

Dear friends,

My name is Roman Peterka and I used to be one of swAmi's swamis from 1994 – 2001 (Swami Rameshwarananda). I am originally from Czech Republic (Czechoslovakia) but lot of you had known me from my times in Austria and the US where I worked on establishing first real YIDL organization and ashram there. In 2001 after Kumbha Mela I left YIDL, swamihood and all my connections to the organization and since then I've never looked back and lived just normal everyday life. The hardest think for me when I left was to cut ties with all my friends I had for all those 15 years I was part of the organization. Somehow I got used to it and went on with my life leaving also my friends behind and had no intention to talk about YIDL anymore. One of the reasons was (actually the main one) that swAmi manipulated my departure in such a way that I was the one whose fault was everything ("he is burned out, confused by young woman and lost his way but we thank him for all those years of his hard work", kind of thing). It was very difficult to talk to any disciples because of their "mystical stare" in their eyes which was saying: "You poor thing... and such a great yogi you used to be". It gets really tiring after while. But when after ten years two friends from past called me and told me about this scandal I got very upset, sickened and angry. I've decided to say few words.

I never knew about any sexual abuses. Over the time I've heard some rumors that swAmi sleeps with some of his female disciples but again... I did not know it first hand, did not hear any solid evidence. But now I can understand why many times in India I would encounter some young females sitting on the side with empty stare in their eyes and when you tried to talk to them they would not be really coherent, just so terrifyingly quiet. My hart goes out to them all as I say: "I am sorry, thousand and thousand times sorry for what you had to go through. I hope you are strong now and can recover from it. You are strong and all blessings you need is your own greatness. Nobody else can give you that."

As I understand, there must have been some people who were accomplices in this sick game. We all were brainwashed by guru's mastermind of deceit and deception so it is not so easy to judge. But one thing I want to say to them: "If you helped organizing or participated in the sexual encounters willingly face yourself and do the only right thing to do. Speak up! Save many others in future. Not just from swAmi. He is getting old, ill and his little dingy won't be able to do much with or without blue pills anyway but also from any other guru and power hungry, greedy, charismatic figure. Also for your own self-worthiness." If you don't do it, go to hell.

Why did I leave then if I did not know about all of this? As those, who had been around for decades, know very well, things at YIDL have changed quite a bit. Why? Because we really did not understand that this Indian auto mechanic smart as a fox had a great plan how to come out of misfortune of his predestined Indian future into greatness of riches and power. He came to West, which was where I am now still East and saw a great opportunity to use all his charm and suck us out of our money, which we did not have much in communism, but many rivers lead to the ocean, remember that one? He also saw the opportunity in manipulating minds being prepared for brainwashing by communist regimes. That's why he was always saying that he liked the East Europeans more than Westerners. So we got caught on the hook of a great guru and saint and this entire BS. He started slow, he had a plan. We were kind of delayed hippies and New Agers and he was giving us love and understanding because he knew that the day will come and we will make him a king of the world. He was building up infrastructure for his future as maharaja. I lived in communist Czechoslovakia being beaten up many times by police and having hard time to live as many others in suppression so I left the underground anti-regime movement for freedom movement of myself with this great guru. I gave it more than 15 years of my life. I am not blaming swAmi

for my decisions. I know that I have to eat what I've cooked for myself. I am not blaming swAmi for times when I saw wrong and did not speak up enough. I am blaming myself for shutting up, trying to be good and faithful disciple. I am not blaming him for manipulating my mind in such skillful way that I myself was suppressing my clear judgment of reality. I've seen bags of cash peddling from one venue to another buying power, titles, houses and disciples credit cards (including mine) being charged for any inconceivable stupid thing you could find in electronics and other stores. I've seen his power and acknowledgement hunger at the UN Millennium conference when he tried to sneak on the podium where nobody wanted him and was driving all of us who were there to serve him crazy by his insanity. This was in Summer 2000 and after we came back to Virginia I knew I was going to leave. I was depressed, angry with myself and I hated my guru. At least something to work with. First real reality in fifteen or so years. Time to stop blaming myself began.

At the end of 2000 we went to Kumbha Mela. I did not want to go, did not plan to go, but guru have said I should go so I went. It was the most disgusting trip of my life. Seeing all those akhara bozo-gurus and him with them, their arrogance, greediness, perversion and stupidity has made me walking zombie. Every night I tried to cry it out by singing strange songs in a language I did not understand and words which I did understand I did not believe in. Sometimes, when there was nobody too close around me during prayer to hear me, I would substitute the words with words of Czech kids song "Skakal pes pres oves pres zelenou louku..." ("Dog was hopping over barley, over green meadow...") just to keep myself sane.

When we got back, I called swAmi to India that I am leaving. He brushed me off that he has to go somewhere and we would speak later. He did not call back and I could not get hold of him for more than two weeks. Finally I got him by leaving him a message that I am walking out if he does not call. To understand the American ashram situation at that time you need to know that everything was depending on my participation. We had just bought new building and people gave tens of thousands of dollars to the ashram because of my personal involvement. Most of them even did not know swAmi. Ashram was paying mortgage to the bank and some people gave their financial guarantees. If I had walked out lot of complicated things could happen. He called me next day. But he refused to accept that I was leaving. Told me to take vacation to recharge and other BS. He had delayed my departure for 3 months. I could have walk out, but my best years of hard and honest work were there and I did not want it just to go to hell. So I left him within myself. I was not swami anymore and I ran ashram for the intermediate period while making it impossible for him to either sell the building and pocket the profit (which he was actually contemplating right after we bought the building) or not to fulfill all other financial commitments. Thanks to help of some people we succeeded. It did enable him to smear me with accusations that I wanted the building for myself, profit from the ashram etc. It looks like the situation repeats itself on the other side of the ocean in Novi Sad, Serbia. Once I stopped being swami, my personal life became my private life and the accusations about me leaving YIDL because of a younger woman are nonsense. I was celibate the whole time I was the swami not like him and the bozo-gurus in akhara.

It is important to understand one thing. Even if he did not use physical power to overcome those young women, he is still guilty of overpowering them by his brainwashing. I still consider it a rape. I hope that some court, after those brave ones press charges, will agree. And this is for swAmi and anybody else concerned: "Remember, even if you are seated on a throne you are still sitting on your own dirty ass."

Roman Peterka
Carpenter

Alexandria, VA, USA

Dear friends,

I forgot to mention one thing in my statement about swAmi's sex scandal, which I think is important, because it may still be going on. Some time before I left YIDL, swAmi asked me to buy him a spying kind of device which he found in one of the magazines on the airplane. I was confused and not really comfortable with it but again – guru asked you and you do it. I thought that maybe it was more for game like listening to people and then showing them that he had supernatural powers telling them that he knows what they were thinking etc. I knew that many other “famous gurus” used to do these kinds of things – using modern technology to pretend that they had siddhis. Now I understand that it was used for much sicker game (as probably the other “famous gurus” did too). When I asked later certain person involved in this with him how it was working out, she said that it was great. She would pretend reading a book close to some group of people with hidden microphone and transmitting the conversation to swAmi. Even without knowing who they were spying on, I felt sickened. Again, I did not speak up at that time and shame on me. If this did not become common knowledge by now (I don't know, I haven't been around for a long time) please, let everybody possible know, that even those, who are still clinging to his side, know who they are dealing with. A cowardly paranoid manipulating megalomaniac. Take care,

Roman Peterka