



Part One InterView

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Transcribed by Benjamin Westerhoff

I took the name Sananda about...I kind of officially adopted it about four years ago now, it was just something that for about a three year period of time. I witnessed myself become more and more estranged from the name, people who were familiar with me would call me which would be, "Terence" or "T" whenever they would refer that or refer to me as that, increasingly it would take maybe like a few seconds before I realized that they were actually talking to me.

They were addressing who they assumed I was, and umm it really was just a matter of having grown beyond a relationship with that identity to the point where you're a few steps maybe even half a block up the road it felt the time like this to address the name.

I felt like I had to turn around and look back just to align myself with the idea that people had of who that person was or supposed to be and it wasn't anything like, I'm tired of this name, I'm going to move on to another thing, it wasn't that at all, it was that literally...I witnessed a growing estrangement with something, it was almost as if I had reverse amnesia and just, it was just something that became less and less familiar to who I was, and there was a period of time where there was no other name so it was like the name that was still used.

And then I had a series of dreams there were three of them where I was with a group of angels in the dream and they would call out this name "Sananda" and every time I heard it I would look around and say, "Who's Sananda?". It sounded really familiar to me from the beginning and I kept wanting to see who this person was because every time the name was called it would fill me with a kind of excitement like "Oh yeah yeah yeah, Sananda" but I'd look around for the person, and the person would never

appear and I would always wake up kind of disappointed from that dream that I didn't get a chance to see who the angels were calling in the dream and it was the third dream, where midway through them calling "Sananda" the light bulb went off on the top of my head.

It was like, "Oh wait a minute, I'm Sananda" and I turned around, because the angels were always behind me whenever the dream would occur I would be walking in front of them and I would hear them calling the name out and I would be looking in front of me expecting that this person would appear and finally when I had the eureka I turned around to them and they all had this look like, "Finally he gets it" you know and I remember just this feeling of having come home to something more formidable and real and um, before waking up I had asked one of these angels, um, Raphael "What did it mean", and this was around the third time I had dreamt it, this was somewhere in October of that year or somewhere around that area and he said "That you might find it helpful that by the end of the year before the beginning of the next year take the name" (hmm) and um, you know you have the normal kind of question lingering in the back of your mind whether people will think that you are whatever, but luckily that's never been that big of an issue, but he just assured me that it was something that by doing so, I would move more into the truth of who I really was and I knew that he was right.

It was like being reminded of something, um that this is more of a true eternal identity (inaudible) than the name you took on to get through this part of your life experience and um I called up all of my friends and acquaintances I remember um on New Year's Day of that subsequent year and asked them if they would all begin to address me as Sananda and whatever amount of time it took for them to get used to it.

I respected that and for those who had a problem with it, I respected that too, but this is who I am and I'm ready to accept it now, and um that's what happened and what really took me by surprise was not only how quickly my friends adopted it, I mean there were a few who still referred to me behind my back as whatever because that had more caché for them in their cultural experience and I was willing to understand the humanity behind that but for the most part they took to it very quickly.

And it also surprised me at how it became even more deeply familiar it wasn't something that you know I expected something you call yourself this and you



yourself might have to get used to it I got used to it right away and within three months it literally became who I was completely and I became who that was and it was just a memory that this is who I am and Maitreya started to creep in about a year and a half ago where I realized, "Um, o.k. here comes the next one" and the plan was to have maybe a two or three album period where, except for the title of the album itself, or the name on the front of the album, to have all the credits be, all songs written by Sananda/TTD, or TTD/Sananda whatever to get people used to it so I could just make the switch, but something occurred to me one day I had another epiphany where I just realized that that was not showing enough faith in the truth of who I was and that that was still somehow an apology and what was the kicker was one day a gentleman at Capitol said to me that the record that I had made for them had it been from a new artist they would be laughing all the way to the bank and that came back to me, 'cause I felt well, "Do I have faith in my... do I really believe that I need that old identity in order to refamiliarize myself with those who wish to share my journey?"

