

Swami Bodhiprem  
P.O. Box 10  
Rajneeshpuram, OR 97741  
July 23, 1983

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

When a great teacher appears, only those few who are alert go to him. For other's it is a slow process, like water wearing away a rock. So it was with this writer.

I have a Masters Degree in Social Work, and as my resume indicates I have accomplished much in my field. I have made a contribution to my profession about which I can take some pride. However, there comes a time when accomplishments, degrees and public acclaim do not fill a need. They are like nice clothes that have become worn, and eventually one has to throw them away. I did not know how ready I was until I heard of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. A book, "Only One Sky", lying dormant on my shelf for 3 years, once read, became an obsession. Who was this man who spoke so lucidly to my inner being. I, who had counselled people for years on the panoply of human problems now felt like a child before the wisdom of this man.

Soon thereafter I resigned my job as a psychiatric social worker and went to India to see Bhagwan. I knew I wanted to sit at his feet and learn, and so in 1978 I became a disciple. I literally threw away my old clothes, my old name and after awhile my old attitudes. A great re-birthing had begun. It is a process that continues to this day.

I was not alone in my search. There at the ashram in Poona, India were the intellectuals of the world. Doctors, Lawyers, Professors, Authors, the list of academicians was endless. Each day we would sit with him while he discoursed on a religious figure such as Buddha, Lao Tzu, Jesus, or answered disciples questions. Here was the teacher I was looking for. His grasp of psychology, which was my field, was nothing short of amazing, and his application to the realm of human problems, always in the most tender and loving way, made me re-evaluate the ways in which I had been treating my patients.

In 1979 I again went to Poona and left in 1980 to return, via Europe, to America. While en route I heard that he had left India for New York in order to undergo medical treatment. We all knew that he was not well, and there were times, because of his illness, he did not come to discourse. Later he was invited to be a guest at the Big Muddy Ranch in Oregon, and in the meantime I was living in a commune in Southern California. In December 1981 I was invited to come to Rajneeshpuram.

EXHIBIT "A-2262"

Since I have been here much has changed. Not only with the land, but with those who work the land. In everything that I see there is a touch of the divine- a sort of Godliness. Who or where this inspiration comes from cannot be doubted. In becoming a disciple of this great religious leader the best in each of us is called forth. Work becomes worship, prayer and dance. A celebration, to translate this esoteric experience is difficult, but call it religion in the marketplace. Not a go-to-Sunday-church religion, with bells ringing, and a sermon from a paid-to-preach minister, but an on-going, moment-by-moment experience of Godliness. This is also called meditation. Not a dream-like state, but a wide awakesness to all that is happening. This that I have tried to describe can only come from a source of someone who has transcended the mundane. His very presence exudes, manifests the divine. I have seen many festivals, attended by thousands upon thousands of worshippers, all proclaiming their love and devotion to their now silent master. Surely we have all known a time in our life when words utterly fail to communicate what it is we want to share and only the quint-essential silence can speak for us. This is now Bhagwan's message.

There is much more one can say. I know I have not nearly touched the core, the essence of what Bhagwan is about. Possibly because it is so vast that this letter cannot contain it all. My love for Him is unequivocal, and from that space I have written this missive.

His blessings,

Sw. Bodhiprem 

Sw. Bodhiprem

Name: Benjamin Shappiro  
aka Swami Bodhiprem

Address: Jesus Grove  
Rajneeshpuram, OR  
97741

Birthdate: September 12, 1934

Marital Status: Divorced. 3 children

Professional Titles: State of California Licensed Clinical Social  
Worker.

Education: Fresno State University, B.A. 1963. Major in Social  
Work-Fresno State University, M.S.W. 1966, Masters  
in Social Work.

Field Work Experience: California Youth Authority, 9 months (part-time)  
Porterville State Hospital for the Mentally  
Retarded, 5 months (full time)

Thesis: The Effect of the Porterville State Hospital Parents Group  
on the Treatment Outcome of Patients at Porterville State  
Hospital.

Experience:

August, 1963 to  
August, 1966

United States Army.  
Clerk typist at Company, Battalion and Division  
levels. Personnel specialist. Processing  
inductees. Counseling as to previous education  
and possible duties during service. Assisted  
servicemen about to be discharged in planning for  
civilian life. Overseas in Japan and Korea,  
during which time I taught English to Korean and  
Japanese officers preparing to visit the USA for  
duty. Granted U.S. citizenship in Seoul, Korea,  
December, 1955. Discharge: Honorable.

August, 1966 to  
January, 1969

During these years I attended various colleges  
and worked at a variety of jobs.

February, 1969 to  
May, 1961

El Calvario Community Center, El Monte, California -  
Social group worker. This began as a field  
placement on a part-time job. Responsible for  
group work with Mexican-American boys. Teaching  
Mexican-American adults literacy, public relations,  
and community organization with sponsoring  
churches. Conducted tours of facility being  
explained. Supervised volunteers.

