

Ma Prem Ira
Rajneeshpuram, OR 97741

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I, Ma Prem Ira, aka Karen L. Polcyn, attended Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. 1970-1974 receiving a B.A. in psychology. I then attended the School of Applied Sciences of Case Western Reserve University - Cleveland, Ohio, from 1974-1976 receiving a M.S.S.A. (Masters in Social Service Administration). My training during my 2 years of graduate work included working 1 year in the social work department of the Cleveland V.A. Hospital, and 1 year in a child guidance clinic affiliated with a local school system working with children and their families.

In the spring of 1976, I was introduced to a disciple of Bhagwan who introduced me to Bhagwan's books and tapes. I travelled to India in September 1976, taking sannyas from Bhagwan Sept. 30, 1976. Throughout my stay in India, I attended His discourses and Darshans in which He answered several of my questions.

Coming from a psychology - socialwork background, I was and still am constantly impressed by the wide range of subject matter Bhagwan covered in His daily discourses with great expertise and wisdom. I never came across any professor or any course in my academic career comparable to Bhagwan and His discourses. His understanding of man and the problems of modern living clarified many of the issues which were my concern in my field. It provided the missing link.

During the past year I have seen the effects of Bhagwan's silent presence in this community. My feeling is that his contribution is even more exceptional and more obvious than when He was speaking. In my field I came across many of the problems of modern day life resulting from social structure as it exists today. I saw the neuroses to which it leads modern man. Trying to work within this structure, I always felt the utter despair and frustration of trying to help individuals caught up in the system. I saw lives consumed with needless competition, lives devoid of love. At Rajneeshpuram one sees a radical difference. Competition, for example, is non-existent here, so individuals grow in a natural, unneurotic manner to their full potential in an atmosphere of love and acceptance.

For Bhagwan to remain in the U.S. offers this country such a unique and extraordinary opportunity. He is recognized worldwide as a religious teacher and spiritual leader. His presence in this country can only be beneficial.

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