



The Mt. Tron Mail

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Mt. Tron seen from Strømmen, Alvdal, 18th April 2008. Photo: BP.

The Mt. Tron Mail is 10 years old!

This year it is 10 years since The Mt. Tron Mail first appeared! The very first issue was published in April 1998 (the front page is reproduced to the left), and in the first year only three issues were published. Later there have been four regular issues a year delivered to supportive subscribers whose number has varied between 80 and 120. The regular contribution from these subscribers has been the only regular income to the Foundation. With the help of these few means, together with voluntary unpaid labour, we have been able to maintain our office for planning, information, correspondence, etc., about the Mt. Tron University of Peace project.

On behalf of the Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation therefore we now want to take the opportunity to **thank** all the subscribers to The Mt. Tron Mail, and especially the "hard core" of about 40 faithful subscribers who have been with us throughout these ten years since the very beginning! Simultaneously we wish to call upon all to support us further because now finally something is happening in relation to the local authorities regarding our establishing ourselves on the Peace Plateau in the future. This has taken an extraordinarily long time, but the Foundation depends on taking one step at a time and in the right order. **So come along with us farther - things are now moving onwards!**



View from Mt. Tron

By Bjørn Pettersen

(Previously published in the authors regular column in the cultural paper Breidablikk)

The Price of Intellectualism

We are living more and more in a man made world where original nature all the time is bound to lose ground in the face of so-called 'human development' and where profit is the major motive power. Instead of adapting ourselves to nature and a common basis for existence, we are all the time making an increasingly artificial and complicated society which demands ever bigger resource-draining machinery to maintain it. The driving speed of the merry-go-round of greed, where gross misuse and blind rape of original nature is part of our everyday 'welfare' and amusement, has constantly to be raised.

And to smarten up a rapidly degenerating façade we always find new cosmetic technical expressions such as 'ecology' and 'biological diversity', but only for their adjustment into the plutocratic playing machine of a society we have chosen to live in. We have made a huge machine to live in because we also look at ourselves as machines - i.e. that science, which is our self-made authority and guide, tells us that everything which is encompassed by the human mental and spiritual world - intuition, thoughts, feelings, etc. - is only a result of chemical reactions in our physical brain. The paradox is that in our eternal hunt for knowledge with so-called civilisation and human welfare as the goal our society becomes more and more unnatural and inhumane. The human as a universal soul being in an unending nature no longer exists in our world.

The enormous contrasts become unpleasantly clear when we see how a wandering Bushman family in Africa's Kalahari desert live their daily life or how a Santal village on the plains of India's lush Bengal execute their social organisation. These 'wild', 'primitive', 'uncivilised heathens' and 'illiterates' doesn't know, for instance, what rape, theft, sense of property, lies, stress, depression or suicide are. They live their simple, peaceful, and harmonious lives in tune with nature and fellow human beings, happily ignorant of grammar, maths and quantum mechanics, and the rise and fall of the world's stock markets.

All this is happening because it is only now - during the last thousand of years of recorded history - that humanity's mainstream, on their long journey through evolution towards complete Self-realization, are developing their intellect.

East and West

There is an interesting old story in the age-old Indian Sanskrit literature which clearly illustrates the difference between the East and the West, and that is the story of the two brothers Brihaspati and Sukracharya. These two could in no way agree to what would be the right way in finding the Truth. Brihaspati maintained that the Truth could only be found through the inner way - through contemplation and meditation - while Sukracharya was of the opinion that only through systematic and objective observation of all outer phenomena one could find the Truth. Both felt that the other's way of thinking was completely hopeless and in no way could they agree. They therefore went their separate ways and Brihaspati moved with his family up in the Himalayas while Sukracharya travelled westward with his family and settled in the European Alps. The descendants of Brihaspati's family became 'the people of the East' (i.e. the South Caucasian race) while the descendants of Sukracharya's family became 'the people of the West' (i.e. the North Caucasian race).

This captivating, several thousand years old story, shows exactly the fundamental difference in way of thinking between the two hemispheres. And all the Western languages in the Indo-European group of languages - the Latin, German, Celtic and Slavonian family of languages, Greek, etc. - confirm this, because in these languages there are no equivalents to the most central conceptions in Sanskrit about deeply spiritual terms, for instance 'brahman', 'atman', 'dharma', 'dhyana', 'samadhi', 'shanti', 'samsara', 'karman', etc. This shows clearly that in the western part of the world one hasn't really been thinking these thoughts.

In all Western literature and cultural traditions the three concepts of 'soul', 'mind' and 'spirit' are used arbitrarily to denote the same thing - there isn't really any actual distinction between them. Together with expressions for 'God' they are all very vague conceptions which do not give us any clear idea about the meaning behind them. In the East this is totally different, there are crystal clear distinctions between all these concepts; as for instance between man's mind and atman ('soul'). There, since several thousand years, the human being is identified and mapped down to the smallest detail - physically, mentally and spiritually - whereas in the West everything which has to do with natural sciences, politics, organization and economy is highly developed. All this tells us about the differences in interest and identification between East and West, and confirms the validity of the old story with which we started.



Tron seen from the town centre of Tynset, 17th April 2008. Photo: BP.

COMMENTS ON THE MUNICIPAL LAND USE MAP FOR ALVDAL 2007-2020



The Foundation's intended building site on the Peace Plateau on Mt. Tron (green area on the map above). The area borders to the Mt. Tron Road to the South and the West, and the municipal border of Tynset to the East (stippled line). The map is an attachment to the Foundation's comments to Alvdal's Land Use Plan (reproduced behind).

