

# The Pursuit of ISKCON Child Abusers

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## Vedasara's Tragic Testimony

I recently had the opportunity to read the heart-wrenching testimony of Vedasara das.<sup>1</sup> He was five years old when he came to the Mayapura Gurukula and he stayed there for 21 years until he was 26. He tells the story of how he was terribly molested, abused, and tortured, particularly when he was a vulnerable child incapable of defending himself. He confirms that he was "*sexually assaulted by a total of 8 people.*"

Every individual who is not infected with these types of odious tendencies will be appalled by this tragic history. All empathetic persons will want to do whatever they can to protect innocent children from such insidious abuse. For some the solution is easy. "*Castrate and/or execute the monster who does such a heinous crime!*" That would certainly set the precedent for deterring future transgressions upon innocent children!

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<sup>1</sup> (<https://m.facebook.com/groups/vedicinquirer/permalink/876537346741267/>)



## Three Prongs of Child Abuse Justice

But the challenge in preventing these nightmares, without opening the door for other catastrophes of justice, is not just a matter of ban and defrock like those campaigning to prevent it sometimes make it sound. Brahminical justice requires vigilance in regards to three different areas when we face the very unfortunate reality that children are sometimes terribly mistreated.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Ensuring Children are Protected.

Sane people concur that the first area of concern is preventing the horrible way innocent children have reported to be abused. It is completely unacceptable and although it may be impossible to insure it never happens again, a zero tolerance policy should clearly be the goal. Yet it is helpful to also understand the magnitude of child abuse within our human condition.

Child abuse is a huge problem **everywhere**. ISKCON-Bashers like to ignore this fact and give the general public the impression that ISKCON is the worse in protecting our children. That is simply not true. Available research suggests that approximately 2 to 5% of Catholic priests have had a sexual experience with a minor and historically confirms it has been covering up child abuse for 400 years.<sup>2</sup> In the Jewish tradition it was found that 1 in 6 Jewish children in Israel are sexually abused.<sup>3</sup> It is heresy for a Jew to report any egregious behavior committed by the local Rabbi. By November of 2020, 95,000 people filed sex-abuse claims against the Boy Scouts of America. (BSA)<sup>4</sup>

The dirty ugly fact of this Kaliyuga material world is that child abuse is everywhere. In the United States at least 1 in 7 children have been abused or neglected in the past year.<sup>5</sup> *"You think the Catholic Church has a problem?"... "The physical sexual abuse of students in schools is likely more than 100 times the abuse by priests."*<sup>6</sup> None of this is presented to even slightly suggest that ANY child abuse is acceptable. The references given here are to expose the hyper-critical condemnation that ISKCON-Bashers are fond of distorting out of proportion. Yes, atrocities have been done by pedophiles and homosexuals who found their way into trusted ISKCON positions, but in comparison to the rest of the world we are navigating this plague far better than other institutions.

Statistically; *"Estimates of the prevalence of (pedophilia) range from one to five percent of the male population."*<sup>7</sup> When we consider the 21 years Vedasara prabhu reports about the activity at the Mayapura Gurukula we need only consider the total population from that sample set to discover that the reported incidents are way below the 5% that wreaks havoc through all aspects of society. This is not in any way to be construed as an excuse for such tragedies but it does expose the extreme bias inflicted by those who maliciously claim that all ISKCON *"...gurus are perhaps debauchees and molesters."*<sup>8</sup> Those who post such obnoxious statements are not interested in solving any of these problems, they are simply grabbing onto any opportunity they can to promote their own attention getting vengeful agendas.

Unfortunately, child abuse in third world countries is a problem that does not get the attention it deserves, however there are many organizations working to address this issue. Some of them include:

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2 <https://www.psywww.com/psyrelig/plante.html>

3 <https://traditiononline.org/institutional-abuse-in-the-jewish-community-by-shira-m-berkovits/> p40, Fn#58 "Today we know that child sexual abuse occurs across religions culture, and socioeconomic status.

