

26 August

Dear David ("fuckin Chadovick", as Niels used to say),

It's been more than 49 days since Maggie died (an important measure for the Tibetans.) Sorry it's taken me so long to get back to you. I don't seem to trust email. Anyway, here is the story that I heard. Maggie was with Tom Kelly looking at his photographs of Mt. Kailas, and Tom was telling her about the "inner kora"---after making three circumambulations, one is entitled to enter the inner kora (a more sacred space--an actual physical space?--who knows? For the Tibetans everything is divided outer, inner, and secret.) And Maggie said something like: "If I go there, I will probably die there." At that moment she pitched forward and her head hit the table. (Did she die at that moment?--it's not clear.)

Tom Kelly grew up in Santa Fe (with his brother, Robert, a fine painter) but has lived in Kathmandu for many years, with his wife, Carroll, a wonderful luminous woman. There's a book of his photographs, Tibet, Reflections from the Wheel of Life (Abbeville Press, 1993) that you might like to look at (text by Carroll and Ian Baker). I'm just looking at it. There's a section on Pilgrimage--on page 138 a picture of a nun circumambulating Mount Kailas.....

"From the point of view of Dzogchen, the boundaries between inside and outside dissolve in the all-pervasive interplay of emptiness and luminous appearance. The Tantric injunction to take all appearances as one's consort brings the pilgrim into an intimate relationship with his surroundings, the phenomenal world arising as the magical display of radiant awareness...

In the esoteric tradition of Tantric Buddhism the eyes and heart are linked by subtle energy channels within the yogin's body."

From the text by Ian Baker. Maggie died of an aneurism, burst blood vessel, in the region of the third eye.

Maggie knew Tom because he had arranged for her to do a retreat in Kathmandu at (I believe) a house of his.

It's odd how Maggie's trajectory (pilgrimage) was the same as mine. From Tassajara and San Francisco to Taos to Santa Fe (in the same years). She was on the board of the small temple that I sort of manage, and I feel quite close to her teacher, Lama Rinchen (who is closely connected to Dudjom Rinpoche.) We are all eternally linked, as you know!

much love,