

# CREATIVITY AT WORK: NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO!

In this rare document, you can read an interview that was made to Radha in 1978, when she was only 24 years old and already a sannyasin since 4 years.

She was living and working in Puna, inside Osho's ashram.

The subject of the interview was her vision of the work as meditation and method of personal growth. Read her inspiring sharing about her personal process she went through.

By then, she had been a cleaner for 2 ½ years, a secretary for the front office for a month and then she was back to being a cleaner when she was interviewed.

She was also a regular Italian interpreter at darshans and one of Osho's favorite "helpers" for energy work. Moreover, she was, together with Maneesha, a "darshan sniffer"\* and a guard at the morning discourses.



**Question:** *Did you have any objection to cleaning? Tell me something about your work, and how you left an office job for it.*

**Radha:** In a way, I don't really feel I had objections to cleaning. My real objections have always been towards work. For me, life and work have always been two separate things, because in the past I was taught by my father and my social environment that you have to work, you have to earn your living. So for me, enjoying was one thing, and working was another thing. When I started working, I felt many times I was just dragging myself around and doing it,

finishing it. But it wasn't the cleaning itself. I have never disliked cleaning itself, it was always my attitude towards cleaning. About two years ago, I asked a question in a lecture on how to be creative with jobs like cleaning. At that time, I had the idea that cleaning is not a great job. When you work in the office, at least you have something that fulfills your ego, maybe you don't enjoy the work, but at least you can fulfill your ego. And in the cleaning there is nothing like that. Then Osho answered to me with a long answer in the lecture: pretend you are a painter, you can clean just like the painter paints the canvas, and just be creative.

I started feeling that creativity had nothing to do with what I was doing, but with myself, and if I was feeling creative and I was feeling positive, then my job would also reflect it. Then one day I was in tune, in harmony with everything and the job wasn't work anymore, it was more a play. And it was more part of my day, not separate from the rest. And I think I still experience that, especially in cleaning.

And then I was asked to work in the office. For me it was like a great surrender, because in cleaning you can work, you can enjoy, and also you can just be by yourself; you can do your own thing and no one is really after you. But in the office you have to be there, present, and connect to others.

So, when they asked me to be in the office, the first feeling I had was that I'd rather be a cleaner. But I also saw that there was something challenging for me in working at the office, where you are under pressure all the time, you have more responsibilities, etc... so I accepted it as a way to work on myself, to watch what was happening to me.

My job was with correspondence, with all the letters that were coming in, I was opening and sorting them out and sending them to the various departments.

What I noticed was that with the office work there is no way that the mind comes in, you are just all the time working and you can't try to avoid it, it's just all the time there.

In a way, I felt the office was more a competition with myself: I can make it, I can do it.

I can surrender, I can even work non-stop all through the day, and I am ready to break my

resistances. And in fact I've gone through a lot of resistance with people which wasn't happening with cleaning. In cleaning, they give you a job and that's it.

**Question: Can you say a little more about that: how you went through your resistances?**

**Radha:** Basically my resistance was happening with my supervisor. In fact, I realized that it was nothing personal against her, it was more my resistance towards the authority. I have always felt a very independent person, already as a child in my school time, I always had my own space and my own things, and I was always on top of the teachers, and they couldn't really handle me.

I left the school very early, because I thought it was pointless to be there, when I was all the time having a little war with the teachers. There was just no point!

Somehow, a similar pattern was happening in the office. I had the feeling my supervisor was telling me what to do but she didn't really know better than me... That was at the very beginning and then I watched myself and found out that my attitude was defensive. Anytime somebody was telling me what to do, I was immediately answering something back.

Soon I realized that behaving that way, I was protecting myself, but at the same time I was also preventing a loving space with people. And so I felt just more open to take things and see what was happening, rather than immediately pushing, saying anything back. I felt I wanted to see what happens to me, and so I started watching it more. So, whenever somebody was giving me an

order, I might feel some sort of resistance inside, irritated, but I'd just stay with it and do what they say. By and by, I felt I was more and more sinking in and melting away the resistances and there was a point where I started feeling part of the work of the office. I turned my energy, I like I felt I got the hack of it.

So, I started being almost excited about the office work and I became really active, and getting more and more involved, having ideas, sharing them and bringing new changes into the offices as far as my side was concerned and that was really great.

Then there was a point when I started again getting serious about it, the surrender thing again, you know...

Last night Osho was talking about surrender in darshan, he was telling to someone: "You want to surrender so much that whatever you do about surrender seems never enough and that's why you feel there is a problem." I feel very close to that. Often I get into that space that I haven't done enough, that I have to do more, that I am still closed, or still have got so many trips, so I get into a space where I am doing rather than taking things as they are. And so I got into that sort of rut again in the office. That's why at the end I started to get really tense.

When you are in that space you somehow pull on yourself people's trips. If your energy is going out into being creative then people can't throw it on you. They can just flow with you and nothing else. But if your energy is getting again withdrawn or concerned with all these things, then in a way it leaves space to people to come

on you again to be heavy. That's what I experienced again. All of a sudden, my bosses started really getting heavy on me again but for no real reason, because I was doing my best with the work. I guess it was just my state of being: I was pulling negativity on me. I mean, that's the only way I could explain it to myself. This was almost at the end of my time in the office, when something clicked inside: I realized there was no need to prove anything.

I felt there was a little secret between me and Osho in that moment.

It was like watching what was happening to me, and also I was going through a lot of pain too. You know, the ego doesn't feel good in such a situation, but I thought that in way it was a gift that Osho was giving me: having the chance to drop whatever situation.

