



We would like to make a short documentary, focusing on bringing 10 nuns from Karsha Nunnery, Zanskar Ladakh, to Auroville Pondicherry.

Two years ago, I had an amazing opportunity to live in a nunnery in Ladakh for some weeks. A dream came true for me.

This nunnery is called Karsha or Chukshikjal, founded in 1957 and located in the Zanskar Valley in the Himalayas. A very remote place with very harsh living conditions. Some call it 'Little Tibet' as the people are almost untouched by modernisation and practice traditional Tibetan Buddhism, as in Tibet.

These nuns practice the Gelugpa, Yellow Hat sect (also known as Dge-lugs-pa), of Tibetan Buddhism of Dalai Lama.

The funds we are raising in total is 8 lakh rupees, will go towards the travel, food, and accommodation for the nuns and film crew.

The rest of this experience is priceless.

TIBETAN BUDDHIST NUNS HIMALAYAS

These nuns built this nunnery themselves, over the last 60 or so years, stone by stone, carrying them up the mountain.

You see, in this part of the world, monks are highly respected, however women have had to fight for their spiritual freedom. Some think that women can not get enlightened.

It's only been in the last 60 years or so, in this village, where women have created their own spiritual house for worship, one of which is the Karsha nunnery. An incredible achievement.



AUROVILLE INTERNATIONAL TOWNSHIP SOUTH INDIA

I wanted to share with the nuns where I was from and all about Auroville, and a local friend translated for me. The nuns were very interested.

I asked who would like to discover Auroville, and they all wanted to!

One old nun even said, "Please take me before I get too old and can't leave the mountain." She must have been over 80 years old.



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THE EXCHANGE

Two years have passed and I've tried to see how I could bring the nuns to Auroville, and finally with the great help from AVI USA, things are starting to move ahead. It has continually been on my mind, this promise I made to my new sisters. The nuns have even been calling me asking when this would happen, they are so eager to come and see Auroville. ...

My dream would be to go to Zanskar with a film crew, for a week, to capture the nuns in their daily routine and habitat in Karsha.

Then document the journey of the nuns coming to Auroville, as well as their Auroville experience. This would be the first time for many of them to leave the village and mountains; how incredible it'll be to see, in their simplicity, their pure reactions, that innocence in opening their perspective, exposed to a new world. Combining it all to make a short documentary of this to share, as well as a memento for the nuns of this new endeavour.

We would bring 10 nuns plus a translator for 10 days in Auroville.



ITINERARY

In Auroville, I'd like to take the nuns to the Matrimandir. How would the silently charged atmosphere of the Matrimandir, the soul of our City, compare to their colourful, vibrant, loud, traditional way of worship?

Then we would visit WasteLess, where the nuns would be informed about water and plastic pollution which is also a big problem in Ladakh;

Ecofemme, where the ladies can learn and empower themselves about women's health and menstruation. In the Himalayas, this is a taboo and unspoken subject. Informing and empowering the nuns would enable a start to breaking this social construct.

Another stop in this itinerary would be Auroville Earth Institute. The nuns built Karsha nunnery themselves with local and natural materials, however it's still very primitive, maybe they could pick up some new tips, tricks, and techniques to improve their living conditions making it more bearable.

Coming from a vast semi-desert mountainous terrain, there are basically no trees, they haven't seen a forest. Pitchandikulam Forest is a must, as well as a lunch and walk at Botanical Gardens where they can explore the tropical diverse flora and fauna. The final stop, the sea. This would be the nuns first experience of the ocean and would be a magical moment to capture.

Aurelio from Swaram is interested in doing a collaboration event, where the nuns would chant, and the Swaram team play atmospheric instruments.

The nuns would also do a puja and some chanting in the Tibetan Pavilion. They could also share their experience of building the nunnery and how they live their lives from community to community.



THE DOCUMENTARY

I sincerely feel this would be a great opportunity and exchange for Auroville and the nuns. It would be a lovely blessing for Auroville to welcome them, to receive the sacred chanting and purity of a traditional culture. And for the nuns, an eye opening experience, which they can share with all the people back in Ladakh.

The hope is for a continual exchange of connection between two special places of India and their resident souls, this promise of a visit to Auroville being just the start. As well as being a celebration, exposure, and empowerment of female spiritual seekers.

The documentary will make this experience timeless, and can be shared globally, marking a sense of history for the archives of Auroville and Zanskar.



Please share this within your networks, and help give these nuns an adventure of a lifetime...

Donate

aviusa.org/karshanuns

Thank you for your support.
Love and Light,
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