



THE COUNCIL OF WARRIORS

18 August, 2009

Dear Warrior of Centre Friends,

I hope this letter finds you all thriving and enjoying the blessings of this season regardless of whether it's summer or winter in your part of the world. And I hope that your centres and communities are similarly healthy and inspired amidst your communal journeys.

I am writing to share an important update that bears directly on our work individually and together as the clan of Warriors. You may remember that I sent all of you (those who were in your COW positions) a letter last autumn that spoke about the continuing evolution within Shambhala "to unify our mandala and align it with the Shambhala vision that arose as the mind terma of the Druk Sakyong", affirming the centrality of Court principle and the Kingdom of Shambhala. I attach that letter again to either remind you or catch you up. I perceive that this process has been at the heart of the Sakyong's intention and skilful means since his Empowerment and evident at least since 2000 Kalapa Assembly, when the Sakyong articulated his vision, 'turning the flower outward'.

Since then, this intent has unfolded in stages and has impacted every dimension of our Shambhala society and practice. One of his first steps, now more than a decade ago, was to appoint a Warrior General and Council of Warriors and reinvigorate the role of Lodge Warrior by naming them Warriors of Centres. The mission was and remained 'to hold responsibility for the protection and manifestation of the vision of the Kingdom of Shambhala' and to bolster and energize the view, practices and action emanating from the KOS transmission. At the time it was simply practical to contain all dimensions of this responsibility within one small cohesive group, the Governors and Council of Warriors. This made sense because we had been drifting through something of a Shambhala 'winter' – a tenuous time of uncertainty and even contraction of our dedication to our forms and culture, Shambhala practice and education (especially Werma), KOS strategy, the Lodge and the KOS transmission. We needed a small group of passionate adherents to step forward and wave the banner high.

From the outset the Sakyong was clear in his hope and expectation that the Warrior General and COW would be transitional roles that would at some point, when Shambhala had ripened sufficiently, be superseded. From this seed we have moved (and of course not only by virtue of

our COW efforts) through sequential spring-like stages of growth and expansion to a more fulsome budding summer, to the point where the strands of KOS responsibility are ready for their own dedicated containers. The Sakyong has determined that the next stages in this continued evolution can no longer be accomplished by our previous, more contained Council structure. The time for transition to the next format has come. In accord with the blossoming of Shambhala in all its dimensions, he has created the Kalapa Council as the central reference point, from which will flow all the interwoven tendrils of Shambhala upaya.

In last autumn's letter I described our entry into this process including the Sakyong's discussions with the President, the new Kalapa Council and me. For a number of months this discussion was put aside while he was in India but upon his return he was ready to clarify and implement his intentions. As anticipated, some of these steps bear directly on our posts as Warriors of Centres and Governors of the Council of Warriors. This message is to alert you prior to a more widespread announcement first to the Mandala Council (on which all Shambhala Centres have a seat) and then to the mandala as a whole in the coming month(s). By communicating this to you first, I hope you can be fully informed, reflect and in so far you have any questions at all, you can have these addressed before this is more widely shared.

The key points are:

1. Establishing the Kingdom as a central governance responsibility

This was recently described in the Report on the Kalapa Council and which is now posted on the Shambhala.org website:

"Kingdom of Shambhala responsibility. The Sakyong made clear to the Kalapa Council and to the Warrior General that with the establishment of Kalapa and the creation of the Kalapa Council that primary responsibility for the protection and manifestation of the vision of the Kingdom of Shambhala was now to be held by the Kalapa Council. The implications of this for the role of the Council of Warriors, together with the wish of the Sakyong and Sakyong Wangmo to establish a Shambhala Office of Culture and Decorum, have been a regular feature of the discussions of the Kalapa Council since its inception and are continuing." The Kalapa Council will among its purposes therefore assume the leadership and coordination functions heretofore held by the Governors of the Council of Warriors which will be disbanded. Further significant Kalapa leadership appointments (in KOS and regionally) will emerge over time.

2. Establishing a Shambhala Office of Culture and Decorum

The Sakyong wishes to create a Shambhala Office of Culture and Decorum under the patronage of the Sakyong Wangmo. This draws its inspiration in part from the role already played by the Council of Warriors and also from the Edict of the Sakyong Wangmo (also attached). The Sakyong has given the green light for establishing the office and has extended an invitation to a senior member of our community to play that role. Given our current strict limitations on finances, this will initially be a voluntary position that will need to be supported by others. There would be representatives in each Shambhala Centre. In some cases current or former Warriors of Centres may be the appropriate person to assume that role.

