

OSHO INTERNATIONAL MEDITATION RESORT BACKGROUNDER

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OSHO'S INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT THE USE OF THE MALA

In September 1985, Osho anticipates the end of the use of malas by his people.

“Soon I will withdraw everything that can be destructive in my absence.”
Osho, *The Last Testament*, Vol. 3, Talk #4 – This Moment Is Enough for Me

In August 1988 Osho is already talking about malas in the past tense.

“We have dropped the orange clothes, we have dropped the mala....”
Osho, *The Miracle*, Talk #2 – Buddhas in Disguise

And in this very last mention of Malas by Osho in public in February 1989. It is clear, malas were something from the past.

“At that time sannyasins were wearing red clothes, they had the mala with my photo in the locket, so they were absolutely recognizable.”
Osho, *The Zen Manifesto: Freedom from Oneself*, Talk #1 – This Disappearance Is Anatta

The Final Message to the Academy of Initiation on Malas, 1989.

Osho sends a message to the Academy of Initiation that there is no need to wear malas any more. Sannyas is about going inwards and nothing to do with the outer.

Some people are upset, so it is taken in to Osho again and his response, passed on again to the Academy is: “If you must wear your mala, then at home in meditation only.”

This message was repeated to the whole assembly, including the leader of the protesters, on July 26, 1989.

Below, you can read a letter from Ma Hasya, International Secretary to Osho, dated November 28, 1989, where she is answering questions about this with the same guidance:

MA PREM HASYA
International Secretary to Osho

Swami Samarpan David
Osho Padma Meditation Center
Apartado Aereo 4128
Medellin
Colombia

November 28, 1989

Beloved David,

Love.

We received your letter of October 8th. Osho sends you His blessings.

"And the economics of love is: the more you give, the more you have, because in your silent being you are joined with the oceanic, the divine source of all. And you can go on sharing... more and more goes on flowing in you, it goes on welling up."

Right, malas are for meditating privately, not for public use.

Originally wearing white and maroon robes was intended for here in Poona, but naturally the centers asked if people wanted, could they also use the robes? Osho responded, "yes." So if you want you can use the same as here: white robes for sitting together for the video discourse, and maroon robes for meditation. No robes should be worn in public, though. And group leaders wear black only here in Poona.

I want to encourage you to see recent videos.* Osho is creating something magical these evenings which is quite beyond words, but the videos convey a beautiful taste. Just to set your thirst on fire, let me tell you how He plays with us so mischievously as He comes in namasteing everyone. Several times He pauses suddenly, standing utterly still, the music stops and all that is heard is our thundering "Osho!" as we greet Him with our arms open to the sky. So much joy – and such a showering of energy! Eventually, in this almost lightening intensity, He sits...we close our eyes and go deep inside. He directs the music (and who knows what else!!) bringing it to higher and higher crescendos...and then, suddenly, silence! For ten minutes we sit bathed in waves of music and silence – but there is no sense of time – and then with three drumbeats Osho gets up and dances His namaste in the same way as He entered, leaving us ecstatic! Afterwards we all sit together to watch a video discourse, hearing His words with fresh understanding after this taste of Him.

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