

## Interview with Barbro Karlén in Budapest

*The interview was taking place on Sunday October 14 in English, in a room of the hotel Hilton, with a wonderful view of Buda and its Parliament.*

TM: Barbro Karlén, you have just been participating in a conference here in Budapest, at the occasion of the Hungarian publication of your book «And the wolves howled». The Conference was taking place on 13th October 2013, incidentally the same day you have stayed for the very first time ever in Germany in 1995. At that time you gave a talk in «Forum 3». Now how was the presentation here in Budapest for you?

BK: It was a good feeling. People seemed to connect with the story. There were appreciative comments.

TM: You had to sign quite a number of books!

BK: Yes, indeed!

TM: This was your first visit to Hungary? What is your impression of the city?

BK: Oh, it is a beautiful city! I wish I had time to see more of it. Maybe I will come back and see more next time.

TM: At least you have a gorgeous view from the hotel!

TM: You are going back to America tomorrow. But you will soon come back to Europe and go to Holland, with your horses and your horse simulator, right?

BK: Yes I am going to a dressage event, near Amsterdam where there is an international meeting for dressage people.

TM: And in November, as I heard to my great surprise, you will be going to India. To ...?

BK: Trivandrum.

TM: I heard they have also some meditation facilities there?

BK: Yes, we are going to find out about this.

TM: Do you have any expectations when you hear the word «meditation»? Did you ever do meditation?

BK: I think I do it every day when I ride my horse. But this is, of course, a different kind of meditation... I would like to know more about it and try to find a way to do it in way that would suit me. So I am trying to look into it when I am there.

TM: You are also going to work on the transformation of the book «When the wolves howled...» in to a usable script for a movie.

BK: Yes, that is what I hope for.

TM: I am very happy to hear, for this is an old wish of yours. And as to «old» wishes: One of the incidents that might interest our readers is that on the very day that you were on the plane to Europe (Oct. 10) the *Basler Zeitung* (within a series «Today ...years ago») there appeared this photo of Anne Frank with a diary entry on October 10, 1942.

I am going to read the English translation given of the diary entry given on the very picture: «This is a photo as I would wish myself to look all the time. Then I would maybe have a chance to come to Hollywood.» That is indeed a strange incident, as in fact your thoughts and your heart and your whole present intentions are directed to something connected to Hollywood.

BK (laughing): Yes, definitely. In fact, I live not far from Hollywood. I drive by every time I go to the airport. – Actually I think Hollywood needs more depth in their scripts for their movies. And I think this project could finally turn into something like that.

TM: You mentioned that you would give the whole book another, more positive title. – One or two years?

BK: Well, when a movie is actually on the screen, we do not know. That depends on a lot of things. The script itself should be ready next year.

TM: The partner you are doing this with is an experienced script writer?

BK: Yes, he is.

TM: So he will be hopefully able to turn down all offers which are not on your line.

BK: He is very independent and not easily manipulated.

TM: And as you told me, this work is so inspiring that you are already thinking of a sequel to this movie, with things not in the book.

TM: Independently from this script work: Do think you might start writing again?

BK: I will have to, if there is a sequel to this script.

TM: Could you say in one word what would be the message of the movie?

BK: Well, it is the message of reincarnation and that the soul is immortal and that we do come back. And that all is a long learning school we all have to go through.

TM: So you consider your own story as a kind of example, inspiring other people to find these truths.

BK: Yes, indeed.

TM: You don't want to be glorified as a person, I suppose.

BK: Certainly not!

TM: What do you do if something of this sort happens? If people start glorifying you?

BK: Well, what can you do? We don't want to tell people not to like you! And of course it is nice if people have good thoughts about you and wish you well. But on the whole it is more important to talk about the message itself than about me as a person.

TM: In the conference someone asked: Have you met other people who have been in the camps? And you said: Yes. Are you in contact with some of them?

BK: Not at the moment.

TM: I remember when we were in Driebergen many years ago there was a woman who remembered being in Auschwitz, going through the gas. She was crippled to a high degree.

BK: I have met that many times.

TM: As you said, there seems to be a new openness to the subject of reincarnation in our present time. Especially to concrete cases. There is for example an American boy who remembered to be shot down by a Japanese plane.

BK: And on TV programs the scientific side of these cases seem to be more discussed now. There is for example Robert Snow, appearing in such programs. He was a former policeman, with a remarkable story.

TM: Has there already been a movie about him?

BK: No.

TM: So you would be the first case, so to speak...

BK: No, there is this movie about an American woman who remembered her past life from Ireland.\* She travelled to Ireland and identified the family etc. Her story was put into a movie. It was a good movie.

• Bridey Murphy

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TM: Any spare time for reading novels or poetry?

BK: No, hardly.

TM: If you had more time...

BK: I probably would...

TM: And is there any place in the world you would like to visit, to see? A place one would say: I have to see this place before it is too late.

BK: I would love to visit Tibet.

TM: Aha...

BK: Peru, the Machu Pichu.

TM: Let us briefly come to America: You have been living here for almost fourteen years now. Do you like living in the States? The best place for you in a way?

BK: Now it works fine though my family is in Sweden.

TM: What does a European soul do in America to feel home? It is so much different, the culture not always very refined etc.

BK (laughing): Well, living in the East or West coast is still very similar to Europe. Because there are so many Europeans. Much more open minded. Multi-national, intelligent people. But I could not live in the middle of America.

TM: Like Texas?

BK: I go there and teach some times, but could not live there. There are very nice people, very nice. But it is just too far away from culture.

TM: You once said: If you would ever leave America, you could imagine living in England.

BK: England, or Switzerland.

TM: Sweden?

BK: I have not really a desire to live there anymore. But Switzerland, or France, England, yes.

TM: How do you see the American official politics? Any feeling how it will go on?

BK: Well, if I could predict, I would be a wizard. I can't. But I think it is terrible what is going on. The fighting, the disagreements. It has nothing to do with the people anymore.

TM: Right, the people don't want to go to war, for example. So hopefully the officials do not do it either.

BK: I do not think they will.

TM: Back to this event here in Budapest, Saturday October 13. The organizers were very happy and satisfied and they even consider a sequel next year, with a conference relating to the Holocaust – 70 years after the «clerks» of Eichmann invaded Hungary in March 1944. So you might come back.

BK: Yes, might be.

TM: With a stop in Basel, of course...

BK: Yes, that would be lovely!



Barbro Karlén an T.H. Meyer, 13 October 2014 in Budapest