

the WATCHDOG BULLETIN

March 20, 2015

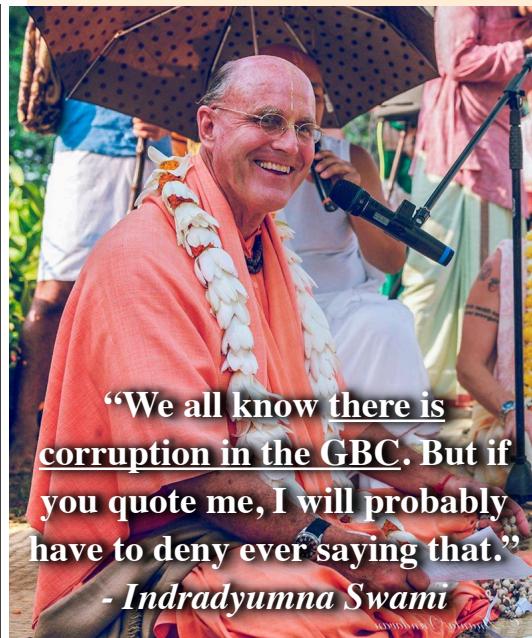
Timely News & Related GBC Accountability



* The Phoenix ISKCON temple deserves purity, not corruption - a N.A.GBC scandal.

* Are North American GBC members following the oaths of truthfulness, and loyalty to Srla Prabhupada? Or is there politics and fighting for profit, adoration, and distinction?

* Devotees demand that correct procedure is used in GBC management, to avoid politics and creating disturbances in the sankirtan mission. "Purity Is The Force."



"We all know there is corruption in the GBC. But if you quote me, I will probably have to deny ever saying that."

- Indradhyumna Swami

"Of course there is corruption in the GBC. But what makes you think that you are going to be the one who fixes it?"

- Guru Prasada Swami
(GBC member)

The GBC Can Do No Wrong the senseless ideology of corruption

By the EDITORS

Most members of ISKCON are pure hearted and hard working devotees. They have joined an international association of devotees, whose only business is to be Krishna conscious and help spread the *sankirtan* mission. Chanting, dancing, and feasting!

There have been some members however, who have in the past and in the present, risen to leadership positions, and a section had gradually become good leaders gone bad, including even some GBC members and "gurus." Becoming proud of their positions was the sin of many, and as the saying goes, "Pride begets a fall." ISKCON survived these setbacks, but only when such deviations were corrected, atoned for, and the fallen leaders removed. Of course, there will always be "fallout" in numbers of trusting followers when such deviations occur, and it should be minimized, at all costs. *Thus the need for real*

accountability in the leadership of ISKCON, and especially in the GBC.

In the case of the Phonix ISKCON temple and the politics of the NA-GBC, there remains a long time *impasse*, revealing some power struggles within that GBC group, with apparent vested interests of certain persons, who in their path of chaos, seem to be trying to change the level or quality of purity in Lord Caitanya's *sankirtan* mission. *Phalena paricyate*, you know them by their work, or by their lack of honest work, might be more proper to say here.

"The GBC's lingering policy of absolute control, authority, and domination, with no accountability or checks and balances on its own members, makes it a good breeding ground for corruption," says an ex-GBC member. The good thing is that the majority of ISKCON's members or devotees, all gave up believing in corruption in its various forms and sitting places, and want no such thing as corruption in ISKCON dealings,

especially not in the GBC itself. They wish to be servants of "pure as possible devotees," and not otherwise.

So naturally there is sometimes a cascade of complaints from "below" the GBC. Unfortunately, because those complaints ARE coming only "from below," many more times than not, the GBC turns their deaf ears, and shows a callousness that has nothing to do with the qualities of a devotee, a response that also blocks and impedes the spreading of Krishna consciousness. As the Founder-Acarya of ISKCON Srla Prabhupada has said, "Our Movement is based on Love And Trust!" Another quote Srla Prabnhupada said was, "The boil (corruption) has to be surgically removed."

So there you see, this newsletter has no other intention than that - Pro-Iskcon / Pro-GBC / Anti-Corruption. We hope you will join us, in making ISKCON a better place, a "safer to trust" place. 1

GOVERNING BODY CORRUPTees (GBC)

Would Srila Prabhupada be pleased to know that this person below is ultimately responsible for sanctioning the banning of 21 innocent devotees (including women and children) from the Phoenix temple, that he perpetrated lies to become a “roaming” *guru* in that city, and even though his questionable present and past has been discovered (<http://watchdogbulletin.org>), he shows no emotions or conscience about misrepresenting and abusing GBC rules of ethics. After all this nonsense and pastoral abuse, he still wishes and expects to be worshiped as *guru*, or “as good as God.” See <http://RomapadaSwamiExposed.org>.