And the answer was very clear, only fear suggested that I hang on to it when it's gone, and um, I had an experience one day where, or one morning. I was in a room and Raphael came and knocked on the door and we opened the door and we didn't have to say anything because it was pure telepathical communication, but what I said to him was, "Raphael, go now and show my father." And he just nodded in assent, and went away, and I knew that was what he was going to do.

There is an ancient saying that says, "For a boy to become a man he must first show his father." And of course, it wasn't following it literally, I wasn't asking Raphael literally to go and show my father, but I knew that it meant the ties that bound me to an ancestral identity that no longer suited my grace it was just time to cut the last of the cords that bound me, and when I woke up that morning um I had an experience a couple of hours later in the day, where I can't explain it; literally the remnants of that identity, I could feel something [an epiphany] I could feel an actual energy leave and it was under circumstances that were pretty amazing and stressful but it took that, and it was almost like I had a situation where I went into a kind of shock that was designed to kind of just, I don't know, to separate me more from an identity that I was ready let go of the last vestiges of, and um, it was then that I realized that I cannot go farther with this, I either believed in the truth of who I am and why I am here, or I do not.

And to (take?) myself away from previous management obligations and previous label obligations the great thing was that I had no business interests trying to persuade me that continuing according to a logic that they could understand, was in my best interests.

But at the end of the day the beautiful thing about this is I get to come out as a brand new artist for those who have never heard of it before to literally, um, I would have died and been reborn completely as something else and it's only in keeping with the truth that I am living.

And I don't separate my life. My entire life is my career because, I don't believe that you only way we can affect grace and change in the world is if we...a certain amount of people have heard about us. We can affect the greatest change just one person at a time.

I mean even a smile is a much deeper and greater blessing than we know. A smile that you give to someone could start a chain of events that affects a hundred people by the end of the week [true], a thousand people by the end of the month. So, I don't really have any (corded?) off spaces saying this is my life away from the eye, this is my life in the eye, I mean I certainly reserve the right to keep certain things my business and no one else's, but for the most part everything that I do in my life is geared towards helping to raise the level of vibration of the planet and also, you know, for those who invite me into their lives to do so, just to remind them of how much more unique and amazing that they are relative to what we are led to believe about ourselves.

When you give people your mind, you effectively give them your voice, and they're going to control it, try to contain it which is why for me it's paramount to my existence to not let any corporate institution tell me who I am, therefore try to harness my voice because if you let them tell it, you work for them and I don't work for nobody. I work with motherfuckers, but I don't work for nobody. I work for God. Period. Period, period, period. [He's a good boss]

And then the retirement plan is cool, you know what I mean, so it's just like...and I don't mean that in a religious sense, because I am not a religious person, you know, I just mean that regardless of whether it's through whatever avenue, whether it's through sex, whether it's through laughing, whether it's through comedy, through exercise, whether it's through writing, through poetry, through contemplation, through chanting, through



meditation, through whatever, going out to a ballgame, to playing hoops find your joys find the things that make you feel alive and full of grace, and keep to them things. The foods that make your tummy yummy, and just eat them things. Life is my religion, and all of its grand passions, and its rich, (course?...) No one religion is sufficient enough to hold my enthusiasm, my curiosity and my grace.

To go back to the earlier question you asked was...from Vibrator it took me pretty much um, it took me a long time to divest myself from Sony, it was just...I had been trying to get beyond Sony frankly since before "Symphony or Damn." There was something that went down with regards to that project where they kind of came back (...) so I spent years trying to get off of Sony and they just wouldn't let go so, about two years after Vibrator came out, I was finally able to (secure?) my release for the entire Sony situation with the exception of the United Kingdom; who, because I had signed with Sony from the United Kingdom kind of felt that they couldn't emotionally let me go, they still believed that he's going to be around, he's going to do something and we're all going to look bad by having let him go.