So I wrote this to Osho, how I was feeling and the answer was, that now I needed to do physical work again. I don't really know how it happened, but the next day my boss came in the office and she just told me: "Now you are a cleaner, just leave the office." I just got up and left the desk as it was and I took the broom and I started cleaning again. And it was just like this.

**Question: And what did you feel about this?**

**Radha:** An incredible relief. You know, in a way, I am a very simple person but another part of me always dreamt to be a great queen or something. The office was fulfilling a certain part of me, but basically I am much more down to earth. And the way I am, cleaning seems to be the best thing, just working with

my hands and with my body. And immediately afterwards I started feeling incredibly happy, being really light and again in my body, because when you work in the office it feels like your whole energy goes into your mind: it has to!

Also I feel that the change of job has to do with something else that has happened to me a few months ago. I got in touch with something totally different inside me. I think it was the feminine part of me coming up, maybe having spent more of my male energy in the office type of work, then seeing this sort of shy and feminine part coming up, and being vulnerable and shaky. And I had expressed this in my letter to Osho, that I was feeling open, so vulnerable and in a way I was really afraid. And I think that sending me to cleaning again Osho is now protecting my energy, at least for a while. I don't know what will happen after.

**Question: how is it to clean in Osho's house?**

**Radha:** For me it is a little bit like being in the womb: when I go there, somehow I get into a different field. I really feel much happier, and I start running around the corridor and jumping like a little kid, and I find myself running and jumping and scare people behind the corridor and things like that.

Also, everything is so clean that in a way it is almost a joke, cleaning! It's almost just an excuse to be in that field, and there is a totally different attitude about cleaning because everything is already so clean. It's more about awareness, about going slow

and being aware of everything around.

Ledges and doors have to be washed every day, which I would never even think about doing. So, on one side it's just an incredible awareness, to be aware of everything, on the other side for me it's a happy space. Everybody is very silent here, everybody is very quiet and peaceful and maybe when I get there I find myself touching a part of me which is like the little kid that goes to church and wants to make noise in whichever way. And so I don't make noise but I just sort of express it. And sometimes I feel much more like really working for Osho. Here in Jesus House I sometimes get into that space but because of all the sannyasin are around all the time, sometimes you can forget why you are here. There, it's impossible to forget that that's the floor Osho walks on. It's a different feeling when I clean the auditorium where he sits in darshan, I now know which is the spot where he puts his feet, and so I polish it a long time and it doesn't really change, but it's just the feeling. Maybe he will feel that I have cleaned it or something.

For me the work is more about centering, like giving me everyday the same thing, so that my mind doesn't go off somewhere. That's what my feeling is, especially when I'm cleaning.

In the office it was more obvious, like everyday there was a little thing that would bring something up and then I would feel, there he is, he is working on me. (Osho). But now I feel when I clean, I am centering myself and I'm grounding myself again, everyday. And the direct feeling

of seeing my changes, seeing what I am going through, I feel it much more with the energy things every night, every few nights, whenever I go.

Also, in my being at the gate! For two years I've been going through all sorts of incredible things at the gate. When I was told to do the sniffing at the gate by Maneesha, I was told that that's going to be my meditation and it really was, it changed a lot for me and brought me many insights.

**Question: How do other feel about cleaning? Do they also feel like you?**

I think basically people feel the cleaning is something inferior. People feel punished. If they've been working on something and then sent to clean, they feel it's a punishment or they are not good at anything else. Most of them have a hard time dropping that space that cleaning is something terrible, or the last thing you do. When I was sent from the office to clean, people would come up to me from the office saying, "oh don't worry, maybe it is just for a few weeks and then you will be back" and I just laughed, because for me it was the

opposite, like... "don't worry, maybe it's only for a few days in the office and then you will be a cleaner!"

**Questions to Radha today.**

**Question: As a young girl you said there are 2 personalities in you: one that is very down-to earth and another that wants to be a "Queen". Today, you are worldwide reknown as a Tantra queen. Do you still have that down-to earth part? Do you still like doing simple manual work?**

Radha: You called me "Queen of Tantra"... thank you so much! Actually, I have gone beyond the Queen. I am a Tantra seeker, I am a Tantra mystic and I definitely still like manual work. Maybe, if I am absolutely honest, I would not choose cleaning as manual work. But I love cooking and as soon as I come back from groups or every evening when I am not in a group, I cook, I love cooking, whether it is for myself, for my beloved or for friends. I enjoy it and it really puts me in a totally different space and maybe at that moment I am the Queen of the Kitchen!

**Question: Do you have any suggestions for young people who are just starting working in the world - or would like to?**

Radha: As Osho told me a long time ago, "Either you choose a job that you love or you love the job that you are doing." I accidentally chose the second one and that gave me an incredible sense of totality. Whatever I do, I am total. Being half in and half out does not help you in the job. On the contrary, what helps you, what helps you to really love whatever you do, is the practice of meditation. It doesn't help you to love whatever you do, it just helps you to love and love yourself first. And once you love yourself, everything else will fall into place. Loving yourself is the spice for any food and any job.

\* "darshan sniffer": At that time, in order to be admitted to Osho's discourse and darshan, everybody had to queue at the entrance and be checked for their smell. Osho was allergic to strong perfumes such as deodorants, body lotions, shampoos, hair sprays, etc... that's why the "darshan sniffers" had to smell everyone and approve or reject people according to their smell.

