

To Whom it May Concern,

Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh is the most outstanding human being I've ever seen or heard of. His intelligence - his penetration and extent of vision and clarity - is far beyond what we usually think of as intelligence. It is vastly greater than that linear, linguistic facility that we rate as "genius" on our I. Q. tests. In College, as an English major, I read the highest-rated thought that had been recorded from all countries and all literate periods of history. There have been people of admirable intelligence but Bhagwan dwarfs them all.

For about ten years I searched the contemporary world for any person who really, really understood human problems and the dreadful situations humans have created on the planet. I found no one encompassing enough, or clear enough. All minds seemed to me obvious products of the same milieu that has produced the horrible problems of environment, society and personal life.

When I went to India to see this man called Bhagwan I was shocked. It was more than I bargained for. Here was a being not simply possessing more brains but of an entirely new dimension. My old ways of comparing, estimating and ^{evaluating} ~~comparing~~ were useless. I watched and listened - it was 1976 - and I got quite confused because I was trying to figure him out with my mind. It happens to a lot of people that way. You just can't take in the moon with a microscope. I became a sannyasin then, but it was two more years before I understood with my heart and stopped trying to pin him down with my mind.

Our minds are instruments of criticism, skepticism, doubt and infinitum. They can't be any other way. If God in person stood before your mind it would slam its door and refuse to look and then cover up with something like "it must be technology that makes these imitations look so real." That's why love and religion and other wonderfully good things can only be taken in by our hearts.

I had enough understanding of my good luck that I sold my home and went to be with Bhagwan. And I had a very different idea of why I wanted to be with him than I had had in the beginning. I grew in these two years and the game changed.

I'm 58 years old, almost a great-grandmother. I spent most of my years earning money, keeping a home and raising children. Security, prestige, family, roots - all had meaning for me. I had spent my whole life in one county - San Diego. I had a recent summa cum laude degree gotten after my kids were grown. I just dropped all these things that had been my life and I record it here so the reader will know that what I say about Bhagwan is not just words. Just the realization that such a being as he is, was alive on earth during my lifetime eclipsed all other degrees of value. The only thing to do was to be with him as much as possible for as long as I could.

Bhagwan's silence seems to puzzle people. He has simply said all that can be put into words about love, religion and meditation, and he has said it many times over and it has been recorded on video and audiotapes and transcribed into book form. Anyone can read or hear his words. He told me, his disciples, that he would go into silence when the time was right. He said it several years before, and repeated it. We knew his teaching would take this form.

Love and religion and being consciously aware of each present moment - these are capacities of the heart, and known by the consciousness when it is empty of thought. Talking and other word-making are activities of the mind, which is consciousness filled with thoughts. You can talk about religion, using the chattering mind; but you must make the mind silent in order to experience religion, or meditation. Bhagwan is silent in mind as well as tongue. When we see him or remember him we are reminded. So his silence takes us again and again to the heart space. We want to be with him. We reach out with our love, we open our beings and for a moment we feel him touch us with his energy. This inner experience is what we call our connection with Bhagwan. It is personal and it is an experience, not an idea; we know it in a wordless way.

Because of our love for Bhagwan, he can lead us by steps of experience like these, into meditation - silent minds. Words cannot bring anyone to meditation. Silence can, when the teacher is beloved and the disciple trusts. Other great religious teachers have used silence.

We, his sannyasins, are so very happy to have found Bhagwan. He has helped each of us so much to live life in a better way and to begin to grow. He is very precious to us, the treasure of our lives. Those of us who are living in Rajneeshpuram with him feel doubly blessed. We can't think what we've ever done to deserve such incredible good luck.

Sincerely
Ma Sharma Tarn
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