4 <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/boy-scouts-must-settle-95-000-abuse-claims-by-next-summer-or-risk-running-out-of-cash/ar-BB1bbdA1>

5 <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/fastfact.html>

6 <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/has-media-ignored-sex-abuse-in-school/>

7 Psychology Today: Pedophilia 02/09/2022 <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/conditions/pedophilia>

8 <https://krishna1008.blogspot.com/2022/09/iskcon-celebrates-45-years-of-pedophile.html>



1. **UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund):** UNICEF is a UN agency that works to protect the rights of children worldwide. It has a specific focus on providing support to children in developing countries, including protecting them from violence and exploitation.
2. **Save the Children:** Save the Children is a global organization that works to improve the lives of children around the world. Its programs include child protection initiatives that aim to prevent and respond to child abuse and exploitation.
3. **Child Fund International:** Child Fund International is an organization that works to support children living in poverty in developing countries. It has a specific focus on protecting children from violence and exploitation.
4. **International Child Protection Network (ICPN):** ICPN is a network of organizations and individuals working together to protect children from abuse and exploitation around the world.
5. **World Vision:** World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization that works to support children and families living in poverty in developing countries. Its programs include initiatives to protect children from violence and abuse.

These organizations and many others like them are working to address the issue of child abuse in third world countries. They do this by providing a range of support services, including education, counseling, legal assistance, and advocacy for policy and legal reforms.

Unlike rape, that has often been swept aside by primitive cultural traditions, every mother is biologically wired with the natural instinct to protect their children. This raises the natural support child protection will get in any community when people are given a chance to connect with these groups. These are the groups those seeking justice for abused children need to be working closely with.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Apprehending the Child Abuser

The second aspect of the child protection agenda is that those who commit such offences should be apprehended and punished accordingly. The fact that has not always been the case in the past is why so many are now upset about what is happening today. It is also important to make the distinction between the behavior of the guilty individuals and the institution. ISKCON must not become entangled in the bad behavior of those who cannot control themselves but this has not been the case. Consequently, there has been a lot of ugly allegations and finger-pointing about those the public feels should have taken action as the atrocities VedaSara reports about occurred. Now child abuse in ISKCON has become a crisis and understandably, the public is outraged.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Preventing Lynch Mob Hysteria

The third leg of the child abuse allegations that must be carefully managed is the easiest to overlook and lose control of. The idea of abusing an innocent child is so disturbing; the frenzy which occurs around it can lead to equally tragic consequences similar to the hysteria that occurred in the 1690's historic Salem witch hunt. At that time such an outrage gripped the community, 200 people were arrested and 20 people died due to the overwhelming fears expressed by the general public.

## Early Prosecuted Child Abuse Case 1984

Before I elaborate on that, let me begin by sharing one of the earliest cases where a confirmed child abuser in ISKCON was successfully prosecuted and punished. It occurred circa 1984 at the Los Angeles devotee nursery school. Children returned home and reported to their parents that the man who was trusted to supervise them was violating their private parts. When it was brought to the attention of the local temple management, the appropriate law authorities were immediately called in. Within weeks he was convicted



of child abuse and sent to jail. This was the proper response. It was quick, and it took the whole problem of determining the validity of the abuse out of the hands of inexperienced devotee management. It also eliminated the chance for vindictive people to allege a coverup or political Quid-pro-quo among the privileged leadership class. There was no dispute about how justice was served and this early case provides an excellent model for how to resolve similar atrocities when they come up.

## The Cost of Silence Impact

On August 22, 2015, after seeing Sanaka Rsi's film: *"The Cost of Silence"* I sent him a five-page letter clearly indicating how much I supported his efforts to protect children from child abuse. Recalling the 1984 incident in Los Angeles, I encouraged him to establish a system to help expedite who those who were victimized by child abusers to immediately find the help they needed so justice could be quickly served.

