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To whom it may concern,

I became a desciple of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh on October 23, 1981. Bhagwan was already in silence then. Although I knew of Bhagwan, while he was in India and speaking, it was only after he was silent, that I was drawn to becoming a sannyasin. While he was speaking, I had the opportunity to read some of his books and to hear him speak on tape. Reading and hearing his words, I was moved deeply, in an intellectual way.

When I took his words to heart, I was deeply moved psychologically. The effects were healing, a bringing together of various splits in my psyche. However, I was not moved spiritually. On a religious level, I was not inspired until his work went into a much more powerful phase, when he went into silence.

I started to notice the change through Bhagwan's sannyasins. His sannyasins that I had known while he was speaking, began to work much harder, and were much more fun to be around. When Bhagwan went to the ranch in Oregon, I was living in California. In the meditation center that was first called Paros, and later Deepda, in Berkeley, I began to come in contact with people who had visited the ranch in Oregon and had seen him. Spiritually,

they were on fire. Through them, I really felt Bhagwan, spiritually, for the first time. I wanted to be a sanyasin. I wanted to live with sanyasins. I wanted to be near Bhagwan.

While Bhagwan had been speaking, I knew a few people who took sanyas, went to Poona, heard him speak, and came back. My sister was one of these. I spoke to them, and although they were obviously moved and inspired, I was not. It was only when he went into silence, and especially when he started working from Oregon, that I was so inspired.

I have been a sanyasin for 21 months. I have been living at Pancho Rajneesh, in the presence of Bhagwan, for 14 months. He has never spoken to me. I have never been disappointed. On the contrary, this has been the most inspirational, the most religious experience I could ever imagine. And, it just keeps on happening every day. He moves me daily and he is silent.

His Love

Aravi Deva Pantbi