

## **A Conference on Reincarnation and Karma with Barbro Karlén**

Introduction to Karlén's speech on October 13, 2013 in Budapest  
by T.H. Meyer

### **Looking back**

I was asked to explain how I came to be the publisher of the book «...**And the wolves howled**» which has now been published in Hungarian. Let me start with three little incidents. On October 10, 2013 in the *Basler Zeitung* series called « Today [so and so many] years ago» was a photo of Anne Frank with some sentences from the diary written on the very same October 10, in the year 1942. It was the very day Barbro Karlén was sitting in an airplane traveling to Europe. The diary reads: «This is a photo as I would wish myself to look all the time. Then I would maybe have a chance to go to Hollywood.» In fact, Barbro Karlén is now rewriting, or rather, is turning the «Wolves» into a screenplay that might end up as a movie. Another coincidence we just found recently: she came to Germany for the first time ever also on an October 13th, but in the year 1995. And a third coincidence: on that same date [October 13 1995] an Anne Frank exhibition opened in Basel.

Of course, coincidences don't «prove» anything. But they are remarkable. To turn our attention to symptomatic incidents like these can be a *beginning* of finding a way to discriminate what is real from what is not real in concrete cases of reincarnation.

I did not become Barbro Karlén's publisher because of her connection with Anne Frank which, of course, I had heard of. I first learned of Barbro Karlén's writing via a raw translation of one of her poetic books which was circulating in Switzerland – *A While in the Kingdom of Flowers*. This book was written at the age of twelve. It does not treat of reincarnation or the holocaust, but is full of spiritual elements - for example, there are Kamaloca situations describing the destiny of human beings after death. I decided to bring out a German version of this book. The raw translation lacked precision. I found this book so fascinating that I wanted to meet the author. So, I decided to travel to Goteborg and there I met Barbro Karlén for the first time. This was at the beginning of the '90s. I had been there already at age nineteen while on a trip with a friend and her family, which was Jewish. That was a personal prelude to my trip to meet Barbro Karlén. The first German language publication of her book resulted in Barbro Karlén coming to Germany and Switzerland in October 1995. These were presentations of her early books *before* the «Wolves...» was written. In Basel we held a presentation with 500 to 600 people in the very hall where the first Zionist Congress organized by Theodor Herzl was held in 1897.

Today a small group visited the Synagogue in Budapest where Herzl spent his early years. It was like coming back to our first event in Basel. In the same year 1995 the seeds for the «Wolves...» were laid. Barbro Karlén was asked by a Dutch TV station to testify next to other people about her Holocaust memories. There, for the first time in her adult life, she presented her story in public. When she came to Basel for the presentation of her early books in October of that same year, she received an invitation to meet the still-living relative of Anne Frank. At the same time she was writing the book which has now been translated into Hungarian. The still-living cousin of Anne Frank and his wife have seen the typescript. This is important, for this book would not have been published without the agreement or the consent of the family. If they had said, 'No, you cannot publish this!', we wouldn't have done it. I would not have published it. The book was first published in German in November 1997.

### **The Holocaust Industry and Simon Wiesenthal**

There were strong and intense reactions in Switzerland, Germany, even in America. Many were positive, and by numerous individuals. There was a remarkable article in the *New York Times* supplement to *Ha'aaretz*. At the same time there was a series of negative reactions.

These did not come from individuals, but from certain representatives of group interests. It started with a Protestant theologian and ended with representatives of the «Holocaust Industry». This expression was not coined by me, but by Norman Finkelstein, a Jewish intellectual in America. He wanted to warn the Jewish community about the tendency to make a big business out of all the Holocaust memorial activities, etc. There were accusations in the press – I think this time is over now, fortunately –, about Barbro Karlén and her publisher belittling and exploiting the Holocaust. Some people were afraid that «Anne Frank», an icon of the Holocaust Industry, would be taken away from them by the story presented in the book. Some fanatics even brought the book to the awareness of Simon Wiesenthal. He is known for having tracked down many former Nazi criminals, having himself been in the Mauthausen concentration camp. He followed a path of seeking justice for the victims, certainly an honest pursuit, without lower motives.

