

To whom it may concern:

I received a Ph. D. in Anthropology from Harvard University in 1975. My specialty was the art and architecture of the ancient cultures of the Americas. I received a Ford Foundation grant to excavate in Peru, and other grants to dig in Mexico. Later I owned a consulting company doing archaeology on E.P.A. water pollution control projects in New England.

As an anthropologist and curious traveler, I had been struck by the ancient wonders of many parts of the world: pyramids and tomb reliefs in Egypt; Inca stone work in the mountains of Peru; Greek sculpture and temples; and the mysterious pyramids of the Maya in the jungles of Mexico and Guatemala.

These things held life and delight for me. As a professional archaeologist, museum curator and teacher, I tried to shed light on how they came into being.

Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh came into my life at a time when I was changing academic focus.

As an anthropologist, I had wondered how civilizations flower, and why they die.

As a part of Bhagwan's community in Oregon, another dimension of understanding is opening up for me. The men and women who built the Maya pyramids need not have been slaves, as is commonly assumed. They could have worked joyfully, for little or no material reward, in order to be part of something they believed in. They were

sustained by something intangible that cannot be dug up and categorized. Their very contribution could have been their reward: mixing lime mortar, laying stones, feeding workmen, planting, harvesting, celebrating the completion of a project — these activities were sacred to the Maya.

These and similar activities become joyful and sacred to us at Rajneeshpuram, because of the grace of a living master.

As an anthropologist, I am now much more interested in the living fabric of a living community. I feel like I am living in the middle of a miracle, for Bhagwan is surely that. As the city of Rajneeshpuram is being built, the arts and sciences are exploding around Bhagwan. Music, dance, medicine and healing, meditation and design are taking on unique and vibrant qualities. There has never been an experiment like this in the history of the world! It is only possible through the grace of a living master.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte W. Thomsen, Ph. D.