*"So the reason why I am writing is to advise you to not waste your time expecting the GBC to provide you the type of transparency and authority the CPS office must have to be effective. That just isn't going to happen. Maybe in 500 years from now it MIGHT happen, but not for a long time considering how intertwined the pool of perks is between the power brokers and decision makers. It seemed to me that ISKCON should have simply turned over all those who were accused of child abuse to the local authorities and let the legal system do the discover and pursuit of evidence to punish those who were the wrong doers. To the best of my knowledge Srila Prabhupada never advised any of his disciples to think they could act with impunity in regards to the local laws and he clearly agreed that those who did wrong should be punished for their nonsense."*

Sanaka acknowledged my letter but I was quite surprised how vehemently he rejected my suggestion as unsuitable. His movie convinced me he was committed to protecting innocent children, but his rejection to the solution that had worked so well in Los Angeles was baffling. Instead, he chose to battle with the GBC Goliath who had conflicting allegiances and were not properly trained in resolving such deviations in human nature.

Many institutions develop long standing relationships between its leadership members and that is pejoratively referred to as the *"Old-Boys-Club."* It has such a strong influence it can often lead to inappropriate bias decision making. This is not unique to ISKCON. It exists wherever there is a group of individuals working towards a collective objective and it reflects an aspect of our human nature that often stands in the way of untinged decision making. The *"Old-Boys-Club"* is referred to as the *"Code of Blue"* among the police force and I encountered its prejudice with officers during my 30-year career working as a database engineer for the United States Navy. Higher ranked lieutenants are expected to act with a greater moral standard than the newly enlisted 18-year-old sailor, but there is no process in place to ensure that they will.

Many particularly expect that leaders in religious communities only achieve their positions of power because they are of exalted personal character with impeccable ideals. That may be initially the case, but unfortunately people change or their concealed nature becomes exposed with time. Those who naively believe that anyone is insulated from the risk of poor judgement or fall-down lives in an unrealistic fantasy world. Srila Prabhupada specifically said, utopia does not exist anywhere in this material world.

*"So we shall not expect that anywhere there is any Utopia. Rather, that is impersonalism. People should not expect that even in the Krishna Consciousness Society there will be Utopia. Because devotees are persons, therefore there will always be some lacking—but the difference is that their lacking, because they have given up everything to serve Krishna—money, jobs, reputation, wealth, big educations, everything—their lackings have become transcendental because, despite everything they may do, their topmost intention is to serve Krishna."* Letter to Atreya Rsi, Bombay 4 February 1972



## Attracting Flies with Vinegar?

Failing to understand this important point, Sanaka instead chose a confrontational, arm-twisting attempt to force the GBC to respond to his concerns about the ISKCON youth the way he wanted them to. He ignorantly failed to consider the fact that the people he was approaching had not yet reached the godly status of personal perfection.

Consequently, he has since earned the reputation for alienating, attacking and unnecessarily insulting those he needed the support from. What else can be expected when one charges is with autocratic, vigilante, and offensive communication skills? Yes, some very bad decisions were made, and perhaps those who made them were indeed overwhelmed by what needed to be done. But accusing everyone else of **"NOT CARING"** about the welfare of the children when he did not get the reception he wanted, is not the way to gain the cooperation of those who are in the position to change things.

The fact is that the majority of devotees are very disturbed about the horrendous things that happened to the gurukula children and the huge scar it has on Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON. Accusing everyone who did not comply with what Sanakas demanded as being equally culpable to those who did the molestation is incendiary. It is equivalent to saying every citizen in Russia approves of Putin's war crimes in the Ukraine. The fact is many in Russia are kept uninformed about what their government is doing because Putin is careful to prevent knowledge of his ruthless tactics in the Ukraine from reaching the Russian citizens.

## Innocent Until Proven Guilty!

Some people may have heard some stories about how Bhakti Vidya Purna Swami (BVPS) ran the Mayapura gurukula, but that does not mean they knew about the details expressed in Vedasara's alarming letter. Good leaders honor the principle that: *"A person should be considered innocent until PROVEN guilty."* Regardless of how heinous a given situation may appear at first, good people refrain from slurring insults, accusations and jumping to conclusions prior to when a conviction is handed down. Had Sanaka Rsi been more vigilante about escorting those who claimed to be victimized directly to good legal counsel or any of the organizations specifically set up to protect children listed above, relief would have come more quickly. Instead, we now have the huge mess we collectively face today.

