



an interview with the original rebel

The copyright controversy which had sprung up 6 years ago within the Osho International Foundation came as no surprise to Swami Chaitanya Bharti. One of Osho's earliest sannnyasins and his appointed teacher of meditation, he was the first person to raise his voice against the Commune's Inner Circle's obsession with control and its interference in spiritual matters. As a result, he quit the commune 1993.

Seven years later, his predictions came true. Half a dozen Osho communes in India and Nepal cut off ties with the Inner Circle-controlled Pune commune, two-thirds of the original Inner Circle members left and many longtime sannnyasins including Osho's former secretary for India - Ma Yoga Neelam - and former commune spokesperson Swami Chaitanya Keerti, were contemplating legal action against the commune. The issues which were raised were almost identical to the ones he had raised many years before.

The first question I asked him was...

"Are you, as many people believe, enlightened?"

He looked up at me, faintly amused by the journalistic temerity of the question and replied, "How are you going to check?"

Below is the remaining interview with the "original rebel" which is equally enlightening.

What was it that prompted you to speak out against the Inner Circle's policies in 1993?

I saw that the Inner Circle was playing mischief with Osho's fundamental message which was -- Meditation. How could Osho have left behind instructions not to meditate for more than three days? All his life he taught that one should meditate every moment.

Did you see this mischief as a conscious effort or just a lack of understanding?

The person who wields power has to establish it by controlling others. And the person who seeks power in any form cannot be a spiritual person. A religious person seeks peace, not power. So the one who seeks power is on the wrong track right from the start. Everything he does will lead him further astray.

Being in a position of authority, don't the Inner Circle members have to make decisions?

Of course, but I'm only saying that they should not use Osho's name to enforce their own decisions. In the name of Osho they put their words in His mouth - earlier in the guise of "Osho guidance" and nowadays by saying that Osho had said this privately to them! Actually their problem is that no-one will listen to their dictates unless they create the illusion that Osho had handed them down secretly. For eight years now they have been fooling sannnyasins in the name of Osho. Earlier, no-one was ready to accept this fact but now sannnyasins are becoming aware. They have seen that in the past ten years almost two-thirds of the Inner Circle members either

resigned or were forced to leave, and those remaining have shown their dominating attitude in every aspect of Osho's work - all in the name of Osho. And their problem is that no-one will accept their decision if they say it is their thinking. If they use Osho's name, at least half the sannyasin world will accept it without questions. However, those who have understood Osho deeply and lived his teachings will never accept these decisions. But when the sannyasin community is divided, then the Inner Circle's task is made easier. So, in essence, these people have successfully done the task of dividing Osho's people.

But isn't it possible that Osho did actually make plans for the future of the commune?

Once, before he left his body he was asked: "What will be the future of the commune after you have gone?" he had replied, "Who bothers? I live in the moment." Do you think such a one will leave behind detailed schemes instructing that only maroon underwear should be worn in the swimming pool? Do you think He would leave guidance to open an account in Switzerland and to copyright all his meditations? Even when He was in the body, He used to respond from moment-to-moment. When a problem was presented before Him, he used to give a solution in that instant. If He left extensive plans for the future, then He was not an enlightened one at all! Only an un-enlightened one dreams and then makes grand plans for their fulfillment.

What is your viewpoint on the copyright issue?

There should be no copyright on Osho's name and work. Now sannyasins are crying to get the copyright back to India. I say there should be no copyright at all - neither in the West, nor in India. Anyone, anywhere who wishes to publish Osho's books or spread Osho's message, to do Osho's work, should be free to do so.

So what will be the effect of this on Osho's work?

What is Osho's work? Osho's main work is that one should first awaken and then help others to also awaken. The disciples who have really understood Him and worked on themselves will awaken and continue to help others. It cannot be stopped. Now even Osho cannot stop it. Marketing Osho's books and tapes is not all there is to Osho's work. The real work is to transcend your ego, to erase yourself, to become no-one.

How do you suggest the current tug-of-war between the sannyasins and the Inner Circle over the Pune commune be resolved?

It is the time for Osho's enlightened disciples from all over the world to be invited to guide the Pune commune. They should bring their love and light together to make the crucial decisions and a functional body like the Inner Circle should be empowered only to carry them out. When the real Master is not around, the servants starts believing that they are the Masters.

Many longtime sannyasins are moving in search of other gurus. Do you think that Osho sannyasins should seek a living Master?

Osho himself said this many times, in different ways. At one time, he said it is not the meditation technique which works, but the presence of the living Master which makes it effective. The technique is like a toy or a pacifier given to a child.

The Master is like a mother who watches over the child and ensures that he is moving on the right path. In this case what has happened is that the mother has gone and the maid, because of her vested interest, has taken control and driven away the elders in the family.

Most people find it contradictory that as a Gyani you say it is all a dream-play and at the same time you argue so forcefully against the Inner Circle's policies.

Once the understanding happens, the individual knows that the body has a role to play in life. So he plays the role which is destined for him; and he plays it with totality. He is a perfect actor! ...chuckles... But he also knows he is not the character he is playing, so at the end of the day he is relaxed. After the curtain falls, Ram and Raavan may sit backstage and even share a beedi! ...laughter...

Once you know what you really are, there is no fear. This is the only sign of the enlightened one. He will not be a coward, will not compromise. Such a one is total in everything he does, whether it is opposing a multi-million dollar organization or cleaning his own ass! ...big laughter...

SW. DHYANDEV (Aalif Surti)

Currently Chief Executive Producer, STAR TV
Formerly Contributing Editor, ZEE PREMIERE