

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The Buddhist Himalaya as mentioned previously is one of the several projects of the Nagarjuna Institute to promote Buddhist studies concerning Nepal as well as the other Himalayan regions. It deals with the subject of Buddhist Philosophy, Art and Iconography, Buddhist History, Biographical accounts of eminent Buddhist masters, Buddhist Monuments, Festivals and Manuscripts. In this issue too, we have chosen the articles keeping our aim in view.

Two articles about Bodhisattva practices came from Ven. Lama Thubtan Zopa Rinpoche, founder of FPMT centers and Gelongma Thubten Chodroen. The death of the famous Nyingma Guru Ven. Dilgo Khentse Rinpoche had been a topic which was often discussed in the news of Nepalese journals. Ven. Konchog Tendzin has furnished us about his activities in Nepal for further information.

Nepal being the place where two streams of culture Hinduism and Buddhism unite. There are many metamorphic trends of Hindu Tantrism and Vajrayana Buddhism thereby creating a general misunderstanding and misconception about the nature of Vajrayana Buddhism among the followers of Buddhism themselves especially Theravada believers. With a view to eliminate these misconceptions Mr. Sridhar Rana, himself an expert in Hindu Tantrism and a staunch practitioner of Tibetan Vajrayana Buddhism have presented his views on his articles, "Vajrayana Buddhism and Hindu Tantrism". These articles were published in *Sunday Despatch - Weekly* sporadically in different issues covering a period of five months. We are gladly thankful to the publisher and the editor of Sunday Despatch for granting us permission to reprint the articles in completeness.

Another facet of this issue is the inclusion of article on the Medicine Buddha Mandala and Tibetan medicine which is another side of Ayurvedic medicine. Here the author Dr. Natalia Bolosokhoyeva is a Russian lady from Buryat republic. She is an expert in Tibetan medical literature. Under the research program of Nagarjuna Institute she has completed a monograph called "A survey of Tibetan medical literature" awaiting for publications.

Buddhism in Nepal is a topic in itself generally neglected among contemporary scholars. Mr. Charles M. Novak, a graduate from Naropa Institute, has ventured to give a picture of Buddhism in Lichchavi Nepal, a worth reading for those who are interested in the development of Buddhism in Nepal.

Mr. Harsamuni Shakya, chairman of Young Buddhist Group in Kathmandu has furnished us an interesting eye witness account of Jampaling Festival of Newar Buddhists in Tibet. Besides, Ven. Lama Lodru's writing on iconography and legend has inspired us to practice this dharma door of Great Mahakala. We'd like to thank them all for their precious views and contribution.

Lastly, I am deeply indebted to my dharma brother Dr. Yo Hsiang Chou, Taipei, who not only inspired me in academic matters but always supported me in dharmic activities.

To conclude, I must express my deep sincere thanks to my dharma sister Ms. Grace Chen, Taipei, who sponsored this publication of ours joyfully.

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