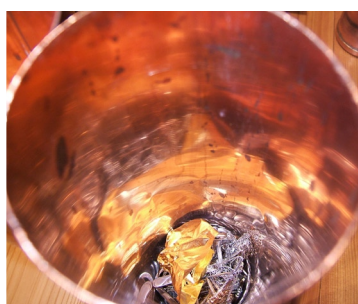


Roofing Ceremony 01. May 2005: Lama Ole's speech



To begin with, I would like to tell you some stories from my own teachers who nowadays are also teachers of all of us.

One of them is Kalu Rimpoche who was really very active also here in the west. First he spent 30 years meditating in Tibet. Back then, because of a lack of vitamins, he lost all his teeth taking them out one by one just by himself. Later he came to the western civilisation in a very respectful style. From him I often heard the following words: if you want to help people and give them money, it might help them until the pub closes and it might also be enough for some ice the next morning to get over the hangover. If you give people an education they have the advantage to earn more money by working less and are surrounded by smart people - at least a pleasant situation.

But after all he said that if you gain people access to their own mind, you at the same time give them the chance to figure out that mind is not an object, that it's like space and can't be destroyed. To work for the good of all beings and at the same time to discover that mind is conscious, radiant and clear, helps people not only in this life but also in the moment of dying and in what comes after death and also in all future lives.

So what the friends here in Braunschweig and all of you who participated in the work, give to us, is the biggest gift of all, there is no bigger one.

If everything here would be gold-plated, the gift would not be as big. We could award our friends with 5 titles of professor, it would only be useful in this life. But what we learn here, using the methods and working with mind is actually something which goes beyond this life and which gives us long-lasting certainty and permanent happiness in life and in death. Therefore, what our friends here give to us is the biggest gift ever and I really want to thank all of you for your help to make this possible.

Please also accept my best thanks that you made a wish come true I had for a very long time. And this is that we have started working with factory buildings. Yes, I really think that it's a difference to buy a normal block of flats functioning like a laying battery like we have elsewhere because of no other proposals, where we connect some flats in the basement but still there is never enough space, or if we dispose of a factory building with many interesting spaces and options to build something given that we employ big halls for the benefit of all.

In Hamburg but also in other places we already can see how well it works. You are the model of the future without any doubt. More and more people will move closer, first buddhist areas arise. We need these places where many people from the neighbourhood can go, also people who do not live in a Buddhist Center. So how you succeeded here and how brave you approached it is really a good example, really brisk!

I remember going with you to the first negotiations there was always a favorable wind blowing. It was a pleasant and true feeling and now we can see how far we have already come. On top of this, 15 tons of steel seems a wonderful present, it is not too bad.

So thank you all, you made a mark for many people and what you are doing here will be also useful for many people. It is really something very precious!