

## THE VOICE OF THE SILENCE

At the time of the Gemini Full Moon, I had just visited the cave in which Tsongkhapa, the founder of the Galugpa sect (the yellow hats) had achieved enlightenment. I was at the Ganden Monastery built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and an hour's drive from Lhasa, Tibet.

The monastery is built atop the Wangbur Mountain which is at 3,800 meters. (Well above New Zealand's iconic Aoraki or Mt. Cook). One can see snow-capped mountains in the distance and the green fields in the valley down below. Hawks and vultures ride the air currents.

This entire complex was built in ten years. Six hundred years ago it would have been a challenge just to arrive on foot or on yak. Now, tour buses wind their way to the top of the mountain on tar sealed roads. It is nearly impossible to imagine the vision, the will power and the sheer physical effort to transport all the materials for this complex up this mountain.

Why do it? After meditating in the cave where Tsongkhapa had achieved enlightenment, I had a brief sense of silence. Even with the buses, the tourists and people selling prayer flags, there was silence in this isolate place. How much deeper this silence would have been hundreds of years ago!

What I had sought in the cave, and what all the monks who had lived in this amazing environment had sought, was inner silence. In the valleys, in the towns and in ordinary life the outer world is a place of din and the clamour of many voices. Outer silence had supported this inner work in ways the noise of the world could not.

The seeking of the inner silence is the work of the spiritual aspirant, disciple and initiate. The Voice of the Silence is the pure intuition of the soul which emerges from the silence.

This inward journey is supported by the three practices of study, service and meditation. In stages, these practices produce control over the individual's physical, emotional and mental life. The soul's intuition resolves duality within each of these areas and allows the seeker to control this area by standing at the midway point.

At what is called the 3<sup>rd</sup> initiation, the entire personality is infused with the Voice of the Silence. Exalted though this achievement is, four stages yet remain as the soul is freed from its subtle sheaths and the Voice is clearly heard.

Helena Blavatsky, founder of the Theosophical Society and herself an advanced initiate, published a book called *The Voice of the Silence* in 1889. She worked from an very ancient text called *The Book of the Golden Precepts*. The book describes the disciplines necessary to still the din of the illusionary self in order to hear the soul. (The soul referred to is both the temporary soul composed of a causal body and solar angel and also the true soul which is the spiritual triad composed of mental, buddhic and atmic matter). The following extract gives the keys to the seven initiations which mark achievements on the journey to hearing the true Voice of Silence:

*Thou seest well, Lanoo. These Portals lead the aspirant across the waters on "to the other shore" (7). Each Portal hath a golden key that openeth its gate; and these keys are: --*

- 1. DANA, the key of charity and love immortal.*
- 2. SHILA, the key of Harmony in word and act, the key that counterbalances the cause and the effect, and leaves no further room for Karmic action.*
- 3. KSHANTI, patience sweet, that nought can ruffle.*
- 4. VIRAG, indifference to pleasure and to pain, illusion conquered, truth alone perceived.*
- 5. VIRYA, the dauntless energy that fights its way to the supernal TRUTH, out of the mire of lies terrestrial.*
- 6. DHYANA, whose golden gate once opened leads the Narjol\* toward the realm of Sat eternal and its ceaseless contemplation.*

*[\*A saint, an adept.]*

- 7. PRAJNA, the key to which makes of a man a god, creating him a Bodhisattva, son of the Dhyanis.*

*Such to the Portals are the golden keys.*

Now, back in New Zealand, I sit in my own heart's cave and listen. I study the Ageless Wisdom teachings and listen. I open myself to those in need and listen. And, feel nothing but gratitude for those who have gone before and cleared a channel to the voice of the Real.