June, 1962 to  
May, 1967

Tulare County Welfare Department, Visalia  
California Social Worker. Public assistance social  
worker in categorical aid programs. Determined  
eligibility for assistance in the areas of old  
age assistance and aid to the needy and disabled.  
Intake Social Worker: Nine months experience in  
determining eligibility for public assistance

and general relief, Intensive casework in helping clients utilize community resources.

Define Services Social Worker: Intensive casework in the area of clients with potential for employment. These clients would come from referrals within the agency.

Social Services Supervisor: Responsible for supervising 5 social workers in the cateforical aid programs as well as general relief. Helped define areas of casework intervention, and also provided in-service training. Served on the screening board to determine applicants for social work employment, and for promotion.

May, 1967 to  
June, 1968

Psychiatric Social Worker: State Department of Social Services, State of California. Provided direct one-to-one counseling for individuals released from state psychiatric hospitals. This involved family, job and community assessment to assist in their re-entry. Evaluated children needing state hospital care, particularly in the area of mental retardation. Provided family counseling and assessment for the family's ability to provide care for the mentally retarded children. Provided liasion services between state and county Departments of Social Services.

June, 1969 to  
August, 1970

Psychiatric Social Worker: Tulare View Hospital, Tulare, CA. Provided intake evaluation, emergency and crisis counseling. Direct one-to-one counseling of patients and their families. Assisted in discharge planning and follow-up services. Family and group therapy, including the extensive use of psychodrama. Provided extensive diagnostic and social histories for use by the psychiatrists. Assisted in providing in-service training for staff.

Sept., 1970 to  
June, 1971

Tufts, University, Drug Addiction Training Program, Boston State Hospital traineeship at the post-graduate level for study of drug addiction. Individual, group and family counseling of drug addicts. Training program consisted of lectures, seminars, field visits to drug abuse centers. Emphasis on therapeutic community and encounter groups. Field work at Adolescence Counseling in Drugs Malden, MA consisted of crisis intervention, consultation with community agencies, including high schools and mental health clinics. My major project was to establish a Parents Drug Abuse Information Seminar in Nahant, MA school system.

Oct., 1971 to  
April, 1978

San Luis Obispo Community Mental Health Services, San Luis Obispo, CA.

Psychiatric Social Worker: Provide direct services to children and parents, individual therapy with children and family group therapy, with adolescents, adults and drug addicts. Consultation with community agencies regarding services available to children. Worked closely with the Probation Department and the Department of Social Services providing protective care to children. Provided services to the outlying areas of San Luis Obispo County. Conducted research into the future needs of children's services in San Luis Obispo County.

Provided direct one-to-one counseling for adults and families with a case load of 25-30 patient hours per week. Assisted in the day care program with extensive use of psychodrama, play-therapy and outdoor activities.

Organized and directed services for geriatric patients in nursing homes and board and care facilities, as well as private homes. Organized and directed one of the first day treatment programs for geriatric patients in the state. Organized Hospice and dialysis social service programs.

April, 1978 to  
present

Disciple of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. While in Poona, India, in addition to other work, led groups using the techniques of Bhagwan.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

- 1968-1969 Consultant to child care center in Tulare County. Center provided day care to children of low-income working mothers.
- 1969-1970 Tulare County Drug Abuse and Suicide Prevention Committee: HELP. Represented the Mental Health Clinic in organizing a volunteer telephone answering service for persons in a crisis situation. In-service training of volunteers.
- 1970-1971 As a part of my post-graduate training in drug abuse, I helped develop a model for self-help drug abuse information in Nahant, MA school system.
- 1971-1973 Associate Professor in Social Science and Psychology, California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, CA. Taught classes in group work, psychology and the social sciences, as well as provided consultation and actual class demonstrations in group work techniques.
- 1973-1974 Organized and developed a "Friends Outside" program to assist families with relatives who were incarcerated. Counseling for inmates released and experiencing difficulties in adjusting to family life in the community.
- 1974-1975 Consultant and training for the Hot-Line emergency and crisis intervention services of San Luis Obispo County.
- 1975-1976 Organized and developed a "Meals on Wheels" program to provide hot meals to shut'ins. This program served a hot meal to the residents of southern San Luis Obispo County.
- 1975-1978 Organized and developed a self-help therapy group for men.
- 1975-1978 Established a private practice on a limited basis.
- 1976-1978 Developed and organized a Hospice program in San Luis Obispo County. Hospice provides direct support services to the terminally ill person and their family.
- 1972-1978 Businessman. Financed and developed two gift shops in San Luis Obispo County. Financed and developed a greeting card company. Provided limited financing to artists and craftsmen in the community to develop small businesses.