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Recommendation letter for Petros Babis for the Tsadra contemplative scholarship

Dear Tsadra Scholarship Committee,

It is a great pleasure to write this recommendation for Petros Babis. This letter is to request a scholarship, which will enable Petros to attend a three year retreat at Gomde Pyrenees, which will start in summer 2022 under the guidance of Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche and Lama Tenzin Sangpo.

I first got to know Petros in the year 2019 at Gomde Pyrenees, while I was translating for the retreat and participating during the three months retreat. Every year we hold a three-month retreat on the Sphere of Refined Gold, (*thig le gser schun*) a terma on the practice of Tregcho and Thogal by the tertön Chogkur Lingpa at Gomde Pyrenees. The retreat was fully booked when Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche sent a message that we needed to accept one of his new students: a student with true one-pointed perseverance and dedication for retreat. Usually, participants have to fulfill certain prerequisites to be allowed to attend the retreat, yet Rinpoche thought that even without empowerment, or the particular preliminaries Petros was a suitable candidate for this retreat.

Since there were no more rooms, Petros had to stay in one of the tepees, which was neighboring my hut, and in this way, we became friends. I was immediately impressed by his discipline and diligence, for even in the breaks he was training in the new practices. His renunciation and dedication to dharma practice was inspiring to me.

Upon getting to know him better, he confided his past to me and told me that he had become a vegetarian, so that he would never again harm a living being. He said his only wish in life, now, was to do retreats. I have never met anybody with a greater dedication to retreat. He has absolutely no concern for the pleasures and aims of this life, and therefore, I know that he will do the three-year retreat with the utmost diligence and discipline.

Everybody here at Gomde Pyrenees is deeply impressed by his character. He is extremely helpful, kind, compassionate and responsible. Right now, Petros is working very hard renovating the houses in preparation for the three-year retreat. He works from morning to evening on a voluntary basis out of his pure motivation. One can always count on him, as he has an irreproachable character. When I think of him, the Tibetan saying, “a dharma practitioner who has become jaded by the dharma cannot be tamed by the dharma, but a great sinner can, “comes to my mind.

It is my sincere aspiration that Petros will be able to do the three years retreat. I hope that Tsadra foundation will support him by granting him the contemplative scholarship. Should you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

With this letter I would also like to express my deep-felt gratitude and appreciation for all the amazing work you are doing for sentient beings and the dharma.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Heidi Koppl', written in a cursive style.

Heidi Koppl

Translator for Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche