

To whom it may concern

Rajneeshparam, July 27<sup>th</sup> 1983

I was born December 20<sup>th</sup> 1955 as fourth son of the owner of a milk-processing plant. My parents were devout Lutherans (my father and later my mother were members of the church council) and I was brought up accordingly. My father died when I was eleven and my mother sold the dairy plant and we moved to a bigger city.

Already early in my life I had taken a keen interest in different philosophies, religions and cultures. In 1973-74 I went as a foreign exchange student to Sioux City, Iowa and graduated there from US-High School. I returned to Germany to finish the German High School (Gymnasium) and 2 years later made my Abitur.

During my stay in America I had become so interested in foreign cultures that I decided to travel for a while. I also wanted to study different meditation techniques. I had already done TM for half a year and was practicing tibetan meditations. I also was interested in Fritz Perls' Gestalt Therapy and other humanistic psychologies. After a few months of travelling I arrived in October 1976 in Poona to see my dream come true.

There was Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, giving daily discourses on all religious traditions with a wisdom

and clarity I had never encountered before. Giving meditation techniques that combined both the latest humanistic growth methods with the most ancient traditions of the East. Talking about psychology, science, art... in a way I had never heard before. Being familiar with Jung, Adler, Freud, Perls, anything... from Patanjali to Gurdjieff, Lao Tzu to Jesus, Mohamed to Buddha, the Massids, Sufis, humanistic growth therapies...

But most important a man with a vision of a new man, a man who lived life fully, not denying one part for the other but living them both, from Sex to Superconsciousness, in the market but detached from it, of a man rejoicing in small ordinary things, who transforms work into worship, sex into prayer.

At that time Bhagwan was only lecturing on it, but as the commune grew around him a taste of the actual realization started. In darshan (the intimate meetings with the master) more and more disciples asked to only be with Bhagwan for a few moments in silence. So energy darshans came into being. Instead of talking to people Bhagwan would touch their third eye and transmit his energy. Bhagwan had always taught as many masters like Meher Babu or Buddha before him, that the real conversion wasn't a matter of mental understanding but of an inner experience through



Silence, that by stopping the chattering of the mind one would transcend. All his meditation techniques were basically concerned with that. That's why he always maintained that his message couldn't be transmitted through words but only through silence, through a heart to heart communion with him. In the beginning he started with energy darshans but as we grew to love it more and more he stopped giving discourses and started to have satsangs with us. Words were not needed anymore, we could move to a higher level of being with him. And he had said it all, in over 300 books he had talked on science, art, religion, sex, love, prayer, meditation, politics, economics, ecology, philosophy. For whoever still wants to know him through words, there are video and audiotapes and books available.

But basically a new phase has started, the heart to heart communion between master and disciple called Satsang.

And secondly the realization of his vision, the Sangam... the commune.

Here in Rajneeshpuram and many centers around the world, his disciples are creating a place for a new man to emerge. Especially in Rajneeshpuram, where we are building a city that is not designed to only take from nature, but enhancing

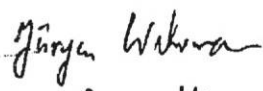
it, where people live together in love and not against each other, a place for spiritual as well as material growth, a place for a total man.

Any human being that is creating such energy in people to devote themselves to such a beautiful vision should be welcomed with open arms anywhere. I can't think of anybody alive who has such a deep insight into man and his problems and who devotes himself so totally in the creation of a new start for mankind, as individuals as well as social members.

A place where discipline arises out of freedom is being created here and the reason is the presence of this man in our midst.

He gives us the courage to grow individually and as a commune, to devote ourselves for the benefit of this society and to commit ourselves to this experiment to provoke God.

Sincerely yours

  
Sri. Deva Viraga