

I am going to take sannyas at Osho Tapoban – an International Commune outside of Kathmadu, Nepal, in October of this year. Dhanyam and Avinasho, editors of this magazine, thought it would be of interest to other sannyasins how a person would find their way to take sannyas after Osho had left His body. To accomplish that task, I find myself writing a brief spiritual autobiography.

I was born into a loving family in 1949 in Long Beach, California. My mother died in an automobile accident at Christmas when I was six. I was left without my main source of unconditional love, which was extremely disorienting. Shortly after the accident God sent me a vision of who I was to be in this lifetime, in order to help me reorient myself. This vision has constantly served as a reminder of who I am throughout my life.

The vision I received, having been raised Catholic, was that of being Mary, Mother of God. Over the years I questioned the meaning of it, at one time thinking I would fulfill this vision by being a minister's wife. Later I thought I should become a nun. Finally, with God's help, I settled on the archetype of "Spiritual Mother" as the image which would serve to help me fulfill this vision. My task as "Spiritual Mother" it is to awaken people who are in hibernation in order that they might follow the Natural Path of Life, or the Positive Sphere and live in the Ocean of Consciousness.

Along the way I managed to earn a Ph.D. in Transpersonal Psychology. My dissertation was focused on Sufi stories as teaching tools. For thirteen years I had a private counseling practice in the San Francisco Bay area. I used sandplay and dreams as focal points to help people discover themselves and their unique paths. At the same time I worked with a Gurdjieff teacher and studied the piano. I also learned about myself through the intimate relationship of marriage.

At forty all my ego-driven ways caught up with me. As a result I stopped what I was doing in order to become a more authentic person. My husband and I divorced. I closed out my counseling practice, parted from my Gurdjieff and piano teachers, and let go of everything I believed I knew. Then I allowed myself to fall into the loving arms of God.

Once again I was in a period of my life when I was disoriented, and once again God sent visions, dreams and other forms of help. One affirmation I received was through a tarot reading, which re-affirmed my role as a Spiritual Mother. The second was a reading of my charkas using visual images. One image I particularly remember is of the many rabbits running around beneath the light of the New Mexico full moon. Taos is where I now live. I take the rabbits to symbolize the many spiritual children I will have the good fortune to mother throughout my life.

Over the next years I took time out to meditate, study, re-marry, and discover the new directions my life was taking. I began to have opportunities to practice "spiritual motherhood" in my role as Life Coach and leader of week-long creativity workshops.

I became god-mother to a number of children.

On May 5, 1995, during a morning meditation, I had the good fortune to have an enlightenment experience. I experienced myself entirely as a golden light bathed in golden light. I accepted the blessing, encouraged that I was on the right path. I received another blessing last year on an important anniversary in the life of the Buddha. While in deep meditation I heard the phrase “Hail the Jewel in the Lotus”, while receiving a vision of a mandala which encompassed the bejeweled flower. With these visions came an affirmation of the path I am on.

What does all this have to do Osho and my taking sannyas? Until I encountered Osho’s meditations and teachings I was still uncertain about how to fulfill my role as Spiritual Mother. What meditations would I use? How and what exactly would I teach? With Osho as my role model, I have now found confidence in how to proceed.

How did I have the good fortune to encounter Osho and His teachings? Three years ago I met a sannyasin, Zeno Dickson, who teaches Human Design. Along with Human Design, she introduced me to “Viha Connection”, which introduced me to Osho. Immediately I felt right at home with everything I was reading. My only complaint was that I wanted to read and hear more! Dhanyam, of “Viha Connection” in Mill Valley, kindly kept me supplied with books and tapes as fast as I devoured them. Quickly he became like a Spiritual Brother to me. When he found out I was traveling to Kathmandu, he helped me make a connection to Swami Arun and Tapoban.

My original reason for traveling to Nepal concerns the fact that my husband and I financially support and volunteer for the Nepalese Youth Opportunity Foundation, a non-profit which helps the youth of Nepal in various ways. I have been involved specifically in setting up a Child Guidance and Counseling Center in Kathmandu. Over the past five years I have been to Nepal five times, an average of a month at a time. The last time was this past March, when I had the opportunity to visit Tapoban.

By the time I got to Kathmandu I was eager to partake of an Osho meditation led by someone trained to do it. I especially wanted to experience the dancing meditation in a room filled with other people. Still, I had no idea where the Ashram was or how I would happen to find it. Dhanyam had emailed me about Swami Arun, but I had no idea who he was or where he was located.

As God would have things, the young Nepali man I am mentoring at the counseling center had been attending Saturday meditations at Tapoban for years. He was very happy to go with me to introduce me to everything there. Having a friend to accompany me made me feel especially comfortable. We walked through the gardens, enjoying the beauty of nature, the aesthetically pleasing sculptures, the koi ponds, and Osho’s Samadhi.

Through the vibration which permeates the entire place, I found it very easy to understand why Nagarjuna became enlightened here. I experienced a deep inner peace that many before me have experienced. Later in the day I enjoyed laughing with sannyasins and visitors as we watched Osho tell jokes in Hindi on the video (I don't understand a word of Hindi!). I felt the bliss of dancing, and the peace that passes all understanding in the repose.

To observe Swami Arun, the current Spiritual Director of Tapoban, lead the meditation that day, was to observe an enlightened man, without a doubt. What a pleasure to watch him in total harmony with himself and his environment. His blessings were loving and gentle. The question he answered regarding a sannyasin's concerns over security, was helpful and given from direct experience. When I looked into his eyes as we spoke casually, he allowed me to see clearly and directly into his soul.

Before I left the premises I knew I wanted to become a sannyasin. I wanted to hang out with other sannyasins who understood in their own way what I was now understanding and experiencing. All that was left was for me to figure out was the "how?" and a little more about the "why?".

The answer to "why?" came easily. Like most of you, I am having my own love affair with Osho, benefiting from it every day in every way. With Osho's wisdom and guidance I was recently able to help a woman to become enlightened – free to live in the Ocean of Consciousness. Now I know I have the remaining tools I need to fulfill my role as Spiritual Mother: meditation, love, and the wisdom and guidance of Osho's words.

Regarding the, "how?" In September I will be returning to Kathmandu as part of my on-going work, and to take sannyas. What does it mean to me to take sannyas? I want to get closer and closer and closer and closer to the Ocean of Consciousness, through the Ocean of Consciousness that is Osho. This is why I am taking sannyas.