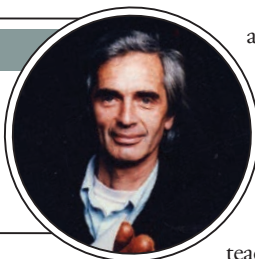


CHRIS VAUTIER

84, died in Watsonville, California, US, July 2, 2018, of Alzheimer's disease

By Barbara Vautier



Chris Vautier was born in Barcelona, Spain, on February 4, 1934. He grew up in Switzerland, where he studied architecture as a young man. Chris had a bright and inquisitive mind. He traveled widely in Europe, North Africa, Russia, India, Nepal, Afghanistan, and northern Pakistan, and lived for some time in Spain.

In the fall of 1971, Chris set off on a long overland trek to India. He spent a year living in Afghanistan and the Swat Valley before arriving in India in 1972. He immediately traveled to Dharamsala to study at the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives. One day he noticed a flyer about a month-long meditation course given by Lama Yeshe and Lama Zopa Rinpoche at Kopan Monastery. He was immediately intrigued and decided to travel to Nepal for the course. The course at Kopan changed his life, and he became very devoted to the Lamas, as Lama Yeshe and Lama Zopa Rinpoche were called, and to their work.

At the end of the Kopan course Lama Yeshe asked Chris to come to Dharamsala to design and help build meditation cabins

at Tushita Retreat Centre, which became Tushita Meditation Centre. At Losar Chris returned to Dharamsala to meet Lama and began building the A-frame retreat huts at Lama's request.

In 1974 Chris returned to Switzerland from Asia and immediately set about organizing the Lama's first teaching trip to Europe, which took place in Les Bayards, Switzerland. He was also active in helping organize Geshe Rabten's first visit to Switzerland in 1975. In 1977, Chris traveled to the United States and attended the course given by Lama Yeshe and Lama Zopa Rinpoche in Yucca Valley, California. The Yucca Valley course planted the seeds for Vajrapani Institute to be created. Later Chris and his family moved to Boulder Creek, California, and Chris became one of the early directors of Vajrapani. During Chris's tenure as director, Vajrapani invited His Holiness the Dalai Lama to the University of California at Santa Cruz, where he gave two talks.

Chris passed away peacefully in Watsonville, California, with his loving family at his side. He had been living with dementia for about eight years prior to his death. Chris was a very kind, compassionate, and generous person. He was devoted to the Dharma and played a significant role in helping bring the Dharma to the West. He leaves three daughters, Tai, Alaya, and Olivia, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren, his brother, Ben, and his partner, Arin Duggins, who was devoted to looking after him during the long years of his illness.

BAHTIAR RAHMADDIN

45, died in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, June 13, 2018

By Richard Hartmann and Jules Helsen



Bahtiar was born in the village of Lenga, in the Aceh region of the Indonesian island Sumatra, on March 1, 1973. He spent his childhood in this remote mountainous area. Bahtiar died in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, where he had lived with his beloved partner, Richard, for more than 10 years.

Bahtiar had written a book on counseling and coaching. In this book he identified himself with the character of the Black Swan. He wrote, "I am the Black Swan, who still has his own faith. Let me get black, as long as I do not make my inner-self dirty. I am the Black Swan, beautiful, strong and mysterious, but my heart is broken."

He started studying Buddhism in 2013 and took refuge from Lama Zopa Rinpoche in 2014, during the annual November

Course at Kopan Monastery in Nepal. During the November Course he found refuge in difficult times. Bahtiar also attended courses at Maitreya Instituut in The Netherlands with Ven. Kaye Miner and Geshe Sonam Ngodrup. In October 2017 he traveled to Istituto Lama Tzong Khapa with members of the center for the 100 Million Mani Retreat with Lama Zopa Rinpoche. Bahtiar already had a lot of health problems by then. Wherever Bahtiar was, a lot of attention immediately focused on him. Despite his own insecurities and sufferings, Bahtiar always remained friendly and was able to connect with people on a very deep level. His family in Indonesia was very dear to him.

Bahtiar had a big heart and faced many obstacles, including cancer. Nevertheless, he helped many with their sufferings out of great compassion. He only spoke kind words.

His funeral ceremony started with the sounds of the mani mantra that resounded in the bright white space where we had come together to pay our last respects to Bahtiar. Blessings were also given to him by an Indonesian Imam in the Muslim tradition on behalf of his family.

Dear Bahtiar, we miss you enormously, but at the same time are very grateful for all that you have given us.