

December 2017 * Mt.Tron University of Peace Foundation * No. 3-4 Vol. 20



Baral 100 år i Alvdal: 1917-2017

Swami Sri Ananda Acharya (1881-1945)

«Baral-days» at Tronsvangen Seter





Welcome to Baral-days!

«This year it is 100 years since Baral, Sri Ananda Acharya, came to Alvdal and Tronsvangen, and settled down here. This we want to celebrate by inviting all primary and secondary school children in Alvdal up to Tronsvangen Seter for a school day where you will get to know Baral, his history and philosophy, and his plans for a University of Peace on Mt.Tron.»

Thus read the first lines of the invitation and programme to all the primary and secondary schools of Alvdal. The initiative and arrangements came from teacher **Anne Thea Tronsmoen**, who successfully applied for the municipality of Alvdal to join the project. It ran through the last week of August and the first week of September (weeks 35 and 36), and altogether 338 pupils with their teachers, from 16 classes across all grades from 1 to 10, participated in what was a great success and very popular among both pupils and teachers.

Above to the left:

Pupils and teachers crossing the gate to Tronsvangen Seter to learn about Baral.

To the left:

Yoga class with Anne Thea (in blue) and Live (in red) in the conference hall, was particularly popular with the children. Here breathing exercises are going on. All photos: BP

Above this page:

Song and music with Erlend (with guitar) and Kent (with paper in hand).

Day programme at «Setra»

At first the children were welcomed in the conference hall where they were informed about the day's programme and were introduced to the hosts. After that the whole group was split in two where the one half tried yoga with Anne Thea and Live Ness in the conference hall, while the other went with Kent Gjøran Skaug Kristiansen and Erlend Becsan to the dining hall, for song and music with some of Baral's own compositions. After 45 minutes they swapped over so that both groups had the same experience . The class on yoga was introduced by an easy to follow survey on yoga by Bjørn Pettersen.

Afterwards there was a lunch break in the dining hall where Tripti Chatterjee («Tripti Ma») served samples of Indian food based on recipes from Baral's own cookery book. Then, after the school break, in the conference hall, Bjørn showed slides and told the whole group about the life of Baral and about the University of Peace on Mt.Tron. It was also time for putting many questions to Bjørn.

Lastly, the pupils had a practical test to illustrate how they experience 'peace' and when they feel most 'peaceful'.

«Baral-days» at Tronsvangen Seter (cont.)





Above to the left:

Above to the teft: Anne Thea (in front) serves 'kitchuri' (basmati rice cooked together with red lentils) with 'papad' (Indian fried bread), made by Tripti Ma, together with the dessert 'Wonderful experience' from Baral's Indian cookery book.

To the left:

The pupils enjoy themselves at the lunch break in the din-ing hall. Photo at the top of this page: Erlend Becsan. All other photos: BP

Topmost this page: Bjørn (in blue to the left) shows slides and tells about Baral and the University of Peace in the conference hall.

Above:

The hosts at Tronsvangen Seter, from left: Erlend Becsan, Heidi Gilhuus Johansen, Live Ness, Kirsten Møyner (re-treat visitor from Oslo in these days), Tripti Chatterjee, Anne Thea Tronsmoen and Kent Gjøran Skaug Kristiansen.

The jubilee celebration for Baral 16th September in Alvdal community centre



Jubilee celebration!

On Saturday 16th September at 1900 hrs it was finally time for the great event marking Baral's centenary jubilee in Alvdal community centre. Here Baral's arrival to the village in 1917 was celebrated with a grand gala performance for both locals and visitors newly gathered in the assembly hall.

When all were seated and settled, the lights in the hall were dimmed and beautiful music began to fill the space, while the curtain slowly went up and the spotlights were turned on the stage. Immediately a magical atmosphere was felt in the hall and up on the stage five musicians in harmonious interplay appeared: North-Eastern Valley's own musical duo **Hulbækmo and Jacobsen**, together with the Indian **Sahajpal family**. East meets West - the very symbol of Baral's arrival to the West with his message of friendship and peace. After this musical piece the deputy mayor **Mona Murud** performed the official opening with an enthusiastic and dignified, introductory speech in honour of Baral. She presented a small palm tree to the organiser on behalf of the municipality. Thereafter it was time for the evening's main speaker, the former mayor **Olov Grøtting**, who gave a most wonderful and memorable speech in which she drew the grand perspectives on the value of Baral for the village, a speech which afterwards was praised by many.

