



# Yogi Sarveshwar Ananda Giri

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Born in Paris, France in 1959 in a family of traveling teachers, David Vachon grew up in various parts of the world such as Europe, South America and Northern Africa.

## Education

- B.A. in English Literature at Grenoble III University in Grenoble, France (1980).
- M.A. in Information and Communication from the CELSA (Sorbonne University) in Paris, France (1982).
- B.Sc. in acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine in San Francisco, CA, U.S.A. (1990).
- Degrees in massage, health education, and Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) in San Francisco, CA, U.S.A. (1990).

## Professional Career

- Bilingual copywriter at “Young and Rubicam” ad agency in Paris, France (1982).
- Copy chief at “Avon Overseas” European headquarters in London, U.K. (1984-86).
- Freelance translator, interpreter, and director in the holistic health and medical fields in San Francisco, CA, U.S.A. (1989-1993).
- Private practice in acupuncture, massage, and nutrition in San Francisco, CA, U.S.A. (1989-1993).
- Faculty member of the “National Holistic Institute” (NHI) in San Francisco, CA, U.S.A. (1990-93).
- Staff acupuncturist at the pioneering “Quan Yin Clinic” serving people with AIDS in San Francisco, CA, U.S.A. (1991-93).

## Spiritual Training

- Met his spiritual preceptor, Paramahansa Hariharananda, the last God-realized Kriya Yoga master in the lineage of Paramahansa Yogananda in California, and took initiation in Kriya Yoga (1988).
- A six-month spiritual pilgrimage all over India prompted him to renounce the world (1993-94).
- Was accepted as a *brahmachari* (novice) in his master’s “Kriya Yoga Ashram” (monastery) at first in San Antonio, Texas, then in Miami, Florida, (1994).
- Was ordained as a *swami* (renunciate monk) in the Giri monastic order, receiving the name “Sarveshwarananda” (a Sanskrit name meaning “Divine Joy in Everything”) in Vienna, Austria—the first Western monk-teacher of Kriya Yoga in this lineage (1997).
- Served as his master’s monastic personal attendant and editor of all his writings in Miami, Florida and Vienna, Austria (1997-2002).
- After his master’s demise in December 2002, went into silent seclusion for two years in a remote place in the Himalayas in India (2003-2004).
- In 2009 he renounced his monastic vows and entered the householder life again. He continues his service to his guru as an empowered Yogacharya and priest, and is now known as Yogi Sarveshwar Ananda Giri.

## Social and Educational Service

- Founded and chaired the “Immune Power Foundation”, a non-profit educational organization dedicated to teaching physical, psychological and spiritual self-healing techniques to people living with AIDS or chronic immune system disorders (1990-93).
- Founded the “Ark of Love” in São Paolo, Brazil: a volunteer organization providing spiritual, emotional and material support to street children in Latin America (2001-present).
- Founded the “Hariharananda Mission” in Haridwar, India: a tax-exempt non-profit organization running the “Children’s Academy of Joy” for poor children and widows in the Himalayas (2004-present).
- Founded and presides the “Hariharananda Mission West” in Aspen, CO, U.S.A.: a tax-exempt non-profit organization dedicated to the dissemination of Kriya Yoga and raising funds and awareness for holistic education for the poor (2006-present).
- Founded the “Sri Hariharananda Charitable Trust, a tax-exempt non-profit organization running *Matri Chhaya* (“The Grace of the Mother”) a mini-village for abandoned children, poor widows, and senior citizens in Haridwar, India (2007-present).

## Research and Publications

- Conducted research in acupuncture and psycho-neuro-immunology, with publication in several magazines and peer-reviewed journals (1988-1994).
- Creator and webmaster of [www.storytellingmonk.org](http://www.storytellingmonk.org), [www.hariharanandakriyayoga.org](http://www.hariharanandakriyayoga.org), [www.reddelamor.org](http://www.reddelamor.org) and the blog [www.hariharanandakriyayoga.org/blog/](http://www.hariharanandakriyayoga.org/blog/) (2001-present)
- Editor of *Soul Culture Magazine* (print and web version) founded by Paramahansa Hariharananda, as well as of numerous books and articles by Paramahansa Hariharananda (1994-2002).
- Producer and interpreter of several music CDs and instructional DVDs (2001-present)
- Author of numerous articles and books on Kriya Yoga and various other spiritual and social topics.