We refer to a meeting with executive officer Petter Hermansen in his office on the 18th of April this year at which he asked the Foundation to submit comments in response to the municipality's concrete proposition for land use in the Municipal Land Use Map for Alvdal 2007-2020 (mainly sketches for new cabin areas), based on the municipality's main strategy for the land use map and finalized theme maps (seven documentary maps on the municipality's nature and cultural basis), and to specify the position of the building site of the University of Peace on the Peace Plateau.

Main strategy / Theme maps

As stated earlier, the Foundation completely agrees with the municipality's main strategy for preservation and development in Alvdal towards the year 2020, which mainly protects Alvdal Vestfjell west of the river Glomma from development and technical intervention, while it opens it up for such activity on Østkjølen east of the Glomma. The Foundation considers this a wise strategy against the background of the following conditions:

- Alvdal has a huge responsibility to protect its part of the last wild reindeer population in Europe which is using Alvdal Vestfjell for pasture in both summer and winter and for calving in spring. Here Alvdal meets interests and demands of the world society.
- Fragmentation of nature on account of human intervention has been an increasing problem through the last hundred years all over Norway. The areas with most wilderness and nature free of intervention in Alvdal are located in Alvdal Vestfjell, together with the most and largest 'game areas of special importance'. It is of conclusive importance for the preservation of nature and biological diversity that these areas are more or less coherent and of a certain size. Only Alvdal Vestfjell can fulfil these kind of demands in the municipality.
- Also the biggest areas of cultivated land in the municipality, together with areas of priority for archaeological relics of culture, are located west of the Glomma.

Alvdal east of the Glomma is naturally standing out as an area of development in the light of all the seven documentary maps for the municipality's natural and cultural basis. This form of so-called human development will always be at a cost to nature, but the move the municipality of Alvdal has taken as to the main strategy for development towards 2020, is very far-sighted and appropriate and will serve all its inhabitants in the long run.

New cabin areas

For this reason the Foundation opposes in principle the sketches for new cabin areas west of the Glomma and maintains that these contradict the municipality's main strategy since they would result in increased fragmentation of nature. It is precisely this form of "careful" and "adapted" "development" which has gradually eroded and destroyed Norwegian nature and which we now finally had hoped the municipality's brilliant main strategy would bring to an end. We therefore strongly urge the municipality to respect this main strategy which has to remain an absolute condition.

As to the corresponding new areas for building cabins east of the Glomma, the Foundation has no comments other than that we think the municipality should reconsider the location of the two big areas which have been the subject of protest from the affected land owners.

The building site of the University of Peace on the Peace Plateau

The project "Mt. Tron University of Peace" was first promoted to the municipality by the Foundation in the "Appeal for recommendation of the Mt. Tron University of Peace" of 22.11.1995. The name of this project is now "Mt. Tron University of Peace - A humaniversity for universal harmony" and was published as a large format colour illustrated booklet by the Foundation in 2003, most recently revised in 2006, with the subtitle "Detailed project description". Several copies of this booklet, both in English

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and Norwegian, have earlier been sent to the mayor, the chief administrative officer and the chief executive officer, and it is this which is the Foundation's concrete project which Alvdal municipality shall deal with and which the land use plan has to prepare for. We hereby refer to this publication.

The attached section from the Nord-Østerdal map dated 27th April 2008 shows the area the Foundation wishes to use as the building site on the Peace Plateau. It is bound mainly by the Mt. Tron Road, contour line 1285, the municipal boundary with Tynset and contour line 1320. The area measures roughly 75 acres (30 hectares). To the north the area intercepts the Grøtåa brook which is a possible source of drinking water. To the south near the road an area for car parking is being considered, while the proposed position of the building itself is in the middle of the area as shown in the Foundation's preliminary project of 2003 (page 18), mentioned above.

The Foundation does not want any other constructions on the Peace Plateau except for the small platforms the Mt. Tron Hang-glider Club intend to built. That the building site has been chosen as this large is partly an expression of this view and partly because of lack of knowledge of the detailed soil mechanics. If for instance there is found to be permafrost on the building site, it may be necessary to find a site without such problems, which we judge quite possible as the area has great variation. The Foundation's construction is quite concentrated. Developed area in the preliminary project is 6400 m², and gross floor area is 16700 m². The area will not be visibly bordered in any way and it will more or less appear as it is today.

The Mt. Tron Road

If it were not for the existence of the Mt. Tron Road and the technical installations on the top of Mt. Tron, building on the Peace Plateau would hardly be thinkable. The area is therefore no longer virgin nature, but still it is possible to experience

the great qualities in the landscape thanks to the fact that the built installations are small and solitary. The Mt. Tron University of Peace will, in the same manner as the television mast and the radar tower, be a small single object in a very big landscape. It is therefore important that the Peace Plateau preserves its open character and does not get filled up with a variety of installations. The road which, in its present condition, already serves significant traffic to the peak, is well suited for serving the University of Peace as well.

Footpaths

The Foundation maintains that the general character of the Peace Plateau, in particular its geology and vegetation, should be preserved as much as possible. All pedestrian traffic within the area of the University of Peace therefore has to be regulated within strictly defined footpaths. The building shall appear as clearly defined lying in the unspoilt nature without down-trampled border areas.

The building

The building is shaped after the landscape and the materials are the traditional classical building materials from Norway's mountain areas: stone, wood and turf.

Water, drainage, energy

A minor damming of the Grøtåa brook will be the source of drinking water to the installation. The alternatives are water supply from the installations on the top, drilling or a pipe alongside the road to Tronsvangen. A biological sewage treatment plant in the basement will handle all waste water. Alternately a sewage pipe is led alongside the road to Tronsvangen. Electrical power is taken from the installations on the top. The University of Peace' own installation will to the greatest possible extent make use of various forms of local, small-scale energy production from, among other sources, solar heating installations and solar cells.