

WILLY A. LACERDA
ENGENHEIRO CIVIL

Rio de Janeiro, July 15, 1983

To
Whom it may concern
c/o Rajneesh Hotel
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My name is Willy Alvarenga Lacerda. I'm 47 years old, have 4 sons (from 16 to 22 years old), and a Civil Engineer, with a B.S. degree from the National School of Engineering of Rio de Janeiro, 1958. I have also M.S. and Ph.D. degrees obtained in 1969 and 1976, respectively, both at the University of California at Berkeley, in the specialty of Soil Mechanics. Since then I've been teaching graduate and undergraduate courses of Soil Mechanics at COPPE-UFRJ (Coordination of Graduate Programs in Engineering, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro), where I'm now a Full Professor, having had and having more than 25 M.S. and 5 Ph.D. Thesis under my advisorship. I also do a lot of consulting in my field, travelling extensively in Brasil, having as my clients consulting firms and State and Federal Agencies. I have published more than 20 technical papers and am now preparing a book on Soil Mechanics; I have attended many national and international Conferences of Soil Mechanics, having been recently selected as one of the panelists in one of the sessions of the next International Conference of Soil Mechanics and Engineering Foundation, to be held in 1985 at San Francisco, California.

Well, enough about me.

In 1978 I was visiting a friend, and browsing in his library a copy of the "Book of the Secrets, volume 1 " came under my attention. I could not stop its reading, and had to xerox it, for my friend wouldn't lend it to me under no hypothesis (I now understand why !). I then began to read eagerly all that I could of and about Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, for I was having my internal strings plucked with such a force, giving forth such a harmonious melody, that I felt that that was that - I had arrived at the right man.

Before knowing Bhagwan I had the pretension of reading everything that the human mind had elaborated through the centuries, and then do my own personal view of the world. After Bhagwan, I saw the non-sense I was pursuing, for then it became crystal clear to me that everything already is, that there is no way of reaching Truth by mere intellectual speculation. I began to see and feel life as a tremendously enjoyable play, and I discovered (or rediscovered !) the enormous pleasure that intellectual games affords us, including my profession. I relaxed more and more into it, I lost my "seriousness", and my classes and consulting jobs became more and more enjoyable. My God, how I have fun doing what I am doing for a living! Through Bhagwan, I rediscovered my creativity. That was a keystone for me. In everything that I do, there's always the possibility to re-create, to discover new facets that were neglected or hidden.

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All my professional designs are now more free, I'm experimenting more. But, as a Good Engineer, I play it according to scientific methodology, abeying established rules and experience; the only difference is that I know I can change a rule, if I find it out-dated or false.

Besides this tremendous push in my profession, I began to experience meditation, to attend growth groups under the guidance of Bhagwan's sannyasins. My personal relationship with people changed, at first imperceptibly, and, since I had the courage to finally recognize and accept Bhagwan as my Master, which happens in late 1981, the changes have been very big, yet subtle. People that don't see me for a long time sometimes say they wouldn't recognize me, were it not for my face and identity card.

My feeling now is of a growing love. Yes, I Love Bhagwan. And through him, I'm more and more loving towards living beings of this Universe, tremendously respectful of every aspect of Creation. Not only I am learning to love more, I am also accepting love (which I now recognize I didn't, before).

What can I say more ?

Bhagwan is a Master, and I trust his guidance. He gave me a new name: W Swami Bodhi Willy, which means Conscience, leading to illumination. He kept the old name Willy, as if to remember me to accept the world, and live in it, but not be of it.

I hope Bhagwan stays with us, and where he is now, for a long, long time.

With love,

(Swami Bodhi Willy)

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Reconheço a firma

(Firma confiada por
Rio de Janeiro, 15 de 01

Em test. da Voz

ARISTIDES T. COLE DE OLIVEIRA