Sanaka wanted so badly to be seen as the heroic defender of innocent children that he adopted an *"In-Your-Face"* confrontational approach, to child protection in ISKCON and that undermined his effectiveness. Yes, atrocities were committed, but Sanaka got so focused on the horrid behavior of a small minority of troubled individuals that he completely forgot the important brahminical principle:

*"Even if someone on the level of Lord Siva blasphemes a devotee, he will soon be destroyed. This is the verdict of all scriptures. Sinful people who ignore this fact and blaspheme devotees suffer the punishment of providence birth after birth."* -Caitanya Bhagavata Madhya-khanda 21-22.055

Civilized secular societies have adopted comprehensive legal systems to protect its citizens from being treated as a criminal until it is proven by a jury of their peers that they committed an offence. But the internet is the new version of the Old Wild West. There is no throttle to control or verify the dissemination of very destructive, prejudicial, and threatening ideas foisted onto the members of the public. This is something we should all be very concerned about!



## Krishna Attracts Everyone!

Even misfits find Krishna captivating. That includes the 20 percent of the population the *National Association on Mental Illness* refers to as “Mentally Ill”.<sup>9</sup> Those who came to Krishna Consciousness seeking relief from the miseries of life can only hope to get help like that if they can refrain from NOT offending devotees. That is a challenge we all face but it is particularly difficult to do for those who suffer from passive aggressive tendencies, obsessive compulsive behavior, post-traumatic stress disorder, paranoia, addictions to delusional conspiracy theories or psychopaths and narcissists to name a few. Alex Joans of InfoWars fame is an example of such misfits and the Poison Conspiracy (P-Con) fraud confirms that individuals like him have found their way into ISKCON. Consequently, they are incapable of avoiding the ten offenses and do not last long. But they have developed some affection for Krishna so they can’t just walk away. Out of need they might find refuge among ISKCON-Bashers. But many disturbed individuals cannot even find a place among those groups which leads to further alienation that exasperated their feelings of rejection. The problem is not the organization, it is the underlying, untreated mental illness. But narcissists by definition never realize this important point.

An example of this type of distorted behavior is how some RtViks claim that if we all agreed to their mis-construed concept of initiation, ISKCON would magically be restored to the “*Good Old Days!*” Whoopee! This is a reference to when Srila Prabhupada mesmerized everyone with his extraordinary leadership and pure devotee qualities. However, during the “*Good-Old-Days,*” Srila Prabhupada was challenged every day with an array of problems he encountered from the media, smarta-brahmins, his health, defiant disciples, the Gaudia Math, cheaters, deprogrammers, publishing challenges and the exponential expansion of ISKCON.

## The Problems In “*The Good-Old-Days*”

It took 20 years for the RtVik-Charade to coagulate into an alternative break-away movement and now there are at least five different RtVik camps! There is so much completion to establish their particular imaginary flavor of the RtVik-Charade that constant conflict prevails among them all! Delusional individuals may simplify what Srila Prabhupada accomplished into a utopia like “*Good-Old-Days*” memory, but those who were paying attention know that ISKCON has been undergoing an ever-maturing process right from the very beginning. There is no utopia like simple solution to ISKCON’s ongoing growing pains which include how to establish a safer gurukula environment for future brahmins. Srila Prabhupada specifically called those who believe in such utopia as impersonalists, which is consistent with the impersonal concepts taught by the RtViks!

Sanaka Rsi apparently reasoned that too many more children will be abused if he maintained proper Vaishnava diplomacy in his quest to protecting gurukula students. But this miscalculation earned him the reputation of offending the very people he needs to change the system. He appears to have no awareness of the simple cliché: “*Don’t bite the hand that feeds you?*” His failure to understand the importance of diplomacy has resulted in exactly what the Christian proverb warns.

