

P.O. Box 10
City of Rajneeshpuram
Oregon 97741

July 27, 1983

To whom it may concern:

My personal experience and background began with 18 years as the son of a U.S. Naval Officer, traveling in the U.S. and abroad. I spent about a year and a half in Asia during this period, (China and the Philippines) until I was about 7 years old, and then returned to the United States. When I was 18 I entered the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating with a B.S. degree and served in the U.S. Navy in various types of ships, including destroyers, cruisers, an aircraft carrier, and submarines.

My service in submarines was in World War II, mostly in the Pacific and including duties as Engineer Officer, Navigator, and 2nd in Command. I also served in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations at the Pentagon in Washington D.C. I retired from the Navy in 1962, after 20 years and began a career of teaching mathematics in Fairfax County, Virginia (suburb of Washington, D.C.) High School.

Just prior to this I obtained a Masters Degree in Comptrollership from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. I retired from teaching after 18 years, in 1980.

During all this time, I was consciously or unconsciously seeking for answers as to what life was all about, and was a conscientious christian, serving the church, and doing other work in a social service context as well. For about 1 year I did volunteer work for Hospice of Northern Virginia.

For about two years before coming to Bhagwan, I engaged in various forms of meditation, with different groups including Buddhists and Sufis, and went on two 2-week Vipassana retreats at a well known retreat center in Barre, Massachusetts.

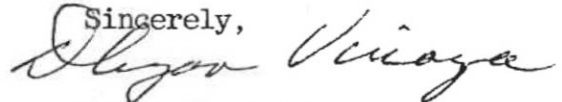
(continued)

Page #2 Swami Dhyan Vinaya

In December, 1980, I read one of Bhagwan's books, then visited one of his centers in Washington, D.C., immediately sensing that here was someone who knew what I wanted and needed. I became a sannyasin (disciple) in April, 1981, and have continued to be a sannyasin ever since, becoming a commune member in March, 1983.

Although I have no idea what the future will contain for me in detail, I am absolutely clear in my trust of Him and my trust that I will experience whatever I need, to realize the "TRUTH", or, put it another way..."Know God".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dhyan Vinaya". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Swami Dhyan Vinaya
AKA: William A. Shonerd