After that Hulbækmo/Jacobsen alone performed a piece of local folk music, before **Bjørn Pettersen** showed slides and told about the life of Baral. As an individual element during this performance, **Knut Stiklestad** read aloud from one of the chapters in the biographyof Baral, which Bjørn was then still working to complete and which will be published for Christmas.

Next there was a break during which coffee and cakes, together with Baral's speciality 'Wonderful experience' was served free for everyone. Many people had baked cakes which they presented to the celebration, and all of them are hereby most heartily thanked! Many also extended their help with the serving and otherwise in various ways to make the evening a great success - hearty thanks to all!

When the audience had come back to their seats, Tronsvangen Seter's very own "house pianist" **Atmasukha Ananda** (Knut Erik Jensen), together with Alvdal's own highly regarded opera singer **Knut Stiklestad**, performed poems by Baral for piano and song. Very original and wonderfully beautiful.

Then film maker Rune Schytte introduced and showed a trailer from the documentary he is making on Baral. This too was very well received by the audience.

Thereafter it was time for the **Sahajpal** family to perform their own chosen piece, and the female member of the family, **Rohini**, gave a clear and enlightening introduction to Indian music in general, and to their music for the evening in particular. She said that most of the music was improvised then and there. Impressive! They received a huge ovation.

Then **Knut Stiklestad** read aloud "The Hymn of Peace" by Baral, before the five opening musicians also concluded the whole performance together with fine interplay: The circle was closed! This was the celebration's great climax and 'grand finale', and the ovations afterwards knew no end - the audience rose to give a standing ovation that went on and on!

The time table was exceeded by a good margin: Instead of ending at 2130 hrs the celebration was not over until 2300 hrs!

Knut Stiklestad was master of ceremonies throughout the evening , leading the celebration with a firm hand.

The organizers were Swami Sri Ananda Acharya Trust, Mt.Tron University of Peace Foundation and Tronsvangen Seter Operation Inc.

The jubilee celebration for Baral 16th September in Alvdal community centre (cont.)



Olov Grøtting's great principal speech for Baral

Dear all,

How inconceivably thankful we here in Alvdal should be who have Baral and the University of Peace as a part of our history and culture.

It is such an amazing story. And whenever I tell it to people who have never heard it before, my own hairs are standing on end and people become incredibly fascinated, and then I am filled with wonder: Why Alvdal? How did he find this place? Why did he settle down here? What made Einar Beer and the two English ladies follow him? They all came from very different circumstances and environments. What was it that led them here?

Yes, obviously the spiritual. But still there are many questions. Baral must have been a very special person with a very special gift, about this there is no doubt.

In many ways this is such a beautiful and peculiar story. Such a story that very few are favoured to participate in. But here in the village of Alvdal we are. Therefore it is great to participate in this centenary jubilee for Baral's arrival in Alvdal.



Master of ceremonies Knut Stiklestad, in front to the left, introducing the musicians: From left, Tone Hulbækmo, harp and lyre; Jan Fredrik Jacobsen, flute and guitar; Jai Shankar, tabla; Shri Lal Sahajpal, violin; and Rohini, sitar. Shri Lal runs a school for Indian music in Oslo, and the son, Jai Shankar, as a youth, was one of the first to win a talent competition on Norwegian television. **Above to the left:** Former mayor Olov Grøtting giving her principal speech, beside the palm tree presented by the municipality of Alvdal. All video clips (also previous pages): BP

And it is a great honour to be asked to say some words on this occasion.

Imagine 100 years back in time. Everything that has happened in these 100 years. That time there was no internet or social media bombarding us with impressions from the whole world. It was long before television made its entrance. Yes, even radio came a little later. Only in 1925 did the broadcasting corporation get the concession to broadcast in Eastern Norway. However, newspapers flourished.