Now Wiesenthal was asked about his opinion regarding the case of Barbro Karlén. I'll quote a few sentences he wrote at that time. «Of course, I agree with your opposition to this book, for Anne Frank with her diary is a unique phenomenon in the history of the Shoa. One has to reject every attempt to separate her body from her soul. And in my opinion there is no reincarnation, particularly not in the case of persons who claim this for themselves!» (*Laughter*) An interesting logic, indeed. Wiesenthal tries to be polite and does not attack Barbro Karlén personally. But now listen to the end. «I don't want to suppose that there are indecent motives on the part of Mrs. Karlén for writing her story. But if I were a doctor I could diagnose her so-called reincarnation in the right way. For example, I know that in Jerusalem every year during the Catholic Easter processions people crop up who claim to be the reincarnation of Jesus. In agreement with the Catholic church such people are put into medical treatment.»

This reaction is in itself a symptom. For the next part of this short introduction let me turn to the question: A symptom of what?

### **Lack of Spiritualization and Nazism**

It is a symptom for not realizing, not understanding, the necessity that after the Holocaust – if not long before! – Europe and the whole world desperately needed a radical spiritualization of its entire culture.

The principal mistake Wiesenthal, and all who think like him make, is to throw pathological experiences, which undoubtedly exist, into the same bag with all the other experiences, which also exist.

Middle Europe had the task of cultural spiritualization at the beginning of the 20th century. In Germany there was the great movement of Theosophy, later Anthroposophy. This movement did not enjoy a wider impact at that time. On the contrary. There was an attack on Rudolf Steiner by pre-Nazi groups during a Munich lecture in 1922.

In short, if Theosophy, Anthroposophy, and the best of German Idealism had broken through with the inherent thought of reincarnation – there would have been no Nazis and no Holocaust. The rejection of «spiritual offers» in Middle Europe paved the way into the abyss of Nazism. As Middle Europe did not open up to the impulse of reincarnation and karma, Nazism became possible. Now human beings come back with memories from the Nazi time, and after terrible sufferings they bring with them exactly the rejected message: reincarnation and karma exist. This is of tremendous importance! That is why people with Holocaust memories deserve the utmost attention. **They bring us back the rejected or lost message of reincarnation and karma.** Even Nazism can be more deeply understood from the perspective of reincarnation. There is a remark Rudolf Steiner made about Hitler after the Munich attacks in 1922. He said Hitler had an *incomplete* initiation in Egypt and had been overshadowed by a mighty spiritual being, an archangel, not working for the regular evolution of mankind. These experiences rose up in him in a tumultuous way during the gas poisoning

Hitler underwent at the end of World War I. They inspired his pathological «mission» for Germany.

### **New Awareness of Reincarnation**

After the wave of rejection of the German publication of this book has ebbed away I am sure the Hungarian reception will be more fruitful. Fortunately, the climate for a serious awareness of reincarnation and karma is getting better, in general. I offer you one very recent example. As you know, there are celebrations of the 200th birthday of the composer Richard Wagner this year. A Belgian conductor and director of operas has produced *Tristan and Isolde*. He loves this opera very much. With regards to some passages in the second act he exclaimed: «Now I can understand why Rudolf Steiner called Wagner a reincarnation of Merlin!» This can be read in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* at the beginning of this month.

Why did I mention Rudolf Steiner here a few times?

Because he is a pioneer of developing systematic research into reincarnation and karma.

Although many people are open to this subject, it is often undertaken in an unscientific, New Age manner. There is a mixture of truth and illusion in this area. That is why we need strict standards and criteria to develop a sure sense of discrimination. We cannot develop this sense in a better way than by starting to look at symptoms revealed by life, by the careful study of such little incidents. The life and the writings of Barbro Karlén are full of them.

### **The Pioneer of Scientific Karma Research**

Let me close by pointing to another incident connected to this very date, October 13. It is the memorial day of an individuality of great, world historic weight and importance. He was, perhaps, the first individual on earth ever to have worked through his numerous past incarnations, making them all transparent to him, going right back into Lemurian times. He meditated his pre-earthly lives. But that was not enough for him. He also wanted to know the spiritual beings leading people into birth and guiding them through life. Only after many meditations was his whole earthly and spiritual past connection with these spiritual beings clear enough for him. His illumination was realized. He is *the* pioneer of karma research in world history: Gautama Buddha. There is a very hidden relationship of his spirit to the true spirit of Middle Europe. On this very date in the year 483 before Christ, in Kusinara in Northern India, Gautama Buddha, ending his last incarnation, passed into the spiritual world, inspiring more and more awareness of reincarnation and karma in the world.

I consider it to be a very good omen, if not a talisman, for the fruitful impact of this conference that it is taking place on this very date.

Thank you for your attention!