

ARYA MAITREYA MANDALA

VENERABLE LAMA ANAGARIKA GOVINDA, ACHARYA,
KASAR DEVI ASHRAM, P. O. DINAPANI (DIST. ALMORA) KUMAON HIMALAYA, INDIA.
August 22, 1971.



Dear Dick,

I was just about to send you the ^{enclosed} review I wrote on Suzuki Roshi's book for THE MOUNTAIN PATH (Tiruvannamalai) and "DER KREIS" (Germany), when your welcome letter of Aug. 10 reached us. Thank you very much! We had hoped to meet you in Japan on our way to the U.S., but since we could not get any suitable sea-passage via Japan, we finally had to give up this plan and have now booked a passage on a Dutch Cargo-liner, leaving from Calcutta towards the middle of October and reaching Los Angeles towards the end of November. We shall first stay in the San Francisco area and hope to visit also Tassajara (if possible), then move to British Columbia for a seminar at the "Cold Mountain Institute" on Cortes Island and a lecture at the University of Vancouver. From the middle of January to the middle of May we shall be at the university of Dallas (SMU) where I shall teach as a guest professor for one semester. My subject will be "The Historical & Spiritual Development of Buddhism". After that we shall be in the Chicago and New York area, and in July 1972 we intend to leave the U.S. for Europe where we hope to spend two months before returning to India via South Africa, where many people expect our visit. So far our program.

David Weinrib and his wife lived in our neighborhood for quite a long time and attended our Satsangs (religious lectures and discussions). They also met us privately a few times during May and June, before they left for Europe. David's camera was stolen and so they had to give up their film work. Also Henry and Ruth Denison are in Europe as far as we know.

You ask about "Shambala". I have a somewhat mixed impression about them. They published my "Way of the White Clouds" ~~with a~~

paperback.

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with a very poor cover design - contrary to their promise to consult me about it - and the illustrations were so badly reproduced as to be almost valueless. Then they asked me to write an introduction to H.V. Guenther's "Yuganaddha, the Tantric Way of Life" and informed me one or two years later that Guenther had decided to publish ^{instead} another book with them with an introduction by Trungpa Rimpoche, who recently has come into the public limelight through clever lectures and several scandals (Alan Marlowe called him "the most depraved man he ever met"). Recently I sent to Mr. Bergholz (Editor of "Maitrīya" and Director of Shambala) a manuscript on "Consciousness Expansion Versus Concentration" in which I explained the difference between drug-experience and meditation. The manuscript was returned to me (probably because I criticised the misuse of LSD for meditational purposes) under the pretext that the subject did not fit into the theme of the next issue of "Maitreya". I, therefore, refrained from sending them a copy of my review of Roshi's book, as I had originally intended. - After all these experiences I am glad that I refused to publish my next book (which is still unfinished) under the Shambala imprint. I have made contracts instead with QUEST BOOKS (U.S) and Allen & Unwin (for the British Commonwealth).

I quite agree with you in what you say about Japan. It has contributed many beautiful things to Buddhism and is a most interesting country from which we can learn a great deal, but as you say "Japan is much too tribal to be a place for an outsider to study Buddhism". I am, therefore, particularly glad, that you and Roshi have created a place in Tassajara, in which the good things we can learn from Japan are transformed into something that can be assimilated by the American people and Westerners in general. I hope that something similar can be done for Tibetan Buddhism, ~~w~~ without falsifying its essential tradition or betraying its spirit (as Trungpa seems to do) and without trying merely to imitate outer forms which were superimposed by "tribal" customs and beliefs.

We very much hope to meet you either in the States or on your intended pilgrimage to India. I am looking forward to a fruitful exchange of ideas and experiences and a co-operation in the field of establishing a viable form of Buddhism in the West.

Yesterday Baba Ram Das came to see us together with two of his chela and we discussed a similar subject. Much, much work is still to be done!

With love and all good wishes to You and Ginny and Sally from us both, Always Yours

Lama Gourinda