

Swami Ramananda
P.O. Box 10
Rajneeshpuram, OR 9774
July 27, 1983

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as a sannyasin of nearly ten years. Before becoming a disciple of Bhagwan's, I graduated with a B.A. in Psychology, and during the first two years with Bhagwan, I was employed as a counselor of emotionally disturbed children. The children and the staff found in my presence a source of humor and valuable insight. Having known me before I was a sannyasin, many of the people I worked with could see how much I had changed since I had become a disciple of Bhagwan's and started using His meditation techniques. Bhagwan, in one of His discourses, had recommended emotion disturbed children to do His meditation techniques and I shared some of those techniques with my charges, particularly Dynamic meditation as it works as a tremendous aid in unburdening the child of his pent-up emotions in a safe and creative way.

Since that time, I have worked in Bhagwan's centers and ashrams around the world, doing many kinds of jobs but particularly working as a carpenter and musician. His inspiration, particularly in music, has been profound as the most beautiful songs and instrumental music of my career have been composed in His presence within the matrix of the silent communion with Him, which He has shared and helped me immeasurably to deepen with Him over the years.

Last year I became a worshipping member of the community which is flowering around Him at Rajneeshpuram.

As a carpenter, I helped to prepare the festival for last year's celebrants. Having been with Him, as He spoke to us for many years, I was more than impressed with the way that all of the new people, being with Bhagwan for the first time, were able to fall into a deep and joyful moving communion with their Master, and how, as the fest progressed, this communion with Him became more and more profound as we became filled with and more acutely aware of the love and divinity in Him and all of us.

The benediction which He communicates in us, whether speaking or not, has always been in silence. He frequently indicated that we listen to the spaces, the gaps between the words; that that was where His real message lay. Since dropping the spaces between the silences, His influences are felt more and more deeply as the inspiration which He shares with us works more and more as a catalytic agent sparking the individuality and creativity in all of us. ~~There~~ ^{Thus} we find new ways and new sources of energy to do the work, which has now become our work of building a testament to the love and consciousness which has become inured in all of us through the blessing of His presence.

Respectfully yours,
Swami Ramananda