



Foundation for the Preservation
of the
Mahayana Tradition

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Blissful Rays of the
MANDALA
in the service of others

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MANDALA is published by the Central Office of the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition. MANDALA Journal is published twice a year, in April and October, and is supplemented by the MANDALA Newsletter which is published four times a year.

Subscriptions

You can receive the MANDALA Journal and Newsletter regularly by becoming a member of any FPMT center (see back page for addresses) or by subscribing directly to FPMT Central Office for US\$26 a year.

Articles

We invite all readers to contribute newsworthy reports and thoughtful essays on matters of interest to the international Buddhist community.

Deadlines

All material must arrive at FPMT Central Office by Feb. 28 or Aug. 31.

Payments

Send: Bank Draft or International Money Order. In the USA only, personal cheques and domestic money orders are acceptable.

Payable to: FPMT

Mail to: FPMT Central Office
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Soquel, CA 95073, USA

Message from Lama Zopa Rinpoche:

Our old friend and student Stefano Piovella has died recently in Madrid. He said many times to his wife Elana, his strong wish was not to die after me [Rinpoche]. Even though time to time he was unable to do the traditional form of practice, the commitments, same as many of us, but he lived with a good heart—never wanted to kill even an insect. He told me this: at one time he became distant from the Dharma (external aspect) and was working in a restaurant for more than a year and wasn't doing any practice, but never wanted to harm even insects. He said sometimes in the restaurant somehow the subject of Dharma would come up with customers and they would be very surprised to hear all this wise advice (Dharma) from such a person (simple waiter).

Although he dropped out of the traditional practice, he always had an open heart and kept good relation (devotion samaya) with his Guru, this is the most important for quick Enlightenment.

Remember when we were playing and joking with Stefano it seemed very PEKMA-NENT, so this is a great teaching on impermanence and death, that we ourselves are near to death, the same thing will happen to us any moment.

So please practice Dharma, EVEN YOU DON'T HAVE TIME!

Please pray immediately for him. If he is in the 6 realms now, to receive precious human rebirth immediately, and while still young to meet the perfect Guru, who shows the complete path without mistake, to live a life of renunciation and pure morality, to practice the 3 Principles of the Path and the 2 Stages of Tantra. May all sentient beings who are wandering lost have the same rebirth. ☸

Cry of Request from One Whose Skies Are Obscured

by Stefano Piovella (1952–1992)

O Goddess, whose form is too bright to admire
Burns as dry leaves the pupils of the unworthy,
O mother, whose love is too deep to penetrate
Vanquish the greedy mind of the selfish,
O sister, whose rainbow eyes are one with the vastness of space,
blue as the sky, turquoise-green as the sea
Daughter of the Victorious compassion and wisdom,
whose benevolent acts are the only hope of this obscured mind,
Lover, whose loving essence is pure from dualism
of subject, object and activity,
pure as a lotus blossom,
I pray you, lead me to the shores of peace,
save me from the load of anguish,
outcome of my errors,
free me from new ones, cause of future pains.
Release me from the pangs of selfishness,
that iron hook tearing the stomach,
that chilly hand squeezing the heart,
dry and ardent fever burning the throat,
poison of my dreams, nightmare of my waking hours.
Destroy the icy walls of my castle of arrogance,
built between me and the family of my infinite friends.