The impressions one received at that time were most likely quite limited. Some wayfarers like travellers and gypsies must have been there. And some tourists after the Røros railway line was opened in 1877. But foreigners with a little darker skin and different clothing - no, that was rather unusual.

Baral must have been a very exotic element in the otherwise stalwart village of Alvdal.

Odd Sevilhaug wrote in his book "The Villager's own Family Album": "It was a breath of mysticism and strange culture that came to the village with the arrival of Swami Sri Ananda Acharya. In daily speech he was called 'Baral', which was something of his name - or also 'Professor Baral'. Elderly people told what a grand sight it was when as a young man he came riding on his white horse Valkari. He made many a young maiden's heart beat faster."

It would have been strange if, using modern terminology, Baral should have been integrated into society immediately. But we can imagine that people were curious about this exotic newcomer, and certainly also a bit sceptical. No, this was no everyday event in this village.

Kjell Aukrust describes this in a very nice way in a radio interview: "To see Baral riding on his white horse with turban, long hair and beard, and flowing, orange, silk robes, yes, that was the fairytale for the children of Alvdal." I think it was the fairytale for far more people of this village.

But what is incredibly positive and gratifying is that Baral was held in very high esteem and highly respected among neighbours at Tronsvangen and among villagers of Alvdal and the district. This is written by Bjørn Pettersen in his publication marking 60 years since the passing away of Baral.

Baral received lots of people at Gaurisankar Seter. School classes, groups and organizations visited him, and he was enormously popular among children who certainly heard lots of exciting things from him. I heard myself about this in my childhood - a story I felt was incredibly exciting.

The tradition of receiving children was kept up by Einar Beer. My husband grew up around here, and the children of the neighbourhood found great pleasure in dropping in on Beer while growing up. Especially when sledging downhill in Tronsvanglia at winter time, then it was fun to drop in. There they had tea, raisins, exciting stories about Baral - and a little breath of the fairytale.

That Baral was well received in the village, says a lot about Baral as a person. But I also hope and believe that it also says a little about the villagers of Alvdal. Perhaps we are not as reserved as we believe. Perhaps we are not so afraid of meeting new people and new cultures. At least I hope so. (*Cont. next page*) Because it is highly necessary in today's society to be open towards other people and cultures. In a world where many are on the run and have to flee their houses and homes in war-torn areas. Where they have to escape to be amongst foreigners, far away in dark and cold winters, in Europe, in Norway and to places like Alvdal.

In many ways the world has come closer to us now than a 100 years ago, and we know so much more about what is happening out in the world. As a young adult, after high school, it is common for today's youth to go on long travels around the world. Our modern times sailing around the world, which is nearly for all - only that now they are going by aircraft. They work a little on the way, meet people from all over the world and have fun. And many go out into the world to study. In the most popular places of study, in Australia and other places, the campuses are multinational communities. We really have to expect that this interaction between young people from various countries, continents and cultures creates increasing understanding and a better foundation for peace.

And from a micro perspective in our little part of the world, it should contribute to our becoming better in receiving people who need to come here - to quiet and safe Norway and Alvdal. I mean that the story of Baral shows that if we could receive people from other parts of the world a 100 years ago, we certainly can manage to do that today.

The University of Peace is the most important and the most wonderful part of the story about Baral. Bjørn writes in his publication that when Baral came to Tronsvangen and to Mt.Tron, the memories of his childhood's great vision about the University of Peace reappeared. In this vision he had the idea that all nations should come together and bring Peace permanently to the earth by establishing the great University of Peace.

A vision is often defined as a dream. An attainable dream we never cease to pursue. And Baral's vision is so exceedingly good, and so beautiful. The vision of permanent peace on earth - I think it must be shared by all people. And if one reaches that dream of peace on earth, one must always pursue further to accomplish permanent peace. That is why this vision is so immensely good.

