



Radhanath Swami

**“Radhanath, not Kirtanananda Swami,
ordered me to liquidate Sulochana.”**

**Testimony about the participation of Radhanath Swami
in the organization of the murder of Sulochana dasa in 1986**

12 quotes from different devotees that prove that Radhanath Swami was directly involved in the murder of Sulochana Prabhu

Why is Radhanath Swami still being worshiped in ISKCON as a "guru", if he is guilty of having helped murder a devotee? WHY ISN'T THIS MAN IN PRISON?

1. Kuladri, the General Manager of New Vrindabana, was undoubtedly aware of other devotees who assisted and encouraged Tirtha in his mission [to kill Sulochana dasa]. Kuladri indirectly denounced Radhanath when he said, “I know that Mr. Sheldon [Tapahpunja Swami] and other Swami said that the community should do everything necessary to protect Swami [Kirtanananda].” At that time there were only three sannyasis in New Vrindabana: Kirtanananda, Tapahpunja and Radhanath.

Source: *Kuladri dasa’s sworn testimony at the hearing of 13 March 1993 Cited by Halasz & Halasz, court reporters, “United States of America, Plaintiff, v. CR 90-87 Keith Gordon Ham, Terry Sheldon, Steven Fitzpatrick, New Vrindaban Community, Inc., Govardhan, Inc., Cathedral of Healing, Inc., Defenders, Before: Honorable Robert R. Mehri, Jr., United States District Judge and a Jury,” Day III (March 13, 1991), Martinsburg, West Virginia, 475.)*

For the relevant portion of the interrogation record at the trial of Arthur Villa (Kuladri dasa), see attached photographs. Full text of Kuladri dasa's interrogation:

<https://www.harekrsna.com/sun/editorials/09-08/editorials3382.htm>

2. Kuladri stated that Radhanath was one of the key actors in this unsightly drama: “Mr. Slavin [Radhanath], Mr. Wheeler [Hayagriva] and Mr. Sheldon [Tapahpunja] were pushing for this [Sulochana’s murder] to happen like crazy.”

Source: Kuladri’s words quoted by Dharmatma das under oath during the trial on 14 March 1993 Trial transcript, cited by Halasz & Halasz, court reporters, “United States of America, Plaintiff, v. CR 90-87 Keith Gordon Ham, Terry Sheldon, Steven Fitzpatrick, New Vrindaban Community, Inc., Govardhan, Inc., Cathedral of Healing, Inc., Defenders, Before: Honorable Robert R. Mehri, Jr., United States District Judge and a Jury,” Day IV (March 14, 1991), Martinsburg, West Virginia, 832-837, 941.

For the relevant portion of the trial transcript, see attached photos. Full text of Dennis Gorrick's interrogation (Dharmatma dasa):

<http://www.harekrsna.org/gbc/black/radhanath-dharmatma.htm>

3. Dharmatma made the claim that Radhanath was involved to some extent in the killing of Sulochana: “...He [Radhanath] was involved to some extent or had information about the killing of Sulochana. I know that for sure.”

Source: *Letter dated 26 August 1994 from Dharmatma dasa Hansadutta*

4. Janmashtami dasa [Tirthi dasa’s assistant in the killing of Sulochana], who had travelled with and assisted Tirtha while they were spying on Sulochana in California, explained how he was persuaded to help eliminate Sulochana: “In January 1986, when I returned to New Vrindaban [after the Christmas Marathon], Radhanath—not Kirtanananda Swami—ordered me to eliminate Sulochana. The same was said by Tapahpunj Swami and Tirtha in November and December 1985, before Christmas [December 25] I was with a traveling group of sankirtans and returned to the farm only for the New Year. Immediately after our return to New Vrindaban, Radhanath called me in and arranged a meeting in his minibus, in which he spoke to me, giving a prepared speech, which he had previously given many times for Tirtha, Tapahpunji Swami and Kuladri. Subsequent conversations with Tirtha confirmed this.”

Source: *Janmashtami dasa's article "For reference: the story of New Vrindaban", published on the Sampradaya Sun website on December 22, 2006. The full text of the article in English can be read here:*

<http://www.harekrsna.org/pada/ks/nv-history-record.htm>

5. Radhanath praised Janmashtami: "You are one of those rare personalities that Krishna endowed with the spirit of kshatriya and the courage to do what needs to be done."

Source: Radhanatha Swami's words quoted by Janmashtami Das in his article "Chapter Seven: Knowledge of the Absolute is not the same as Absolute Knowledge." The full text of the article in English can be read here:

<http://www.harekrnsna.org/pada/ks/nv/7.htm> as of 4 November 2008

6. Janmashtami gives a more detailed description of:

"Radhanath told those he gave orders to act: 'Sulochan is a danger to the life of Kuldri and Kirtanananda Swami. He wrote it in his diary, and for that reason alone, this guy has to move to the next body.'"

