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Confusion or Propaganda?

Posted by: dorjeshugdentruth on: March 11, 2009

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Recently, a certain anti-NKT site that invites readers to submit essays has been posting essays containing politically motivated quotations from people who are obviously not NKT, but the site owner is posting them as if they are. It seems clear that in the mind of the site owner, NKT/Shugden practitioner/pro-Chinese/anti-Dalai Lama/anti-Tibetan are all one thing, which is completely wrong. There are many people on the internet who are politically motivated and who claim to be Shugden practitioners simply because they know that the Dalai Lama is against the practice. To avoid this confusion, Geshe Kelsang has very wisely made the NKT free from political affiliations.

These essays are really is ‘putting words into the mouth of the NKT’ and creating a false impression by doing so. Whether this is being done by the site owner in confusion or as deliberate propaganda is uncertain. Here is one such example from a recent essay entitled ‘Shugden Protectors Vitriol’:

In striking contrast to the writings of the Dalai Lama, authentic Buddhists, and Buddhist and Tibetan historians, Shugden protectors known as NKTites and Shugdenites (NKT is the leading Shugdenite organization in the world) pontificate vitriol like this recent and unfortunately representative post:

“Push the Tibetans out of India and back home to China to pursue their dreams and hopes. India is a dead branch for these unfortunates exiles....”

Shugden protectors are not known as NKTites because there are many Shugden practitioners who are Tibetan or Mongolian and who are not part of the NKT. There are a lot more people against the Dalai Lama’s illegal ban of Dorje Shugden practice than NKT practitioners, for example the Dorje Shugden Society in India which consists entirely of Tibetans. Kundeling Rinpoche, who is conducting the court case against the Tibetan Government in Exile is also against this ban, and he’s obviously not NKT. The Western Shugden Society is an affiliation of all such practitioners.

Having said that, I'm quite pleased to see the author say that 'NKT is the leading Shugdenite organization in the world' because this indicates that NKT is true to the Gelug lineage received from great Teachers such as Je Pabongkhapa and Trijang Rinpoche. It indicates that NKT is continuing the Gelugpa teachings in accordance with tradition, unlike most of the 'Gelugpa tradition' of Tibetan Buddhism which has changed course in accordance with pressure from the Dalai Lama.

Here is another example, from an essay entitled 'NKT's Spiteful Shugdenism' where the author expresses the following wrong views:

Shugdenism is determined to undermine the Dalai Lama. The spiteful movement supports the communist Chinese government overthrow of Tibet during the 1950s. Shugdenites (aka NKTites) applaud the tyranny and even blame it on the Dalai Lama, claiming that Shugden worship, which is being forced by the communist Chinese government, will lead to nirvana.

It's a lie to say that Shugdenites support the communist Chinese overthrow of Tibet. It is simply not the case that all Shugden practitioners are NKT/pro-Chinese/anti-Dalai Lama/anti-Tibetan. However, it certainly suits those who are anti-NKT to give this impression, sadly. This is more distortion and propaganda in line with the 'cult' accusation.

The ONLY thing that Dorje Shugden practitioners want is religious freedom and not to be treated like the Jews of Buddhism.

I'd just like to make the following clear.

1. Not all Shugden practitioners are NKT
2. NKT has no political affiliations and is not interested in Sino/Tibetan politics. I don't know any NKT members who talk about the Tibetan situation and its relationship with China because this is nothing to do with Kadam Dharma but is simply worldly politics.

I don't officially represent the NKT but I've been around long enough to know that these essays are false and the impression they are giving is a wrong and damaging one, therefore something needs to be said.

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