

Timely News & Related GBC Accountability

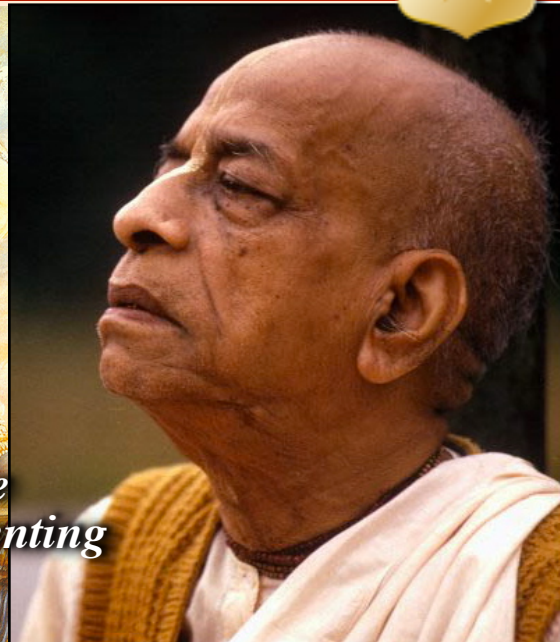


May 2, 2015

**Special interview with Dasarith das. What was it that made him go on a lone crusade against some members of the GBC?*



Who the GBC are supposed to be representingat all times!



The NA GBC At Work? *the double standard of politics*

By the EDITORS

Everyone in ISKCON would like a GBC that truly represents Srila Prabhupada, especially in morality and ethics. But recent unethical actions of some members of the North American GBC team, makes you wonder if they care, and where they are heading and trying to take us? This is an amazing story.

GUPTA DAS: "I agree with you, that the GBC does appear to have a double standard for themselves." *Gupta Das is the attorney representing the North American GBC on all matters of law.*

MALATI DAS: 8/10/14 "The described topic does not fall under the purview of the *Vaishnavi Ministry*." She was quickly sent an email reply, "What purview does it fall under?" She never replied. **POINT IN QUESTION:** A complaint was made by a friend of a female devotee lawyer, who is also a Prabhupada disciple, to members of the *Vaishnavi Ministry*, as well as to the GBC Executive Committee, complaining of Gupta das' calling and threatening her

with disclosure of her religion to her clients, if she continued to try and help temples draft their own temple bylaws, thus bypassing the NA GBC drafted bylaws, that have clauses to centralize the North American ISKCON temples. WHO would have prompted Gupta to make such an unethical call? The NA GBC EC? Why was there no answer from either the *Vaishnavi Committee* and no response of concern from the Executive Committee of the GBC? At the time, this devotee who had been threatened, called such behavior "Mafia tactics." Why isn't this a case to be investigated by the *Vaishnavi Ministry*, when a female member of ISKCON was being abused and unfairly threatened by a legal representative of the NA GBC EC? (*Vaishnavi Ministry* members are: Malati devi, Dina Sharana devi, Laxmimoni devi, and Prasanta devi, and the letter of complaint was sent to all of them).

NITYANANDA DAS: "A full audit was done on the temple president of ISKCON Phoenix, her businesses and the temple, and there was absolutely no discrepancies in the accounts. They were as clean as a

whistle." A short time later it was discovered that the audit was incomplete, being stopped by the NA GBC, and thus Nityananda das was misrepresenting the truth. Why an audit was ordered in the first place was that a few Indian congregational members of the Phoenix temple overseeing accounts, discovered what appeared to be "money laundering" going on. After being brought to the attention of the TP Prema Dhatri, she banned those devotees from coming to the temple as well as those who supported them - a total of 21 Indian devotees, including women and children, banned for 2 years. The audit is still not completed. GBC justice? Accountability?



**MALATI - GBC AND
MEMBER OF THE
VAISHNAVI COMMITTEE**



SPECIAL INTERVIEW

ISKCON devotee fights for rights of innocent

The following is an interview with long time devotee and founder of two ISKCON temples in Arizona, Tucson and Phoenix, Dasarath das.

