

## STATEMENT OF MA NITHYA SHANTANANDA, B.E.

1. I am a native and resident of Karnataka. I am the youngest daughter to my parents. I hail from a respectable, highly cultured and conservative family. I am a Software Engineer by profession having work experience of over 10 years. I worked for Deutsche Bank in New York City as a software consultant for around 6 years.
2. Right from my childhood my inclination was towards spirituality. Sometime during the year 2005, due to my spiritual thirst I decided to join and serve Nithyananda ashram on my own will and volition. Accordingly I joined Nithyananda ashram in the year 2005 and I started my career in the ashram as a volunteer. As a volunteer I served the ashram by dedicating myself to the ashram and thereafter became a full-time ashramite. Since from the days of my joining the ashram till this date I have participated in most of the spiritual programs conducted by the ashram not only in the ashram but also at other places in and outside India.
3. I am also looking after web and Internet department in the Nithyananda Mission. As a volunteer by my sincere honest and dedicated service to the ashram I made a name amongst the ashramites in a short span of time.
4. A certain lady by name Arathi was a volunteer in our Ashram. After she became a volunteer, she began attending to all the programs conducted by the Ashram. As a Volunteer, she earned the good name amongst the ashramites within a short

Shantananda  
(Signature)

span of time. On seeing her work and performance as a Volunteer, she was entrusted/assigned with several other works of the Ashram. On joining the Ashram, as a volunteer she started residing with the other junior and senior level Ashramites and also participated in most of the spiritual programs conducted by the Ashram not only in India but also abroad.

5. Of late, she developed intimacy with a certain Dharmananda, an Ashramite and started behaving indifferently by skipping all the discipline and rules and regulations of the Ashram. She slowly started moving with the said Dharmananda in lonely/secluded places in the Ashram and began to spend more time in his company as and when she used to go out of the Ashram for one reason or the other.
6. The behavior of Arathi came to the notice of Swamiji who in turn advised Arathi not to indulge herself in such type of activities and not to violate any of the rules and regulations of the ashram and further Swamiji also advised all of us to maintain the sanctity, decorum and dignity of the ashram and explained the need to concentrate on spreading the spirituality to the maximum extent, etc.
7. In spite of the advice tendered to her by Swamiji, instead of mending her ways, Arathi continued to behave in the same fashion by closely associating herself with Dharmananda. She abruptly left the Ashram without even informing anyone in the ashram for reasons best known to her.

*Shentavanda*  
*(Suman)*

8. This being the case, it is now brought to my notice a tell-tale statement said to have been made by Arathi in which false, frivolous and baseless allegations are made not only against the Ashram but also against Swamji. If I am asked to say/comment about the genuineness/ correctness of the said statement, I completely deny the same as false, concocted, cooked up and a got up story, which is made only with an intention to malign the image and the reputation of Ashram as well as of Swamiji.
9. I participated in the Devi bhava darshan conducted by the Ashram on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2008. I was busy throughout the night uploading the events and photos in the website. Myself, Ma Nithya Achalananda and Arati stayed in one room. Being physically present in the room, I can say without any hesitation that she never left the room throughout the night of that day.
10. Further I would like to add here itself that since I was with Arati in Dec 2008, I can certainly say no such untoward incident had taken place at any point of time as alleged by Arati in her statement.

Shambhanda  
(Swamiji)