Romapada Swami

Would Srila Prabhupada be pleased that these two persons regularly lie to achieve their personal agendas (see <http://watchdogbulletin.org>), and also condone the banning of 21 innocent devotees in Phoenix? They show no remorse and no feelings of humbleness and integrity, in dealing with either the devotees or the GBC they lie to. Why are they not stopped and reprimanded by the GBC? Their qualities and “worth” is being tested, by them not undoing the wrong they did in Phoenix, including lying about finishing an audit on the TP that was never finished. If they lie, if they break and bend the rules of the GBC, would Srila Prabhupada be pleased? Double-standards and duplicity are not acceptable, yet they remain hiding behind the GBC’s “no accountability” & “absolute power” policy. They fully endorse the appointment and continued TP of the temple, who herself filed unauthorized and possibly illegal documents to make herself in charge.



Badrinarayan das



Nityananda das

Tamohar das, a newer “puppet” GBC member of North America, was the chairman of the North American GBC executive committee, when he knowingly backed up an illegitimate takeover and change of management of the ISKCON Phoenix temple. Later on, the new management, Hari Vilas (GBC) and new TP, an aspiring disciple of Romapada (Pratibha Somaiya/Prema Dhatri), banned 21 innocent Indian devotees from visiting the temple. Like the others above, *Tamohar* feels no remorse for misrepresenting the GBC by backing a lying campaign to put in one of Romapada Swami’s future disciples in control, which also gave the Swami a new market of Indians to allegedly collect money for his own private account. You might say, that all these men use the motto - “the NA-GBC can do no wrong!” Does this sound like a group of Vaishnava devotees to you? **Would Srila Prabhupada be pleased that the International GBC has done NOTHING to stop these injustices?** In this NA-GBC scandal, the Phoenix temple community and congregation has been torn apart, with many people of the Indian community remaining bitter and outraged that this malice and politics of these particular NA-GBC members is allowed to go on and on, in the good name of Srila Prabhupada and ISKCON.

WE

CAN

DO

NO

WRONG



Tamohar das

"When somebody does not agree, you try to get them out by calling the police. This is never to be done."
- Srila Prabhupada

<http://RomapadaSwamiExposed.org>

ROMAPADA SWAMI
ARCHITECT OF NA GBC SCANDAL IN ISKCON PHOENIX.

Authorizes banning of 21 innocent Indian devotees from Phoenix temple. Caught in a myriad of lies regarding personal finances. Real guru??

- * Banning innocent people from a temple!
- * False claims of GBC audits!
- * What are they trying to hide?
- * Why do they bring politics to the temple?



“....Neither cleanliness nor proper behavior nor truth is found in them.”

The Divine & Demonic Natures - Bhagavad-gita 16.7

Pratibha Somaiya
(alias: Prema Dhatri; disciple of Romapada;
has happily banned 21 devotees from the temple. Some of the banned devotees, have compared her to the witch, Putana.

HEARTS OF STEEL?

...a genuine Vaishnava is soft hearted, compassionate!

By Vaishnava Dasi

It all started with a few devotee members of the Indian community, volunteering to oversee some of the temple accounts, and discovering something in the temple finances was not right!

After questioning the temple president, Prema Dhatri, aka/Pratibha Somaiya, about the inconsistencies in the accounting, those and other temple congregational members were banned from even visiting the temple.

In a bluff, encouraging more corruption, the North American GBC Executive chairman, Nityananda das, claimed that an audit on the temple accounts and the temple president's personal business accounts were completed, and no discrepancies were found. However, it was reported by the auditor(s) that the NA GBC EC STOPPED THE AUDIT! Nityananda das and another GBC from San Diego (Badri) directly lied to the congregation and to the GBC international members about the results. How can anyone be accepted as a GBC member, who outright lies and misrepresents information?

A devotee or Vaishnava is said to possess all good qualities. But here, from the GBC itself, we see dishonesty and politics carried out. We find the TP Prema Dhatri calling the police four different times, to remove an Indian gentleman she wrongly accused in the courts, and although his innocence was proven in the court, he remains banned from entering the temple by the NA GBC management. Where is GBC integrity?

