

Ma Anand Laila
P.O. Box 93
Antelope, OR
July 22, 1983

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been brought up in a well educated, Swiss, Catholic family. My Grandfather was a well known teacher and a musician, my father an artist and an architect. At their contact I learned to appreciate music, painting and theater, to behave with honesty and courage and to fear God.

Studying was easy for me and at age 18 I started the Medical School without knowing exactly why. I graduated from Geneva's Medical School in 1975 without difficulties and began work in Geneva's Hospital as a psychiatrist first and then as a medical practitioner. Those were full time jobs - I had no spare time for anything else and had to drop painting and theater. I was confronted with my inability as a physician, to help people in at least 80% of the cases. In all those where the disease wasn't acute enough or long enough to leave prints in the body. I soon started looking for new ways to help sick people, heard about new approaches in psychotherapy, attempted a few "groups" (gestalt - bioenergy) and in 1977, in one of them heard taped discourses from Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh.

Something in them touched me. At that time, my English wasn't good enough to understand everything, nevertheless, I started to read one of his books, The Tantra Vision, and was impressed by a new way to relate and to be, an approach similar to the one of the "gestalt" of Perls, to be here and now.

I was very successful in my work, but confused and sad inside myself. I decided to go to Poona for my summer holiday. I attended the morning discourse and was shocked not to hear about gestalt and therapy, but about religion and God. I never realised Bhagwan was a Master and not a teacher or the leader of some Philosophical school. I took Sannyas in August 1977.

Back to Geneva I decided to drop my residency in the hospitals and to study homeopathy. That seemed to be a more successful method to treat people. I went back to Poona in March 1978 and told Bhagwan about my confusion. He told me: "...all kinds of "pathies" help. If the doctor enjoys his work, is thrilled by his work, is enthusiastic about it, his enthusiasm cured people. That is therapeutic, medicine is secondary ...the first thing is the thrill of the doctor, the joy of the doctor, the confidence, the trust of the doctor."

It took me a few years to get it. A few years when after completing the study in homeopathy I decided to work and stay in the Poona Ashram. When I had to drop all my ideas about love, doctoring, etc., experienced the bottom of misery and finally the beauty of being alive, alone, aloof.

When I went back to practice, back to Geneva, as a general practitioner, an allopath psychiatrist, I felt good, strong, filled with something I wanted to share. My approach toward disease was different. I tried to help people to realize what they could do for themselves, to be responsible for their life and their body, instead of blaming the husband, the wife, the kids, the parents, the society. Working was hard, only a few would get it. The majority would rather be sick than change anything in their life.

I'm fortunate to have met Bhagwan. His love, His great intelligence, His clear vision helped me as well as thousands of others to discover joy, gratitude of being just alive, in this world, now.


Ma Anand Laila

EXHIBIT "A-1892"