WDB: Dasarath das, when did you join ISKCON, and why and when did you come to Arizona?

Dd: I joined ISKCON in February of 1971. I came to the State of Arizona in 1986, looking for a fresh place where there were no ISKCON temples. That has mostly been my service in ISKCON, starting new centers. Nalini Kanta prabhu told me that he had come to Az. way back in 1970, and had made a good number of devotees in only one year. He said that it was a good preaching field. It turned out to be very true, as by the mercy of Srila Prabhupada, two nice temples came forth, and both flourished for some time.

WDB: You say, "Flourished for some time." What do you mean?

Dd: The Tucson temple has been flourishing more and more, under the expert management of Sadamini devi dasi, who helped me start that temple. One of the main reasons why it still is a jewel of a temple, is that there has never been any politics. The Phoenix temple, however, has become full of politics. The numbers of the congregation have dwindled dramatically because of it.

WDB: Can you tell us more about that, the politics you say has entered there in Phoenix. Also, you have been a member of ISKCON for more than four decades and serving under the GBC. What made you seemingly go ballistic against the GBC?

Dd: The politics started when a certain member of the North American GBC, Romapada Swami (RS), decided to unethically change the management of the temple. He manufactured stories and lies, had Kuladri das feed it to both our GBC Hridayananda Maharaj (HDG) and the temple board of directors. Basically, he had Kuladri das tell HDG that the B.O.D. does not want him to be the GBC there any more. Kuladri then told the B.O.D. that HDG does not want to be the GBC any longer. He then separately asked both parties to sign a paper to accept HDG's resignation. HDG was fed a lie, and he became very upset when he found out the truth of the matter and that the management was not changed according to GBC rules. RS then put one of his aspiring disciples from Phoenix in charge, as well as posted a new and controversial GBC from Seattle, Hari Vilas das.

WDB: I see. So you say that RS, and other members of the NA GBC executive committee, I suppose, lied to the unsuspecting members of the temple Board of Directors, as well as the GBC. Who else was involved in the so-called deceptive takeover, and does there exist any proof of this unethical maneuver by RS?

Dd: There is lots of proof. It has all been highlighted and exposed in some of the past issues of the <http://WatchdogBulletin.org>, and also on a website exposing RS, called <http://RomapadaSwamiExposed.org>. Other NA GBC members who were involved were Badrinarayan das, who was

recently awarded sannayasa; Tamohar das, who was the NA GBC EC chairman at the time; and Nityananda das, who totes their party line, and has been adding to the lies and deception.

WDB: So I see why this might upset you. You and the local devotees and congregation worked hard to start the Phoenix temple, and in comes a group of "deviants" you might say, from the GBC, imposing their own political choice of management, by which they broke all GBC rules of management and conduct, truthfulness, and GBC protocol. Has the rest of the GBC responded to examine, investigate, and maybe even reprimand those who broke the trust and fiduciary duty of their GBC positions?

Dd: No, not at all. That is most amazing to me. I don't know any other word to call this, but corruption at the highest level of ISKCON management. By the GBC international, ignoring the crime that was done here - the crime of lies, deception, corruption - they have broken my faith in the GBC. They have also broken the faith of others in ISKCON, persons who would never think that a body of men and women that is supposed to represent Srila Prabhupada purely as GBCs, would stoop to such offenses and corruption. I had sent all this, the intercepted emails from Badri to HDG, whereby Badri insists that it doesn't matter how it was done, and other related information of their coup d'état and deception, to the chairman of the international GBC at the time, Bhaktivaibhava Swami. Amazingly, he responded, "It is a North American GBC issue, and should be addressed by the NA GBC EC." I replied, that what if the problem was with the NA GBC EC itself? I got no answer. So here you have, in my opinion, the head or chairman of the GBC refusing to do his duty properly, by not carrying out an international GBC investigation. Basically, he "covered up" for them.

