

Chiltern Yoga Trust - Australia
Sivananda Ashram
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Swami Venkatesananda's Legacy

Students and researchers wishing to read any of Swami Venkatesananda's out of print books should contact Sivananda Ashram, PO Box 2, South Fremantle WA 6162 Australia, email:<beaconyoga@westnet.com.au>, <info@sivanandaashram.org.au>.

Dear All
Loving greetings.

We are writing this joint communiqué in the spirit of service to our Guru Swami Venkatesanandaji Maharaj, to keep you all informed and up to date with regard to the status of the Chiltern Yoga Trust, the current trustees of this Trust and in relation to copyright issues of Swami Venkatesananda's legacy, which have been the subject of extensive discussion over recent years.

We confirm that in accordance with the terms of the original Chiltern Yoga Trust (Australia) deed dated 14th November 1978, a supplementary deed was finalised on 5th April 2012, updating as required, the current trustees of the CYT (Aus) to those undersigned and included on the letterhead above.

We wish to advise and confirm that in accordance with the terms of Swami Venkatesananda's Last Will and Testament, dated 20th July 1978, that copyright of all of Swami Venkatesananda's work is vested with the Chiltern Yoga Trust (Australia).

Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Swami Venkatesananda's Last Will and Testament is included for reference below.

2. I APPOINT NANCY IRENE HORWOOD (commonly known as LAKSHMI HORWOOD) of 151 South Street Beaconsfield and KERRY KYRIAKOS HARMANIS, Solicitor of 28 Hamilton Street, East Fremantle in the State of Western Australia as Executors and Trustees of this my Will.

3. I GIVE DEVISE AND BEQUEATH all my real and personal property whatsoever and wheresoever situated and in particular all debentures held by me unto my Trustees UPON TRUST to sell, call in, and convert the same into money as they so deem fit and after payment of my debts, funeral and testamentary expenses and all probate, estate and death, succession and other duties TO HOLD the balance of my Estate then remaining ON TRUST for the absolute benefit of a Trust to be formed and known as THE CHILTERN YOGA (AUSTRALIA) TRUST or such other name deemed fit by my said Trustees, such Trust to be formed for the purposes of promoting instruction in the doctrines and principles of Yoga as taught by the Testator and for these purposes to encourage and foster on a worldwide basis the publication and distribution of literature, the establishment of libraries and the dissemination of information by such means as the Trustees of such Trust to be formed shall in their absolute discretion deem fit.

It must also be said that there are in existence a number of publishing agreements with various publishers around the world, including with the State University of New York (SUNY) Press and Motilal Banarsidass (Delhi) which the Trustees are re-examining with a view to clarifying their current status.

The documentary produced and directed by members of the Integral Yoga Association at the Beacon Yoga Centre and entitled "**Through the Corner of His Eyes**" is not deemed to be included in the "real and

personal property” alluded to above and is not covered by this copyright. However all other material which could be deemed to be the intellectual property of Swami Venkatesananda, regardless of where, how and by whom it may have been recorded, is included in this ownership of copyright by the Chiltern Yoga Trust (Australia).

Now it is the shared view of the current Trustees that the spirit and intention of Swami Venkatesananda was to promote the worldwide publication and distribution of his works, as outlined in paragraph 3 of his Will above. With this in mind it is the intention of the Trustees to explore the possibility of allowing the copyright of Swami’s works to be placed in the public domain.

Under such an arrangement the Chiltern Yoga Trust (Australia) will retain the right and responsibility - in collaboration and alliance with a yet to be formulated international consultative group of devotees and disciples - for the quality assurance and version control of any published material, in whatever language and whether in written, audio or video format. Rights to publish may thus be granted on a limited licence basis without the requirement for royalty payments to be made to the Chiltern Yoga Trust (Australia). Sale of existing printed material and existing royalty agreements will be maintained to ensure ongoing operating costs can be met, in particular the costs of maintaining the official website www.swamivenkatesananda.org which it is intended will become the central source of as much of Swami Venkatesananda’s work as can be uploaded.

We make this proposal as an offering at the lotus feet of our beloved Swami Venkatesanandaji Maharaj and will hold discussions with key stakeholders in the months to come to progress this important work.

Yours in the service of the Guru

Swami Lakshmi Ananda

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