So, I just chose not to fight because that would have probably taken another couple of years out of my life, and um, the reason why it took such a great length of time between Vibrator and now, half of it was how long it took for me to secure my release from Sony, um then I wound up almost going with another label, then another label showed up said "la da da da da" and made all of these kind of, you know, promises and things of that nature, and I went with them because I assumed that they were willing to be run...they had given a small label to Glen Ballard. I guess that I assumed that him being a music person I would have an easier way, but um, my naïveté got in the way of seeing that they expected me to go through him for what was mine.

Then I made the record, this record that I will be making available, I pretty much recorded I can't remember now when I started, but it was pretty much done in '98. I recorded over a nine month period and took some time off in between to do a project that Glen had asked me to get involved in, which was a film that he had done, which I thought was really cool kind of thing to do, and I allowed myself to be taken out of my rhythm because I also thought that it would be a gesture towards him, but after I finished the record, Glen waffled quite a bit one moment he really really loved it and was excited, and

then I could actually see the visceral excitement that he had about it.

And then the next time I'd speak to him he was kind of afraid of it, maybe because he felt that it needed more of his involvement than it had or the pressure they were putting on him from the head of Capitol, but one moment it didn't have any singles, and the next time it had a few singles but maybe didn't have the first single and it was just all this stuff, and I do have respect for the pressure that they were putting on him, they were just putting so much crazy pressure on him, and that much (fear?) energy around you, it's really the most potent mojo killer that you're ever going to run into.

The level of fear that exists in this industry is pretty much why the originality, or the individuality is squeezed out of everything. It is almost an accident of nature if something comes out which is really exciting because of its uniqueness. So, you know, he really did the best he could on one level because he kind of felt at one point that his main function for me was to act as a buffer between myself and the corporate structure of Capitol. But at the end of the day, they wanted me to make a record that was a Glen Ballard record with me singing on it.

He's a very talented guy and a real cool guy as a person, when I was dreaming of my dreams and daydreams at school growing up making my own way in the world I really didn't envision that I would be the frontman for somebody else's vision. So, basically after...it was like a six month hold out and they wouldn't even like let me go and mix the record and it was like, "You are going to bend to our will." And I'm like, "No, no I'm not." I believed in my vision, if nobody else believes in it that's still not going to shake my faith that who I am is sufficient as anyone else is. Everybody is a unique aspect of Creator and if they choose not to believe that, they choose to give their power away and they're constantly being invited to others who presume to know better than us what is for us (?) but not this guy, because I know who I am, and I know why I am here.

To paraphrase Walt Whitman, who said that "I know that I am this robust being that I am (...?)" When you know who you are you're just not as easily motivated to let other people try to shake you down and I'm just not going to become a corporate artist, that's not who I am. If I just wanted to be rich, that would be a whole different scenario, but you know the thing is that, as clichéd as it



sounds, I don't know how to lie.

Artists, if you think about it, whether they tell lies in other parts of their lives I don't know, but an artist, a person who feels themselves in art as their calling, art is a healer and healers have different ways of going about healing. Some heal through herbs, some heal through crystals, some heal through medicine, some heal through sound, and some heal through putting their hands on you and doing this or that, there are a multiplicity of ways that Creator can affect change, and um, I just know that I can't lie, I tell the truth, or I don't open my mouth.

I just don't see that my mother went through the pains of childlabor thirty-nine years ago so that I could start lying about who I was suit to my smaller vision or lesser vision of who I am, that just doesn't make any sense to me and I do believe that I take very seriously the gift that Creator has loaned me while I am here on earth to do what I'm here to do, and I feel that I am the guardian of something, and to whom much is given, much is required and I take that very seriously.

I made an oath that I would not let them shake me down, I would not let these Philistines shake me down and keep me from doing what I'm here to do, and whether fifty thousand people hear it, or fifty million people hear it, I'm going to tell the truth, and it'll hit the people that it's supposed to hit and objectively I look at this thing with Java, and I'm really grateful, you know, when I look at it objectively I'm really grateful for every thing that Sony and Capitol put me through, because it brought me more clearly back to the truth of who I was and just stop this fucking apologizing for it.

