

Christopher S. Booker

Swami Azad

J15 Walt Whitman

Rajneeshpuram, Oregon

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To whom it may concern,

I'm a thirty three year old American male and had what one would consider a normal American upbringing, public schools, Catholic schools, Eagle Boy Scout, Boyz State and ending with a couple years of university at U.N.C. I spent a couple years working in a hospital in various capacities, as a sales representative, as an English teacher in Italy and as a restaurant manager. I had a business restoring sailboats and one restoring houses. In short, I've traveled many roads and known many people around the world.

I was usually quite successful at whatever I did, but always lost interest after a short while because I saw that none of these things gave me that for which I was unconsciously searching

It was four and a half years ago that I first picked up a book by Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh while living and teaching English in Rome. Upon reading a few pages I was immediately struck by the clarity and truth of this man and knew that he had something special. For one year I read his books and practiced one of his meditation techniques which led me deeper and deeper into my being and finally gave me a glimpse of what our true potential really is.

I knew that I had to find some of Bhagwan's sannyasins and went to Milan where I knew of one of his meditation centers. I took part in a meditation week-end and ended staying nearly two years - I worked and practiced Bhagwan's meditation techniques, took part in several encounter groups led by talented therapists from around the world and was helped by such things as bio-energetic re-birthing and other self-awareness techniques.

When Bhagwan came to the United States I decided it was time to come home where I worked for my father's company for a year.

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I attended the first annual world celebration and was over-whelmed by the peace and harmony at the ranch and by Bhagwan's mere presence. I asked to stay and for the last year have been involved in all stages of construction, everything from rudimentary carpentry to executing blue-prints and completing sophisticated buildings. Most of these things I have learned here at the ranch.

Bhagwan's meditation techniques are actually scientific techniques which create a certain alchemy in the body and bring one closer to his true potential and to nature. The work we do at the ranch is but an extension of these techniques and is done to bring us more awareness as well as showing love for our master.

For years I have been reading Bhagwan's lectures and listening to tapes of his discourses and in all of them he stresses one thing, by-passing the chattering mind and experiencing that which you really are. After talking about

it for years, Bhagwan has finally taken us to the final stage, of simply being with the master, not through the mind but through silence, which is the true language of the universe, of the divine.

And now I find that the longer I work close to Bhagwan and sit in his presence during the satsangs, the closer I come to those rare moments I experienced during the meditations and the greater is my happiness with the simple things of life, with just being.

I am an American citizen. This is my country and despite what the critics may say this man has much to offer. His knowledge of the sciences, inner and outer, is enormous and it would be a grave mistake should we shut the door on another of God's messengers.

Sincerely,
Swami Azod.