



Lama Ole Nydahl

FOR THE TRAVELLING TEACHERS FROM LAMA OLE

Amden, 25th-26th April 2018

We are again travelling teachers

The previous title Diamond Way Teacher kindly coined by Caty pushed us too far away from the people

General requirements for our travelling teachers and ‘teaching friends’. I want you to be conscious of these points and activate them in your work

1. Our quick growth and the ease of which people become confused makes it indispensable that our travelling teachers attend at least one of my courses every year and generally keep up to date with the latest developments.
2. It’s also essential that travelling teachers take part in our teachers’ meetings every year, otherwise, they will be out on a sidetrack and may not know what is going on.
3. Travelling teachers should also enjoy teaching in shared panels.
4. This remains possible as long as they are active sangha members in their home centers and also teach there. It brings a steady closeness with our local friends and upcoming events.

5.

- Travelling teachers will teach general dharma subjects that I asked to have taught right from the beginning and stick to the curriculum of our centers.

That means: ‘The Three Levels and Three Pillars in Buddhism (Small Way, Great Way and Diamond Way - View, Meditation and Action)’, ‘Refuge’, ‘Teacher and Student Relationship’, ‘Meditation’, ‘Ngondro – The Four Preliminary Practices’, ‘Buddhism in Daily Life’, ‘The Four Basic Thoughts’, ‘Karma – Causality’, ‘Impermanence’, ‘The Life of the Buddha’, ‘The Four Noble Truths’, ‘Enlightened Mind – Bodhicitta’, ‘Compassion and Wisdom’, ‘The Six Liberating Actions’, ‘The Meaning of the Sangha’, ‘Love and Partnership’, ‘Death and Rebirth (on the basis of my book ‘Fearless Dying’), ‘Using our methods to remove disturbing emotions and appearing obstacles on the way’. Also, our history of the Diamond Way, the life stories of Kagyu and Karma Kagyu masters and the life stories of our teachers, focusing on the examples they set.

This basic understanding gives us the unshakable foundation for developing the lasting qualities and the power to benefit others.

- I expect the teachers to read my books for information, for our history and generally be aware of the letters that I send to our centers.
- I don’t want our teachers to teach the Great Seal instructions which are anyway inherent in the right use of our meditations nor to analyze classical or contemporary dharma texts which are outside of our Diamond Way system.

6. Travelling teachers will keep their jobs and should have both legs firmly in everyday life. Having this title is neither a profession nor a life-time position, it's a function given by myself for as long as a travelling teacher can fulfil the conditions mentioned in these guidelines. Also, travelling teacher function cannot be a source of one's income, except for the few I allowed to do so during the early stages of our work.

7. Travelling teachers teach best through their visible example. They are not there to give moral advice and they do not guide friends in the centers in their development. This is the general domain of myself and my teachers. Travelling teachers do not make big stories about themselves, about their inner experiences and development, which will make others think they should have the same. As mentioned, the role of the teacher is to offer the basic dharma information as it is given in our Diamond Way curriculum, meditate together with the new and older people and function as a visible example as best as they can.

8. Travelling teachers should cooperate and exchange any useful information and advice concerning their activity.

9. If people ask you about problems like the growth of Islam in our countries, please tell them to inform themselves of its nature and give them the right sources. Very authoritative are the books by the American professor Bill Warner, who has scientifically studied and analyzed Islam and its behaviour over the centuries. I trust him completely. Inexperienced and hot-headed debaters are actually the worst possible thing for our work.

Travelling teachers should be fully aware what is the Diamond Way in general and what makes a Diamond Way Buddhist center.

1. Diamond Way Buddhism are the teachings pointing directly to our buddha nature. On the practical level, it means trying to behave like a Buddha till we become one.

2. The main guidelines for the Diamond Way Buddhist centers are:

- Lineage Lama is the 16th and now 17th Karmapa, Thaye Dorje.
- Your root Lama is Lama Ole and Diamond Way centers are directed by me.
- We have one curriculum and one practice given to Hannah and myself from the 16th Karmapa and confirmed by the 17th Karmapa Thaye Dorje.
- We do not mix lineages, teachers or teachings and stick to the curriculum and practices as given by Karmapa to Hannah and myself. As confusion is our daily enemy and different schools use similar words for different meanings, mixing their terminologies and practices disturbs the very essence of our work and confuses any results.
- I decide which Tibetan Lamas can teach in our centers without causing confusion and it's my responsibility to invite those who represent Karmapa and share the steps of our lay Diamond Way.
- We are lay, western and modern centers and enjoy a warm and relaxed yogi style. We avoid church-like approaches to life, monastic influences, extreme behaviour and also do not build hierarchies and bureaucracies. Our timeless benefit comes from the richness of the teachings and shared growth with like-minded friends in an atmosphere of friendship and idealism. We do not pay people for their activities, the blessing of the buddhas and the common growth is our reward. There is no worldly career in the Diamond Way centers.

Dearest all,

This gives us a chance to become lean and mean. I want the travelling teachers to see how they fit into the system here outlined and decide if you would like to continue in this function.

You, my students in our worldwide Diamond Way centers decide which of the teachers you trust and wish to invite. Outside of Europe, I would like to know whom you chose and also their itineraries.

May great talent and idealistic motivation meet through this timely and necessary process and keep the blessing of our transmission in our hearts.

We must work to be yogis every day.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lama Ole Nydahl', written in a cursive style.

PS: Of course, also my work is dependent on the wishes of Gyalwa Karmapa and the main teachers of our noble lineage. If they are displeased, I go.