

34 Trinity Church Square
London SE1 4119

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

In 1973 I heard about Bhagwan Rajneesh from friends in London whose judgement I trusted. This made me wish to visit him in Bombay where he then lived, and I was able to do this on my way back from a Tuberculosis Conference in Japan. I was greatly impressed by his wisdom.

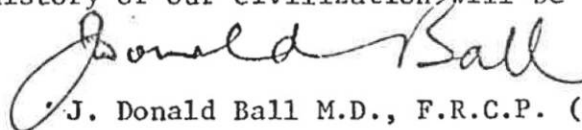
In 1978 I decided to visit Bhagwan's ashram in Poona for two months. Hearing his religious discourses every morning for 1-2 hours I realized he was a man of a stature I had never expected to meet. As a Quaker I saw he had many of the qualities of George Fox; I also saw in him the characteristics of Buddha and St. Francis of Assisi. I judge his religious teaching will have the impact on our generation which that of these great men had on theirs.

This conclusion, so unexpected but so clear to me, made me decide to live in the Poona Ashram directly. I retired in January 1981. I have been able to visit the commune in Oregon on 3 occasions.

My three children (one a medical doctor and two psychologists) have reached conclusions similar to mine about Bhagwan; all have spent long periods of training in India. My wife also has become one of his followers, so the whole family is united in its respect and gratitude for Bhagwan and his teachings.

My experience as a physician has shown me how many of our ailments derive from an inability to handle emotions. The stress that results has produced or aggravated such modern plagues as coronary disease and asthma. I find myself disillusioned by the attitudes of psycho-therapists and conventional religious teachers. By contrast I find in Bhagwan's teaching an authenticity and a relevance which mark him as one of the outstanding personalities of our generation. I think he will influence future trends of medical teaching and hence the health of future generations.

He is, in my judgement, the greatest Man I have ever met and I estimate that his influence on the history of our civilization will be immense.



J. Donald Ball M.D., F.R.C.P. (London)

Biographical data attached:

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA of Dr. J. Donald Ball, M.D. F.R.C.P. (London)

Dr. Ball was from 1955-1980 Director of the Miners' Chest Diseases Treatment Centre, Llandough Hospital, Cardiff, South Wales. This involved clinical responsibility for patients; teaching of under-graduate and post-graduate students (as lecturer for the Welsh National School of Medicine) and research. He published papers in scientific journals on a variety of subjects and reported his findings at international conferences in Tokyo, Uppsala, Lagos etc.

In 1975 he was visiting professor at the Oklahoma Medical Centre.

In 1970 he was elected Secretary of the British Thoracic Association.

From 1970-75 he represented U.K. on a Common Market Committee in Luxembourg. From 1973-1980 he was member of the Independent Scientific Committee on Smoking and Health appointed by the Minister of Health to advise the Government.