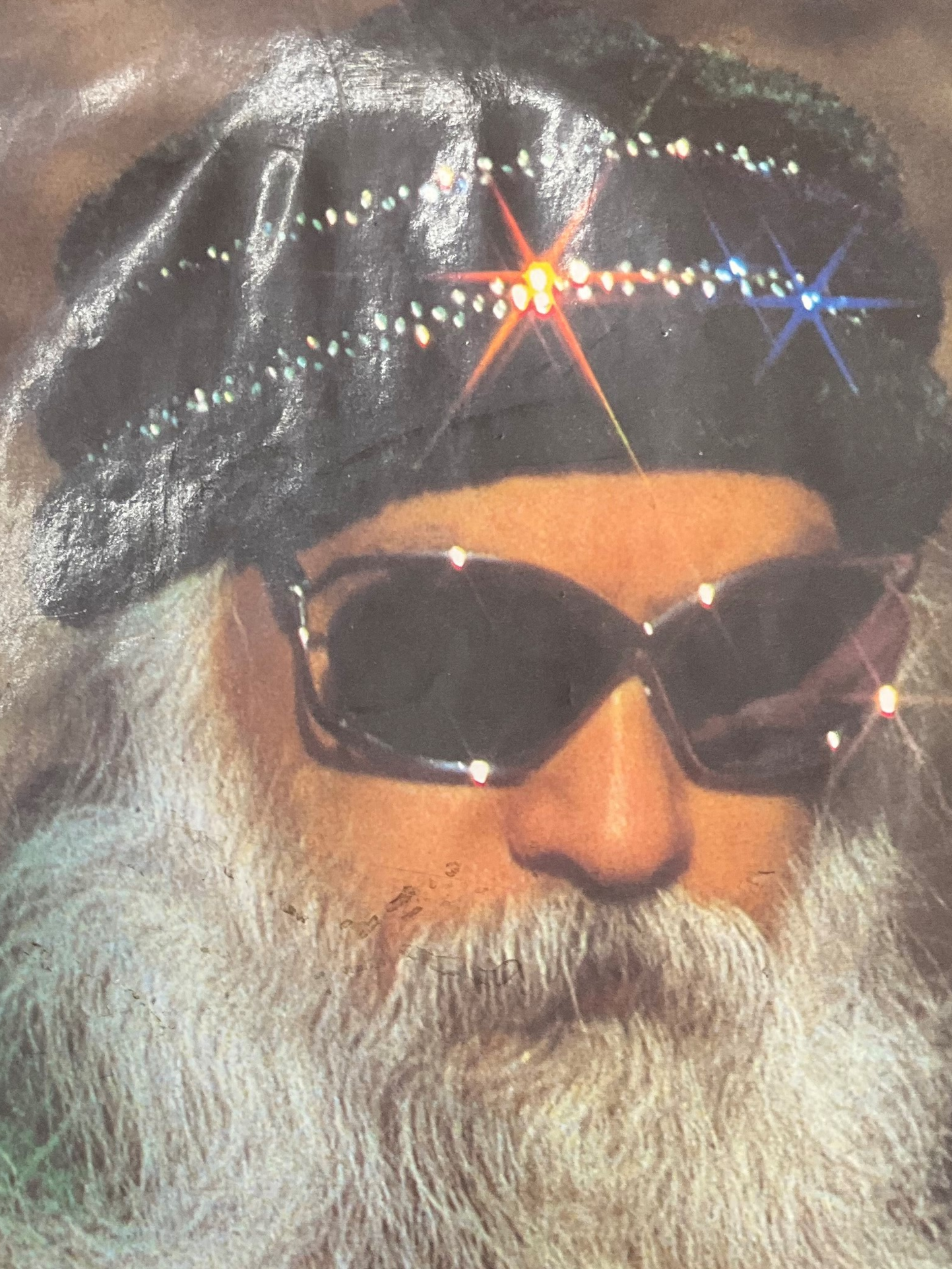
SHIRISH RAJNEESH



A Man of Many Climates, Seasons & Rainbows

Through the Eye of the Camera

Shree Rajneesh is one of the most important educators and philosophical and religious leaders in the late 20th century.

Robert Rimmer
Author of *The Harrad Experiment* and *Proposition 31*

His incredible taped discourse lectures and books have inspired me (and millions of others) on the path of self evolution... His presence here is like a great bell tolling...awaken, awaken, awaken.

James Coburn
Actor

He is the rarest and most talented religionist to appear in this century.

