



Lama Ole Nydahl

Bodh Gaya, 21 December 2016

Great and noble friends and students everywhere,

The blessing of our lineage has been strongly felt during this Fire-Monkey year, and it has certainly been a great experience for many friends in our 700 Diamond Way centers worldwide. The wisdom of our noble Rinpoches was evident, as were countless luck-bringing signs along the way.

Retreats – especially those which break long and intensive periods of activity – create vast opportunities for manifesting what one has already learned, and further develop one’s potential. I was requested to activate such richness – this time by Maniwa Sherab Gyaltzen Rinpoche, and the closed and prolonged meditation retreat also included the power to protect our lineage. It developed the independence and human qualities of students. Most importantly for daily life, it strengthened and prolonged our activity for the future and increased what is good and positive in the world. No discovery can be greater than that!

Here follow some of the highlights of this year and experiences and reflections from this retreat, which felt like a Buddha’s pure land, a deeply inspiring environment for all to learn.

February 2016 marked the start of the auspicious Monkey year of the Tibetan calendar. Many lamas and teachers were advised not to travel but to stay in one place and practice, benefiting people and cultivating important meditations and interactions. Therefore, my activity for a part of this year has been to share the bliss and inspiration of retreats. During this time of focus, it was a true fulfillment to recognize that Hannah's and my examples could activate growing numbers of friends who would carry on working with our experience of so many years. Seeing that the potential is limitless, we can do even more.

The fine developments we started with Marta and Adam's film about Hannah manifested strikingly this year. The film has touched more than 15,000 people at over 130 screenings around the world since 2014. It is a real support to our work and the seeds "Hannah" is planting will reveal themselves as a vast net of enlightenment. It will constantly benefit beings everywhere.

Necessary changes to the Diamond Way Foundation were introduced by new by-laws. The board of directors is now balanced by a supervisory board. The main points of our re-worked structures promote temporary positions, transparency and accountability, broad representation, and shared responsibility. Such fine principles also apply to the functioning of our Diamond Way centers and work worldwide.

As the history of our precious teachers shows, travelling has always been the blessing of our Kagyu lifestyle. Our tour continued as usual, and the encounter with the South-West of the US in June was explosive bliss. Dakini Ranch – as always – manifested its magical powers and unexpected playfulness.

Back in Poland, during the Kuchary course, my meditation retreat was announced, and my wife, Ale, and I went into a closed four-months. Our program went on, taken over by our magnificent Diamond Way teachers and with excellent results.

The Buddha Hala extension in Warsaw was completed, while The Beaufoy in London continues to be restored through the heroic efforts of skillful friends. A big center in Bratislava is coming to life, and we just received enthusiastic news of our long-awaited retreat land in brave Israel. May they have full success in their important activity!

“Fearless Death” was published in Vietnamese, and “The Way Things Are” soon comes out in Chinese, bringing absolute and timeless teachings to such extensive and Buddhist cultures.

The year ended with a powerful blessing of our lineage during the Kagyu Monlam in Bodh Gaya, guided by Thaye Dorje, the 17th Gyalwa Karmapa.

Our work continues to grow and we celebrate the anniversaries of ever more centers in over sixty countries. This is my biggest gift to all – to share with so many friends how effectively Buddha’s teachings develop beings. And how history moves and the seeds planted forty-five years ago through the blessing of the great 16th Karmapa Rangjung Rigpe Dorje and today’s Karmapa Thaye Dorje grow without end.

All these are rings of our openness and hooks of blessing, freeing people and powerfully benefiting all.

There will be enough to do!

Yours, Lama Ole and Ale



P.S. May we meet often!