

From: "Swami Atmamuktananda"
Date: Monday, 13 October 2014 1:16:26 PM Australian Eastern Daylight Time
To: "Yogasandhan"
Cc: "Suryamitra"
Subject: RE: draft points for reply to Swamiji

Hari Om

The relevant points for our response to Munger is attached. We the Academy request that the response is based on the format as per the attachment.

As we all know this is urgent, but must be responded to in a most professional sincere way so that Sw. Niranjan feels his instructions are fully understood.

Om

Blessings of peace, joy and inspiration.

Hari Om

Swami Atmamuktananda

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From: Phil Connor [mailto:**REDACTED**]
Sent: Monday, 13 October 2014 12:34 PM
To: 'Satyadharma Saraswati'
Cc: Swami Atmamuktananda
Subject: RE: draft points for reply to Swamiji

Resend as Satyananda.net redirect has failed.

pm

From: Phil Connor [mailto:**REDACTED**]
Sent: Monday, 13 October 2014 11:53
To: 'Satyadharma Saraswati'
Cc: Atma (yogarock@satyananda.net)
Subject: RE: draft points for reply to Swamiji

Dear Atma, Satyadharma, Hari Om

Please review the doc attached.

Satyadharma and I did a first draft. This is an extended draft with my more hard hitting comments included- this is intended to create some cultural change.

This should go to Yogasandhan and Suryamitra today with your approval (after adding anything I have missed and correcting where I have hit the wrong target).
The cover letter for this should also advise them to complete this submission by tomorrow as this section is the key component of what we need to send. The submission on **REDACTED** can follow on Wed if necessary. We should warn them not to give this to anyone not directly concerned.

When they give us a complete version I will include a separate section on the SRI problems. (I have a draft)

Please send me an acknowledgement that you get this immediately.

The whole package will be copied to Hriday & Vivek as a courtesy when we send it to Munger.

Om
Pm

From: Satyadharma Saraswati [mailto:**REDACTED**]
Sent: Sunday, 12 October 2014 20:14
To: pmc
Subject: draft points for reply to Swamiji

Hari Om, PM.

Kindly see the attachment and complete the third section... way forward.

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Om Tat Sat,
Swami Satyadharma

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- Attached: Relevant points for reply to SwamijiPM.docx, 0.019 MB

Relevant points to be used in the reply to Swamiji regarding RC summons

First, understand that this is not a minor issue.

This error has happened due to a gradual **change in Ashram culture** in Australia that has resulted in a break in the continuity of connection in some key areas. It is not due to a single individual, but rather, many have failed to consider the bigger picture and have not understood their own roles and their limitations in their work (both chiefs and Indians). This has led to a lack of consultation with and respect for the senior management, especially the directors of the Academy who are ultimately responsible for everything that happens in Satyananda Yoga in Australia. Do not imagine that this responsibility lies overseas. All we receive from overseas at the institutional level is occasional advice or encouragement.

Order of information to be sent to Munger:

1. Statement of events, regarding RC Summons
2. Apology
3. Way forward through correction of attitude and system

A. Statement of events

1. Copy of summons and date received
2. Why the summons was addressed to YAMM
3. Copy of Response to Summons
4. Who drafted this Response
5. On what date was the Summons sent
6. Was the Response to Summons reviewed by anyone before it was sent, and if so, by whom

7. The contents of the Response to Summons was addressing a schedule of four requests for information; state them clearly
8. Blunder in answering these requests: in the explanatory notes point 7, there was a mention of Swami Niranjan's name in connection with the matrix management. The use of his name was incorrect, and implied a wrong understanding of the actual existing management structure.

B. Apology begins at this point

1. Due to inexperience, incompetence and a touch of arrogance.
2. Poor communication skills
3. Lack of clarity
4. Lack of understanding of the bigger picture in regard to the situation
5. I (or we) take full responsibility for this erroneous Response and fully understand the damage, which it has caused to the name of Swami Niranjan, and to the mission of yoga which we serve
6. I give my word that such use of your name or the name of Bihar School of Yoga will never happen again under any circumstances and in any situation by the Australian Yoga Associations

7. **NO EXCUSES:** Avoid giving excuses in this apology, as was common in the previously drafted version. These are ways to avoid responsibility.
8. This apology needs to be in the first person, i.e.,
I (we) very sincerely apologise for....
I (we) realise that I (we) have caused..
Third person apologies do not mean anything and are unacceptable
9. This apology must be completely redrafted according to the above points and principles.

C. Way forward to ensure such misappropriation never happens again

~~This~~ There needs to be a shift in mindset – a change in attitude. (In these recommendations, Academy means the board and its properly constituted representatives):

1. Correction of attitude: do not imagine that simply because you work for the Academy that you are the Academy.
2. Give real respect and audience to those of greater experience (understand that you may have missed something).
3. Share information with, and ask for advice from the Academy before responses are sent on key issues, which affect the scope and image of the Academy and the yoga mission (in particular on things without clear precedent).
4. Always consider if anything that you are doing may represent a change in policy. If so it **MUST** go to the board of the Academy.

If in doubt, discuss the issue with the most relevant representative of the Academy.

5. Respect the structure and the individuals involved, as they are not there by accident, but represent the best resources this country has available for the task of the Academy at a given point in time.
6. Be prepared to pass a particular role to someone better positioned to do the job at any time (if requested by the Academy). The job is not yours – you do the job because it needs to be done.

So, please redraft the response to Munger with these principles in mind.

