



The Lha Karpa

February 28, 2006

This letter is to clarify the title of "Lama" for Lama Ole Nydahl. There has recently been some criticism on the Internet in this regard.

Firstly, There are many "lamas" in the Himalayan countries who have done more religious practice than Lama Ole, and many who have done much less; this is also true in Western Buddhist societies. The name lama means Buddhist teacher is Tibetan - no matter whether he or she is "gelong" (a monk), "getshul" (a semi-monk), or "genyen" (a lay person). Each of these can be called lama as long as they teach Buddhism to their students.

Lama Ole's teachers are His Holiness the 16th Gyalwa Karmapa, myself, and Lopon Tchechu Rinpoche. He is also a respected devotee of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and has received teachings and empowerments from him. In 1973, after studying in the Himalayas, Lama Ole was sent back to Europe by His Holiness Gyalwa Karmapa to teach. Since then Lama Ole has taught thousands of Westerners Buddha's teachings and has started hundreds of meditation centers around the world.

It is therefore absolutely appropriate for Lama Ole Nydahl to hold the title of Lama.



Kunzig Shamar Rinpoche

Menlo Park, California - February 28, 2006