Acknowledgements

Resistance in Exile: A Study of Tibetan Poetry is the result of a desire to know Tibetan literature and Tibetan culture in which that literature is rooted. This desire began around seven years back, the day I finished reading Freedom in Exile, the autobiography of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. This autobiography is the truthful account of a person who had once been the ruler of a land, geographically situated on the roof of the world, having to flee into exile and then to live as an exile for the longer period of his life. Yet even in the middle of all these crises, the resilience and optimism which enabled him to present himself before the world with a smiling face, preserving his unique, perhaps “antique” ways like ahimsa and coexistence, this was something that tugged at my heartstrings.

That smiling face was the beginning of it all. My next quest was to know and understand this community and its features. These searches led me to an Indian voluntary organisation which supported the Tibetan cause – the Friends of Tibet. This small organization quickly absorbed me into its stream and I became part of the Tibetan cause. The greatest satisfaction of this voicing of the Tibetan cause was when I saw that same smiling face which had so attracted me at Kochi a few years later. I was also able to present His Holiness the Dalai Lama with a traditional Tibetan “khata” and receive his blessings.

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