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Dear Yogis,

### **Astadala Yogamala Fund (John J Evans) Appeal**

Have you heard about Guruji's marathon **Astadala Yogamala** publishing project yet? His plan is to collect together, order, bring up to date, expand (where appropriate), illustrate, and generally clarify and rationalise all his articles, speeches, talks, interviews, question and answers, and correspondence, etc. This is **Astadala Yogamala**, which will be thirteen volumes when complete. It will be the culmination of Guruji's exposition and thinking on yoga, and is a wonderful legacy for the whole yoga community. So far the first two volumes have been produced and are a tremendous advertisement and recommendation for the whole.

When in Pune this August Stephanie Quirk told me how invaluable John J Evans' help as editor has been to the team helping to produce volumes 1 and 2 (which includes Geeta, Stephanie, Faiq Biria and Patxi Lizardi). She knows that Guruji would like more of John's help which is vitally needed in Pune whilst the editorial team are there together, but she wonders how it can be afforded.

What is John's involvement with Mr Iyengar? John is of a philosophical bent, and first met Guruji in 1978, when he and Mrs. Odette Plouvier, a Belgian/French friend, went out to India in a Cherokee Jeep. They drove to Pune where the new RIMYI had opened in 1975, and attended classes. For the next 14 years they rented a house, spending 4 – 6 months in India and 6 – 8 months in France. He says that he was not much good at asanas in the early days, but in spite of that having been hooked he never quite spat out the hook, and is still practicing today. So when Guruji needed a "tame writer" John was able to stay lengthily in Pune, courtesy of Odette, to help. Guruji thanks him in the preface of Light on the Sutras of Patanjali, as "he was able to correct my English and offer useful suggestions for the presentation of the work. Having him near me helped me to formulate my ideas and bring to life aspects of the sutras which might otherwise have lain dormant." Guruji also credits John in the prefaces of the first two volumes of **Astadala Yogamala** for being one of the group of four who's brainwave it was, and for editing his work with understanding into cohesive English.

This is a great opportunity to involve us, the wider yoga community, directly, and to let us participate in the **Astadala Yogamala** project. There are two objectives for this appeal, to:

- Create a much wider interest in and knowledge of **Astadala Yogamala**, a secret which does not seem to have leaked out very far into the yoga community, which is surprising in view of its brilliance and importance, (why not get yourself a copy?),
- Create a fund to enable John to visit Guruji in Pune to assist with the next eleven volumes.

We have asked John and he does wish to help in any way Guruji asks of him. He feels that about £1,000 per visit would be needed. Say 4 visits were required in the short to medium term, we would need to raise £4,000. The fund is held in a UK bank account; cheques to be made payable to **Astadala Yogamala Fund (J J Evans)**, and sent to Brigid Philip at the above address; please give your name, address, e-mail or phone number. **If you are not in the UK please co-operate to send donations occasionally and in bulk, to minimise the not inconsiderable bank and currency conversion charges.** Receipts will be sent out via e-mail wherever possible to keep administration to a minimum. Guruji will be kept informed, and we will seek to report on progress through the associations' and institutes' magazines.

Please copy this appeal by via e-mail to your yoga connections, asking them also to pass it on to their yoga mailing list. Could you publicise the fund and encourage others to give too? We would like to start everyone thinking about fundraising events they might give, which could also publicise **Astadala Yogamala**.

I do hope that you feel inspired to join in with this very important initiative.

Brigid Philip