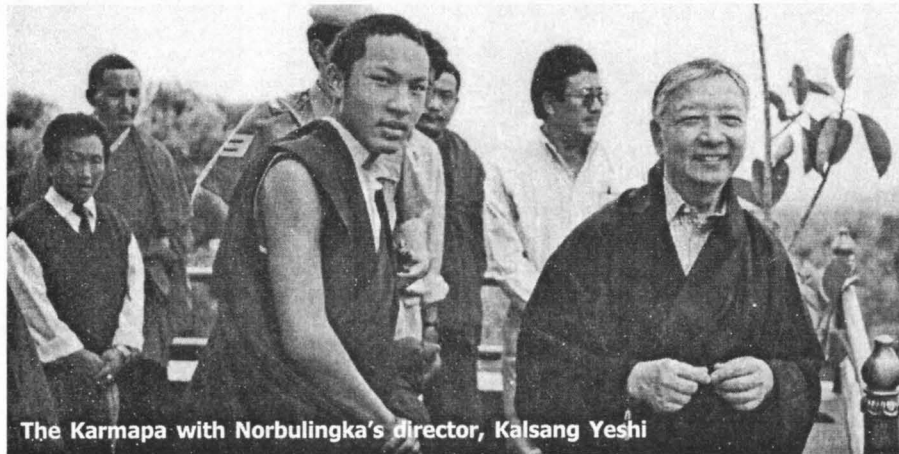


Gyalwa Karmapa Visits Norbulingka



The Karmapa with Norbulingka's director, Kalsang Yeshe

Since his arrival in India early in the new year, the Gyalwa Karmapa has been a neighbour of the Norbulingka, staying at the nearby Gyuto Ramoche temple in Sidhbari. Recently he has begun to visit the various institutions of the Tibetan community in Dharamsala to acquaint himself with their workings and achievements. He came to the Norbulingka Institute on Friday 12th May 2000, where he visited each and every department and workshop and seems to have been interested and pleased by what he saw.

At the conclusion of the day's events

he addressed the assembled 500 fold local Tibetan community in the Seat of Happiness Temple, advising them of the importance of Tibetan religion and culture to the welfare of humanity and of their responsibility to preserve and uphold its values. He then gave personal blessings to everyone present. The Tibetan people here, for their part, were visibly happy to see him. They have great hopes in his ability to work to promote and preserve Tibetan Buddhism in general and the Karma Kagyu tradition in particular.

Synthesis Dialogues Address Science and Spirituality

The *Synthesis Dialogues* took place at Norbulingka Institute in Dharamsala 12th -16th September 1999. The basic objective was to foster awareness of the interdependence and essentially spiritual nature of understanding in all areas of human life. As the directors of the project put it "*Synthesis is at the basis of all genuine advances in knowledge, and it presupposes the innerconnectedness, or unity of all reality, life being and other worlds of experience*".

The immediate goals of the dialogues were as follows:

a) To discover together the nature and application of synthesis.

b) To experience synthesis through creative dialogues between persons of different disciplines and orientations.

c) To craft an overarching Grand Synthesis - a new integral framework that unifies the important discoveries of our age and emphasizes interconnectedness as the basis of knowing, being and responding through action.

d) To seek the active guidance of the Dalai Lama in such a way that it reflects his deeply spiritual insight as to what is genuine synthesis and what is not, or where there may be some inadequacy in our thinking.

e) To offer the materials we generate for influencing curriculum at all levels of education.

f) To outline a course, on the basis of

the work accomplished in Dharamsala, for further convocations of the Synthesis Project.

g) To produce a possible documentary on our efforts for public television.

During the five day discussions the following questions and themes were addressed:

Education, science, spirituality, economics, international relations, commerce, the arts and media.

How do we balance individuality and establish community in the face of increasing globalization?

What are the most socially challenging events of the next millennium and how can these challenges be met in practical terms?

How can we best address the current ecological crisis to preserve the biosphere, the planet and all living species?

On September 12th, His Holiness the Dalai Lama inaugurated the conference with distinguished Tibetan government officials, participants, witnesses, press reporters, film crew, students and the ever vigilant security personnel in attendance. Kasur Kalsang Yeshe, Director of the



Norbulingka Institute, welcomed His Holiness, guests and participants. He then presented an overall picture of the Institute and its work. Barbara Fields Bernstein, co-director of the Synthesis Dialogue on behalf of the Association for Global New Thought and her co-directors thanked and made a special presentation to His Holiness and to the Director of the Norbulingka Institute. Mr Thupten Lungrik, Deputy Chairman of the Assembly of the Tibetan People's Deputies and Kalon Sonam Topgyal, Chairman of the Tibetan Cabinet (Kashag) also spoke on the occasion.

In his opening statement, His Holiness stressed on the importance of ethics for the new millennium, developing qualities that are not easily lost like love, compassion, inner strength and generating a peaceful mind. He also stressed the importance of being aware of our own responsibilities and of working for the betterment of the society we live in. During one session, His Holiness the Dalai Lama addressed the gathering about finding a new model for protecting human rights and sovereignty, spirituality and politics. One of the highlights of the conference was a meeting convened at the residence of His Holiness where he spoke about spirituality and caring. During this session, he spoke at length about the Buddhist concept of

interdependence, compassion, and dependent arising. He stated, "in this 20th century, we have created advances in both science and technology, and yet there are still problems and our way of being remains unchanged." He expressed hope that the next century can be one in which our human potential and abilities can be used to address human suffering and thus work towards a transformation and betterment of human life. He stressed that our desire for a new, peaceful happy millennium depends on our sincere motivation, positive attitude and good preparation.

His Holiness also gave a short transmission of the *Eight Verses for Training the Mind* and *Generating the Mind of Enlightenment*.

Guided by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the participants addressed issues of world concern, looking for solutions that will bring about change, recognising the need for science and spirituality to form a new synthesis.

The Synthesis Dialogue was convened under the banner of Association for Global New Thought and the co-directors of this project was Bro. Wayne Teasdale, Synthesis Institute, Brian Muldoon, The Dearborn Institute, and Barbara Fields Bernstein.

