

NOTE- The extracts in this anthology are taken from Osho's books. They comprise parts of Osho's books in which he refers to himself, his family and friends, and his vision. Osho's books were not written, but are verbatim transcripts of Osho's discourses; darshans, interviews with disciples, visitors, and journalists; letters written by Osho; and personal talks which Osho gave.

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Notes to Reader-

1. The extracts in this compilation are taken from Osho's books. These books were not written by Osho, but are verbatim transcripts of his discourses; darshans (intimate talks with disciples), interviews with disciples, visitors, and journalists; letters written by Osho; and personal talks which Osho gave. The books are published over a period of thirty years, and many are translations from Hindi books.

2. Because of their diversity of origin, the style of consecutive extracts may vary.

3. Since Osho's words are recorded only since the early 1960's, the earlier part of his life is told in retrospect. After 1960, extracts are more immediate: what Osho says at the time of certain events; his teachings as he develops them; his guidance on meditation as it is given.

4. Osho tells thousands of stories about himself. The selection in this compilation is based on those stories which he most often repeats.

5. Osho's stories were told, not just to entertain, but to illustrate a point, which is also included where possible.

6. Osho requested that his words not be edited, so there is some unavoidable repetition in extracts; especially where Osho talks in one discourse about several periods in his life.

7. Osho explains that he uses very simple everyday language that everyone can understand. And wherever he uses terminology which may be unfamiliar, he explains it. A glossary is given for words which are not self-evident from the first context in which they appear.

8. Notes are given to help the reader. These are kept to a minimum and are of three kinds: Notes in the text introduce dates and events; footnotes at the bottom of page explain part of the text; notes at the end of the book are additional information. These are mostly in the present tense, as Osho requested.

9. During his life, Osho was known by several names: Raja, as a child; then Rajneesh; Acharya Rajneesh in the 1960's; Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh from 1971; from December 1988 there are four name changes; and from September 1989, he is known simply as 'Osho'. He requested that his name be changed to Osho in all new editions of his books. In this compilation the name Osho is given throughout, except for specific public references to earlier names.

Brief Biography

1931 - 1953 Early Years

December 11, 1931: Osho is born in Kuchwada, a small village in the state of Madhya Pradesh, central India.

He is the eldest of eleven children of a Jaina cloth merchant. Stories of His early years describe Him as independent and rebellious as a child, questioning all social, religious and philosophical beliefs. As a youth He experiments with meditation techniques.

March 21, 1953: He becomes enlightened at the age of twenty-one, while majoring in philosophy at D.N. Jain college in Jabalpur.

1953 - 1956 Education

1956: Osho receives His M.A. from the University of Sagar with First Class Honors in Philosophy.

He is the All-India Debating Champion and Gold Medal winner in His graduating class.

1957-1966 University Professor and Public Speaker

1957: Osho is appointed as a professor at the Sanskrit College in Raipur.

1958: He is appointed Professor of Philosophy at the University of Jabalpur, where He taught until 1966.

A powerful and passionate debater, He also travels widely in India, speaking to large audiences and challenging orthodox religious leaders in public debates.

1966: After nine years of teaching, He leaves the university to devote Himself entirely to the raising of human consciousness. On a regular basis, He begins to address gatherings 20,000 to 50,000 in the open-air maidans of India's major cities. Four times a year He conducts intense ten-day meditation camps.

In 1970, the 14th of April, He introduces His revolutionary meditation technique, dynamic Meditation, which begins with a period of uninhibited movement and catharsis, followed by a period of silence and stillness. Since then this meditation technique has been used by psychotherapists, medical doctors, teachers and other professionals around the world.

1969 - **1974** **Mumbai** **Years**

Late 1960's: His Hindi talks become available in English translations.

1970: In July, 1970, He moves to Mumbai, where He lives until 1974.

1970: Osho - at this time called Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh - begins to initiate seekers into Neo-Sannyas or discipleship, a path of commitment to self-exploration and meditation which does not involve renouncing the world or anything else. Osho's understanding of 'Sannyas' is a radical departure from the

traditional Eastern viewpoint. For Him it is not the material world that needs to be renounced but our past and the conditionings and belief systems that each generation imposes on the next. He continues to conduct meditation camps at Mount Abu in Rajasthan but stops accepting invitations to speak throughout the country. He devotes his energies entirely to the rapidly expanding group of sannyasins around Him.

At this time, the first Westerners begin to arrive and to be initiated into Neo-Sannyas. Among them are leading psychotherapists from the human potential movement in Europe and America, seeking the next step in their own inner growth. With Osho they experience new, original meditation techniques for contemporary man, synthesizing the wisdom of the East with the science of the West.

1974 - **1981** **Poona** **Ashram**

During these seven years He gives a 90 minutes discourse nearly every morning, alternating every month between Hindi and English. His discourses offer insights into all the major spiritual paths, including Yoga, Zen, Taoism, Tantra and Sufism. He also speaks on Gautam Buddha, Jesus, Lao Tzu, and other mystics. These discourses have been collected into over 600 volumes and translated into 50 languages.

