

m of Love

ACTUAL TRIP

aid, "Birds must go to get their fruit; does not go to the

of his discourse the nature of God ed for people to seek he also had some say about human ps.

st recognize other the same way we our own lives, and men as neighbors. er is your own hun- illness and disasters recognize as your aid.

God's purpose in the

ight have created for many kinds of But if all creation God's story, then we ooks in which his been written....

ret is grace... and s in each creation." awa believe the Bible d of God?

ponded, "I have a was given me in my is here in my heart; an carry this Bible

Bibles can be have been changed nes, in many new ns."

One God is one God, and the or messengers of or religions — Hind- intoism, Christianity a — all contribute to e of God, Bawa said. ompared the four reli- parts of the human

sm, relating to crea- energy, is that part of below the waist.

ive to see what truth part," he said.

sm, "the religion of hip," he calls the reli- e stomach.

d Christianity deals heart and soul and

therefore is comparable to the chest, while Islam relates to the head (eyes, nose, ears, mouth, tongue).

"These four parts make up one man. One must understand the four parts to become a true man. We are one family of God," he said.

After answering questions from those who sat in on the interview, Bawa chanted some of the songs that express his teachings about the importance of finding God in this transitory world. One goes like this:

"All this singing, all this dancing,

All becoming slaves to one another,

All the running and the searching,

O Golden One (Heart)

Is all for the sake of the one-span stomach."

Bawa explained that no matter what games are played, what dances are performed or what trick is done, all of the actors will have to remove their costumes in the end.

The man who had come from Kansas asked for and received a special blessing or benediction from Bawa, who placed his hand on the Kansas's head after instructing him to seek God diligently.

Robert Schiers, jr., an Iowa State University student who was host for the informal gathering, announced that a buffet supper awaited all the guests.

At this point the guru excused himself to go upstairs.

Food of the non-spiritual type does not interest him, his followers say.

As he left the room, Bawa greeted many in the audience, and they kissed his hand.



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY DAVID M. LEWIS

Guru Bawa answers questions at news interview attended by about 40 of his followers.

How the Guru Came To This Land

Guru Bawa was "discovered" in the jungles of Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) in the late 1940s by a few men "who became curious at his countenance which "shone radiantly with the love of God," according to Robert Schiers, jr.

Schiers, an Iowa State University student who lives with his parents at 2315 Pleasant St., in West Des Moines, was host to the guru and his followers here at an informal gathering.

Background

Information about the guru's background is sketchy, Schiers said, because Bawa "does not talk about himself."

Schiers also said, "Individuals in India, because of the large population, are not highly visible. A person is not noticed particularly." According to Schiers, 20 years after the guru's discovery, one of Bawa's followers came to Pennsylvania to study anthropology and told persons there about the guru.

The Americans asked if the guru would come to the United States.

He did in 1971, at the invitation of five persons from Philadelphia, who provided a plane ticket and a place for him to stay.

Schiers said Bawa speaks of having traveled widely in the

Middle East and India. His pattern in recent years has been to spend a year in Sri Lanka, then a year in the United States.

On his current visit, Schiers said, the guru is accompanied by four women and two men. The men are doctors on leave of absence from their medical practice, he said.

Schiers said he personally learned of Bawa through a metaphysical experience (a vision, and a voice speaking) when he was in the mountains of Colorado in June, 1974.

Returning to Des Moines, Schiers said he shared his experience with others interested in "high consciousness."

He and several other students and faculty members from Iowa State went to Philadelphia to see the guru when Bawa visited there again last April.

Schiers later returned to the east and spent the summer with Bawa. He and others from the Ames campus arranged for the guru to come to Iowa.

Fellowship

Schiers said Bawa has about 300 followers in Philadelphia, organized as Guru Bawa Fellowship, and 15 to 20 followers in Ames and Des Moines.

A Guru Bawa Fellowship also has been formed in Ames.

with meetings at 8 p.m. every Wednesday in the home of Steve Aigner, an Iowa State professor, at 1214 Marston St. Schiers said anyone may attend.

Of the guru's Ames campus followers, he said, "Many of us at one time or another were using drugs, (were) dropouts, cynical and non-involved, lost in the torpor of the various intoxicants and mind trips so prevalent in the late 1960s."

Bawa spoke "firmly but with great compassion" against using any drugs or intoxicants, he said. Schiers said the guru also "told us to shave our faces so that the light of God within our hearts could be manifest upon our faces.

"He admonished us to get jobs, to earn an honest living, thus fulfilling but one of myriad responsibilities intrinsic to proper conduct."