Kazumoshi Kino
Professor of Buddhist Studies
Hosei Gakuen College, Tokyo, Japan

[Shree Rajneesh] discourses with eloquent familiarity on virtually all the world's great mystics – Zen masters, Hassids, Sufis, Bauls, Buddha, Lao-Tsu, Jesus.... Though he 'knocks the mind,' Rajneesh is an intellectual's guru, and his message is aimed not at spiritual sheep but at rebels and risk takers – people who consider themselves intelligent, adventurous, and independent, and want to be more so.

Annie Gottlieb, New York City
Author of *Do You Believe in Magic?*

SHREE RAJNEESH:

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SHREE RAJNEESH:

A MAN OF MANY CLIMATES SEASONS AND RAINBOWS

Through the Eye of the Camera

AN INTRODUCTION

PHOTOGRAPHS OF AN UNCONTAINABLE VISION

For the first time in my professional career I was trying to capture an enlightened master on film. I found myself with my finger hanging in the air unable to shoot the picture. My eye glued to the lens, frozen in awe... Shree Rajneesh, sitting on a pillow surrounded by musical instruments: gongs, bowls, cymbals and bells.

How can this possibly be expressed in words?

Words are just conventions, full of limitations. Silence is a reality. How can I speak of him, who was not *inside* this silence but *was* this silence?

As a photographer of nature, the only possible way for me to express this silence is with nature itself.

