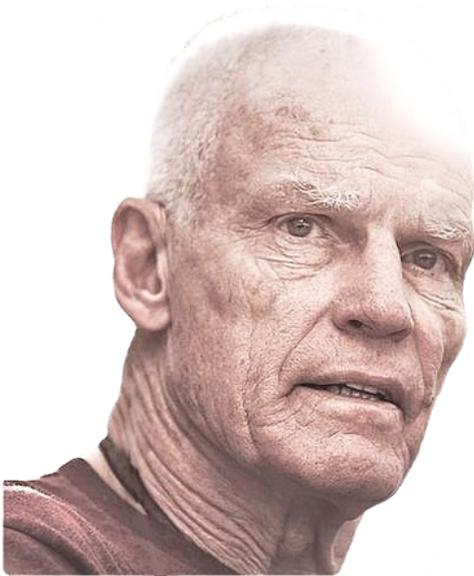


## Ole Nydahl suffer from severe Alzheimer



The condition of Lama Ole Nydahl has gradually worsened over the last 10 years - now he is very sick and even unable to read a text aloud...

by Lama Tendar Olaf Hoeyer

Lama Ole Nydahl,  
a recent photograph

**L**ama Ole Nydahl is a legend in the modern history of Buddhism about the spread of *Buddhadharma* in the West. His activity started together with his deceased wife Hannah Nydahl 50 years ago. Ole Nydahl has become known everywhere as a missionary, author of many books and a Dharmateacher. He has also made himself disreputable because of xenophobia and radical right political sympathies. He has had an extraordinary energy in everything he has done, but in the last 10 years, his abilities have declined. Alzheimer dementia has burnt his brain down. So his short time memory has deteriorated, he forget where he is, lose the thread of conversations and now he cannot read a text aloud anymore. It is very sad, indeed.

Lama Ole Nydahl has upheld several serious prejudices, that has antagonized many people and kept them away from him and his centers. But he has also been very kind and accommodating to thousands of people, that were in search of a meaning with their lives. His activity has in this way been a meeting point for very different people and an inspiration for many to understand and practice the teachings of Buddha.

This perspective has changed in the later years, when his disease became bad and then worse. His lectures has started to look like 'absurd theater'. Apparently, he is in good health besides his disease; but people that have known him for many years are in shock over the dementia, that they now witness. The Ole Nydahl that they knew and loved, has disappeared and is gone. Those that did not like him, has nothing to hold against him any more. He is really in a very sad condition. And it is a pity for everybody that have a connection with him in one way or another.

A rather strange atmosphere of panic has risen everywhere among the followers of Ole Nydahl. Quite a lot of them deceive themselves in thinking, that he is not sick, but display 'crazy wisdom'. This is in itself a tragedy within the tragedy. And a lot of people have become ridiculous in the eyes of the world.



The dignity of Ole Nydahl is insulted by his own organization.

The Diamondway Organization expose him to big gatherings of people where he talk nonsense for everybody to witness. His lectures was supposed to present Buddhism and meditation, but Ole Nydahl is incapable to talk coherently, forget the subject of the lecture and do not necessarily understand what is going on. He is of course used to big gatherings, but he does not know anymore, what he is to do, when he is supposed to teach or guide a meditation. Both the Lama and the congregations are in this way the laughing stock of the world.

Ole Nydahl's organization 'Diamondway Buddhism' cannot in decency do this to the helpless man. And indeed, it is very strange that they do so anyway. Apparently, they are in denial, because the leadership say, that he is not at all sick. But in truth, it cannot be that they have not discovered his Alzheimer dementia, because it is quite clearly visible and obvious to behold. This is a catastrophe that should be stopped at once.

His international organization 'Diamondway Buddhism' uphold a narrative for unknown reasons, that he is not sick. And that those who think so, are themselves ill. This is the official stance in spite of the obvious and explicit Alzheimer dementia that has handicapped Ole Nydahl. That has lately led to a split among the members of the organization. The 'true believers' has gained full control over the organization, so people with right consideration and conscience have been excluded. Many Dharmateachers within the organization has been told, that they are not welcome to teach any more in the centers of Ole Nydahl, because they 'imagine' that he is sick.

