

Amsterdam, August 2nd 1983

To whom it may concern.

I have a Master.

His name is Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. He is an Enlightened Being who by his presence provokes other people to achieve the same state of being that he is in. To his disciples he is the Blessed One. Blessed, because he has come to know God in himself; he has found the paradise that was never really lost - the same paradise that surrounds each of us (all we have to do is to wake up). He is a lit candle that can light other candles as well. He is ... this gorgeous man sure provokes the poet in me!

Bhagwan is the core, the heart, the source of a new and very lively religion: Rajneeshism. His disciples, Rajneeshes, who are Bhagwan's loves rather than his followers, all have their own individual relationship with their master.

At the same time every Rajneesh is part of the Buddhafield, the energy field that is formed around a living enlightened master. The Buddhafield is the vehicle through which Bhagwan's work is happening and spreading.

The largest Buddhafield is to be found in Rajneeshpuram, Oregon, U.S.A., where a large number of Rajneeshes are building

a city, unique in the world. An oasis of love and positivity where man lives in harmony with himself and with nature.

Throughout the world Rajneeshes are living and working (or rather worshipping) together in communes and meditation-centers, thus creating many more Buddhafields, small islands that can infect the world with Bhagwan's message of love, life, laughter and celebration. In our religion the emphasis is on living life totally, in the here and now, celebrating whatever is there each moment, thus transforming need into love, fear into let-go, negativity into positivity, desire into gratefulness, work into worship.

Since the human mind finds it easier to fall asleep again and to cling to the old than to welcome the adventure and dive into the unknown, it is important for Rajneeshes to worship together to keep each other awake and alive and help each other remember that we have this far out master who is alive and well back there in Rajneeshpuram, Oregon ---

One of the highlights for a Rajneesh every year is the annual festival that is held in Rajneeshpuram around Master's Day (6th of July). This is a gathering of Bhagwan's lovers from all over the world to celebrate the existence of the Blessed One and to spend 7 days or more in his overflowing presence.

In fact only three weeks ago I participated in this year's festival - the 2nd annual world celebration.

The moments spent so close to him are very precious and most important to keep oneself flowing and happy on the path. It's just so good to remember and to see and experience once again what is possible.

One feels indeed blessed to be able just to be there, sit at His feet, feel His love. It is a delight to see Him smiling from ear to ear, beaming with joy because His beloved ones are all there with Him, celebrating with Him, rejoicing with Him, meditating with Him. And one feels overwhelmed to walk through Rajneeshpuram and feel the extreme care and love that is all over the place. Not only the residents but all the festival participants as well showed so much love and respect for even the smallest things. Everything was so clean, so relaxed, friendly, without irritation, violence, fights or things being stolen.

In one word, a paradise, only possible because of our love for Him and His love for us.

In a way, a piece of my heart is always there with Him and it is really important for Rajneeshes to be able to visit their Master every year on this annual event.

Back in Holland there is a little sadness because of the separation but a lot of joy as well for all that I saw and felt there.

And also here Rajneeshism is flowering

Apart from the daily worship (work, if you like), many religious activities are taking place here as well. As Rajneeshes

Take every opportunity to celebrate, it is obvious that a lot of festivals are happening. Right after the festival we had (for instance) a "Welcome Home"-party, where Rajneeshes fresh from the festival shared their experiences with those who stayed behind. An introduction talk by the Acharya (one of the Ministers of Rajneeshism), dance, meditation, were part of the program. A weekly religious event is Satsang, an hour of silent meditation and heart-to-heart communion with the Master. This meditation is often followed by sannyas-initiation, a religious ceremony where new sannyasins are being born (Rajneeshes are also referred to as sannyasins, the latter being an ancient word that was already used in Gautam the Buddha's time). Most religious ceremonies are led by a Rajneesh Acharya. Other ceremonies that can be mentioned: marriage-ceremony, where a couple expresses their love for each other in a more explicit way; the death ceremony, where dying people are given the opportunity to say goodbye without regret but with joy in an atmosphere of love and celebration: he is given a beautiful send-off. Celebrating death in this way can also be a help for the growth of those present at the ceremony - it can be a moment to release fear and become more free and joyous; and the birth ceremony, where the newborn child is welcomed in a quiet and loving way and everything is done to make the passage from the womb to the cold and noisy atmosphere of the outside world as smooth as possible and to prevent the child from having a brutal shock experience that would leave its traces.

on the rest of his or her life.

More complete and specific information regarding Rajneeshism can be found in the recently published booklet: "Rajneeshism, an introduction to Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh and his work".

From time to time in my daily life, for example while writing this letter, I realize how rich my life has become and I see the fruits of Bhagwan's work in me and all around me, and -

at such moments I feel very grateful.

with love,

Prem Satyo.

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