

To whom it may concern:

My name is Andrija Guiger and I have been a disciple of Bhawan Shree Rajneesh for the last twelve years.

My parents, particularly my father, a bio-chemist who was one of the discoverers of streptomycin, worked for some time as a scientist for the U.S. government, and later did extensive research on neuro-transmitters, that is brain research, continually exposed me to various religious teachers and situations, and encouraged me to seek my own truth beyond the normal set of rules and ambitions offered by society, as did my godfather, Albert Schweitzer in his regular letters.

Attending Quaker meetings as a child in Philadelphia, and later exploring the religions of Japan as a student there, I learned to love the clear and magical stillness of people in prayer, and became convinced that it must indeed be possible to touch the quiet mystery that life is in a very personal way.

During the five years I lived and studied in Japan, I often worked as an interpreter for other American students involved in studying very much the same sorts of things I was: the arts and crafts, and religion of this ancient and beautiful culture.

On several occasions I spent several weeks living in Buddhist temples as an interpreter for groups of students studying Zen, and was deeply touched by the stillness of the exquisite ancient gardens and by the monks who spent their lives in contemplation of those gardens, in their effort to instill something of that stillness within themselves.

I also spent many of my spring and summer vacations working on a farm in the Japanese Alps that was run as a communal and religious retreat by Catholic priests in conjunction with a Zen monastery, in an effort to acknowledge the common meeting ground of these old and respected traditions.

I also spent many many hours exploring Kyoto on my bicycle, going out and exploring countless little shrines and temples off beaten tourist track, ever captivated by their quiet celebration of all that is beautiful and mysterious in life.

strip, and travelling through India on my way back to the States happened to walk into a room where Bhagwan was sitting. His presence transformed a very ordinary room into a space as extra-ordinary as any Buddhist temple or zen garden I had ever seen in Japan.

It was immediately obvious that he had attained and now personified the quiet and utter harmony with existence that the many Christian and Buddhist seekers I had met were still in search of.

The stillness that can be felt in his being by anyone who is the least bit sensitive to any sort of religious experience, is as deep a source of inspiration in my own search now, it was then. something that was in no way disturbed by the intervening years of lectures.

It is a gift and a blessing to have him with us here in Rajneeshpuram.

The exquisite beauty of his silence is the ultimate lesson to be taught: the truth of our own harmony with the whole universe.

ma yoga Astha

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