



New Kadampa Tradition

International Kadampa Buddhist Union

13 Woodstock Road, London NW11 8ES

Mr James Farrell
Arena Books
6 Southgate Green,
Bury St. Edmunds,
Suffolk, IP33 2BL

14 May 2010

Dear Mr Farrell

Thank you for talking to me by telephone yesterday afternoon about your forthcoming title "A Cuckoo in the Peacock Palace: The Decline of Tradition and the Rise of the New Kadampa Tradition in 21st Century Western Buddhism" by Gary Beesley which is advertised on Amazon's website. You asked me to put my concerns in writing. I am writing on behalf of the New Kadampa Tradition.

From the title itself and having read the table of contents that appears on Amazon's website, we infer that the book, if published, would be very damaging to the reputation of the New Kadampa Tradition and its Founder Geshe Kelsang Gyatso. There are approximately 1,200 NKT Centres throughout the world all of which would suffer serious financial loss. In addition, the spiritual lives of thousands of NKT students would be harmed, in some cases irreparably. The financial losses and personal suffering due to discouragement and loss of faith caused by the book's publication would be very great.

If the book is defamatory to the NKT and Geshe Kelsang, the NKT will sue for damages and an apology in open court. The consequences of legal action by the NKT will be very serious.

We request, therefore, that you give us the opportunity to read and consider the book before it is published so that any false or defamatory statements or implications can be clarified with you and the author. In this way it should be possible to avoid the publication of a book that is damaging to both the NKT and Arena Books.

We request the email address and telephone number of the author, Mr Gary Beesley, so that we may have the possibility of discussing the book with him too.

We need a reply from you by 21 May 2010 to our request to read the manuscript of the book otherwise we will put this matter in the hands of our lawyers.

Yours sincerely

John McBretney