*“A brother offended is more unyielding than a strong city, and quarreling is like the bars of a castle.” Proverbs 18:19*

Sanaka Rsi could have avoided all this had he focused on what I suggested to him over six years ago. His energy would have been better spent setting up the channels necessary to assist those who report being abused get proper help from the organizations that have been founded to provide exactly that!

After the 1984 Los Angeles case, 450 gurukul children participated in a class action, sexual abuse lawsuit that was settled in May of 2005. If the abuse cases that were exposed after that were immediately referred to outside sources for adjudication, ISKCON leadership would rapidly become more vigilant about

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<sup>9</sup> [https://www.nami.org/NAMI/media/NAMI-Media/Infographics/NAMI\\_2020MH\\_ByTheNumbers\\_Adults-r.pdf](https://www.nami.org/NAMI/media/NAMI-Media/Infographics/NAMI_2020MH_ByTheNumbers_Adults-r.pdf)



distancing themselves from those who commit such abuse. That is something we should all want and strive for. Then the people who got convicted for such atrocities would be sieved out of the system and prevented from repeating their trauma on future victims. Devotional service is a privilege, and child abuse is the anthesis of everything Krishna Consciousness stands for. Therefore, let the burden of those who abuse our children fall squarely on their head, NOT the society promoting Lord Chaitanya's mission.

## Carrying the Flag of Child Protection

It is also appropriate to commend Saraswati Richardson for taking up the task of identifying those who have abused gurukula children. However, she too appears to have fallen victim to the pratistha that comes along with championing the cause. Certainly, the general public and those who were abused would like to see her succeed in her campaign, but there is also that 20% of the mentally ill ISKCON-Basher public. They lie-in-waiting to jump on any band-wagon that will expedite the destruction of ISKCON despite how delusional that may sound. They have no appreciation for the fact that despite its current controversies, ISKCON is far more successful in presenting Krishna Consciousness to the conditioned souls of this world than any other branch on Lord Chaitanya's tree.

Where Saraswati took a wrong turn is when she calls her possie to NOT support the TOVP project as a protest against what she interprets as inadequate condemnation for child abusers by the GBC. In this way her praiseworthy efforts have become compromised by the same bravado Sanaka Rsi is consumed with. Boycotting the TOVP is a protest against the vision of Srila Bhaktivinode Thakura and that is extremely disrespectful, foolish, counter-productive and irrelevant to helping establish ways to protect devotee children from future abuse.

## Lokanatha Swami In the Crosshairs

Another behavior that jeopardizing Saraswati's effectiveness is her vociferous campaign against Lokanatha Swami. He is doing his dharma and what he is obviously very expert at, harinam kirtan, and that also happens to be the most cleansing form of penance one can do in Kali Yuga..

In 1990 he was honorable enough to admit that he engaged in inappropriate behavior and subsequently accepted the consequences of that act. He apologized to those involved and in turn got their forgiveness. He also completed the penance that the GBC requested of him which closed the incident and allowed him to return to his service of leading very inspiring kirtan melas. This led to thousands of new devotees joining the Sankirtan movement many of whom later became his disciples.

Not too long ago it was alleged that Lokanatha Swami's 1990 behavior was not adequately resolved. The 10-year-old girl that had been quiet for over 30 years was now 40 and was apparently provoked by the ISKCON-Bashers to resurrect this old affair on the claims that she was forced to remain silent back then. Yet if that was the case, why did she not respond to the opportunity for redress when ISKCON publicly asked individuals in her situation to join the 450-member class action lawsuit mentioned above? That invitation was extended many years later and the intention was to demonstrate ISKCON's good-will to assist the children who had suffered from abusive situations. This was no small offering: *"Each of the 450 victims will receive(d) compensation ranging from \$2,500 to \$50,000 depending on the nature of the abuse, the severity, and the time factor."*<sup>10</sup>

To glean more public outrage about Lokanatha Swami, it was also alleged that he assaulted someone else. A lot of propaganda swept ferociously over the internet in an effort to establish this point but to this date no person has been named as far as I am aware. All the details were obfuscated with dubious claims, very few specifics and even less facts. The allegations reeked with the same hearsay, anonymous

