**Famous gurus that lived in 20th or 21st centuries**

**OSHO**

There are a lot of Indian gurus who lived during the 20th and the 21st century in the different parts of India and South Asia and it was quite confusing to choose one because each one has an interesting story, some positive points and a lot of controversies. There is a long list which includes Paramhansa Yogananda, Bhakti Vedanta Swami Prabhupada, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Yogi Bhajan, Baba Ramdev, Bikram Choudhury, Gurumayi Chidvilasananda and Osho. Today, I going to talk about Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh commonly known as the name Osho. He was spiritual Indian leader or guru who lived from 1931 to 1990 and was the founder of Rajneesh movement. In this movement, he combined the different features of philosophy, psychology, and spirituality. It mainly revolves around the real world and how to remain happy rather than the spirituality and god like things.

The main thing or disciple of Osho that I found most enticing is that he focuses on the necessity of living in present and enjoying the life completely or entirely. He was quite different from others because he asked his followers to leave the traditional beliefs about meditation and spirituality and asked them to remain with their family. He was against the societal rules and understandings that were considered being suffocating a person’s individual thoughts and creativity. Most of the people joined him because of this kind of different and unique approach and thinking as he was challenging the traditional and spiritual things and offered a very fresh or new belief about the spirituality and growth. Usually, all the religions give a very disillusioned reality and things which cannot be believed easily but Osho gave the more experimental and easier to understand approach towards spirituality.

Talking about his followers, his leadership was common all over the world. Even in US, he has a large crowd believing in him and following these teachings but after that when this started becoming danger to the country, Osho was deported and banned in US. However, his followers still believe in him like Deva Premal (whose birth name was Jolantha Fries) who is a very famous German musician and a devotee of Osho said that she was very much drawn towards the Osho’s teachings because of its varied beliefs. She liked his courage of Osho guru to challenge the traditional beliefs. She also mentioned that she liked the formation of community of people of same type of mentality which was formed by the Osho. She was given name Deva Premal by Osho as well. 1

On the other side, controversies always exist in each case and the same is here. As Rajneesh opposed the traditional ideas of spirituality and was becoming immensely popular, he got a lot of people with him worldwide and this became the risk for the government as well. He was deported from US in 1985 because of being guilty of violations of the laws of immigration and indulging in criminal activities and supporting the American commune.2 He had about 85 Rolls Royce and he lived a very elegant life over there. All these things became a downside for the Osho or Rajneesh movement and his movement got disperse after his death in 1990.

1 <https://www.facebook.com/devapremalmiten/photos/today-39-years-ago-i-was-given-the-name-deva-premal-by-osho-it-means-divine-lovi/10156889878967471/2>

2 <https://www.nytimes.com/1990/01/20/obituaries/baghwan-shree-rajneesh-indian-guru-dies-at-58.html#:~:text=The%20guru%2C%20who%20moved%20to,central%20Oregon%20before%20being%20deported>.