The leadership of the Diamondway organization apparently do not think, that special consideration should be applied concerning the ill Lama. They

push him to teach as before. Though he ought not try to read a text to a public, when he obviously is not capable of doing that – nor should he answer questions from the public, since he has forgotten the question after just a little while. Actually, he ought not teach at all. He is unable to speak coherently in any extended period of time.

Never the less, the Diamondway organization arrange lectures and seminars, where Ole Nydahl – just like in the old days – is supposed to explain the teachings of Buddha and guide meditations. Since he cannot do that, he just sit and talk nonsense. Also, he is unable to guide a meditation, because he quickly lose the directions. This is why his handlers has started to make him read the meditation text aloud in stead. But lately, he has been incapable to do even that.

In brief, it does appear that he is being **misused** by those people that right now are in control of the Diamondway organization. It is a tragedy, because he evidently need support, care and compassion. On top of this, his followers become the laughing stock to the rest of the world.

Also, it may reasonably be perceived as an **insult to his dignity** to expose him to a lot of people as an audience, while he is pushed to teach, though he obviously cannot do that. In this way, he is displayed as a fool and is ridiculed to the whole world. He really deserves better.

It will not stand to pretend, that Lama Ole Nydahl still is able to lead – and that he actually **does** lead – the Diamondway organization. Since he cannot do that, the people in the leadership do things and decide all sort of matters in his name and on his behalf. (Ole Nydahl does of course not realize what is going on because of his handicap.)

This is maybe the reason that the leadership think he should not be perceived as demented, because then these people – mostly Germans – will perhaps lose the power. It is difficult to find other explanations. It is not credible, that the whole leadership of the Diamondway organization is in complete denial of Ole Nydahl's disease. It must be obvious also to them, and they would know that there is no hope of healing at all. Or they should know. So, when the truth is anathema to his 'helpers' and the reason cannot be denial – it must be something else.

It could of course be, that the organization do not have many other means of income. But the reason seems to be a power contest. The result is, that very bad thinking and lies are cultivated. In stead, the Diamondway organization ought to put Lama Ole Nydahl in focus, take care of his special needs and leave the general leadership to Karmapa Thaye Dorje. Apparently, they do not want to do this. It is not known, what his new wife think about this circus.

In these days, we experience something like the shipwreck of the Titanic – in slow motion. The situation is described in this way by one of Ole Nydahl's close students over many years. The ship is scraping against the iceberg, that is going to sink it. The question is, how many will jump into the lifeboats and how many will perish with the ship.

It seems that the clever ones have already left. Half of the rest will follow Karmapa – the other half will go down and in due time disappear. It is very sad, even Lama Ole Nydahl had many prejudices and limitations. He also had many qualities and did a lot of good works over the years. But now he is finished as a leader, missionary and Dharmateacher. He has become a shadow of his former personality.

Many people that have experienced his later lectures, are deeply shaken over his condition, disease and all the deception, that his organization envelop around him. It is very tragic. He certainly deserves better. Also the members of his organization deserve better! An organization should not be based on lies and manipulations. And the followers of Lama Ole Nydahl should not be led astray to believe, that a demented man's speech has anything to do with 'wisdom'.

In the month of June 2023 more than a year later, it seems that the Diamondway organization has dropped any pretense, that Lama Ole Nydahl should teach or guide meditations in public gatherings. In the various programs in the Europecenter and in Karma Guen in Spain, they only mentions that Ole Nydahl will be present at the initiations of Karmapa Thaye Dorje. So people will be able to see and meet Ole Nydahl, which is probably a good thing. So it does appear, that the Diamondway organization acknowledges, that the man suffer from Alzheimer, even no one says so. On the other hand, the Diamondway organization has not allowed the purged Dharmateachers to return to the Diamondway centers and teach again. So the situation is still not OK.

(There are many sources to this paper. I have known for some time, that something was amiss. But I could not find any concrete information, nor anything official anywhere. Lately though, several individuals have reported to me with reliable information, that have been corroborated by various anonymous sources within the Diamondway organization. I of course vouch for these informants, even they are anonymous. The informants do not wish to participate in a 'political' fight about power. They just feel sad.)

Read also Lama Ole Nydahl's biography: [www.tilogaard.dk/english/Lama-Ole-Nydahl-by-Lama-Tendar-Olaf-Hoeyer-september-2020.pdf](http://www.tilogaard.dk/english/Lama-Ole-Nydahl-by-Lama-Tendar-Olaf-Hoeyer-september-2020.pdf)