WDB: Amazing story. What about the banning of 21 Indian bodied devotees from the Phoenix temple? How did that come about, and what did they do to deserve such a harsh reprimand?

Dd: They didn't deserve any such harsh treatment, and this also needs to be investigated by an international temple presidents committee. I say, "temple presidents committee" because the GBC is proving that they seem not capable for some reason, of properly policing themselves.

So what happened is that the aspiring disciple of RS, whom he put in charge of the Phoenix temple, was a business lady named Pratibha Somaiya. She later became known as Prema Datri dasi. The NA GBC EC made her the temple president although she had absolutely no training in temple management and vaishnava ethics, and no training as even a devotee. In order for her to become the "legal" TP and board of directors member, without the consent of the real B.O.D. members or their vote, she illegally crossed out the name of the person in charge and put her own name, and filed this with the State of Arizona Corporation Commission. The NA GBC EC has known for some time that she did this, allegedly breaking State law, but nevertheless supports her anyway till this day.

Interview continued....

"It is almost as if they are seeing who can lie the most. Meanwhile, the ones who cheated and lied go unpunished, and the ones who did no wrong remain banned."

(*con't from pg 2*) So one has to understand first, her own devious ways of doing so, even at the risk of breaking the law.

One may say, why would the NA GBC EC do such preposterous a thing? As you will see by looking at the website exposing Romapada Swami, it seems as though he has been setting himself up to take money for himself, from the unsuspecting members of ISKCON for a very long time, and now he has a new place in Phoenix to carry on his cheating business. Some devotees have complained, there are even eye witnesses. But the GBC prefers to "cover up" his corruption. He also has a very rich supporter that has become the advisor to the GBC, Gopal Bhatta das. So the brahmanas on the GBC board, prefer to ignore all this and look the other way.

WDB: But what were these 21 persons who were banned accused of?

Dd: The first devotee accused was Dr. Misra, a 75 year old brahmana, who has been coming regularly to the temple since I started it in 1996. Prema Dhatri accused him of "stealing" an offered prasadam flower garland and some prasadam, which he by his service and right, has been taking from the temple to give VIP's whom he cultivates, like Seator John McCain, the Governor of AZ, etc. She even went so far as to get a restraining order against him.

WDB: Now this sounds unbelievable. There must be some hidden contention between Dr. Misra and the temple president Prema Dhatri, why she would do something so offensive to another devotee.

Dd: Oh yes. A few of congregational devotees like Dr. Misra, who were helping to look after the temple accounts, reported to Dr. Misra that the temple accounts were being mixed in with Prema Dhatri's private business accounts, amounting to what appeared to be some kind of money laundering. So Dr. Misra humbly brought this up to the TP, and soon afterwards found himself banned from the temple. He went to court and got the restraining order and false charges and lies against him dropped, by a Superior Court Judge.

To pay him back for winning one against her, SHE AGAIN BANNED HIM AND ANY DEVOTEE (AND THEIR FAMILIES) WHO APPEARED AS WITNESSES IN COURT TO BACK UP HIS STORY. As trespassing and other false charges against him were proven invalid in court, he has tried unsuccessfully on three occasions to visit the Phoenix ISKCON temple to have darshan, each time Prema Dhatri calling the police to have him removed. Her husband also called the police on him one time when he went to a public home *satsang*. So something very suspicious appears to be going on in the temple management, to say the least.

WDB: It is hard to believe that the NA GBC EC would put someone this ill-trained in as the temple president, and then still harder to believe they would support her after what you claim, she filled illegal documents in the State records. This last story does seem to smell of foul play and cover-up.

Dd: To top it off, the NA GBC EC chairman, Nityananda das, and Badrinarayan Swami, both publicly claimed that an audit that was ordered, in order to satisfy those who may be skeptical about the financial accounts and rumors of money

laundering, an official audit done on both Prema Dhatri and the temple's accounts, they claimed showed absolutely no discrepancies in the accounting and that the temple president was "squeaky clean."

