

# An interview with Veet Nirvana

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Nirvana (he's 52, married, separated, father of five) met Osho this year when he'd come to Poona to attend an International conference of dentists (the Divine really does work in mysterious ways!) In an interview he talked about his background in relation to how he came to hear of Osho.

**Veet Nirvana:** I've always been on a quest for something, and didn't know what it was. It was always what was just over the next hill or around the next corner. I envisioned myself as part of the Lewis and Clark expedition in my boyhood and my dreams, because this was one of the first groups of people who went from the East part of the states into the unknown West looking for something. They didn't know what they were

looking for; they were just looking. I think that's what I've been doing-just looking, not in any particular direction just looking.

I'm sceptical by nature and I think it's because my training is very scientific and I've heard many people speak on scientific subjects, but always somewhere there was a question that was never answered. In Osho's words I could find nothing that he didn't have the answer to. This mystified me because I haven't encountered anything like this before; I am agnostic by nature. I have not only not had any experience with encounter groups or Esalen or any of these things-most of those things I had rejected as a kind of group-and-grope session where the leader was no more knowledgeable than the people in the class. I unconsciously steered away from them.

After attending the conference of dentists, Nirvana attended one discourse then decided to stay for another, then another, then another, for the next two weeks. He and Nisha had a short holiday in the south and returned to do the groups that Osho had suggested .. ..

**Veet Nirvana:** I nearly walked out of the Enlightenment intensive group; but before the second day was over I was beginning to see the light with the help of the two leaders, and overall it was delightful. I had three days of absolutely happy and blissful meditation, by myself mostly, walking down by the river. I've never been more happy in my life than after that enlightenment intensive.

I went into the encounter group not knowing what it would be like. I realised that I had some fears and some uncertainties, and many things from my past began to come out. About the third or fourth day I had a catharsis through Teertha, whom I love so much, next to Osho. I found that sometimes I wasn't participating in the group as I should have been: I was sitting on the edge observing and I was totally amazed at what Teertha could do with the products of our broken homes and

disruptive childhoods and all the battles, from our civilised society. I had such admiration for him that he made it possible for me to surrender to Osho; I did it through To Teertha. In a sense I surrendered first to Teertha. I had such confidence in him that I knew whatever I did, he could handle it and bring me out of it.

**Veet Nirvana:** Yes, I am. I realise the need here. So many people, when they find your a dentist say 'Oh yes, I've got this here..' (demonstrating people showing him their various cavities)! Immediately I see there is a need here for people, and I want to bring to them the best in dental care, because this is the place you come to for the best in everything; there's no such thing as second-rate here. I wrote to Osho asking him what I should do and told him briefly of my circumstances. He just wrote back 'see Laxmi. By then I began to think they little about what I could do and so went to see Laxmi and said, 'I'd like to come here and help you do what I can. I want to do this as a total surrender to Osho, coming without anything but myself and all that I can scrape together of material worth. I want to lay myself before him and the ashram and do whatever I can—dentistry. I'm not limited to dentistry but dentistry is the vehicle I feel for my being here.'

**Maneesha:** How does it feel to think of yourself two weeks before, perhaps totally oblivious that calling in here to a lecture of Osho was going to change your life so much.

**Veet Nirvana:** Two weeks ago this was absolutely the last thing in the world that I would have thought could happen to me? I have no question about what I'm doing. I have no knowledge of what I'm doing, I don't know what the future holds, but I don't worry in the least about it. I think that all that has gone behind, the past, has been in preparation for this and I feel just overjoyed by the whole thing.

**Maneesha:** Do you feel any specific changes have happened for you since you've been sannyasin?

**Veet Nirvana:** It's very difficult to see. I am much more moderate. I've been an extremist and I find that I'm much more moderate and I think I have more patience and

understanding. Other than that I don't know what specifically to tell you. I haven't really analysed myself—I don't take time to analyse. I guess I just want to go on doing and enduring enjoying what I'm doing. Life is happier than it's ever been so I haven't asked myself why.

**Maneesha:** Can you recall your first impressions of Osho?

**Veet Nirvana:** I think awe would be the best description of how I feel about him. I took Darshan just two or three days after I'd been here and just sat in awe before him. I heard his words but I didn't remember much. I was in a kind of daze .. I think that's the best term for it. I have much respect and love for him that has grown out of that. I'm just totally happy in his presence. I found myself thinking this morning, 'I would just love to sit in his presence once a day for an hour and a half and listen to him speak, and then the rest of my day is going to be just as smooth as can be'. With the serenity that comes from hearing the discourses I know that there's no problem a patient can bring me that I can't help them with.

Osho mystified me. I see him as an omnipotent force that manifests itself in a human form—but that is something beyond my comprehension. I don't think the human mind is able to comprehend his true meaning or his true being. He validates my feeling about the totality of the universe and others beyond the oneness of everything that we are part of.

**Maneesha:** Was there any dilemma for you having seen yourself as an irreligious person as you call it, and feeling attracted to what was going on here? Or don't you see Osho in terms of 'religion'?

**Veet Nirvana:** No, his explanations of the difference between religion and being religious are so lucid to me that I'm thankful I have never been a 'religious' person. I've got less garbage to get rid of than had I been a devout Christian.

**Maneesha:** Will you talk about your experiences of Darshan?

**Veet Nirvana:** I enjoyed the last Darshan more than the previous one and I enjoyed that one more than the one before it. And



that's my experience with Osho in the discourses to. It seems that every experience I have had with him or with the ashram has been more profound, more pleasurable, happier, than the previous one. With each experience I say, 'Well, I can't have anything happier than this !'and yet it keeps on building up, building up, and there is no apparent letdown to this. Its mystifying if I try to analyse it but I don't: I just enjoy it and accept it as beautiful.

**Maneesh:** How do you feel aboutt the ashram? Do you feel a part of what is happening here?

**Veet Nirvana:** I feel a part of the family. Since I made the decision to give up things and come here, I immediately began to feel fondness for everyone here—even the transients, the freaks. There was a detachment from people before I did groups here. I just didn't feel involved. I didn't feel like an outsider but there just wasn't any association with people.

Now I feel that I can be completely as I am and that people will accept me—which is one of the things I have had a problem with all my years in the past. I've been a rebel against so many things that I just felt I couldn't be, didn't want to be a part of.

**Maneesh:** Do you feel that Osho's message is for everyone .. ..that it's going to spread and become a really tremendous thing?

**Veet Nirvana:** Oh, yes, yes. I think he is the only hope that civilisation has. I believe entirely what he says about the destruction of civilisation; I see it coming .. ..I've seen it coming for a long while. If there's any hope, it's going to be through this group (of sannyasins). If we can get more people involved, carry the message back to more people so that they will come and learn or see the way .. ..And this is the way;. There is no hope except through Osho that our civilisation is not going to be destroyed. Everyone must realise that there is nothing that they do each day that doesn't affect the whole. They may not see the connection between what we do here in Poona and what happens back in the States, but it's all interrelated.

People are screwing things up at such a rapid rate that it's

going to take a very large movement to undo the damage that we've done. And it's going to come only through us, through a multitude of us coming here, putting ourselves before Osho and listening to his words which we must live then. I am so enthusiastic about being here that I have a feeling my quest is over in one sense but it's just beginning in another. So while I have found, I have not found .. ..I'm really just beginning. I'm so filled with joy about this that I can't tell you in words.