Many are of the opinion that there is less warfare today than earlier. Many times it seems like there is more, but perhaps we have only felt it a bit closer through all the media coverage and migration over longer distances. But really it is of no importance if there is more or less warfare now than before. It is TOO MUCH war and terror. And there are too many and too powerful destructive weapons, which are managed by too dangerous people. Those weapons existing today, they are so universally destructive, and in the hands of some of the most dangerous leaders in the world it may have catastrophic consequences.

The world does not need war, weapons and terror. The world does not need leaders where one is more megalo-

maniac, despotic and dangerous than the other. What we need is peace. The world needs understanding between religions, nations and people. The world needs leaders who are communicating across religions, cultures and nations, and tie the bonds of friendship.

The world also needs that all people at the local level, the micro level, are open to people from other cultures and nations. Each and every one of us has our own responsibility for that. We also therefore need the University of Peace - however it is filled up and however it will be functioning. The world needs such a place.

Baral wanted the University of Peace to be located at Mt.Tron. For a long time that seemed completely unattainable. In the municipal land use map for Alvdal we succeeded in regulating an area on Mt.Tron for the University of Peace. That was one of the best things that happened while I was mayor. That was a first and an important step in the right direction for realizing Baral's vision and dream. Still, much remains to be done, like buying property and financing. It may seem unattainable today or at least difficult. But nothing is impossible.

As is well known Baral said himself around 1920 that the University of Peace would come in a 100 years' time. So perhaps we are encountering some really exciting years where much can happen.

Imagine if we could realize the University of Peace. Think what it would mean, for Alvdal, for the Eastern Valley, for Norway. It would really place our small place on the world map, and it would create much activity. Settlement and employment. All these worldly things which we who are elected for the municipalities are occupied with. But most important of all is: Think what it would mean for peace in the world.

I have also a dream: That is that in the University of Peace up on Mt.Tron, leaders of the Middle East will be meeting for peace talks and become reconciled. There leaders from other troubled parts of the world shall meet. And there also some of the world's most powerful men and women will meet for talks - about what they can do to make peace and reconciliation in the world.

Think if this could be a reality. Yes, then this exciting and incredibly wonderful story about the Indian philosopher who travelled nearly around the world, and who ended up here at little Alvdal and settled down at Tronsvangen 100 years ago. Yes, then this story would have an incredible ending. That also would be the wonderful beginning of something new!

Good luck with the 100-years jubilee everyone.

Documentary film about Baral



New film collaboration

As there is more than one person who wishes to make a film about Baral these days, Rune Schytte at Baldurfilm is starting a collaboration with Halvor Mykleby at Firbeintfilm og TV, and the award-winning TV producer Arild Halvorsen at Fabelaktiv. The intention is to make vor Mykleby (to the conversation in the small living room at

a production in the TV format of 2 x 52 minutes, where Rune Schytte is the director and has "final cut". Halvor Mykleby is a nature photographer and will mainly supply nature scenes for the film. The film's script will be based on Bjørn Pettersen's biography: "Baral - The Sage on Mt.Tron".



Bjørn Pettersen

TRØNFJELL FREDSUNIVERSITET

SWAMI SRI ANANDA ACHARYA (1881-1945), eller bare *Baral*, som han heter på folkemunne i Nord-Østerdalen, var en av de mest bemerkelsesverdige personene som levde i Norge i det forrige århundre. Likevel er hans liv og virke nærmest fullstendig ukjent for de aller fleste.

Her kommer den utrolige historien om hans dramatiske liv ut, som en helhetlig fortelling for aller første gang. Dette er hans, og hans tre nærmeste disiplers, egen fortelling - i deres egne ord - om livet i India, i England og i Norge.

Boka inneholder både en biografi og en antologi. De fleste av hans mange verker er presentert med utdrag. Der får vi smakebiter fra en stor og variert litterær produksjon, med særlig mange diktsamlinger, hvor vi finner diktning som har høstet den høyeste anerkjennelse.

Barals liv og virke har hatt avgjørende påvirkning på våre liv og vår tilværelse, og det er først nå med denne boka at dette blir kjent for allmenheten.



INNHOLD

10.000	1
rorord	 ε.

