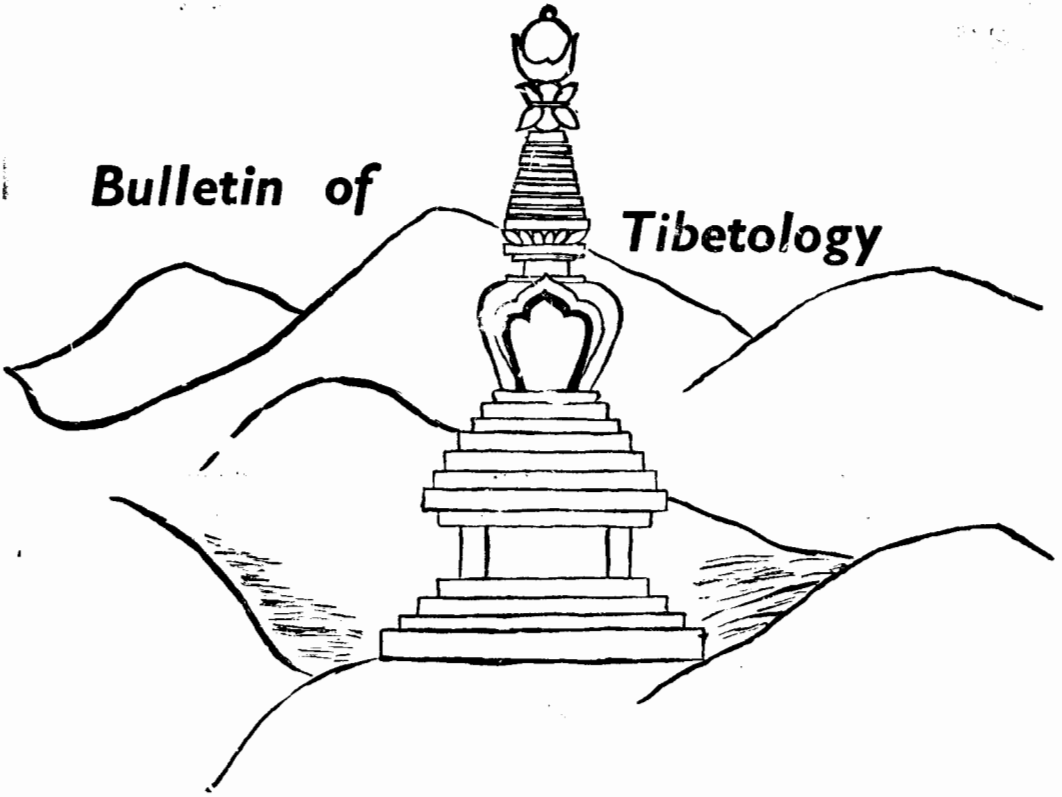


Bulletin of

Tibetology



NEW SERIES

1981

NO. 2

17 JUNE 1981
SIKKIM RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TIBETOLOGY
GANGTOK, INDIA

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EDITORS:
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

BULLETIN OF TIBETOLOGY

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SAGA DAWA

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Price Rs. 10/-
For supply overseas
(including air postage) £ 1.50
[British Sterling]

2/81

Printed at Impression, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Gangtok and
Published by the Director, Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology,
Gangtok 737 101,

SPECIAL LECTURE

November 7.8. 1977

BUDDHISM AND VEDANTA

by

Venerable Swami Lokeswarananda

Secretary

Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture,
Calcutta.

PREFACE

The Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology was pleased to invite me to give two lectures on Vedanta and Buddhism. I gave the two lectures on 7 and 8 November 1977 before a distinguished audience which included, among others, the Governor of the State and the Chief Minister. I was afraid that some of the observations I made in the course of my lectures might raise a controversy, but, happily they did not; on the contrary, I found there was general agreement among the scholars present with what I said while making a comparative study of these two systems. As evidence of this, I reproduce a letter (Appendix) I received from Shri T. D. Densapa who is recognized as an authority on Mahayana Buddhism. In the course of my discussion with Shri Densapa on the real meaning of *Sunya*, he very kindly referred to a hymn composed by Ven'ble Karmapa Rangjung Dorji. The hymn, as will be observed, lends further support to the stand I have taken with regard to the concept of *Sunya*. The hymn may be seen in the appendix.

I deem it a great honour that the Institute asked me to give these lectures. The Institute has also laid me under a great obligation by undertaking to publish the lectures. My grateful thanks to the Institute.

Swami Lokeswarananda

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