

Claire E. Shepard

P.O. Box 93A

Antelope, OR. 97001

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To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Claire E. Shepard, also known as Ma Anand Surjo and I am 29 years old.

I graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelors in Psychology and Philosophy. After extensive research in these two fields of knowledge I came across the written works of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. I was so impressed that I immediately contacted a Rajneesh center and soon afterwards found myself on a journey to India to see Bhagwan in person.

I spent the period 1979-1981 working and meditating in the Rajneesh Ashram in Poona, India. I was immensely impressed with Bhagwan's daily discourse. Such a genius I have never encountered before!

Bhagwan combined the essence of religion, philosophy, and psychology in such a simple and concise way allowing each individual to experience a greater level of understanding. Sitting in front of Bhagwan

was not only intellectually illuminating, but also psychologically and spiritually healing. During those two years I experienced such an immense sense of well-being that I am eternally grateful for.

I have spent the entire past year living and working as a skilled carpenter in Rajneeshpuram. I have found that Bhagwan's presence, his teachings and his understanding is even more powerful here at the ranch. Here is the product of pure genius demonstrated by the harmonious, simple and beautiful way the ranch at Rajneeshpuram is run. Bhagwan is surely an asset to the welfare of America.

Sincerely,

Claire G. Shepard