

P.O. Box 10  
Rayneeshpuram, OR 97741  
26 July 1983

To whom it may concern:

I am Judith Rice, daughter of Elmer Rice, Pulitzer Award Playwright, and Betty Field, renowned stage / film / television actress.

... Member of Actor Equity Association 1953. Professional acting appearances at major summer theatres including Philadelphia Playhouse-in-the-Park, Westport Playhouse, Barter Theatre; Ogunquit Playhouse: 1953-1962

... B.A. Sarah Lawrence College 1966

... Professional Certificate in Occupational Therapy - Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons: 1968. Member of American Occupational Therapy Association: 1968. Therapist at New York City Psychiatric Hospitals: Hillside, St. Lukes and St. Vincents: 1968-1974

Studied art, design, illustration at Art Students League and School of Visual Arts - New York City 1971-1973. Artist and graphic designer for advertising, magazines, slide shows and exhibitions, restaurants, galleries, etc. in New York City and Provincetown Mass 1972-78; designer for Rayneesh Foundation in India: 1978-1981.

I first became acquainted with Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh in 1975 through magazine articles and books, then through meditation techniques and tapes of his religious discourses.

It was immediately evident that he spoke with the greatest knowledge and clarity on subjects related to my own fields: as an occupational therapist I found his understanding of psychology, mental illness, the treatment (past and present) of the "insane", and the nature of healing more profound and far reaching than all I had learned at Columbia University and from my professional associates; as an artist, his insights into the nature of creativity, the role of artists in society, as well as his meditation techniques had a deeply inspirational and clarifying effect on my own work.

I met Bhagwan personally in 1976, became a disciple, and later a member of his community in Poona, India. His daily discourses

were intellectually more stimulating, enriching, and all encompassing than anything I had encountered in all my education and reading. Using his meditation techniques and being daily in his presence, changes began to happen in me with exciting and gratifying effects: my relationships with family, friends and co-workers greatly improved; in my work I became more creatively inspired, sensitive, alert, able to concentrate more deeply, learn new techniques quickly and easily, take greater responsibility, work for longer periods. It was the beginning of the most joyous and productive period of my life.

Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh has been, and continues to be, the inspirational influence behind this growth, creativity, productivity and health in my professional and personal life. His extraordinary ability to communicate his great wisdom, understanding, intelligence and knowledge to others with such love, clarity and compassion make him a teacher and spiritual leader of exceptional ability by any standard.

Living at Rajneeshpuram during the past year, I've felt this inspiration of his daily presence spreading through this valley vibrantly, quietly like a filling reservoir. Journalists constantly express puzzlement at how long, hard, yet playfully we all work - and for what? It is simple. People in love are capable of working in a way completely unrelated to the 9 to 5 competitive, status and salary seeking world of work. It is more like the labor of a lover staying up half the night to complete a beautiful gift for his beloved. Words are not necessary. Seeing him pass by each day, sitting with him in satsang and darshan - these are moments to remember, chances to slip back into that space of the heart which makes all this possible.

Bhagwan is giving us the rare opportunity to live in a community

not motivate by competition, ego enhancement, material gain. The new transformation of my personal and professional life I now see has happened to so many others; together we are growing into a creative, loving, healthy, productive, joyful community of people. It is because this extraordinary man is here among us. Bhagwan is our inspiration, our motivation, our heart...

Judith Rice / Ma Anand Kalyani