Somehow if you're not careful, you wind up apologizing for your shit, "Well I'm kind of sorry that I'm not the artist that you kind of think that I should be but..." You know what? I'm tired of that. That does not stick well with my grace or anyone else's. And it's just that at the end of the day, I don't believe that when the blueprint for humanity was hatched in the halls of Providence, that part of the blueprint was that we walk around apologizing for who we are. We are giants. You know just bend over and put your back out stooping conquered and that's fine, but not me, no more because it just costs you too much at the end of the day.

They really helped me realize that I ain't got a damn thing to apologize for, nobody does, but I can't be responsible for anybody else's apologizing, but I can be responsible

for me no more... here thank you for the experience.

And as a result of that being in limbo and still, you know, having now a whole new music that has come to me in the meantime, it just seems perfect that I give this away now, and make that sacrifice to use it literally like an act of sacrifice that I'm willing to make for, not only, kind of cleanse that last period, but also kind of as a way to honor the being that Terence Trent D'Arby was.

So, I'm really excited, and I'm really grateful that I'm in a psychological frame of mind and emotional space of such confidence knowing that that spirit will always provide for any of us who are just willing to remember what it's really about, it ain't about apologizing, it's about upholding the truth of your claim and inspiring others to do the same, and I'm really excited.

We say my music, we say, "Do you like my music," but once it comes through me man...it only stops through me temporarily, really, this is the public's music, unless I have some greater (?) epiphany, I don't plan to like make everything available for free (you have to make a living still), but the bottom line is that you know, I'm excited that I'm able to give people something back, I feel like just to reward them for their patience and their support, a., and um just that at the end of the day this belongs to the people, now the people can say, o.k. I want to pay for this, I don't want to pay for this, but it all belongs to the people, you know, all inspiration belongs to the people.

But make sure they understand, that from the depth of my heart, and my heart is huge and very spacious, from the depth of my heart, I really...I love them. I came back to them man, I mean people...you gotta keep coming back(?), that's all some mind control bullshit.

Every religion has some of it that's been infiltrated in its system to control the people, every religion has its idea of original sin that somehow perpetuates the idea that who you are is not sufficient unto its own grace, or you are broken and fucked up and you gotta keep pluggin away at something until you prove something to some remote distant deity, that's bullshit.

And I just want people to know that I know why I'm here I know who I am and I know why I'm here and I'm here to serve people's grace, I'm here to serve people's highest idea of who they are, because that's what I'm about, that's why I'm here, not to be playing some song



and dance just to be taking their fucking money, and I gotta sleep tonight knowing that whatever I charge them, they felt like it was a bargain, because what they get in return is somebody who thinks so highly of them that he would not even deign to assume...this whole bullshit about lowest common denominator, I don't work on the lowest common denominator, and that I know that I'm here to serve their highest idea and reflect that and just to encourage (?) just keep your chin up, you are so much more vast than you are encouraged to believe you are, and nothing will separate me from that goal, not even at gunpoint would I walk away from taking every ounce of breath I have and making sure that I use this voice that I have been given, to make sure people understand that there is something beyond our understanding that is so vast, that loves us so fucking much that wishes for us the highest possible experience that we can dare to dream and imagine, as Goethe says, and I quote him because he's just one of my boys, "Be bold, and the mighty forces will come to your aid."

And I believe that I believe that I know that it's true and that's why I'm here, I'm here to do my part like Goethe did his part, like others are here to do their part to say that there is a force that we represent and reflect that loves you beyond words, and cut all of this low self-esteem bullshit out, heal yourself do what is necessary to heal your self-esteem and you see yourself in the highest possible way you can, and don't let people be fucking with about your head's too big, there's no fucking way that your ego can be any bigger than the truth of who you are anyway (that's cool) and that's just a fact. And ask yourself this question, why would Creator have a lesser opinion of you than you have of yourself?

And that's why, if I've got to wait five more years, I'm not going to put out no bullshit and disrespect people's true grace and so with that in mind I'm giving this to the people because this is who I was three years ago and hopefully they will be willing to consider me in their heart, you know, when I come out with this next project sometime at the end of the year. ■