

From: [Yogasandhan](#)
To: [Bert Franzen](#); [Gurubhatka](#)
Subject: Re: Creating a transparent culture
Date: Tuesday, 3 December 2013 10:11:09 PM

Forgot the main piece ...

"All I can say is be verry verry careful of your children at this place. It troubles me to see this starting again with kids here, I grew up here in the early 80's and you do not want to trust these people however well intentioned with your children. Or do none of you remember Akhandanand and Shishy and what they were responsible for. I guess you had to be a kid to really get it. Drove Satyananda to his grave IMO, he was never the same after what those violent pedophiles did to us."

"This is the place where as a child I was beaten and abused by Swami Akhandananda whom also abused teenage girls sexually whom were also in the care of Satyananda Ashram. This place was built on a dark past of eliciting all of the possessions / money of people like my parents whom were devoted followers, telling them how good the place was for me then beating me and treating me like an animal. I really hope you enjoy this place that "holds the candle of true yoga" because a lot of good people were misled, abused and had everything swindled from them in order that you have a holiday camp. I thank Satyananda though for feeding me when they almost starved me to death during one of his visits. They locked me in a room because I was sick and didn't feed me for a week. I was 13/14. This was the place where as a child I was forced to work like a slave building all of those beautiful gardens. The tires they are built out of I carried up that hill 12+ hrs a day by myself. Semi trailer loads full, that was my "sadhana" and I was beaten with a lump of wood (6 x 4) if I was late, that by the way was the "sadhana" of the Swami whom beat me. I could go on but I won't. The scary thing here is that I recognise the mania that drove the adult population at the time. I told people the horrible things that were going on and the devotees made excuses for not helping kids in need. When children were being abused their blind devotion stopped them from protecting those that were in trouble, they let a paedophile get away with absolute atrocities against us. At least these animals could acknowledge the wrong that was done, instead they have denied anything happened, systematically buried all history of what these animals did and relaunched the place as a spiritual home. This place will be rotten to the core till the end because it is built on terrible foundations. Some of the people still in residence today as Swami's were there during this time and they know of the dark past of Satyananda Ashram. Built by tricking honest people out of their life savings, built on paedophilia and child abuse. And thats when it all came crashing down. This is not the ""spiritual home of yoga" [this was a comment left by someone else on the FB page] it is a system that failed to help its own children (yes the ashram was my legal guardian) and failed its disciples miserably. I can never forget the harm that was done to me there nor the evil that was done to my friends either. My advice - You do not need to lock yourself away in an Ashram to learn and understand Yoga, you do not need to give everything to a cause, never ever take abuse

from anyone."

*"Each day watch the colours of your mind,
until the light shines clearly" ~ SSS*

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On 03/12/2013, at 10:02 PM, Yogasandhan wrote:

Hi Bert,

How's 2013 winding up for you?

Something we'd like your advice and insights on; below is a post someone put on FB. He lived here as a teenager and is obviously still scarred by it. In the past the ashrams policy seems to have been one of just ignore it but now given the power of social media that game plan may not be so effective. The same man left comments alongside Family Yoga posts to the effect of don't take your children there it's a cult full based on pedophilia. The teacher who reported it to us said around 900 people had viewed it before she removed the comments.

Aside from dealing directly with him I'm interested in what steps we need to take on a P&P level not only to safe guard against misconduct in the future but how we respond to overhanging issues from the past. Some of the past being only a couple of years old.

Mangrove is having it's 40th next year and we are inviting all old resident back for an Easter celebration. Potentially this could be quite hairy and it would be good to have it right by then so we can truly say the culture has changed.

look forward to hearing from you. If you're free for a visit or a skype with GB and I that would be great.

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