

To Whom it may concern,

I'm twentythree years old and five years ago arrived in New York City with great ambition. While living there, I did many things including studying film and photography at New York University, The New School and School of Visual Arts. I tried my hand for a year at being a freelance photographer shooting theatre, concerts and celebrities; then worked the well known Lynn Goldsmith Inc. photography studio which specialized in shooting rock music performers. We supplied major magazines all over the world, as well as doing album covers etc. I also worked for the major stock photo company, Globe Photos Inc. and photo galleries.

Interspersed through all of this, I was creating "new wave" rock music. I organized a band, wrote music, performed in clubs and played in recording studios. My instruments are guitar and bass, and Keyboards. I also program electronic drums. I lived a very fast paced, busy, ambitious life with the pace increasing getting faster and more intense.

Somehow, in all of this I discovered Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. Since becoming a rajneeshie on July 4th, 1982 in Rajinoshpuram, Or., I've felt

a clarity moving into my life. I can feel Bhagwan's presence with me in everything I do, everywhere I go.

When I went to work in my office in New York City, His presence would be with me. I watched petty attitudes drop as I became aware of them. This, then would clear the way for me to work with more awareness. I would be right there with the work and much more efficient.

The same thing happens with my photography and music. With Bhagwan's presence and guidance everything becomes a meditation. When I'm photographing there is a moment of merger between the object and myself, when there is no mind to stand in between me and the photograph just happens.

Being with Bhagwan, I've come to know myself more deeply than ever before and that helps in being with other people. This, of course, has an effect on every aspect of my life from personal to work.

Now, I'm a baker in the Ragnesh community. Baking is something I've never done and never expected to do nor expected to enjoy. But here I am doing it and having a good time. The flow with

the people, the amazing things that we get done, the laughter — all reflect His presence. And I'm slowly coming to realize it is not what kind of work I'm doing that matters, it's the awareness and joy I bring to it that makes it a delight. I bake 12 hours a day, every day, and to my surprise, I like it.

Sometimes I play music here and the energy is like it never was before. It gets to be a circle of energy between the audience and the performers, growing higher and higher. Bhagwan's presence becomes so vibrant that something which is beyond the musicians or audience pulls the energy to a crescendo and we just go with this magnificent tidal wave.

I've never seen Bhagwan speak, I've only felt His beautiful, full silence. This silence is more than the times of sitting in Satsang or Darshan: it is all pervasive, all encompassing, extending into a beautiful connection with Him that is with me though each day.

Lesley Mowat