Radhanatah was clear, there was not a shadow of doubt. "Now that Srila Prabhupada has left us, the whole fate of this Movement – OUR Movement, Lord Caitanya's Movement – is in the hands of Kirtanananda Swami, and now we, in accordance with our nature, must do everything in our power to help the Movement in this regard."

Radhanath laid out his plan to at least half a dozen pairs of grateful ears before someone asked questions related to the statements in the Gita:

"How could this defilement overcome you? Such behavior is unworthy of someone who knows the true purpose of life."

The concept of "existing" refers exclusively to spirit, and the concept of "non-existent" refers to matter. Why worry?"

"How can a man who knows that the soul is indestructible and eternal, that it is unborn and unchangeable, kill someone or make someone kill?"

Questions are depressing, but were asked from humble listeners. Radhanath was adamant. In his answer to a potentially explosive series of questions, he quoted Krishna: "Everything has its purpose, and a person with perfect knowledge knows how and where to apply something. ... And his actions will not bring sin upon him. ... As for your duty as a kshatriya..."

That made a point. The order was given by our true spiritual authority, and it was based on scripture, directly on the words of Krishna. Either you follow these instructions or you go to hell !"

Source: Janmashtami dasa, "Chapter Two: what was in the Palace, points." Full English text can be read here: <http://liberatedyogi.tripod.com/>

7. The testimony of the Janmashtami is corroborated by two eyewitnesses. The driver of Bhaktipada [Kirtanananda] confirmed the following: “I witnessed many behind-the-scenes events and I was there when Radhanath told Janmashtami to ‘destroy the demon.’”

Source: *Priyavenu dasa, interview with the author (14 September 2003)*

8. A gurukula teenager who served under Janmashtami also reported hearing Radhanath instructing Janmashtami to “destroy the demon.”

Source: *Harivrata dasa, interview with the author (9 January 2007)*

9. When Ramachandra dasa, a Sankirtana group driver from New Vrindavan, asked Radhanath Swami, “Do you know who killed Sulochan?” Radhanath replied, “I do not know, but the one who did this performed devotional service to Krishna.”

Source: *Ramachandra dasa, interview with the author (10 April 2007)*

10. The Dharmatma continued to recall the events of the day of the murder. He shared memories of Kuladri [Arthur Villa] naming three instigators who “pushed it into happening like crazy.”

“Later, after the morning service, I had a conversation with him [Arthur Villa/Culadri]. Arthur was very worried. He mentioned that . . . that it should not have been done this way, and that Mr. Slavin, Mr. Wheeler, and Mr. Sheldon were pushing for this [Sulochana’s murder] to happen like crazy.”

Source: *Testimony of the Dharmatma, sworn at trial on 14 March 1991 Sited by Halasz & Halasz, court reporters, “United States of America, Plaintiff, v. CR 90-87 Keith Gordon Ham, Terry Sheldon, Steven Fitzpatrick, New Vrindaban Community, Inc., Govardhan, Inc., Cathedral of Healing, Inc., Defenders, Before: Honorable Robert R. Mehri, Jr., United States District Judge and a Jury,” Day IV (March 14, 1991), Martinsburg, West Virginia, 832-837, 941.*

For the relevant portion of the trial transcript, see attached photos.

11. Janmashtami echoes this: “When the ‘time of consequences’ came, Kuladri was VERY & VERY scared because he knew he & Radhanath were in very big trouble.”

Source: *Janmashtami, e-mail to author (1 August 2008)*

12. Although Tirtha flew safely from California to Ohio, he still had financial difficul-

ties. New Vrindaban did not pay him what they promised, and he needed money to buy plane tickets to leave the country – and this had to be done urgently. Dharmatma describes how Bhaktipada [Mr. Swami] and Radhanath [Mr. Slavin] came to him at the sankirtana house to take money for the escape of Tirtha:

“The next day, Mr. Swami and Mr. Slavin came to me in Mr. Swami’s car and signaled me to go out to them. When I approached the car, we talked a bit about what exactly, I don’t remember. Mr. Swami then asked me if I had \$6,000 in cash in my house. I said, "I don't know. I'll see if you want." He told me to go and see if I could find six thousand dollars.

I went back to the house and went to my safe, and... I counted off six thousand dollars and brought it to him. I passed them through the driver's window... through the passenger's window. I don't remember if I gave them to Mr. Slavin, and he gave them to Mr. Swami, or if I gave them to Swami myself. There was a little tension in the air, and I said, "What is this for? So that they [Tirtha and Tapahpunja] can leave the country?" Mr. Swami and Mr. Slavin smiled and said, “Yes.” Then they said, "Well, we have to go."

Source: *Testimony of Dharmatma dasa given under oath during the trial on 14 March 1991 Cited by Halasz & Halasz, court reporters, “United States of America, Plaintiff, v. CR 90-87 Keith Gordon Ham, Terry Sheldon, Steven Fitzpatrick, New Vrindaban Community, Inc., Govardhan, Inc., Cathedral of Healing, Inc., Defenders, Before: Honorable Robert R. Mehri, Jr., United States District Judge and a Jury," Day IV (March 14, 1991), Martinsburg, West Virginia, 832-837, 941.*

Translation done from <http://radhanathswamicrimes.blogspot.com/> resource and supplemented with scans.