To ban innocent people, Indian temple members, including women and children, from going to a public place of worship, would never be approved by ISKCON's Founder-Acarya, Srila Prabhupada. Only a very cold and steel-hearted person would even think to carry on this way.

We ask you, our readers, to join us in a protest demonstration in front of the temple, to demand a stop to this ruining of a pure temple's image. Please voice your support by emailing us at watchdogbulletin@gmail.com.



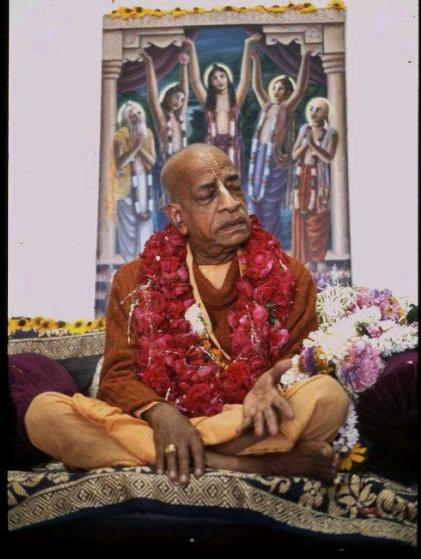
NA GBC Phoenix Scandal Still Stands where is justice, GBC?

By Editors

Does the GBC condone corruption committed by other GBC members? If it doesn't, then why does it allow a management regime that took over the Phoenix temple back in 2006-7 to continue, one that was executed under the direction of Romapada Swami and Badrinarayan das - through lying, deceit, and bypassing GBC laws regulating the change of management of an ISKCON temple? Their politics has divided the congregation, but conveniently given its plotter Romapada, inroads some say, for his own personal economic growth, meaning to cheat the Phoenix Indian population out of their money, for himself.

Why does the GBC support two of their leading members in North America, to blatantly lie, thinking no one will find out, about an audit that they claimed was done on the Phoenix temple president's financial accounts and temple accounts, to rule out any indication of money laundering, when it was they themselves who decided to STOP the audit? Why have they not resolved this issue of corruption and transparency of accounting? Does the GBC realize how bad this makes the entire higher management of ISKCON look - the GBC being crooked in their dealings? What did our most wonderful spiritual master, Srila Prabhupada, say about this? Did he say or even allude to, that everyone should blindly follow the GBC, no matter if they have become corrupt or not?

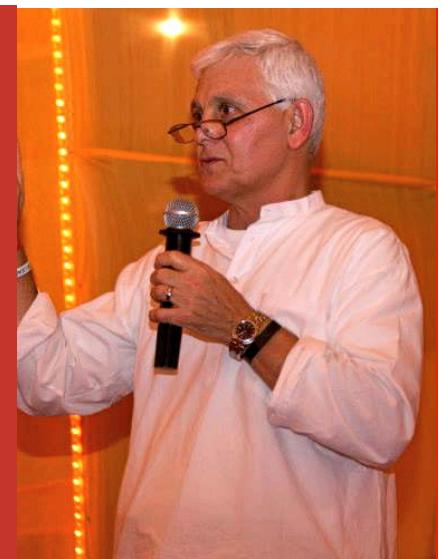
"All our leaders must be above suspicion." - *Srila Prabhupada*



BRAHMANAS ARE SWORN TO HONESTY. WHAT ABOUT THE GBC? THE PHOENIX GBC SCANDAL IS FULL OF LYING AND DECEPTION.

KULADRI DAS WAS THE CHIEF EXECUTOR OF THE NA GBC SCANDAL IN PHOENIX. THAT BEING SUCH, WHY DOES HE HAVE ANY KIND OF POST IN A GBC COMMITTEE? THERE IS EVEN TALK OF HIM BEING INVOLVED THERE IN SOME CAPACITY FOR DECISION MAKING AND OVERSIGHT OF THE POLITICALLY RUINED TEMPLE HE HELPED TO DIVIDE.

**NO ACCOUNTABILITY,
NO TRUST.
NO TRUST, NO SURRENDER.**



ABSOLUTE POWER CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY

ROMAPADA LEADS, AT LEAST IN DUPLEXITY

The website <http://RomapadaSwamiExposed.org> has shown, that Romapada Swami has a track record for questionable money matters, from demanding from a temple accountant in New Jersey that he be given "cash" for his remitting many ISKCON checks given to him over many years, to a few disciples claiming to seeing millions of dollars in his personal bank account records, to making many, many personal loans of thousands of dollars, "under the table", making personal profit without paying any taxes. That would be called tax evasion. Even Martha Stewart had to do jail time for that one!