BIOGRAFI

Kulturen som skapte Sri Ananda	15
Baral-familien, fødsel og barndom	19
Skolegang og utdannelse	33
Innvielse i sannyasa	49
Ungdomstid, opprør og vandringer i India	55
Professorat i Burdwan	67
Vendepunkt i Himalaya	
Reisen til Europa	
Stor nød og sult i London	82
Tilflukt i Norge	. 111
Gaurisankarseter på Tronsvangen	. 137
Sviket med Ramayana	. 161
Den store spiritistkonspirasjonen	187
Gamlehjem for dyr på Tronsvangen	
Forholdet til Roald Amundsen	209
Profetien om verdenskrigene – og om den rådende materialismen	. 214
Dagliglivet på Gaurisankarseter og vennskapet med bygdefolk	. 220
Fredsuniversitetet på Tron	
Personlige transformasjoner	. 244
«Baralstjerna» og 2. verdenskrig	. 249
Samadhi og gravlegging på Tron	263
Liv og misjon	
Etterord	283

ANTOLOGI

The Samhita
Vikramorvasi
Brahmadarsanam
Tattvajnanam
Gaurisankarguha
Snow-Birds
Kalkaram
Karlima Rani
Usarika
Saki
Cakra Sakha
Muktikanyaka
Yoga of Conquest
Valmiki: <mark>Ram</mark> ayānā
Indledning til indisk kokekunst
Profetinde Mudgàljani
Girirani
Arctic Swallows
Vild-Svaner
Sara and Other Poems
Samadhi Poems
Autumn Rains
She of the Pearl and Ruby Roses
Life & Nirvana
The Philosophy of the Upanishads

410
413
419
427
14 20 202

The Triplicity of Spiritual Manifestationt By Bjørn Pettersen

Tittel: Baral - Vismannen på Tronfjell Swami Sri Ananda Acharya En biografi og antologi

Forfatter:

Bjørn Pettersen

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted by any means without the written permission of the author.

Utgitt av:

Tronfjell Fredsuniversitet 2017

Tronsvangen Seter Drift AS Tronsvanglia 238 2560 Alvdal www.tronsvangenseter.no

Tekniske opplysninger: ISBN 978-82-690326-1-1

1. utgave, 1. opplag: 1000 ex. Sats - Adobe Garamond Pro 11 / 14 p; Monotype Corsiva Papir - Munken Print Cream 100 g Layout - Adobe InDesign (av forfatteren) Trykk - Lasertrykk AS, Danmark Omslag - © Bjørn Pettersen

Tidligere utgivelser fra samme forlag og forfatter: Universell religion - Essensiell religionsforståelse, 2016

For videre informasjon om forfatteren og hans arbeid, se: www.shantibu.no www.tronuni.org

New book publication

The four preceding pages are devoted to the new book publication at Mt.Tron University of Peace, and pages 12 and 13 shows the dust cover's front and back pages in almost actual size. The next two pages, 14 and 15, shows the table of contents, and above on this page we see the so-called "colophon". The book, so far is only published in Norwegian, has 470 pages and 74 photographs in black and white, and is completely "homemade". The language checking is, as usual, voluntarily undertaken by high school teacher Stein Farstad from Lillehammer, who, as always, is an invaluable help to all literary publications from here! At the time of writing the book is at the printer and is expected to be out by Christmas.

The publishing of the biography on Baral is a great event, and after fully 100 years with ignorance and myths, it is about time for a clear account about his life.

How can we understand if a person is spiritual? We tend to think that a person who is very diligently reading sacred texts and holy books, or is very devoted to the worship of holy beings, must be a very spiritual person. Or if anyone is doing ardent *tapasya* or penance, or has developed supernatural powers and can perform miracles. Or if he or she is dressed in holy robes, wearing the holy ornaments, having a holy name and title, or having plenty of charisma and oratory, and perhaps also having a huge organization with a huge following and lots and lots of money ... We easily think that anyone showing these signs must be a spiritual person - but can we be so certain?