Following are several articles that analyze the testimony of Dharmatma dasa, Janmashtami dasa and provides another evidence - a letter Tirtha dasa.

Radhanatha Swami's involvement in Sulochan's murder is proven

Krishna dasa, September 22, 2008

Some time ago, we had the opportunity to read an article by Janmashtami dasa entitled “[Truth, all truth and nothing but...](#)”, published on the Sun website. My attention was drawn to the legal document attached to the article. These are photocopies of court testimony given by Dharmatma Das (Dennis Gorrick) regarding the murder of Sulochana Das (Steve Bryant).

I would like to draw the reader’s attention to those parts of the testimony which re-

fer to the participation of Radhanath Swami in this case. The active persons referred to in the testimonies are: Dharmatma (Dennis Gorrick), Kuladri (Arthur Villa), Radhanath (Richard Slavin), Hayagriva (Howard Wheeler), Tapahpunja (Terry Sheldon), Tirtha (Thomas Drescher) and Kirtanananda (Kate Ham, Bhaktipada, Mr. Swami, Number One).

From the testimony of Dharmatma it is clear that he was alarmed about this murder, and Kuladri das (Arthur Villa) was also worried. Kuladri mentions to the Dharmatma that this killing should not have happened and that he told them (Radhanatha, Hayagriva, and Tapahpunja) not to do so. He says that Radhanatha (Mr. Slavin), Hayagriva (Mr. Wheeler) and Tapahpunja (Mr. Sheldon) were “pushing like crazy for the murder to happen.”

We are well aware that in our ISKCON slang it means “push like crazy.” This means that they were really focused and persistent, they were focused on it and for a long time made great efforts to make it happen. Dharmatma is the first to mention Radhanath. From this it can be concluded that since Radhanatha was the first to come to the mind of the Dharmatma in connection with the murder, it is possible that he was the main organizer. This was later confirmed by another event.

Next we can read about how Tapahpunja (Mr. Sheldon) told Dharmatma how beautiful it was that a demon (Sulochana) was killed on the day of Nrisimhadeva’s appearance. Dharmatma says he was disgusted by it. Tapahpunja was present at the scene of the murder and described the incident in detail.

Then begins a description of how the money intended to escape was received. Now Tapahpunja and Tirtha (Dresher) were forced to leave the country, so they needed the money. Tapahpunja came to get them, but Dharmatma told him to turn to Number One (Bhaktipada, Mr. Swami).

From the transcript of the interrogation we further learn how the next day Mr. Swami along with “**rot not” (Mr. Slavin) came to take his money. Please note that at this point in the testimony, the Dharmatma actually pronounces the name “Radhanath,” but the court stenographer, not knowing what “Radhanath” is, typed “**rot not.” The “mouth of notes” sounds almost the same as the “Radhanath”, so the stenographer wrote as he heard the word, preceded by signs **. This shows that the stenographer was not sure of the correctness of writing this word.

So Kirtanananda and Radhanath came by car to the Dharmatma to take the money from him and give it to the murderers Tirtha and Tapahpunja, wanting to help them leave the country. Kirtanananda asked the Dharmatma to bring in six thousand dollars. Dharmatma returned to the house to take the money and gave it to Kirtanananda, who was waiting in the car.

Dharmatma then describes how he asked about the purpose for which the money was needed – **for the killers to fly out of the country**. And in response, Kirtanananda and Radhanath smiled and waved their heads, answering Dharmatma in the affirmative. They say, yes, this is so that the killers could escape from the country. Kirtanananda and Radhanath then left.

The testimony of Dharmatma clearly indicates Radhanath's involvement in the murder of Sulochana. Radhanath was involved in the organization of the murder, being one of those who “pushed to the fact that the murder happened like crazy”, and perhaps was the main organizer. His leading role in the plot against Sulochana is also confirmed by the fact that he, together with Kirtanananda, took money to organize the escape of the murderers.

The first element is preparation for the murder of Sulochana, and the second is preparation for the transfer of murderers abroad. Only Radhanath is mentioned as a participant in both. This shows that he was involved in this case more than others.

In my opinion, **the testimony of Dharmatma proves beyond any doubt that Radhanath was involved in the murder as the leading organizer.** Of course, now the criminal case may not be able to reopen. However, the evidence is clear that Radhanatha was involved in the murder of Sulochana. English text: <http://www.harekrشنا.org/gbc/black/radanath-murder.htm>

Russian Translation

See "Radhanath Swami: Close Ties to Kirtanananda and the Story of the 1986 Assassination of Srila Prabhupada's Disciple Sulocana Dasa" attached to this report. It can also be downloaded from Yandex.Disk at the link: https://yadi.sk/d/ZdKO_Sr1zX6hk