3. Maintaining the Kalapa Shambhala Society

The Sakyong wishes to retain the "Kalapa Shambhala Society" (the 'Lodge') that brings together all those who have received the KOS transmission. The central role of the society would be to provide gatherings throughout the kingdom, wherever there are subjects who have received the transmission to manifest the "kingdom-on-the-spot", deepen understanding of Shambhala principles and continue to be a focal point for discussion, strategy and activity towards geopolitical manifestation of KOS. Here again, some current Warriors of Centres may be the appropriate person locally to convene and hold responsibility for the next generation of our Society.

4. November retirement, appreciation and closure for the Council of Warriors and Warriors of Centres

The Sakyong has confirmed that he would like to use the opportunity of the international gathering (Shambhala Congress) in November to have a ceremony for appreciation of, retirement and closure for the Council of Warriors and of Warriors of Centres -- which could be echoed at local centres as well. This still needs to be planned in conjunction with the Sakyong, to appropriately mark this transition and the work that that brought the mandala to this point and laid the basis for the evolution that the Sakyong is now leading.

There are however still a few substantial pieces of work that need to be done to accomplish this:

1. There will need to be a process to establish the Shambhala Office of Culture and Decorum. This will require further refining its role at the centre of the mandala, and how it is represented in the life and work of all our centres. Although some excellent preliminary work has been done on this, once the Director has been formally appointed by the Sakyong and announced to the mandala, there will be a lot to accomplish. In particular, the Director will need to consult the Sakyong Wangmo, senior Subjects of KOS and the leadership at Shambhala Centres, so that there is a well thought-out plan for this next stage.

2. We need to clarify with the Sakyong the future process for determining readiness and offering KOS transmission and holding responsibility for the Kalapa Shambhala Society in its future aspects including the new duties and title (since the Sakyong clearly wishes to establish this distinct role) for the person who would hold the responsibility at each centre for convening the Kalapa Shambhala Society gatherings. This would lead to a statement of that person's role and responsibilities so that these gatherings can continue without interruption and, where they are not taking place, be encouraged.

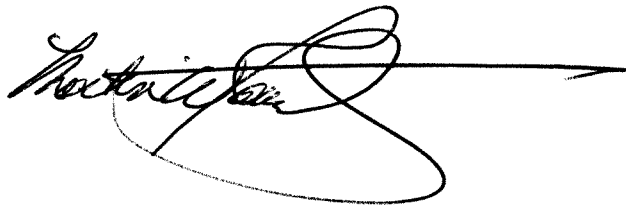
Although I tried to lay the ground for these changes in my previous communication, I realize that some of this may be a surprise, even a shock. You probably have many more questions than I have answers. As Warriors of the Centre's you have been on the front line holding and advancing the banner of KOS. This necessarily has been a role that could not be clearly or absolutely proscribed- each context and need has been unique. You and your predecessors have employed creativity, insight and skilful strategy to hold and advance our mission. Your energy and efforts have been beyond exemplary- brilliant if I may say so, in the finest profound, just and powerful senses of the word. The fabric of Shambhala has been repaired, strengthened and extended in each and every Centre in many extraordinary, distinct and subtle ways. As WG and Governors I and

we are continually moved and honoured to witness and in small ways, support your work. Just writing this, I find myself in tears, but as we say, ‘may the tears of our crying produce future warriors’.

Perhaps foremost, I do not want you, the Warriors of our Centres to feel that something that is vital is being abandoned. Indeed, I think these changes are happening precisely because of the progress you have had such an essential role in- the emergence of a holistic understanding of warriorship, integrating, harmonizing and energizing the Buddhist and Shambhala elements of our forms, culture, lineage, practice and society. And of course, our resolve and momentum towards fulfilling the Druk Sakyong’s original command to MAKE IT SO- the actual KOS, is more tangible even as the global need is more and more compelling. All this has been preparation for the opening of the path to the Scorpion Seal. As this takes root, the Sakyong asks us to embrace the essence of Shambhala Warriorship as well as the inspiration for creating the Kingdom of Shambhala, and to place these squarely at the centre of our reconfigured mandala. So all this has to do with a deep realignment, which is necessarily affecting our structure and relationships.

During the coming few months we will all find and figure out how we can best serve Shambhala through and beyond this transition. Of course I stand ready to respond to your thoughts and queries as best I can. I can also vouchsafe that my colleague Governors and President Reoch will also each play our most constructive and creative roles, always summoned by the Druk Sakyong’s clarion call within *Victory Chatter*, my favourite of all his poems to ‘fight in the old fashion’.

With only warmth for you and unwavering commitment to our Vow to create KOS, I remain (for the moment),

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marty Janowitz', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Marty Janowitz, Warrior General