

Ma Yoga Tara
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To Whom It May Concern,

When I was eight years old I invited Jesus Christ into my life as my personal Savior. Even at that age, religion was very important to me. In my mind's eye, I could see Him knocking at my door inviting me to come with Him. As a born-again Christian, I attended Sunday School, Church, communion, the church choir and became a Sunday School teacher, always feeling that Christ was central in my life. Simultaneously, I enjoyed my rebellious nature: always questioning, curious, philosophizing about life. One of my favorite friends was a juvenile delinquent. I always thought that God must love him just as much as me.

Then, slowly, I became more silent about my religion. I started silent prayer often when I was in nature — in some beautiful surroundings. Spontaneously, I began reading the Bible feverishly. All of a sudden I decided it was not sacred. After all, Jesus did not write it. Then one day when I was a teenager, I blurted out to my mother "I think I can become like Christ." I was open to a living Master who could point the way.

When I was nineteen, I took leave from college, travelling and living more in the moment. Soon after that, Bhagwan became known to me. I joined the Living Love Center in Berkeley where we did the Dynamic Meditation as an exercise every morning. I fell in love with someone who also loved Bhagwan. We took Sannyas (became disciples) got married and went to Poona, India for our honeymoon in July 1974. Even though Bhagwan

occasionally spoke about traditional marriage being a substitute for true love, I felt happily married and knew that my relationship with my husband was basically open, honest and true. For six and a half years we stayed together and celebrated our love. Then one day it seemed right that we part. Even though we were sad, we both knew it was time to go our own ways. I never thought departing could be so loving, but Bhagwan had taught us respect: we could say goodbye to each other gracefully! To this day we are close friends. That is one of the most beautiful things about Rajneesh's. We are learning from Bhagwan to allow the other to be himself and not to fight to get our own way or to be possessive.

I feel so blessed to have fallen in love again with a very beautiful man. We have decided to get married as an expression of this love. It seems like a natural way to announce to the world: we want to be together! and yet we also respect each other as individuals. At times, we meet and merge and other occasions, we ask to spend time alone. This is my opportunity to close my eyes, to meditate, to pray. Love and meditation are both sacred religious experiences — and Bhagwan teaches us that we can include both in our lives. To me it is a very natural, balanced way to live.

Bhagwan presents the highest standards of love and life to us continuously. He is showing us what is possible. A city has blossomed from nothing. People who at one time may

have been unhappy and unfulfilled are tremendously at peace with themselves and the entire community. As we work hard we enjoy ourselves and the each other. Bhagwan has inspired me and thousands of others around the world to lead productive responsible lives while laughing, while dancing, while rejoicing.

An alive Messiah has knocked at my door, I have opened it widely and invited Him in. The United States government can do the same! It's not every day a true Master arrives at your doorstep. I feel lucky that my fiancée and I are here with Bhagwan and can rejoice in His presence

yours truly,

Ma Yoga Tara