However, on investigation of our own, we found out that these two GBC persons were misrepresenting the truth. The audit had been stopped and the findings were inconclusive. Yet these two GBC members, shirking the responsibility they are obligated to perform for the benefit of ISKCON and the public, what to speak of representing ISKCON's Founder-Acarya, directly lied about the results of the audit, to the devotees, the public, to the GBC, and therefore to His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada.

So if you add all this up, perhaps you can understand why I am extremely upset and also offended, about the deliberate misrepresentation of members of the NA GBC EC, Romapada's original political scandal that set all this embarrassing and unethical action in motion, and about the international GBC neglect and cover-up. One of the most respected sannyasis in ISKCON, Trivikrama Swami wrote this just last year:

"The previous GBC (in Phoenix) was unceremoniously removed from his position there by the NA GBC executive committee, because of the speculation that he would allow the temple to be taken out of Iskcon. There was not proper procedure followed for this drastic step and it has set a terrible precedent." (email from Trivikram Swami, Feb. 2014).

WDB: This certainly sounds like an astounding account of improper behavior and response by the GBC network. Do you have any message you would like to convey to its members?

Dd: Yes, most certainly. We hope that the international GBC will have the strength and wherewithall to due the needful to maintain the preservation of truthfulness and proper GBC representation of this wonderful ISKCON Movement Srila Prabhupada started. We also pray that they properly correct their own members, so as not to loose the trust of the devotees. Most importantly, we also wish very swift action on behalf of the international GBC, to release all the 21 innocent devotees improperly banned from the Phoenix temple for the past two years, with sincere apologies from the international GBC. The temple president, Prema Dhatri, and her husband who is vice-president, I believe, need to be encouraged to resign from the office of temple president, which she has not legally or properly represented. Just recently, it has been reported that she has threatened the four Indian devotee ladies who make flower garlands for the Deities, that if they associate with any of the banned devotees, or even visit the goshala they started, that their service will be taken away from them. Prema Dhatri appears to see the temple as her own private business and treats the devotees like her employees, threatening all of them in a similar way, to whatever purpose suits her whims

WDB: Your requests or wishes do not sound unreasonable, as far as what you and the banned devotees have had to tolerate and suffer. Do you think the GBC will respond in kind?

SPECIAL INTERVIEWCONCLUSION

Dd: With their present mood, and lack of accountability, it is doubtful. Back in 1986, I particularly chose Guru Prasad Swami to act as the GBC for Arizona, because I knew he was not a political type of devotee who would try and meddle in temple management and do things for his own gain, as someone like Romapada Swami is famous for doing. GS is just a nice sadhu. Sandamini and I were very satisfied with his being the GBC, but they removed him from being the GBC maybe back in 2006. Guru Prasad Swami said that the NA GBC EC did this because he does not think the same way as they do. That is a “plus” for Maharaj. Of course the NA GBC EC gave their own lame geopolitical reason for removing him, and see what has been the results, with innocent people to suffer in the wake of his politics.

I have happily served under many GBC's in the past - Rupanuga prabhu, Ramesvara prabhu, Tamal Krishna Maharaj, Satsvarupa, Bhavananda. Some of them later had their own spiritual weaknesses exposed, but at least to me, they never acted in the devious manner as the present members of the North American GBC executive committee. Must be kali-yuga.

Because I have spoken up against the wrong doing of their regime, they have banned me also from ISKCON. I am presently in consultation with a lawyer, to address and confront this injustice against me. Unfortunately it seems that the humongous egos and crooked intents of some of these NA GBCs, do not have the humility to properly deal with the godbrothers they disagree with, and that unfortunately is known worldwide, that if you oppose or disagree with the “elite” GBC, they will do all in their absolute power to discredit and sometimes try and squash you. That materialistic mentality has to change. Srila Prabhupada said that his ISKCON Movement is based on “love and trust.” So those who cannot put such mood and efforts forward, should move to a different kind of service, in my humble opinion.