In the evenings, during these years, He answers questions on personal matters such as love, jealousy, meditation. These 'darshans' are compiled in 64 darshan diaries of which 40 are published.

The commune that arose around Osho at this time offers a wide variety of therapy groups which combine Eastern meditation techniques with Western psychotherapy. Therapists from all over the world are attracted and by 1980 the international community gained a reputation as ' the world's finest growth and therapy center.' One hundred thousand people pass through its gates each year.

1981: He develops a degenerative back condition. In March 1981, after giving daily discourses for nearly 15 years, Osho begins a three-year period of self-imposed public silence. In view of the possible need for emergency surgery, and on the recommendation of His personal doctors, He travels to the U.S. This same year, His American disciples purchase a 64,000-acre ranch in Oregon

and invite Him to visit. He eventually agrees to stay in the U.S. and allows an application for permanent residence to be filed on His behalf.

1981

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1985

Rajneeshpuram

A model agricultural commune rises from the ruins of the central Oregonian high desert. Thousands of overgrazed and economically unviable acres are reclaimed. The city of Rajneeshpuram is incorporated and eventually provides services to 5,000 residents. Annual summer festivals are held which draw 15,000 visitors from all over the world. Very quickly, Rajneeshpuram becomes the largest spiritual community ever pioneered in America.

Opposition to the commune and new city keeps pace with its success. Responding to the anti-cult fervor which pervades all levels of American society during the Reagan years, local, state and federal politicians make inflammatory speeches against the Rajneeshees. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), the Treasury Department, and the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Agency (ATF) are only a few of the agencies spending millions of dollars in taxpayers' money while harassing the commune with unwarranted and fruitless investigations. Similar costly campaigns are conducted in Oregon.

October 1984: Osho ends three and one half years of self-imposed silence.

July 1985: He resumes His public discourses each morning to thousands of seekers gathered in a two-acre meditation hall.

Sept. - Oct. 1985: The Oregon Commune is Destroyed

September 14: Osho's personal secretary Ma Anand Sheela and several members of the commune's management suddenly leave, and a whole pattern of illegal acts they have committed - including poisoning, arson, wiretapping, and attempted murder - are exposed. Osho invites law enforcement officials to investigate Sheela's crimes. The authorities, however, see the investigation as a golden opportunity to destroy the commune entirely.

October 23: A U.S. federal grand jury in Portland secretly indicts Osho and 7 others on relatively minor charges of immigration fraud.

October 28: Without warrants, federal and local officials arrest at gun point Osho and others in Charlotte, North Carolina. While the others are released, He is held without bail for twelve days. A five-hour return plane trip to Oregon takes four days. En route, Osho is held incommunicado and forced to register under the pseudonym, David Washington, in the Oklahoma County jail. Subsequent events indicate that it is probable that He was poisoned with the heavy metal thallium while in that jail and the El Reno Federal Penitentiary.

November: Emotions and publicity swell around Osho's immigration case. Fearing for His life and the well-being of sannyasins in volatile Oregon, attorneys agree to an Alford Plea on two out of 35 of the original charges against Him. According to the rules of the plea, the defendant maintains innocence while saying that the prosecution could have convicted him. Osho and His attorneys maintain His innocence in the court. He is fined \$400,000 and is deported from America.

Among others, U.S. Attorney in Portland, Charles Turner, publicly concedes that the government was intent on destroying Rajneeshpuram.

1985 - **1986** **World** **Tour**

January-February: He travels to Kathmandu, Nepal and speaks twice daily for the next two months. In February, the Nepalese government refuses visas for His visitors and closest attendants. He leaves Nepal and embarks on a world tour.

February-March: At His first stop, Greece, he is granted a 30-day tourist visa. But after only 18 days, on March 5, Greek police forcibly break into the house where He is staying, arrest Him at gun point, and deport him. Greek media reports indicate government and church pressure provoked the police intervention.

During the following two weeks He visits or asks permission to visit 17 countries in Europe and the Americas. All of these countries either refuse to grant Him a visitor's visa or revoke His visa upon His arrival, and force Him to leave. Some refuse even landing permission for His plane.

March-June: On March 19 He travels to Uruguay. On May 14th the government has scheduled a press conference to announce that He will be granted permanent residence in Uruguay. Uruguay's President Sanguinetti later admits

that he received a telephone call from Washington, D.C. the night before the press conference. He is told that if Osho is allowed to stay in Uruguay, the six billion dollar debt Uruguay owes to the U.S. will be due immediately and no further loans will be granted. Osho is ordered to leave Uruguay on June 18th.

June-July: During the next month He is deported from both Jamaica and Portugal. In all, 21 countries had denied Him entry or deported Him after arrival. On July 29, 1986, He returns to Mumbai, India.

1987 - 1989 Osho Commune International

January 1987: He returns to the ashram in Pune, India, which is renamed Rajneeshdham.