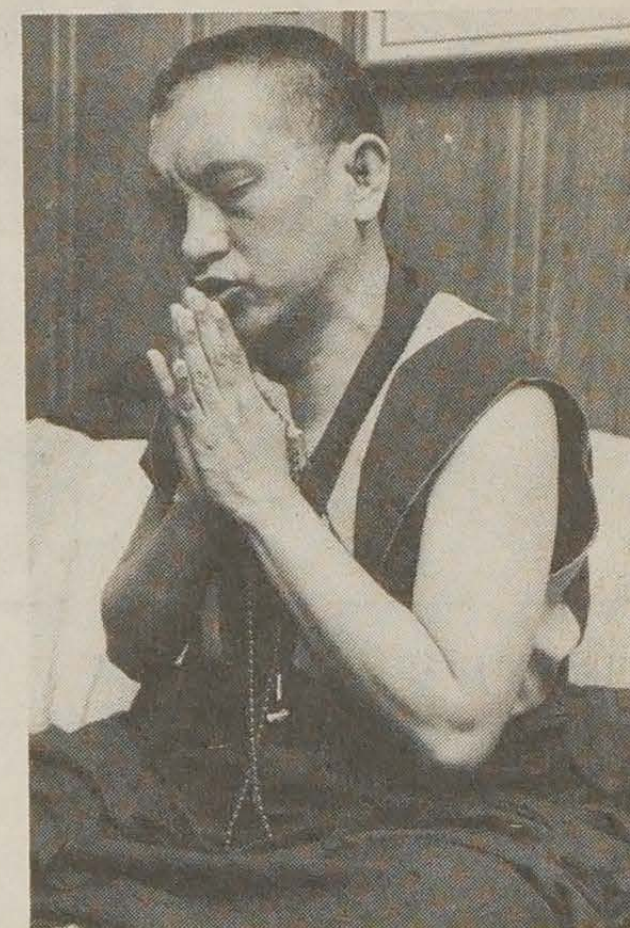


photo by Bill Kane

Please don't forget me, never leave me alone.
Even if it's me that's forgetting and closing the doors
of this dark and horrible prison that myself has erected.
Help me to see again the world, to destroy the chains of this false reality, that seems so real, so indestructible.
O Goddess please hold me tight,
till when, plunging in the brilliant void of your magnificent heart, we will become one thing.
O Goddess, whose skies are shining.
(came out spontaneously during a Cittamani Tara retreat)

Editorial

The theme for this issue of *Mandala* is "serving others". The activities of the Central Office here in California are primarily set on this goal, but there are many people from different parts of the world who help us to meet this goal.

Over the last six months the very significant issues that we have been dealing with here are:

The 11 month world tour of Kirti Tsenshab Rinpoche, an event we have been trying to pull off for the last five years. The first phase required weeks of preparation to work out the detailed itinerary. Ven. Carolyn Lawler worked tirelessly at this in direct cooperation with Margaret Castles in Australia, Elisabeth Drukier in France and Doc O'Connor here in USA.

The next phase was acquiring the travel documents and filling them with visas! This has directly involved Frances Howland in Nepal in initial preparations and a host of people in India to get the travel documents, the Pramuk (a government official) in Bodhgaya, Lama Lobsang in Delhi and Ugyen Shola who has been intimately involved during the whole process. Then to get the visas in Delhi was another phase with

Dr. Kenneth Delbray, Fabio Fantini, Paul Zalucky, Mr. Hart and Ms. Sylvia Coker, whose kindness and generosity towards our dilemmas were an inspiration to Ven. Andrea and particularly Petra McWilliams, who did the running to all the 11 embassies that we had to negotiate with. The tour left on time on the same day as the very successful Delhi Dharma Celebration (the annual event where Tushita hosts His Holiness the Dalai Lama). This was the result of all these efforts, you can see it is not just the staff of Central Office!

Roger's tireless service was already aptly presented in the last issue of *Mandala* (No. 9).

The next area is that of our base here at Land of Medicine Buddha. Guillaume Peters completed his task of financing purchasing and restoring the property here and Rinpoche has now released him from this role, we are greatly indebted to him for now having an excellent facility for the Central Office. George Propps continues to work incessantly to keep us in line with the US rules and George Farley drops in regularly to recharge and tutor us.

The *Mandala* you have in your hands is also translated into Spanish thanks to the service granted by Maria Torres, Osel Ling and students in Granada, and into Italian thanks to Adriana Ferranti and Istituto Lama Tzong Khapa.

However the main work of producing *Mandala* as well as for running our accounts, gaining tax exempt status for the FPMT Inc., setting up the whole membership mechanics and even bringing the Italian and Spanish students into full operation with the membership system, and many other things besides, has been Ven. Losang Drimay. When she arrived at Central Office almost three years ago at Rinpoche's request she was Karen Gudmundsson; you can draw your own conclusions from that result! But for sure her presence and hard work here have been a primary cause for the developments of Central Office over this time. We wish her safe travels.

This play is called "serving others". Thank you all so much.

Harvey Horrocks, Director
FPMT Central Office
March 19, 1992