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<sup>10</sup> <https://hwpi.harvard.edu/pluralismarchive/news/iskcon-abuse-cases-settled-usd-95-million>



sources, inuendo, and speculative projections that were used to promote the Poison Conspiracy (P-Con) fraud of the millennia. The rhetoric that was being splashed around had the same vengeful mood as the P-Con, whose whole purpose was to destroy the trust of ISKCON leadership. Those behind this insidious campaign were so committed to their destructive task they fabricated outrageous, impossible stories about events that could not possibly have occurred! When asked to explain even very basic simple questions related to the P-Con hoax they are refuse to do so and just rage on convinced by their own web of contrived stories and mendacious sentiments!

## Targeting the Powerful!

Tamal Krishna Goswami was a powerful preacher of Krishna Consciousness and that is why the ISKCON-Bashers set out to discredit him with their fabricated P-Con. When he passed away in 2002 they simply changed their P-Con script to destroy the credibility of Bhakti Charu Swami who had also proven to be a powerful leader in the ISKCON. It was irrelevant how absurd it was to completely change their allegations to suit their needs. For ISKCON-Bashers, the facts are completely irrelevant!

The marathon kirtans by Lokanatha Swami are so effective in enlivening devotees at it appears he too had become a prime target for those who want to destroy what Srila Prabhupada gave the world! Due to our proud nature, it is very alluring to immediately assume the worst of someone we envy, especially when there is an excellent opportunity that can be exploited to do condemn him. But failing to remember that someone should be considered innocent UNTIL PROVEN guilty is the third aspect of this issue that everyone should be very concerned about. Equiposed brahmins are vigilant about voicing this important distinction. They will do so even when they know mean spirited champions of the vigilante child-protection uprising will accuse them of: “*Protecting Pedophiles.*” Such abrupt, unfounded, and prejudicial labeling reflects a deep resentment and contempt for ISKCON and the proper administration of justice.

## ISKCON-Bashers Have Only That Agenda!

All of this reeks with the same delusion P-Con ranting Nico Kuyt and his blind, cognizant challenged, followers, carried on with for 20 years! Nico has a notorious reputation for speculating, distorting, and saying anything he needs to say to attract the attention he craves and is addicted to. He is so sick even his own son denounced him as a self-absorbed narcissistic monster.<sup>11</sup> A good repetitive lie is all it takes to convince the small population he writes for that his P-Con hallucination actually occurred! But sagacious brahmins demand at least court-worthy evidence before they commit the terrible offense of accusing ANYONE of ANYTHING! Until such evidence has been heard and a guilty verdict has been rendered, prudent brahmins remain silent. This is the very thing Nico has proven to be completely incapable of doing for over 20 years. Of course, he is NOT a brahmin and instead is proud of his own destructive agenda which explains his behavior.

To the best of my knowledge the latest accusation hurled by ISKCON Bashers at Lokanatha Swami have still not been ruled on and may all just be hearsay! Until it has been proved otherwise, those making such claims are behaving like Nico and his disgraceful lynch mob. However, if real evidence is forthcoming and it is later proven that Lokanatha Swami has assaulted someone then I will join the efforts to see to it that he is appropriately punished for further indiscretions.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://jagannatha.com/what-to-know-about-nico/> Nico's own son, Sutta Sattva, describes his father as one who suffers from a Narcissistic Personality Disorder, and everything after that is even more shocking, ugly and evidence of a very sick mind. Those who believe there was a P-Con should read this compilation to understand what Sutta Sattva concluded as follows: “Nico's grandiose fantasies at the moment revolve around the theories of Srila Prabhupada's poisoning. He dreams that he will be the big shot that solves the case and puts the poisoners in jail. He thinks he is taking on the GBC and that he is a threat to them.”





