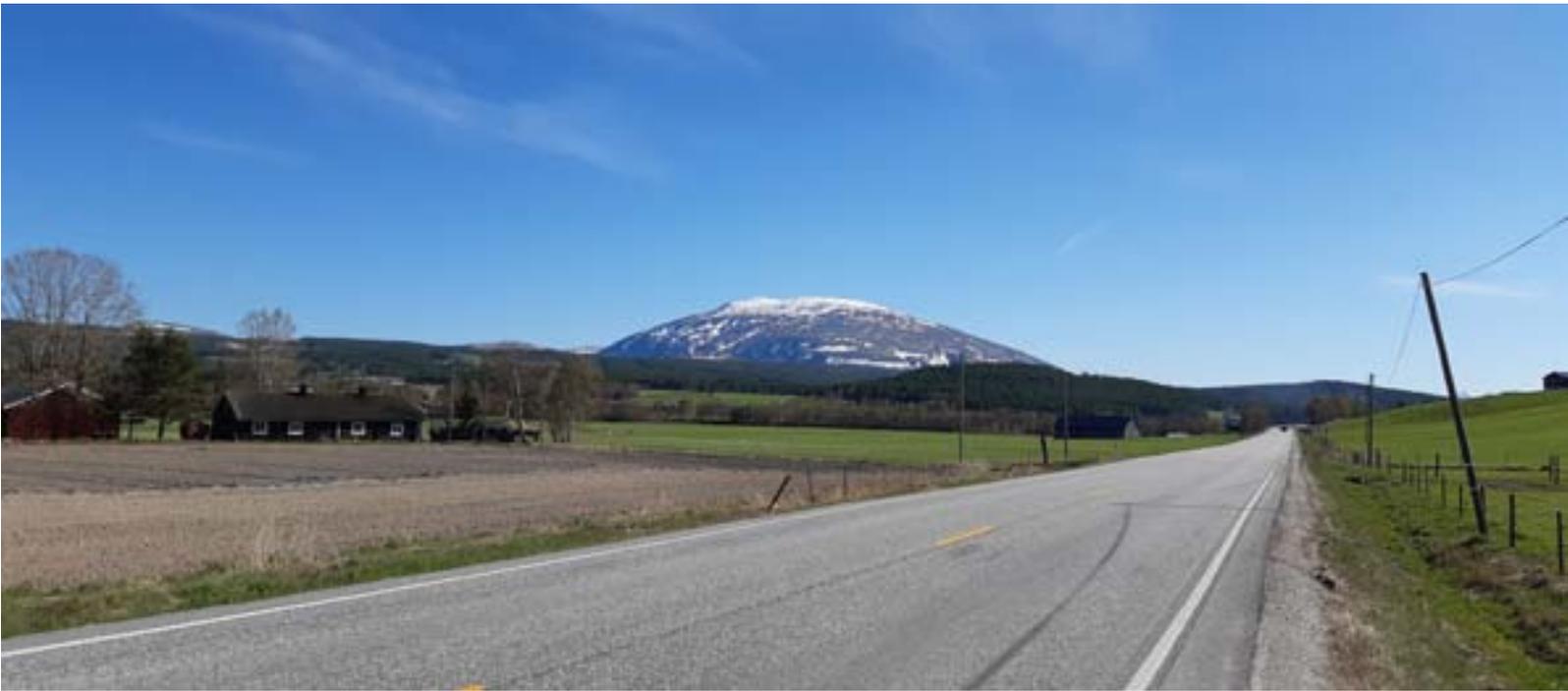
To conclude the presentation of Paramananda Bjørn sums up the essence of Paramananda’s teaching and gives his view of who or what is Paramananda. Lastly, Paramananda’s beautiful and grand poem “I” is reproduced, which surely has no equal in the literature of the world.

At the very end of the book is a broadly arranged ‘Deduction’, which in a way represents what the author has learnt from his search and his co-existence with Paramananda, not least during the years after Paramananda left his body. It is an honest attempt to try to build up intelligible concepts in the field of spirituality for our times, especially for the Western World. There is also a confrontation with superficial and easy (quick-fix) currents, from channeling and “spiritual circus” to meaningless attitudes and behaviour within the Neo Advaita Vedanta Movement, which totally dominates our present time. Finally, we get an insight into the author’s awareness and understanding of the purpose of life, based on his own realization.



*The very last picture of Paramananda in Norway, Oslo 1998. Photo: Knud Larsen.*

# Mt.Tron as seen from the main road at Tynset



*Mt.Tron as it meets you just south of Tynset town centre, when you drive southwards on the main road (RV 3) - a great landmark for the whole region. These pictures and the front picture taken on May 28th 2021 in the afternoon. Photo: BP.*

The Mt.Tron Mail - the newsletter for those interested in the establishing of the Mt.Tron University of Peace

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