The Fate of the Charismatic Leader’s Consort
Ma Yoga Vivek, the Intimate Companion of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh/Osho

Susan J. Palmer
School of Religious Studies
McGill University
Ma Yoga Vivek
a.k.a. (after 1985) Ma Prem Nirvano

• Born Christine Woolf on March 19th, 1949.
• Met Rajneesh in India, “took sannyas” in April 1971.
• Lived with him from 1973 on as his lover, companion, disciple and caretaker.
• She contracted a sham marriage with Jaspal Singh in India for residency/immigration purposes.
• In 1986, during the World Tour in Crete, she fell out with Rajneesh, then Anando became his caretaker.
• She died in Pune, India on 9 December 1989 of a drug overdose.
Vivek, a reincarnation of Rajneesh’s childhood sweetheart?
Their Courtship-

"I had a girlfriend when I was young. Then she died. But on her deathbed she promised me she would come back. And she has come back. The name of the girlfriend was Shashi. She died in '47…. And now she has come as Vivek to take care of me…. I used to call Shashi Gudiya, and I started calling Vivek Gudiya also, just to give a continuity. Life is a great drama—it goes on from one life to another to another.” (The Path of Love, ch.1)
Love letter from Rajneesh to Vivek, written in 1971.
Vivek’s role as priestess

As a Medium in “Energy Darshan”

*Darshan* (initiation)
touching the third eye
Vivek was Bhagwan’s assistant & “main Medium” at Pune in individual *darshans* and in “Energy Darshan.”
Bhagwan opening the Third Eye in Darshan
Bhagwan’s Mediums

“In a state of No-Mind”
Bhagwan charging up His Mediums, filling them with « His Energy »
Question in Darshan, from Vivek the Disciple:

“Osho,
For days now I have been on fire inside.
I feel the unknown in part of me, and
I am afraid to jump.
Everything is cuckoo,
and it’s beautiful and scary at the same time.
Push me, Osho! On fire….”

(from Osho, I Am That, Ch 12, Q 1)
A Question in Darshan about their relationship

Question – “What do you do with Vivek?
Rajneesh – “Vivek is so close to me she is constantly on the cross. The more you are close to me…the more you have to transform yourself. The more you feel your unworthiness, the more you start feeling how to become more worthy. – and the goal seems almost impossible. And I go on creating many situations – because only through friction does integration happen… Growth is not soft, growth is painful. … I am killing her slowly. That is the only way for her to get a new being, to be reborn. It is a cross to be with me, and hard is the task.”
His “Companion”
Bhagwan and Vivek in Rajneeshpuram
She laughed at his jokes....
After a while she was no longer His lover, she became His "Caretaker"
Vivek helping Bhagwan with His shawl, His sandals.
She was stage manager at the evening Darshans.
“He was coughing all night, he had such a bad cold, and he wanted to go to lecture. And I couldn’t possibly understand how he could possibly speak in that state.... And I said, “You know, if you go and speak in that state you’re going to make yourself much worse.” But he just insisted!

I realized I had to do something about this. It was also a climactic thing of all the years before when he wasn’t telling me when he wasn’t feeling well. And, and... yes, I locked him in.”

(Interview with Sudha, 17th December 1978 for ‘Sannyas’ Magazine #1, 1979)
Vivek functioned as a go-between for journalists or sannyasins seeking audience with Bhagwan.
The Rajneeshpuram experience, 1982-86 described as a “siege mentality”
Vivek was Rajneesh’s passenger during the daily “drivebys” at Rajneeshpuram.

Vivek in one of Rajneesh’s rotating 93 Rolls Royces.
In 1986 Osho said:

“Vivek has been for 16 years with me. When she came she was only 20 years old; now she is 36, almost twice the age. And all these 16 years, day in, day out, she has been taking care of me with as much love as possible, with a deep devotion.”
Vivek’s other lovers

“Although it was generally acknowledged that she was Osho’s lover, especially in the earlier years, in later years she did have several different boyfriends (male disciples of Osho) so she was not in any sort of exclusive intimate relationship with Osho in the long run. She was always his disciple more than anything.”
Vivek with her lover, Rafik in Crete during the “World Tour”.