IS GBC CORRUPTION NEW?

Has corruption existed within the GBC before? Why is their no accountability on the GBC itself, if nothing else, than just to protect the members from the temptation of corruption? These are interesting questions, notably much below a spiritual intelligensia, that is advertised and supposed to be too busy planning how to cover the world with the divine mercy of Lord Caitanya.

As Srila Prabhupada has said, you cannot mix salt with sweet rice, so you cannot mix politics, or corruption and GBC management. It will certainly ruin everything. It is the duty of all ISKCON temple leaders, to help keep things right.

KULADRI DAS regulatory compliance?

By Dasarath das

As the NA GBC EC's own lawyer Gupta das, once recently told me, "The NA GBC do have a double standard for themselves." That statement of acknowledgement itself, is proof of corruption in the NA GBC, and it will never be accepted by thoroughly honest men. Such lack of honesty and honor, would never get past Prabhupada's door!

It is sad and funny, that these supposed GBC leaders in North America who may be guilty of any of the addressed issues being discussed in this *Watchdog Bulletin* issue, have appointed someone such as Kuladri, who has no

problem lying to leaders in ISKCON (as he did in Phoenix), and yet wants the unsuspecting leaders of the rest of the ISKCON world to look up to him as the credible "compliance committee head".

He has had a questionable financial accountability situation of his own in the not so distant past. He was one of the officers of "Share Your Care," but at a certain point, was allegedly not willing "to share" his own transparency of financial records, and instead, when questioned about \$\$\$, resigned.

My, my. What a team we have on the North American GBC and their committees!

There are going to have to come to terms, that no one can trust any unaccountable board of managers. So lets get to it, for the pleasure of Srila Prabhupada! Easy fix - honesty and accountability - all brahminical qualities, yes?

- * The following is an official (3 pg.) letter by the South Asian Bar Association of Arizona, sent to temple president Prema Dhatri, disproving of her policy to ban certain persons and devotees from having access to visit the Phoenix Iskcon temple.
- * As of yet, no official response from temple the management or NA GBC EC has been made in reply to this letter, although publicly stating that they would do so.

February 18, 2014

Mrs. Pratibha Somaiya
ISKCON Phoenix
100 S. Weber Drive
Chandler, Arizona

Dear Mrs. Somaiya,

The South Asian Bar Association of Arizona ("SABA-AZ") is an organization that advocates for the legal interests of South Asian communities in our state. Founded in 2008, our membership consists primarily of attorneys of South Asian origin. Among the many communities we are committed to representing are those who practice the Hindu faith.

We write this letter to express our views as practitioners of law and members of the South Asian community at large. We do so not only to articulate the South Asian legal community's perspective, but also to respond to a specific effort by you to invoke the powers of the legal system that we do not believe are in the best interests of justice or the community that we represent and often defend.

The Action Against Alleged Harassment

You are the president of the local chapter of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness, which runs a Hindu temple in Chandler, Arizona. The temple is supported at least in part by charity and donations from members of the community. Because of reports of legal actions brought to our attention, we undertook a full review of the court filings and exhibits filed in a matter captioned as *Somaiya v. Misra*, Chandler Municipal Court (Ariz.) Cause No. LC2013-000383-001. The action commenced with a petition for injunction against harassment against a member of the temple. The trial court held a hearing on February 13, 2013, at which you were represented by counsel but the defendant was not, and issued the injunction as requested.

An attorney, David Bodney, was ultimately retained to represent the defendant in an appeal to the Arizona Superior Court's Lower Court of Appeals division. Mr. Bodney is well-respected for his expertise on matters of free speech and the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. His appeal was successful. The Court stated that you "did not substantiate" your accusation that the defendant had allegedly stolen food from the temple. The Court further declared that the accusation that he took a blessed garland from the temple was meritless. The Court noted, as do we, the lack of due process and lack of respect for procedural fairness that had taken place in the lower court proceeding. It concluded its lengthy opinion by reversing the judgment of the Chandler Municipal Court. The petition for an injunction was therefore rejected.

Threats of Criminal Prosecution

Diwali, one of the most important festivals and holidays of the Hindu faith, was celebrated at the temple on Sunday, November 3, 2013. It is widely accepted and known among followers of Hinduism that all people are free to participate in any such celebration at a Hindu temple. Centuries of tradition and cultural practices among Hindus support the notion that such festivals are open, public affairs. Yet, the Chandler Police Department was called to the temple in the midst of the celebration on November 3, in yet another unsuccessful effort to invoke the legal system against members of the community. We understand that Chandler police officers arrived at the scene but opted not to enter the premises in an effort to “expel” anyone, due to the large numbers of people present.