July 1988: Osho begins, for the first time in 14 years, to personally lead the meditation at the end of each evening's discourse. He also introduces a revolutionary new meditation technique called The Mystic Rose.

January-February 1989: He stops using the name "Bhagwan," retaining only the name Rajneesh. However, His disciples ask to call Him 'Osho' and He accepts this form of address. Osho explains that His name is derived from William James' word 'oceanic' which means dissolving into the ocean. Oceanic describes the experience, He says, but what about the experiencer? For that we use the word 'Osho.' At the same time, He came to find out that 'Osho' has also been used historically in the Far East, meaning "The Blessed One, on Whom the Sky Showers Flowers."

March-June 1989: Osho is resting to recover from the effects of the poisoning, which by now are strongly influencing His health.

July 1989: His health is getting better and He makes two appearances for silent darshans during the Festival, now renamed Osho Full Moon Celebration.

August 1989: Osho begins to make daily appearances in Gautama the Buddha Auditorium for evening darshan. He inaugurates a special group of white-robed sannyasins called the "Osho White Robe Brotherhood." All sannyasins and non-sannyasins attending the evening darshans are asked to wear white robes.

September 1989: Osho drops the name "Rajneesh," signifying His complete discontinuity from the past. He is known simply as "Osho," and the ashram is renamed "Osho Commune International."

1990 Osho leaves His body

January 1990: During the second week in January, Osho's body becomes noticeably weaker. On January 18, He is so physically weak that He is unable to come to Gautama the Buddha Auditorium. On January 19, His pulse becomes irregular. When His doctor inquires whether they should prepare for cardiac resuscitation, Osho says, "No, just let me go. Existence decides its timing." He leaves His body at 5 p.m. At 7 p.m. His body is brought to Gautama the Buddha Auditorium for a celebration, and is then carried to the burning ghats for cremation. Two days later, His ashes are brought to Osho Commune International and placed in His samadhi in Chuang Tzu Auditorium with the inscription:

OSHO

Never Born

Never Died

**Only Visited This Planet Earth Between
11 December 1931 - 19 January 1990**

Very Brief Biography-

December 11, 1931: born in Kuchwada, M.P. eldest of eleven children of a Jaina cloth merchant. Independent and rebellious child, questioning all beliefs. As a youth He experiments with meditations. **March 21, 1953** enlightened at the age of 21. **1956:** M.A. -Sagar University, with Gold Medal in Philosophy. All-India Debating Champion, and Public Speaker.

1957: professor at the Sanskrit College in Raipur. **1958:** Professor of Philosophy at Jabalpur

A powerful and passionate debater, He also travels widely in India, speaking to large audiences and challenging orthodox religious leaders in public debates.

1966:, leaves the university & begins to address gatherings upto 50,000 in India's major cities & meditation camps at Beautiful places.

14th of April 1970 -He introduces dynamic Meditation, **July, 1970**, He moves to Mumbai.

1970: Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh - begins to initiate seekers into Neo-Sannyas which is a radical departure from the traditional Eastern viewpoint. Westerners begin to arrive and to be initiated into Neo-Sannyas. Among them are leading psychotherapists.

1974- 1981 Poona- During these seven years He gives a 90 minutes discourse nearly every

morning, alternating every month between Hindi and English, collected into over 600 volumes and translated into 50 languages. 'Darshans' are compiled in 64 darshan diaries.

Ashram becomes 'The world's finest growth and therapy center. One Lac people pass through its gates each year. **March 1981:** He develops a degenerative back condition. Osho begins a three-year period of self-imposed public silence. In view of the possible need for emergency surgery, and on the doctor's advice, He travels to the U.S. This same year, His American disciples purchase a 64,000-acre ranch in Oregon and invite Him to visit.

1981 - 1985 Rajneeshpuram- 5,000 residents. 15,000 visitors from the world during festivals. **October 1984:** Osho ends silence. **July 1985:** public discourses each morning

September 14: Sheela leaves **Sept. - Oct. 1985:** The Oregon Commune is Destroyed

October 23: A U.S. federal grand jury secretly indicts Osho **October 28:** Without warrants, federal officials arrest at gun point **November:** fined \$400,000 & deported, Moves to Manali

1985 - 1986 World Tour- **January-February:** He travels to Kathmandu **February-March:** He visits or asks permission to visit 17 countries in Europe and the Latin America. **March-June:** He travels to Uruguay **June-July:** In all, 21 countries had denied Him entry or deported Him after arrival. **On July 29, 1986,** He returns to Mumbai, India.

1987 - 1989 Osho Commune International- **January 1987:** Pune, India, which is renamed Rajneeshdham. **January-February 1989:** Name "Bhagwan," dropped. Later on addressed as 'Osho Rajneesh'. **March-June 1989:** Rests to recover from the effects of the poisoning, **August 1989:** "Osho White Robe Brotherhood." **September 1989:** He is known simply as "Osho," **19 Jan. 1990** Osho leaves His body- His samadhi has inscription:

OSHO

Never Born, Never Died
Only Visited This Planet Earth Between
11 December 1931 - 19 January 1990