What is being sought here is not a list of rules or excuses for one event, but recognition that we have been making a whole series of errors of judgment, and that we will take certain key steps to ensure such errors are corrected before they are executed in future. Only a couple have been highlighted by Munger, but if we look a bit closer we can find many more.

One caution: in this response, do not talk about other errors made (such as the amendment to the YAMM constitution) – there is no need to throw petrol on the fire. These things will be checked by the incoming board and changed as necessary: put things on the agenda if you feel there is a problem.

Response to point 1: from Sw. Atmamuktananda

Re **REDACTED** suspension as an accredited teacher

Errors:

- Delay of notification of suspension to **REDACTED**
- Not informing BSY of our decision
- Using words from Munger's letter to validate the suspension of accreditation
- No reply to BSY emails
- No respect acknowledged to BSY emails
- And then after a long lapse asking for permission to let other academies know about our decision
- Decline of respect for the position of the Academy

Apologies for:

- The critical point and mistake of using reference to Munger's letter to support the SYAA's decision of suspension of accreditation.
- That BSY was not informed of our decision regarding **REDACTED**
- No response to emails received by Munger
- Lack of respect to Munger and their policies
- Lack of respect for not acknowledging and following the structure for which the Academy was formed

Rectifying the system:

- Have a deeper respect and understanding for the structure and purpose of the Academy and its involvement in decision making.
- Closer communication, sharing of information and reporting from Education coordinators, YAMM and YAV Directors or Management committees to the Academy to ensure all aspects are considered.
- The final decision for clarification on important or major issues to be decided upon by the Academy in consultation with the department/s concerned.
- No official statements to be announced or sent out without first consultation with the heads of departments, Academy and CEO.
- Communication with Munger to be channelled via the Academy for clarity to minimize any misunderstanding

Matter 2: Inclusion of Swami Niranjan's name in submission to the Royal Commission

A. Statement of events

On July 4, 2014 a call was received, by Yogasandhan, from the Royal Commission informing that a summons was to be issued by the commission to Satyananda Yoga Australia in relation to past history of child sexual abuse at the time of Swami Akhandananda and current Policies and Procedures. They were informed that there was no entity 'Satyananda Yoga Australasia' and that the ashram now operated under the Yoga Association of Mangrove Mountain and the Satyananda Yoga Academy.

July 5, 2014 the directors of Satyananda Ashram, SYAA and YAMM were informed of the call from the Royal Commission.

July 9, 2014 a written summons was received from the Commission requesting documentation from YAMM relating to:

1. Any reports of child sexual abuse made to the organisation
2. Swami Akhandananda Saraswati and child sexual abuse
3. SHISHY Saraswati and child sexual abuse
4. All past and current policies, procedures and protocols relating to child sexual abuse

[See documents: 01. Summons 1 from the Royal Commission].

July 10, 2014: A reply was sent to the Commission informing them that Rocklyn was a separate entity and that the Commission would

need to contact them directly for any documentation. This information was sent to Rocklyn also.

July 28, 2014: A response was sent to the Commission including a covering letter containing links to all the requested documentation. [See 02. Cover Letter & Statement of Facts]

July 30, 2014: A copy of the response to the summons was sent to the directors and officers of Satyananda Ashram, SYAA and YAMM

The response was drafted by Yogasandhan. It had not been checked by anyone else before being submitted to the Commission

1 Aug, 2014: Sadashiva read the submission and pointed out incorrect information in the 'Statement of Facts'. These errors were corrected and resubmitted to the Commission the same day. This included removing Swami Niranjan's name, which had incorrectly been included in association with the matrix management system. [See 03. Email_Resubmission_Summons S-NSW-260 and 04. Cover Letter & Statement of Facts_Corrections 01.08.14]

B. Apology begins at this point

I, Yogasandhan, take full responsibility for the errors in the original submission to the Royal Commission. I am aware that by acting in isolation and in failing to consult with others on matters of great importance I caused the name of Swami Niranjan to be associated with events that he had no part in and procedures he had no knowledge of.

I took on more responsibility than was appropriate and tried to handle the matter without proper consultation with others. I fully acknowledge that this was an entirely inappropriate way to deal with any matter and especially a matter of such importance.

I recognize that this is a matter of great importance and am deeply sorry for my actions. I give my humble apologies for my failings in this matter. I give my word that in the future I will honour and uphold the name of Swami Niranjan and the Satyananda Yoga tradition in all my actions and words. I will give full support and attention to implementing and adhering to the rectified system detailed below.

Hari Om Tat Sat

Yogasandhan

C. Rectification of Systems

The current system in place at Mangrove Yoga Ashram is that the responsibilities of the YAMM and SYAA directors have been delegated to the coordination group.

It is evident through the above events that those on the coordination group, specifically Yogasandhan, Suryamitra and Gurubhakta who were active in preparing the documentations for the summons were inexperienced in dealing with situations of this magnitude and took on a responsibility beyond what was possible for them to handle effectively.

Yogasandhan, Gurubhakta and Suryamitra are now more aware of the limitations of their roles and the responsibility that lies with them for the prompt and effective sharing of communication with relevant parties, in particular the directors of SYAA who are responsible for the reputation of Satyananda Yoga in Australasia.

It has been noted that especially in matters without precedent it is imperative that broader council be sought to ensure the matter is handled with the utmost care and forethought. Inherent in this is seeking the best skills and minds available to apply to the task and delegating duties accordingly in consultation with the appropriate director of either YAMM or SYAA depending on the scope and impact of the matter.