



3rd WORLD ENCOUNTER TERESIAN MYSTICISM AND INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE:

Tibetan Buddhism and Carmelite spirituality

ORIENTATIONS FOR VISUALIZING, CONTEMPLATING AND DISCERNING THE SACRED

International Teresian-Sanjuanist Center (CITeS), "University of Mysticism", Ávila (Spain)

Centre of Buddhist Studies, The University of Hong Kong

Fundación Dharma-Gaia

from 25 to 28 July 2024

Face-to-face and online

Carmelite mysticism and Buddhist mysticism have developed over the centuries as two distinct ways of lived spirituality. The general theme for this meeting is to explore the role of visionary revelation in the pursuit of wisdom. Visualizing, contemplating, and encountering the deity are essential practices in the Carmelite tradition and in Tibetan Buddhism. These practices help foster spiritual growth and deepen the practitioner's relationship with "the sacred." In addition to traditional elements, there are various cultural, philosophical, and theological contexts that come to play, in addition to shared elements in any commitment to spirituality. Both soteriological traditions emphasize the importance of morality, prayer and contemplation as a means of achieving union with the "ultimate." The Carmelite mystic seeks union with God through a process of self-knowledge and the person of Jesus Christ, which implies an exercise of loving attention and a readiness for the divine presence. The Buddhist mystics seek to achieve awakening through the realization of all-encompassing compassion and the perfection of wisdom. Each tradition of mysticism places a high priority on discipline, contemplative and ritual practices. Furthermore, both traditions emphasize the importance of purification for transcending the limitations of the ego, as well as the value of suffering for developing the spiritual self, and the view of the phenomenal world as a manifestation of the divine. As a prerequisite for reaching the higher realms of spiritual understanding, both emphasize the cultivation of virtues such as humility, compassion, and devotion, as well as non-attachment.

It is our intention to facilitate genuine and fruitful dialogue, and to work together as a means of sharing paths of wisdom for a compassionate and harmonious world, without denying or attempting to reduce the differences between the two religious traditions. We aim to promote this in a spirit of equality, mutual respect, and curiosity.

PROGRAM

THURSDAY, JULY 25

17.00 Inaugural Act

17.30 The importance of interreligious dialogue between Christianity and Buddhism and the objectives of the encounter.

Carmelite perspective: **Dr Jerzy Nawojowski, OCD**. Director and Professor of CITEs, "Universidad de la Mística", Ávila, Spain.

Buddhist perspective: **Dr Georgios T. Halkias**. Director and Associate Professor of the Center for Buddhist Studies at the University of Hong Kong, PRC.

18.30 "The Order of Carmel Discalced and the Teresian Mystique." **Dr Saverio Cannistrà, OCD**. Doctor in theology. Former Superior General of the Order of Discalced Carmelites. Formator and Parish Vicar, San Pancraccio, Rome.

19.30 "The Base, the Path and the Fruit in Tibetan Buddhism." **Dr Phuntsok Wangchuk**. Honorary Lecturer, Center of Buddhist Studies of the University of Hong Kong, PRC.

FRIDAY, JULY 26

08.00 Mass

08.30 Buddhist Ceremony

10.00 "To emphasize the virtues greatly, but not the rigour. Teresa or the asceticism of friendship." **Sister María José Pérez**, Discalced Carmelite of the Monastery of Puçol, Valencia, Spain.

10.45 "Perspectives from Tibetan Buddhism on discipline and morality." **Dr Catherine Hardie**, Assistant Professor of the Centre for Buddhist Studies of the University of Hong Kong.

11.30 Rest

12.00 "Morality, asceticism and monastic discipline. Comparative perspective." **Dr Francesc Torradeflot Freixes**, Director of UNESCO Association for Interreligious Dialogue, Director of AUDIR, Barcelona.

12.30 - 13.15 Round table. **Dr Francesc Torradeflot Freixes**.

14.00 Lunch

17.00 "The pre-contemplative experience." **Dr Juan Antonio Marcos Rodríguez, OCD**. Professor of CITEs and Pontifical University of Comillas (Madrid)

17.45 "Meditation on the deity in the tradition of Tibetan Buddhism." **Dr Klaus-Dieter Mathes**, Professor of the Centre for Buddhist Studies of the University of Hong Kong.

