

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

After the Chinese takeover of Tibet, there seems to be an increasing trend of Tibetan refugees taking shelter in Nepal where they could find their asylums as their own homeland. More Buddhist monasteries have been built by Tibetans in gigantic scale than local Nepalese Buddhist themselves.

In Bodhnath Stupa area alone more than forty monasteries have been built. Almost all the Tibetan Buddhist sects can be found here. In some Monasteries Tibetan teachers and Lamas provide Buddhist Studies for westerners only rather than for local Nepalese. For example, Kopan monastery was famous for its academic study and meditation courses since 1972. Many Buddhist scholars have appeared since its formative years.

Since 1985 Rangjung Yeshe Institute of Bodhnath has conducting its annual seminar where hundreds of westerners participates and takes benefit from the seminar teaching and meditation. In the similar manner, Namo Buddha seminar is functioning since late eighties.

In all these academic courses the program has been designed to fit the western audience only. It is true that their contribution has made Bodhnath Stupa and its surrounding area, a Vatican of Tibetan Buddhism.

But who is going to educate Nepalese people about Buddhism? Here our own Nepalese government is taking little interest in preserving our own Buddhist heritage not to speak of supporting for Buddhist cause. Even if foreign donors are ready for helping to establish Buddhist college or University our government is reluctant to accept them or just prohibit them. Unless Nepalese people themselves are well educated on Buddhism and its essential practices how can they defend their own tradition and culture? How can they preserve their tradition for the posterity?

Nepal is known to outside world through two ways. One is Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha. Sad to say that there is not a single step taken by the government for the furtherance of Buddhist cause. See the situation in Lumbini where a Buddhist monk was shot dead. But the government is taking indifferent attitude to find out the real criminals.

The believers and scholars of the Buddhist world are invited to consider the situation of Buddhism in Nepal. The Buddhist heritage of Nepal today belongs not only to Nepal, it belongs to the whole world. Is it not the ripe time for International Buddhists to give a thought about it? It is the cry of Buddhists of Nepal in the Himalayan region.