In evolution, after manifesting *manush* or the human being, it takes four million life-cycles as human to develop *vivek*, conscience, and *vairagya*, renunciation, which makes us *devata* or superhuman. And still another four million life-cycles as *devata* are necessary to manifest *prem* or unconditional love, and *jñan*, or unending wisdom, which makes us *rishi* or realized. But all are looking alike as humans and are living on different levels of evolution - some are quite fresh from the animal kingdom while others are extremely experienced in the human body. Then how to understand spiritual manifestation?

Swami Paramananda has given us some simple and very clear clues. He says that before even thinking about **spirituality** there have to be **naturality** and **humanity**: On the basis of naturality, humanity can manifest, and on the altar of humanity, spirituality may manifest. That means that first we have to be natural, i.e. simply being ourselves without pretence or superficiality; and then we ought to be human, showing humanity towards all life. How can anyone be spiritual without humanity - without loving-kindness, friendship and an altruistic way of life? Thus spirituality can only manifest after naturality and humanity have manifested firmly in our lives.

Then comes the trinity of spiritual life which Paramananda made the very basis of his mission, and which are the leading stars of our spiritual quest and life: *Truth*, *Love* and *Sacrifice*.

Truth means always endeavor to find the truth in all things or behind all things, and never cheat anybody by lies and untruths, but always be conscientious, sincere and truthful both towards oneself and others.

Love means always having compassion towards all living beings, and doing to others what you would want others to do towards you. To be humble towards life as such, and to show ability for both forgiveness and devotion, and relating to all on equal terms, not making differences between people.

Sacrifice means always to be ready for unconditionally giving the very best of yourself for others, without consideration for your own advantage, gain or cost. It is Truth and Love made practical!

Without the vibrant presence of these three there can be no spirituality - they equally depend on each other and no one can be without the other two. They represent the harmony of the three levels or dimensions of human life: material, mental and spiritual or head, heart and muscle, or again causal, subtle and physical or creation, sustention and transformation. When a person has Love and Wisdom, the effect or practical outcome is Sacrifice. So if you want to understand anything about a person's spirituality, look for his or her will and tendency for sacrifice!

Then, when these three are the very breath and nourishment of our spiritual life, and when in nature the triguna or three constituents of tama (material) and raja (ideal) are set to work on sattva or spiritual only, the individual may transcend the three dimensions of life itself, which everyone is passing through every day and night throughout life: sushupti or un-conscious, swapna or sub-conscious, and jagrata or waking conscious. In the transcendence of turiya - from jiva to Shiva - all manifestations vanish and the human being has come back to its source, beyond individual and even universal. It is blissfully termed in human language as the threefold Sat-Chid-Ananda Brahman or existence, knowledge and bliss absolute. After this nirvikalpa samadhi or unconditional union with the Absolute, the individual lives by seeing the One in all and the All in the one.

Baral - Vismannen på Tronfjell

Ordered at: www.tronsvangenseter.no







The Mt. Tron Mail -

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

 Publisher:
 Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation

 Editor:
 Bjørn Pettersen

 (Chairman of the Foundation)

 Issues:
 Quarterly (4 times a year)

 Languages:
 Norwegian and English

 Prices:
 Subscription of support NOK 350,-/year

 US\$ 50,-/year
 € 44,-/year

© Mt.Tron University of Peace Foundation

Address:"Shantibu", 1Telephone:+47 62 11 36E-mail:shanti@tromInternet:www.tronumOrganization No:990 106 118IBAN:NO94 1895 1BIC-address:SHEDNO22Bank name:Sparebanken

"Shantibu", 2560 Alvdal, Norway +47 62 11 36 91 shanti@tronuni.org www.tronuni.org 990 106 118 NO94 1895 2650 935 SHEDNO22 Sparebanken Hedmark

At the top:

Panorama of Mt.Tron with the river Glomma in the foreground, seen from the municipality of Tynset on 14.08.2017 at 1019 hrs.

Above:

Panorama of Tronsvangen, Alvdal Vestfjell and Rondane, seen from «The Ladder to Heaven» up to Sørkletten on Mt.Tron, on 27.08.2017 at 0902 hrs.

To the left:

Sølnkletten in Alvdal Vestfjell enlarged from the same picture as over. All photos: BP