

July 28, 1983

To Whom it may concern,

I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and a Master of Education degree, both from the State University of New York at Buffalo. I have five years experience teaching in the public schools system of New York City and five years teaching adult literacy, also in New York City. I became a disciple of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh in March 1982.

This letter is an attempt to describe what sannyas (disciplehood) has meant to me. It is a difficult undertaking because it is my subjective experience and the listener needs to be open and try to understand even though he/she may not have had similar experiences.

I never heard of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh until he came to the United States. With all the publicity he received more people were aware of him. A friend of mine recommended one of his books to me. That was the beginning for me. It seems I've spent my adult life searching-trying to know myself, having the feeling that I was missing something in life. Though I had meaningful friendships and creative, satisfying work, I still felt somehow grey or bland, not fully alive.

The books and audiotapes of Bhagwan hit me deeply. Practically everything he said connected with what I intuitively felt was right for me. Based on an understanding (mostly intellectual) that to don the red clothes, wear a mala

(necklace of beads and a locket with his picture) and take a new name, meant liberation. I decided to become a disciple. These things I just mentioned are devices to break with the past (old miseries and self-images) and to jump into life anew, every moment the present being lived totally.

For about six months I practiced the active meditations that Bhagwan devised to help people shake up their energies and to reach the inner place of silence and peace that is pure consciousness, separate from the non-stop chatterbox of the mind. Slowly the quality of life started to change for me. Everything looked clearer, more vibrant. Happiness and joy were happening more and more (sadness and pain had always been easier for me).

I never saw Bhagwan until July 1982 when I attended the First Annual World Celebration in the city of Rajneeshpuram, Oregon. Each day for five days there was a meditation called Satsang, where you do nothing but sit in Bhagwan's presence. He never said one word. After having spoken 33 million recorded words lecturing daily, he's gone into public silence. I sat there and basked in an energy I've never known before.

My eyes were closed, yet I could see a brilliant light. A silence descended upon me creating a feeling of supreme blissfulness. A feeling of love washed over me in waves exploding my heart. I was left laughing and crying together.

Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh is an enlightened being as was Buddha and Christ. He has reached the ultimate state that a human being is capable of attaining. Love and energy continuously pour out of him. We each have that same

potential, and his presence here is a blessing because he can help us find that in ourselves.

I am currently working at Rajneeshpuram for the summer, having just attended the second Annual World Celebration where fifteen thousand disciples from all over the world gathered to be in his presence. Bhagwan drives by everyday to see us. You might think "Big deal, so you get to see the guy for a few seconds." However, as he goes by the same blast of love and energy happens. This whole place, Rajneeshpuram, is alive with this energy. Where Bhagwan resides a "Buddhfield" is created. Some of what this means is that our hearts are continually opening. People here are much more loving and positive towards life than elsewhere. We are continually learning about ourselves and the limits we put on our growth. It is an environment where those limits get shattered and completely new ways of being and relating happen. It takes courage to jump out of secure, knowable patterns of living. Bhagwan's presence gives us that courage since he ~~is~~ is a living example of what is possible.

His words attracted me to sanyas. His meditations opened me to my inner being. Being in Bhagwan's presence constantly ignites and intensifies the flame inside of me, mirrors for me the ultimate love I have within. I am daily changing becoming more and more relaxed, loving and flowing with life. This is happening to all of the residents here. The Buddhfield is reflected in what's happening to Rajneeshpuram. In two years a vast,

semi-arid desert wasteland is being transformed into a self-sufficient farming community with greenness, lakes and wildlife. Bhagwan's presence means a celebration of life.

With all the anger, destruction and misery in the world, we in the United States are very fortunate to have Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh with us.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ma Dhyan Mada
(Harriet Fisher)
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Rajneeshpuram, Oregon