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Mayfield, England

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Just over two years ago I came across some books made from discourses given by Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh in Poona, India. They impressed me like no other work by any philosopher or spiritual leader had done, for their simplicity, directness, and authenticity.

The more I read Bhagwan, the more I became aware that the fountain of his genius came not from borrowed knowledge, but from his own experience, quite unlike other works I had read in my three years study for a degree in Psychology. I ended my stay at the university disillusioned with what researchers had to offer practically in the everyday world, apparently able only to help clinically "sick" people and not "normal" people, who still had a yearning to become happier.

In Bhagwan, I found a man who had evidently passed through the ordinary stages of sadness, depression, solitude, anger, and fear, and had reached a stage of peace, love, wisdom, and evident bliss. From this peak of human experience, he was and is able to see the valleys of despair and misery and offer a means to come out and enjoy the heights of human potential. This he did through discourses given each morning in Poona for seven years.

However, Bhagwan has often said that "Truth" cannot be given. Happiness or joy is not a commodity. All that anyone can do is point the way or set the person on the right track. He cannot make the person experience happiness. He had often said that there would come a time when he would communicate through silence. Words can be used to point the way, but they are not the truth, itself, rather the cloak which can reveal the truth.

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Anyone will be aware that the presence of others can affect one's moods. Some people feel aggressive or sad even without saying anything or moving. They give off an unpleasant aura, or energy, that makes one want to escape from them. Other people give off a feeling of well-being, wisdom, joy or security, or any combination of these things. With many great men such as Abraham Lincoln, Jesus Christ, Martin Luther King, or Mahatma Gandhi, their very presence was sufficient to quieten the mind of those around them, and give them a feeling of security or well-being. Such an occurrence is only possible when this person himself has experienced the heights of human awareness and being.

For several months in 1981, I had been saving up to visit Bhagwan in India. It came as a shock to me that he had stopped giving discourses, but this did not prevent me from continuing to read his work and experience his energy while meditating. I did various courses in meditation in England, and at the end of 1981, Bhagwan's energy within me became so strong that in November, five months after his decision to only communicate in silence, I took sannyas and became one of his disciples.

Modern science is still only really able to account for the five senses, but evidence continues to be brought forward that there is more to life than meets the eye. Telepathy and extra-sensory perception are not uncommon. Experiments have even conclusively shown that plants have feelings. Strange as though it may seem, even the presence of somebody can affect one's being.

Through Kirlian Photography we know that man has some sort of aura and it is becoming evident that this aura has an influence over its environment. In the case of someone like Bhagwan, this influence is so enormous and powerful, it is difficult to imagine. Only someone who is open to him or such energies is affected, however. These include his disciples and many others who have discovered him through being with him. And distance appears to be no barrier. You will remember the experiment of a rabbit's young being taken into a submarine. Her offspring were killed one by one, and yet hundreds of miles away, she, the mother, reacted through electrodes attached to her scalp each time one of her offspring was sacrificed.

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Likewise, a meditation in another continent can tune into Bhagwan's energy. And in fact, through his silence, a peace is available which was perhaps more difficult to obtain when words were used, which sometimes swelled the activity of the mind.

In a country like the United States of America, where freedom of religious expression is recognized, you must recognize that Bhagwan is able to help others through his silence. To deny such a man the opportunity he and his followers have been seeking, to further man's development, would not only be a travesty of the law, but also morally unjust.

I trust that you will make your decision on Bhagwan's visa in open and full awareness of all the evidence that is being placed before you.

Yours sincerely,

*Anand Habib*  
Swami Anand Habib 