In-Reply-To: <3113761@pamho.net>
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Dear GBC members, Pamho. AgtSP!

Sorry for answering so late.

I feel that I have offended some of you, especially Sriman Hari Sauri prabhu, by wanting to withdraw my pledge to the COP. I wrote a personal letter to Dhira Govinda prabhu, he and Anuttama prabhu replied and I sent my response. Perhaps it is Lord Krishna's arrangement that my letter had been placed on this conference. I am not intending to protest about it.

I have to admit that I was reacting out of sentiment and nothing more, as Hari Sauri prabhu stated. I have strong sentiments for anyone who has taken shelter in Srila Prabhupada's movement. Out of sentiment I have strong emotional feelings about the torture that has been done to our children. That's why I want to financially help the COP, although it is not easy for me, believe me. I am traveling in areas without any financial support. Siberia, Far East Russia and the Ukraine require aid projects to help the devotees in the bare necessities of their life. You might think that for me to pledge $1000.00 is peanuts but I strongly beg to differ. I understand that this amount is nothing in comparison to what suffering our children had to experience in the past. I hope that I can organise some sort of fund-rasing for the CPO soon but as of now I have to collect the pledge myself.

I also have strong sentiments for the senior devotees in our movements, especially H.H. Bhaktividya Purna Maharaja who helped me and others in so many ways. I still consider the agreement between the CPO and BVP Maharaja to be a punishment on the latter. Although Hari Sauri prabhu would not agree, I don't want to get into any further details and I object to the notion that I am incompetent to offer any substance. My objection is not at all related to the CPO's procedural dealings with BVPS but rather related to the fact he is being removed from the gurukula in

Mayapur (life-long as I was told), forbidden to lecture in any ISKCON center, etc. This year in Mayapur I felt very sad and indeed emotional, having to watch BVPS packing his things and leaving for good. I felt sad and wrote my letter of protest to Dhira Govinda prabhu that I cannot financially support such actions. Unless we work out a non-sentiment system of financial support for the COP, I feel dependent on my own conviction and inspiration to submit my pledge. I was not aware that I had to make a brahminical promise of giving my pledge. I thought is was meant to be voluntary.

I feel already so bad that I will certainly try to give my pledge but it hurts
me when I am being accused of:

showing sentiment and "nothing more"

being into politics

being part of the old boys club in operation again

having no regard for the innocent boys who suffered like anything

neglecting to clean up the past mistakes of our society

and

attempting to interfer with the CPO's work.

I feel that this assessment of myself is anything else but encouraging. If indeed true, I see it as Lord Krishna's arrangement and have to work hard on improving myself in this regard.

Your humble servant
Dasa A.C. Bhaktivaibhava Swami

---------- Headers ----------
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Subj: BVPM
Date: Friday, April 21, 2000 12:56:57 PM
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To: hanuman.das@bbt.se, PMD5@hotmail.com, Dasarath@compuserve.com, ljyadasa

Dear Anuttama prabhu, Pamho. AgtSP!

Sorry to answer so late. I just returned and ran into a lot of meetings and other arrangments.

>I am naturally disappointed that you changed your mind.

That's what I naturally expected. I mentioned it. I feel the same, and I am asking to give some consideration for my disappointment.

>I hope that you will reconsider your decision in light of the need to help
>our youth, as well as the need to demonstrate to the youth that the GBC
>leaders consider their welfare as a priority.

I understand the need to help our youth, that's why I am trying to give my fiancial contributions. At the same time it is not easy for me to do so since I am working in an area where devotees and projects require help as well, not only finacially, but in so many other ways too. I mentioned that I am being more and more taxed for various projects and needs. At the same time there is no global consideration for the demanding expenditures I have as a GBC member. I have to set my priorities. However, I will try my best to contribute as much as possible for me. It might not be the entire amount.

>You might also consider that we can easily designate that your donation
>will go directly to aid a victim of abuse, and not for OCP general
>expenses, etc.

I trust your good sense of discrimination. This is not the problem. The problem is my own disappointment and my own financial situation.

Financial commitment came up after I made my pledge for the CPO.

>As I understand the situation, the agreement that was reached with the
>Maharaja was done in part to prevent him from being uneccessarily
>embarassed by the details of the case. As difficult as the penance he
>agreed to undergo may be, it was handled in a way that he would not
>have all of the details of his alledged personal (physical) abuse of
>children as well as his failure to respond to reported sexual abuse (by

>others) made public.

My understanding is that there has been already an investigation in 1991 and as a result BVP Swami wanted to resign from responsibilities. The local GBC requested him to continue. He accepted and carried on. Now he is being punished for it. I don't want to get into any further details. Others have more information's and I am sure that the case does not rest at the present decision by the CPO.

>Perhaps you remember the description of teachers passing semen on
>maha prasada and then having boys be forced to eat it? That occurred
>under his authority as director of the school.

Why is only he held reponsible? Why not the local GBC's too. They are as responible for such an important project as he is. I want to see some balance in light of his outstanding service he has rendered over the many years. He certainly is responsible for those horrible crimes but what about the many good things he has done. Is this not taken into consideration. Again, I don't want to unnecessarily expend on this point. There will be assessment reports prepared by others who know the Maharaja's service in the Gurukula better than me.

>Regarding the tests that alleged abusers may have to undergo, whether
>they be sanyasis, grhastras, brahmacaris or whatever, I would strongly
>argue that the amount of discomfort a man may have to undergo during
>these tests is far, far overweighed by the importance of uncovering
>sexual abuse andprotecting our youth.

I agree in case there is sufficient evidence for abuse. Otherwise, I strongly disagree. You have to respect the moral rights of a sannyasi. To

abuse a child is a crime and to abuse a sannyasi is a crime as well according to sastra. I certainly agree with the need to protect our children
but at the same time I expect a sense of integrity in the replies of the COP
related to questions concerning senior God brothers.

>Let us remember that many, many sanyasis (and others) in the past

>HAVE engaged in horrible, destructive behavior while in the dress of a
>sanyasi. Therefore, we must be vigilent to not overlook serious
>allegations against an alleged abuser simply because its uncomfortable
>for them to answer questions that might reveal deviant mental states.

It seems that you are fixed on your particular point of view and understanding and that is needed for accomplishing the mission of the COP. However, I expected more understanding and concern for the particluar points I addressed. I don't see the need of trying to convince me about the fundamental and general purpose of the COP.

Your humble servant
Dasa A.C. Bhaktivaibhava Swami

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