

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The study of Buddhist philosophy and practice in the Himalayan regions, namely Nepal, Tibet, Bhutan and Central Asia, is now an important topic in the curricula of modern universities. It has led to significant changes in popular thinking, and research in this field has already done much to benefit humankind.

Newar and Tibetan Buddhism are the two main living manifestations of Indian Buddhism which have survived till the present day. The great efforts of the learned Buddhist masters of Tibet has kept the torch of the true dharma alight. On the other hand, because of the utter neglect of the ruling parties and the outside world, Newar Buddhism is fast disappearing. The glory of Newar Buddhism is coming to an end due to the lack of support from learned Buddhist masters. Nowadays the practice and study of the Mahāyāna and Vajrayāna in Newar Buddhist monasteries has almost been lost.

We wish to remind scholars that the Newar Vajrayāna Buddhism that exists here in Nepal has a unique character, and its potential to benefit humanity has barely been appreciated. To give just one example, the Ādikarma Bodhisattva tradition propounded by Bodhisattvas and masters such as Śāntideva is still surviving. The Ādikarmapradīpa composed by Ācārya Anupamavajra is just one example of an Indian text that the Newar tradition preserves as a living practice.

We have selected some articles from learned authors in Nepal as well as abroad. We would like to hear readers' comments and suggestions for the improvement of the journal. We apologize for any mistakes or errors.

We regret that there has been such a long gap in publication since the last issue was published in the year 2000. However, we are finally publishing again, and we wish to thank scholars and those who have contributed articles or financial support. We would like to express our gratitude to Iain Sinclair and Michael Smith for proof-reading the articles.

We will continue to appreciate your support in the future.

Min Bahadur Shakyā
Editor in chief