The efforts to invoke the law and law enforcement against temple members then continued. On November 8, 2013, the temple’s attorney sent a letter on his law firm’s letterhead to multiple individuals and devotees, this time invoking the criminal law of trespass. This letter stated that any recipient of the letter was on “formal notice” of “denied access to the Hare Krishna Temple located on the Private Property.” It cited Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 13-1501 to 13-1504 as the basis for this statement. These statutes govern the law of criminal trespass in Arizona. Section 13-1504, cited by your attorney, concerns criminal trespass in the first degree and defines it as a potential Class 6 felony crime. In Arizona, a Class 6 felony crime carries with it the threat of up to two years of imprisonment. See Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 13-702(D).

Our Position

SABA-AZ is concerned by the attempted legal actions taken against members of the community. Those legal actions include the meritless action filed in Chandler Municipal Court, the frivolous attempt to involve the Chandler Police Department on November 3, 2013, and the offensive November 8, 2013 letter authored by an attorney for the temple at your direction.

The strongly-worded appellate ruling issued by the Arizona Superior Court speaks for itself. The petition for an injunction against harassment was found to be meritless and violated the constitutional rights of a temple member. Broadly speaking, we find the attempt to invoke the injunctive powers of a court of law to resolve your personal differences with that member to be inappropriate, in light of your position of authority as the leader of a Hindu temple.

As to the specific accusations leveled in that action, we agree with the appellate court in finding these to be inappropriate topics on which to invoke the legal system. The temple’s attorney attempted to persuade the Court that food prepared at the temple was your personal property, and that the person eating it as a devotee of the temple constituted the crime of “theft.” Such accusations run contrary to the spirit in which *prasadam* is offered to persons after temple prayers. He also attempted to persuade the Court that the member had stolen a blessed garland, despite the unequivocal testimony of multiple witnesses who disagreed with this allegation. We believe that the taking of an item such as a sanctified garland should not expose a member of the community to accusations of the crime of theft.

SABA AZ - THE SOUTH ASIAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA

3131 E. Camelback Road Suite 350 Phoenix, AZ 85016 • (602) 808-5540 • ArizonaSABA@Gmail.com

Perhaps most concerning to us was the accusation that the member did not donate "much" to the temple. It is apparent from court records that the target of this litigation spent considerable time at the temple, and that he spent that time furthering the daily functions of the temple in different ways. The notion that a person is exposed to court actions against "harassment" on grounds that he chooses to come to the temple, even though he does not provide what someone considers to be sufficient amounts of donations, is contrary to the spirit in which Hindu temples should be available to the public at large. At a minimum, a person should not be exposed to legal action based on the amount he or she chooses to donate to a Hindu temple.

The effort to involve the Chandler Police Department, including the letter from the temple's attorney threatening multiple devotees with charges of criminal trespass, is another legal tactic to which we object. Arizona's system of justice, including its law enforcement officials, provides both the temple and its devotees with safety and security in times of need. It is our understanding, for example, that officers from the Chandler Police Department provided extra security for temple devotees in the aftermath of the Wisconsin Sikh Temple shooting tragedy in August of 2012. We therefore disagree with any attempt to waste the valuable resources of Arizona's law enforcement community for the purpose of resolving your personal disputes with members of the community. That you would do so during the auspicious occasion of a Diwali celebration is particularly disturbing.

CONCLUSION

It is our hope that these inappropriate attempts to invoke the legal system against members of the community are not repeated again. As to the criminal trespass notice your lawyer sent to multiple individuals, we call on you to withdraw it. While it is not our desire to interfere with the inner workings of this or any other temple, we do not believe that suing temple devotees and having attorneys send threatening letters to individuals is a constructive method of resolving disputes or disagreements. Above all, we believe that temples should be forums for the community at which all citizens are welcomed, regardless of their political or other views, as long as such views are expressed in a respectful and civil manner. If our organization can facilitate in mediating a peaceful discussion, where disagreements can be aired and resolutions hopefully reached, please let me know and we will offer a volunteer or volunteers to do so.

Sincerely,



Neil Singh

Vice-President and Co-Founder, SABA-AZ

Ph: (602) 252-1080

cc: Don Fletcher, Esq. (Lake & Cobb, P.L.C., Tempe, AZ)
Hari Vilas Das (Vedic Cultural Center, Sammamish, WA)