![Vivek and Rafik](image_url)
Vivek’s love affair with Rajneesh’s personal physician, George Meredith a.k.a. Swami Devageet, was described in his 1987 book, *Bhagwan the Most Godless and yet the Most Godly*

Devageet was also the target of an attempted assassination by Sheela’s aides.
Swami Anand Jayesh & Prem Amrito, Vivek’s former lovers & the current leaders of the Pune “cashram”

November 2017 “All four members of the Board of Osho International Foundation (OIF), Zurich, have been provisionally suspended. These four are indirectly controlling the Pune Osho Meditation Resort through their appointees. Moreover, they cannot transfer any funds as ordered by the Federal Supervisory Board for Foundations, Switzerland, 2 June 2014.”
Sheela describes how Rajneesh carried on “a long-standing sexual relationship with his attendant, Christine Woolf, “a suicidal British national”) whom he dubbed Vivek. She refers to his multiple sexual liaisons with other female sannyasins and Vivek’s fits of jealousy. When Vivek became pregnant with His child, (“planned on purpose to teach him a lesson”) Rajneesh insisted on an abortion and had Vivek sterilized – a standard procedure in the Rajneesh commune, committed to “absolute birth control”.

Sheela’s hostility toward Vivek, expressed in her 2013 book, *Don’t Kill Him!*
Sheela’s 1985 murder attempt on Vivek
(Les Zaitz, The Oregonian, “Rajneeshees in Oregon - The Untold Story”)

“Sheela and her close aides planned to kill two of the guru's personal staff: his doctor, Swami Devaraj, and his caretaker, Ma Yoga Vivek. Sheela convinced the others that they were a threat to the guru. As proof, she played a secretly recorded conversation in which the doctor agreed to obtain drugs the guru wanted to ensure a peaceful death if he decided to take his own life.

The assignment to kill Vivek went to Ma Anand Ava and Ma Anand Su, [Susan Hagan]. The two set out late one night to catch Vivek in her room. They carried an ether-soaked rag to render her unconscious. In anticipation, Su trimmed her fingernails so no flesh would get trapped as evidence if Vivek fought.

The plan was for Ava to inject her with a lethal combination of potassium and adrenaline. They never got the chance because they couldn't unlock Vivek's rear door. They had the wrong key.”
The Inner Circle

April 6 1989, Rajneesh (now called “Osho”) set up a committee called "The Inner Circle." The aim of this committee was to reach unanimous decisions about the continued functioning and expansion of the commune and His work.

Vivek was one of the members of The Inner Circle, but she died 8 months later.
The Inner Circle

Amrito  Jayesh
Anando  Avirbhava
Hasya  Nitty*
Bhagwan
Chetana  Nirvano
David  Kavisha
Neelam  Maneesha
Devageet
1971 to 1988 Vivek was Osho’s main companion and caretaker.

Shunyo, Vivek’s close friend, states that Vivek had long struggled with depression and was given to manic mood swings.

The only official remark on her death by Osho was that it had been ‘untimely’.

Not long after she died, Osho’s health deteriorated further. He died within six weeks.
The Death of Vivek/Nirvano
Conflicting accounts….