Why is Sarasvati Richardson so surprised that Lokanatha Swami is suing her for slander? Why is everyone else getting entangled in this matter which is between whomever the alleged molested individual was and the swami? Who is foolish enough to send funds to Sarasvati for injecting herself in the middle of something that is none of her business... anymore that it should be the business of ISKCON. If someone broke the local law, then it should be immediately reported to the local authorities and that should be the ISKCON policy and always enforced with no exceptions. This is no doubt bad public relations for ISKCON, but that will just have to be the price to pay until ISKCON does a better job selecting who they can trust to teach our children. ISKCON management is simply not trained or capable of taking on the burden of simultaneously protecting both the interests of the children as well and the accused parties in these troublesome situations. ISKCON has the duty to recluse themselves from such events because in the long run it is better for all involved.

Instead of Sarasvati Richardson beating her head against the firmly established GBC and preaching against glorious projects like the TOVP whenever an abuse claim comes forward, she should be working towards establishing a safe place for children to file their grievances with the local authorities. It may not earn her as many accolades as having every case heard in the court of public opinion like Nico capitalizes on, but it is the proper brahminical way to get these horrible injustices properly adjudicated.

## Spare ISKCON & Protect ALL Children!

Promptly turning these matters over to the local courts would be the most effective way to side-step whatever influence the “Old Boys Club” has on them and the misuse of the “*A api cet su-duracaro*” clause used to excuse them. Doing so completely removes ISKCON from the process of adjudicating every case like they apparently have done recently with BVPS and the offenses reported by Vedasara das. Ok, apparently the evidence was so overwhelming it did not take too long for them to conclude that what Vedasara prabhu reported was so compelling that a verdict of Guilty was quickly established.

We can all be relieved to know that at least in this case, justice was finally served. But how much time and energy were ISKCON leaders involved in examining the facts necessary to arrive at their verdict? Is that really the business administrators should be in at this point in our evolutionary process of disseminating Lord Caitanya’s mercy to the rest of the world?

What is evident by its absence in the reparations the GBC imposed on Anadesh Vapu (Formerly BVPS) is how he is now free to roam the secular world as he pleases! Consequently they had to also add restrictions on how he should be treated if he shows up at ISKCON temples. But what if he goes to the dark side and out of vengeance joins in any of the several ISKCON-Bashing groups whose mission is to disrupt Lord Caitanya’s sankirtana movement?

Is it appropriate for ISKCON to just release him freely to mingle with the non-Devotee society and possibly inflict more torture to other innocent children? ISKCON-Bashers can have a field day with the media about that!

Would I be wrong to believe that had this been handled by local Child Protections services and the local courts he would have not simply been let free to wander wherever he wants all over the world? Is it irresponsible to not consider that he may find some other place to torment children with his unchecked demanding tendencies? Yes, perhaps our devotee children will be free from his terribly poor judgement and ruthless despotism, but isn’t it terribly irresponsible for us to just unleash him on the secular community without notice? My understanding is that all convicted pedophiles and child abusers are given recommended mandatory jail sentences depending on the extent of their offence. The purpose for that aspect of the punishment process is two-fold. First it impresses upon the offender how unacceptable their behavior is to children because any child can be the target for their abuse. The other reason is it creates a permanent legal record notifying the public that this particular individual should NOT be trusted to come anywhere near where children are accessible. For ISKCON it also completes a third function. While doing jail-time, it completely eliminates all the legislation related to what the offender is allowed to do if they



## ਲਿਲ ਲਾਪੁਏਵਾਰਾ ਵੇਕੜਾ ਟਰਨੇ...

show up at the front door of a Vaishnava community. Insisting that child abusers take a big time out in a prison cell is not only pragmatic, it also eliminates all of these additional areas of concern.

Psychologists who have studied the behavior of such deviants helped define the laws to best protect society and reform those who rob our children of their youth. Our goal is to have a Vaishnava behind the bench in every courtroom but until that is achieved, it behooves us to work closely with those who administer the current laws of the land. Someone who robs a child of his youthful innocence is what we are all concerned about. It should not be left to an ecclesiastical body overwhelmed with numerous other issues, not adequately trained in these matters, and has the potential to be influenced by the same type of internal bias that all organizations face in regards to punishing child abusers.