Forwarded Message:

Subj: **Case Processing**
Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2000 10:06:24 AM
From: bnarayan@compuserve.com
To: hari.sauri.acbsp@com.bbt.se
cc: dgovinda@aol.com, govinda.swami@com.bbt.se, ravindra.svarupa.acbsp@pamho.net

From: bnarayan@compuserve.com (Badrinarayan dasa)
Sender: bnarayan@compuserve.com (Badrinarayan dasa)
To: hari.sauri.acbsp@com.bbt.se (Hari Sauri prabhu)
CC: dgovinda@aol.com (dhira govinda), govinda.swami@com.bbt.se (B.B. Govinda Maharaj), ravindra.svarupa.acbsp@pamho.net (ravindra)

Dear B.B. Govinda Maharaja:

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

I can certify that what Hari Sauri says below is true. There are also many confirmed reports of BVP Maharaja beating kids with canes, sticks, and in one case a thorny bush. We are talking about vicious beatings, not a little rap on the rear. It went on for years and got so bad that Jayapataka Maharaja finally had to come and take the canes and sticks away. (BVP Maharaja had a whole aresenal, which he oiled and polished in public view regularly).

The sexual abuse in Mayapur was even worse than Vrindaban. It was a seething pit of fear and exploitation for many, many boys. And BVP Maharaja was completely aware of it. His stated conclusion was that this was the way it was in boy's schools and amongst Bengalis, which is not true. I personally had conversations with him, Bhurijan, and Dhanurdhara Maharaja about this (when Sri Rama was first trying to introduce even the mildest forms of child abuse prevention programs) and they fought it every single step of the way. This was over 12 years ago. If they had instituted those programs then, dozens and dozens of boys would have been spared and we would not face the moral crisis and legal battles we are confronted with now.

I am saying this only to you and these few others as I do not want to make the wounds on all sides worse. But if you keep pushing this one as a case of BVP Maharaja getting the shaft by an unjust GBC then I am going to have spell it all out in gory details. (His having kids bend over and hold their ankles while he whacked them so hard they fell over...again, and again, and again. Adult witnesses said he swung so hard he looked like he was teeing off at the golf course.)

I don't want to make BVP Maharaja's life harder or soil his reputation further. I respect him as a preacher and recognize that he was under many pressures and existed in a climate which fostered this kind of behavior. I recognize that this is not all there is to his character. I do not want to make a bad situation even worse by putting the above out into the public record. I don't want to see something like the French Revolution, where everyone turned on everyone else until it was a bloodbath with no one was left standing.

Your servant, Badrinarayan dasa

was a bloodbath with no one was left standing.

Your servant, Badrinarayan dasa

---------- Forwarded Message ----------

From: INTERNET:MCPT@pamho.net, INTERNET:MCPT@pamho.net
TO: "Prahlādananda Swami", INTERNET:Prahladananda.Swami@pamho.net
"MCPT (Mayapur CPT)", INTERNET:MCPT@pamho.net
"GBC Discussions", INTERNET:GBC.Discussions@pamho.net
DATE: 4/25/00 6:10 AM

RE: Case Processing

> > Funny thing, because I always thought that Srila Prabhupada wanted
> > us to continue on with service even if we had personal problems and
> > weaknesses.
>
> So this should be the principle we apply with BVPS.
>
> What's good for one is good for all.
>
> Then we won't have to play any games.

In case you hadn't noticed Maharaja, noone is stopping BVPS from doing service. He was rightfully asked to do some prayascitta for his extreme neglect over an extended period as principle of the gurukula. Factually, what he was asked was insignificant when compared to what happened to some of the boys under his care whom he failed to respond to when they asked him for help.

Last night I happened to read a few of the notes kept by Bhakta Rupa from the 1991 investigation. At least two boys who were extensively abused, sodomized, beaten and systematically subjugated by others who were appointed by BVPS as monitors in the school, mentioned that they had reported the abuse to Maharaja himself and he never did anything about it. I don't know if you were in the room in the GBC meetings when [redacted] spoke of how he was sodomized and then reported it to BVPS only to have the perpetrator come back to inform him that "Maharaja doesn't believe you." For four years after the scale of his abuse was increased so that he was continually buggered by his tormentor knowing full well that as an orphan he had no parents to take shelter in, and his one shelter that he should have had didn't even bother to investigate his complaint nor take it seriously.

No matter what other saintly qualities BVPS has, and no one is denying them, he is a terrible manager and his history shows that he should never be in charge of young children again. Those that ignore history are forced to repeat it. The token prayascitta that BVPS has been asked to undertake won't wipe out the past but it will send a signal that the past has been recognised and won't be allowed to be repeated. It will also help BVPS to come to some realization about the role he played in the abuse of scores of boys who thought he was their shelter but unfortunately were ignored and tragically let down.

Noone is putting him in jail, noone is banning him from the society, noone is denying him continued service. But some restrictions accepted by him for some short period of time will go a long way to assuaging the bitterness, contempt and cynicism of many of his former students and the other members of our society that have rightly been appalled at the neglect of duty in our schools by those that were primarily responsible for running them.

By most informed estimates over 80% of the students that went through that school now want nothing more to do with ISKCON. These are the boys that Srila Prabhupada wanted to be trained in a loving, caring atmosphere to become saintly persons and lead this society into the future. As well as all the good things he has produced, this is also the result of BVPS's principleship due to his neglect to fulfill the role in an informed caring way. It is inconceivable to many how that can be ignored or denied.

So far in all the correspondence on this subject I haven't yet seen anyone deny that BVPS was responsible for neglect of a primary part of his duties as gurukula principle. What I have seen is that the main objection is "If BVPS is being held responsbile why aren't others?" Personally I think this is a very valid question that needs to be pursued. However, it does not lessen in any way the role and subsequent culpability of BVPS in the abuse of those children. To say that others have not been dealt with is not to say that BVPS should not be dealt with when complaints specific to him have been lodged by his former students.

I hope you can better understand this and find it in yourself to see things from a broader perspective. You are a long time associate of BVPS and have been staying at the gurukula for a number of years on your pilgrimages to Mayapur. Its natural that you see all his good qualities and all the good that he has done. But please don't let your good sentiments blind you to the realities of those who had to live in that gurukula for years together without the shelter that he was duty bound to give them.

The work of the CPO is not to go on witch hunts and create bad impressions of good people. Rather it was created by the GBC in response to years of protests, cries of distress and hopes of recognition of a black period in ISKCON history by hundreds or thousands of victims and their parents and other concerned devotees, in order to help heal and close the festering wounds of child abuse that have poisoned the mainstream of our Society and its vital organs. I don't think it much to ask that we all, and especially the leadership, support the effort; and indeed, if we don't, then this Society may just not be worth saving.

Your humble servant,
Hari-sauri dasa