18.30 Rest

19.00 "Prayer and meditation. Comparative perspectives." **Dr Francisco Díez de Velasco Abellán**, Professor of History of Religions at the University of La Laguna, Spain.

19.30 Round table. Moderator: **Dr Francisco Díez de Velasco Abellán**.

20.00 Buddhist meditation workshop guided by the meditation master **Venerable Khenpo Kelsang Nyima**, Abbot of Rumtek Monastery, Sikkim, India.

SATURDAY JULY 27

08.00 Mass

08.30 Buddhist Ceremony

10.00 "The mystical visions and the encounter. Catholic perspective." **Fr Franciso Brändle OCD**. Professor of Biblical Greek and Sacred Scripture at the Regional Center for Theological Studies of Aragon, Spain.

10.45 "Mystical Visions and Encounter. Tibetan Buddhist perspective" **Dr Georgios Halkias**. Director and Professor of the Centre for Buddhist Studies of the University of Hong Kong.

11.30 Rest

12.00 "The mystical visions and the encounter. Comparative perspective." **Dr Xabier Pikaza Ibarrodo**. Professor Emeritus of the University of Salamanca, Spain.

12.30 Round table. Moderator: **Dr Xabier Pikaza Ibarrodo**.

14.00 Lunch

17.00 **Ceremony of the IV International Prize Teresa of Jesus and Interreligious Dialogue**. Presentation of the accessits. Award Ceremony.

<https://www.mistica.es/noticias/iv-international-award-teresa-of-avila-and-the-interreligious-dialogue>

20.00 Meditation workshop: practical workshop with guides for the practice of Teresian meditation. **Myrna Torbay, OCDS**. Secretary-General and professor of CITEs "Universidad de la Mística", Ávila, Spain.

SUNDAY JULY 28

08.00 Lauds

08.30 Buddhist ceremony

10.00 "The Ultimate Objective. Catholic perspective." **Dr Francisco Javier Sancho Fermín, OCD**. Professor at CITEs, "Universidad del Mística", Ávila, Spain.

10.50 Rest

11.00 "Actualizing the Sacred Ultimate in Buddhist Mysticism." **Khenpo Yeshi**. PhD Candidate at UC Berkeley University.

11.50 Rest

12.00 Round table. Moderator: **Dr Justin Sloan Whitaker, Ph.D.** (2017), Goldsmiths, University of London, UK. Senior Co-Respondent of Buddhistdoor Global, Hong Kong, PRC.

12.30 Round table. Moderator: **Dr Justin Sloan Whitaker, Ph.D.** (2017)

13.00 Closing of the congress.

REGISTRATION

Send to: CITEs - Apartado 139 - 05080 Ávila – Spain, the e-mail: info@mistica.es

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Tibetan Buddhism and Carmelite spirituality

Ávila ~ Spain, 25-28 July 2024

Names and surnames: _____

DNI / NIE / Passport No.: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ City: _____

Country: _____

Tf. _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Registration: **FACE-to-face** **100 euros** **ONLINE** **60 euros**

Accommodation: 50 € / per day / single room / full board

80 € / per day / double room / full board

Arrival date: _____ Departure date: _____

Check the possibilities of scholarships

Reservations will be given as accepted once you send us this form with all the requested information plus proof of payment, by email, fax or postal mail.

- Bank Account ~ Banco Santander ~ SPAIN
SWIFT: BSCHESMM - IBAN: ES53 0049 4630 1822 1751 1895
- CREDIT CARD VISA, MASTERCARD,...: [PAYMENT GATEWAY: www.mistica.es/tpv](http://www.mistica.es/tpv)

ACCOMMODATION PLACES IN CITEs ARE LIMITED

By sending this registration form, you know and consent that the data you now provide to CITEs will be incorporated into an automated database, for which the International Teresian Sanjuanista Community is responsible, which will be subject to appropriate treatment. In accordance with Organic Law 15/1999 of December 13, Protection of Personal Data, you may exercise your rights of access, rectification, cancellation and opposition by contacting CITEs by email: info@mistica.es; or, in writing —accompanied by a photocopy of your ID— to the registered office, located at C / Arroyo Vacas, 3 - 05005 Ávila.