WDB: Have any members of the GBC international, tried to mediate and sit down with you face to face, and help to resolve your complaints? It seems that they should have that much respect for someone who Krishna empowered to start all the temples in Arizona, and you started it all, from nothing.

Dd: They have not. I am willing to meet with them, and discuss like gentlemen. Unfortunately, they, the GBC, have given themselves absolute power of management in ISKCON with no accountability. For years has grown this attitude of “might makes right.” But it is not right. They must be accountable outside their own votes, or the corruption that has seeped into their GBC organization will gradually destroy the purity of this Movement. That would be lamentable, but it is happening. Others among the GBC, like even Guru Prasad Swami, are afraid to speak up, for if they did, they would soon become ex-members. Very lamentable!

WDB: We want to thank you for your time in explaining your position and dilemma. Hopefully there are some open minds and hearts among the GBC who will reconsider the problems faced in the Phoenix temple and those which you are personally dealing with. May Lord Nrsimhadev protect you, and protect what appears to be your laudable cause for justice.

Dd: Thank you. Hare Krishna. Jai Sri Narasimhadeva!



*NOTICE TO DEVOTEES WORLDWIDE:

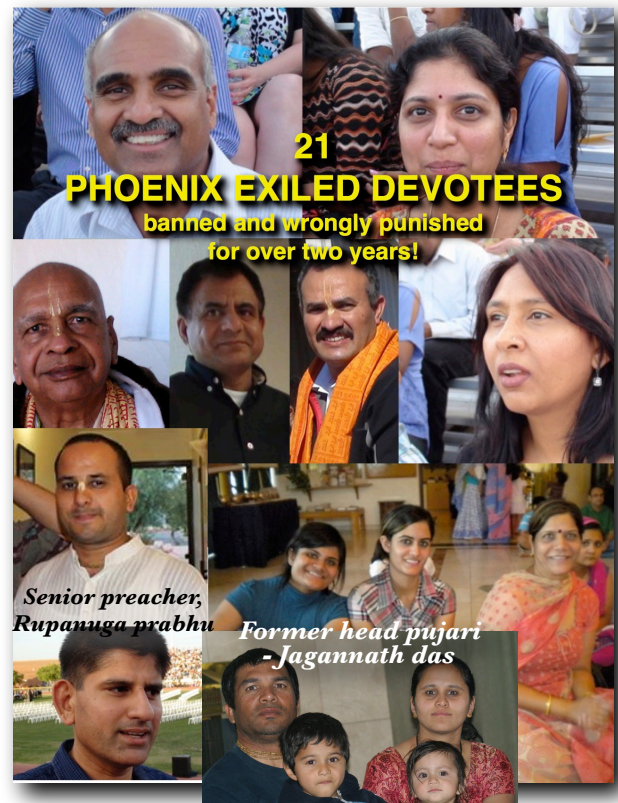
Please write the vice-chairman of the GBC, Sesa das, and request that the banning of the innocent devotees in Phoenix be stopped, and justice be served to those who are responsible to the fraud set in motion by the NA GBC EC members and their agent Kuladri das. Details on the whole expose regarding the fraudulent misrepresentation by the NA GBC EC, can be viewed in the different past Watchdog Bulletin Newsletters, at <http://WatchdogBulletin.org>, and exposes covered in the website <http://RomapadaSwamiExposed.org>

We thank and commend you for your help in keeping the purity in Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON, and promoting the “love and trust” principle that is the attractive and all-important feature of Srila prabhupada's order: “Your love for me will be tested by your cooperating with each other.”

Sesa das' email is:

sethsPELLMAN@gmail.com, and also to Jagajivana das, who is in charge of corruption finding committee: jagajivan.das.acbsp@pamho.net

Here is a picture of some of the innocent devotees, banned by the NA GBC EC and Phoenix TP:



Here is a notice that we received from one of the GBC members, Sivaram Swami:
“Please take me off your mailing list.”
Would this be Srila Prabhupada's response?