Swami Shantam Prem
I do wonder sometimes whether Osho was even aware that Nirvano [Vivek] had died. Nirvano died suddenly on 9th December 1989. Within a few hours of her death, and in the middle of the night, a few people came to cremate her. In between her death and the cremation, all the formalities were completed. Two days later, Osho entered Buddha Hall for his birthday celebration, the last birthday in his body. My feeling is: these two gentlemen [Jayesh who was her lover at the time, and Amrito, the doctor] have hidden the full facts around Nirvano’s death, and did not even ask Osho’s opinion as to what to do with her body …that to avoid any kind of questions from Osho, her lover acted unilaterally. (“Vivek’s death at 40, and how was it untimely?” 4 December, 2015, Sannyas News)

Kavita
I had heard in 1995 from a reliable (I am aware of the relativity of what that means) source that Osho was totally aware of Vivek’s death. He had called Ma Yoga Neelam to his room & had already told her about it much before the news reached the Commune. And probably it’s only after this incident Osho announced that any death due to unnatural circumstances would not be celebrated. (“Vivek’s death at 40, and how was it untimely?” 4 December, 2015, Sannyas News)
Controversy over Vivek’s mental state

Anando (Vivek’s replacement) claimed in a radio interview that Vivek “had been a schizophrenic all her life and had been on medication.”

Veena, a close friend of Vivek since 1972, responded with indignation: “She confided in me how worried she was about a common female complaint, PMT, and she felt bad that she couldn’t get control over it. [Vivek] showed all the symptoms of PMT. “extreme mood swings.” She was misdiagnosed by the commune’s doctors who gave her lithium and other medicine. [Vivek] did not ever have schizophrenia, had not been on medication until the end when she was irresponsibly given seriously wrong, damaging medication. I hope that what I have written will dispel at least some of the awful things said about her - that people will be able to empathize with her and understand the very difficult and tragic situation she – and in the end, Osho – was in.
Rajneesh used people, spoke out of both sides of his mouth, and betrayed the trust of his own disciples. This betrayal caused Vivek, his longtime girlfriend and companion, to commit suicide by taking an overdose of sleeping pills. Rajneesh even lied about her death, slandering his greatest love in her grave by falsely claiming that she was chronically depressed due to some intrinsic emotional instability. Vivek was never depressed during the years I knew her, and she was the most radiant women I have ever known. Vivek was a glowing student of meditation, but her only meditation method was being with Rajneesh and absorbing his tremendous energy. When her one true love collapsed into insanity, she took her own life out of overwhelming grief. Rajneesh drove her to suicide because she could not understand...his mental decline and collapsed.
Vivek’s death – questions and rumours . . . .

- Suicide, accident or murder?
- Where did she die, Bombay or Pune?
- Why no public celebration?

“Her body was brought back to Poona and burnt on the ghats at night with only a handful of friends present. The story was that it was a drug overdose – but whether accidental, or a deliberate decision to kill herself, no one knew. In fact no one knew whether she did really die in Bombay – or whether it was in the ashram - and they just hushed it up.”
Here is some information on Vivek’s death Ma Yoga Vivek, English disciple of Osho since 1971, legal name Christine Wolfe, was cremated at the burning ghats at Koregaon Park on December 9, 1989, two days before her birthday.

Sannyasins in the commune were then told that she was being treated for hormonal unbalance which made her very depressed and she committed suicide while feeling so.

There were unsubstantiated rumours of heroin overdose. Either suicide or drug overdose, no autopsy was conducted. Though once close to Osho, she had fallen from her grace in Crete in 1986. She had gone to Bombay with a German friend and supposedly was asked to come back.
Aditya Choudhary:

Vivek represents a sannyasin who is willing to leave everything and give herself 100 % to the master, at least outwardly, visibly.... Having sacrificed her youth for Osho, her family, her way of life and, besides, being very close to Osho (his girlfriend) - what happened to her?

People who walked the path of Osho, their fate is not inspiring. Millions of people put their trust with him, becoming Sannyasins - but not even one is a claimant to enlightenment !!! Unless the purpose of this ‘prophet’ was way beyond comprehension, one can hardly justify what all went on under him. How can someone who claims awareness, also claim in same breath that he was not aware of the wrongdoings of the people working with him, on his utopia? – (“Vivek & Osho: Don’t Let Your Vivek Die!” Speaking Tree, 21 February 2012),
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
MA PREM NIRVANO
WHO DIED AN UNTIMELY DEATH

BORN MARCH 19, 1949
DIED DECEMBER 9, 1989