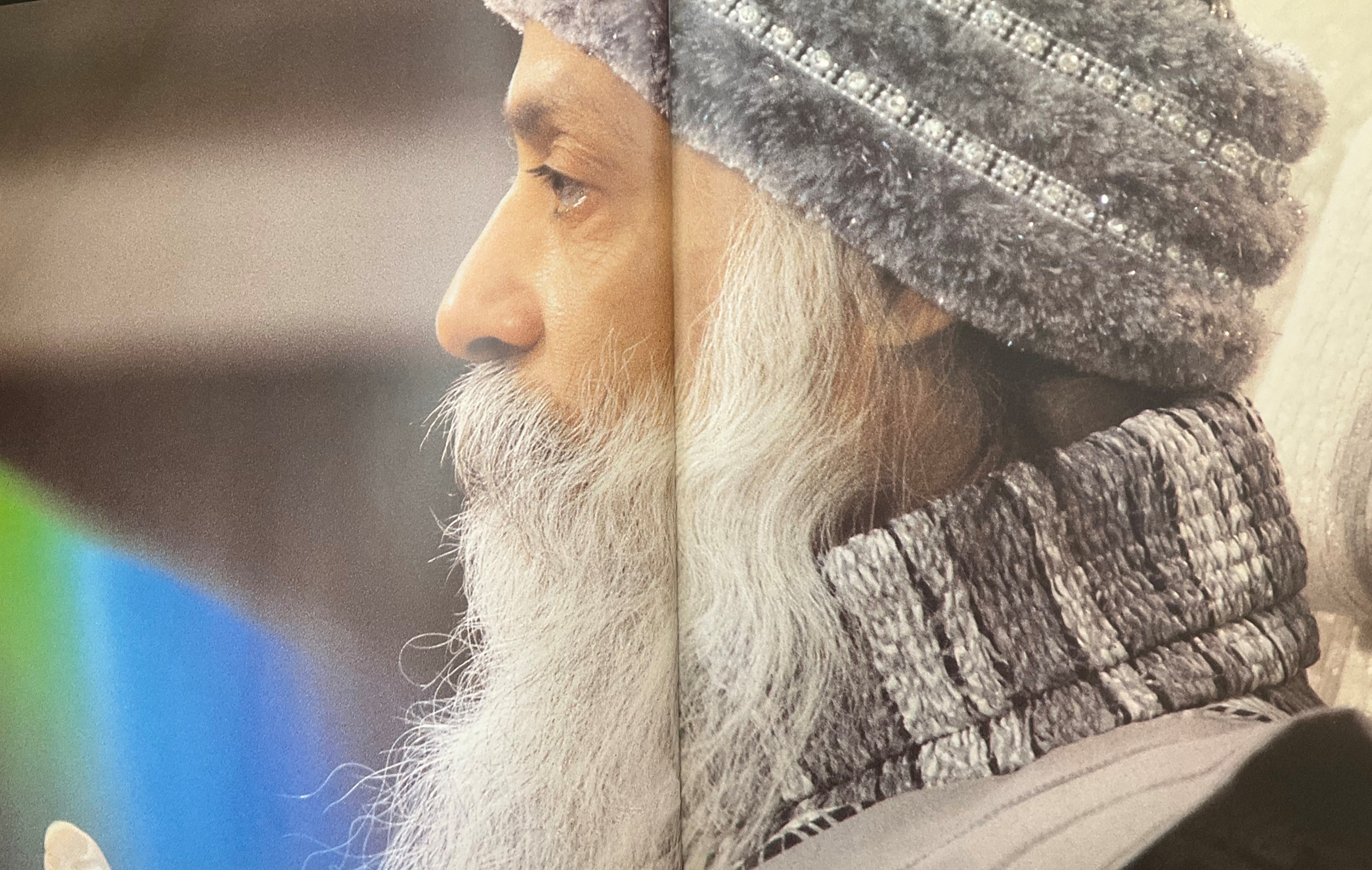
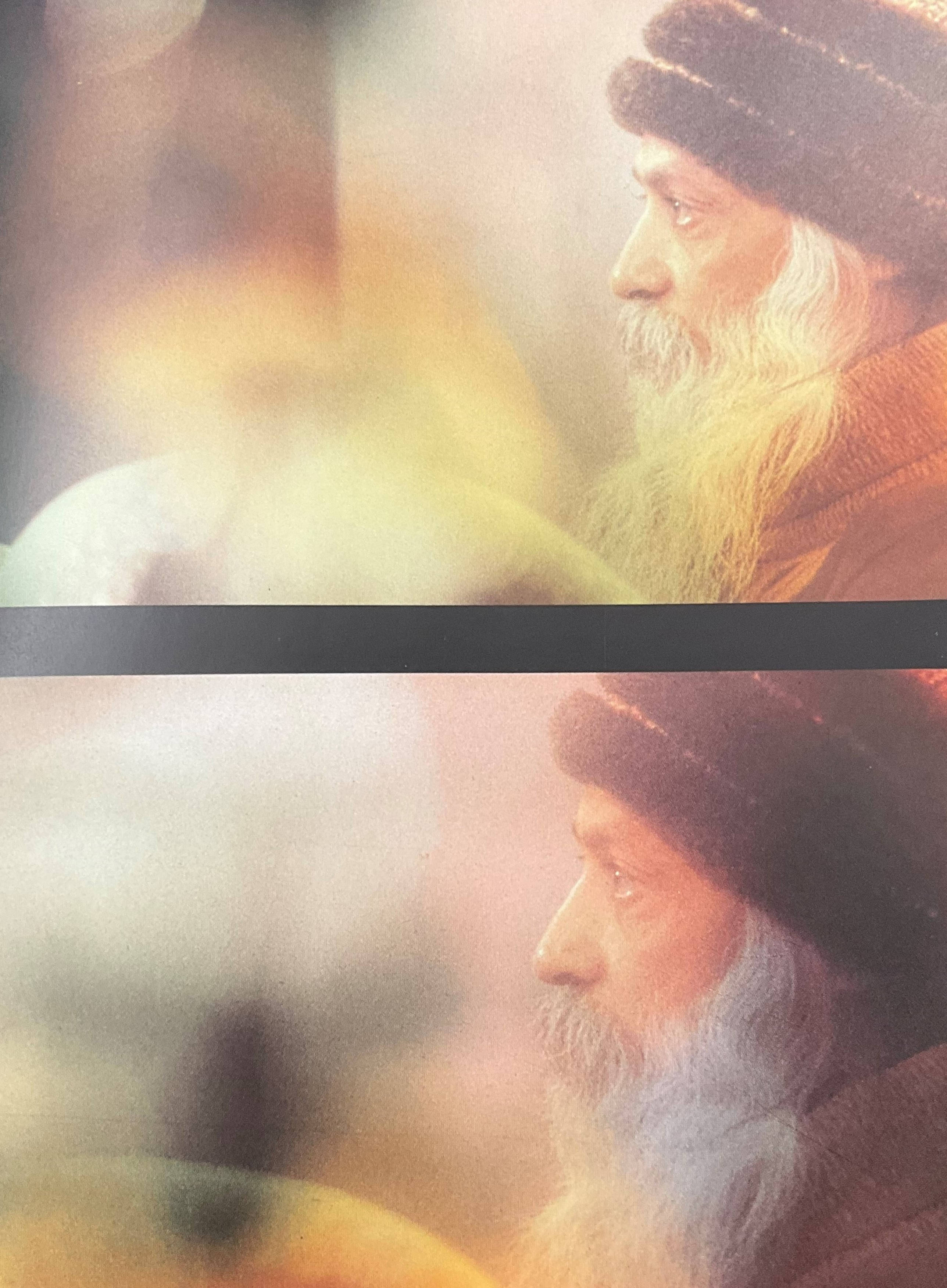
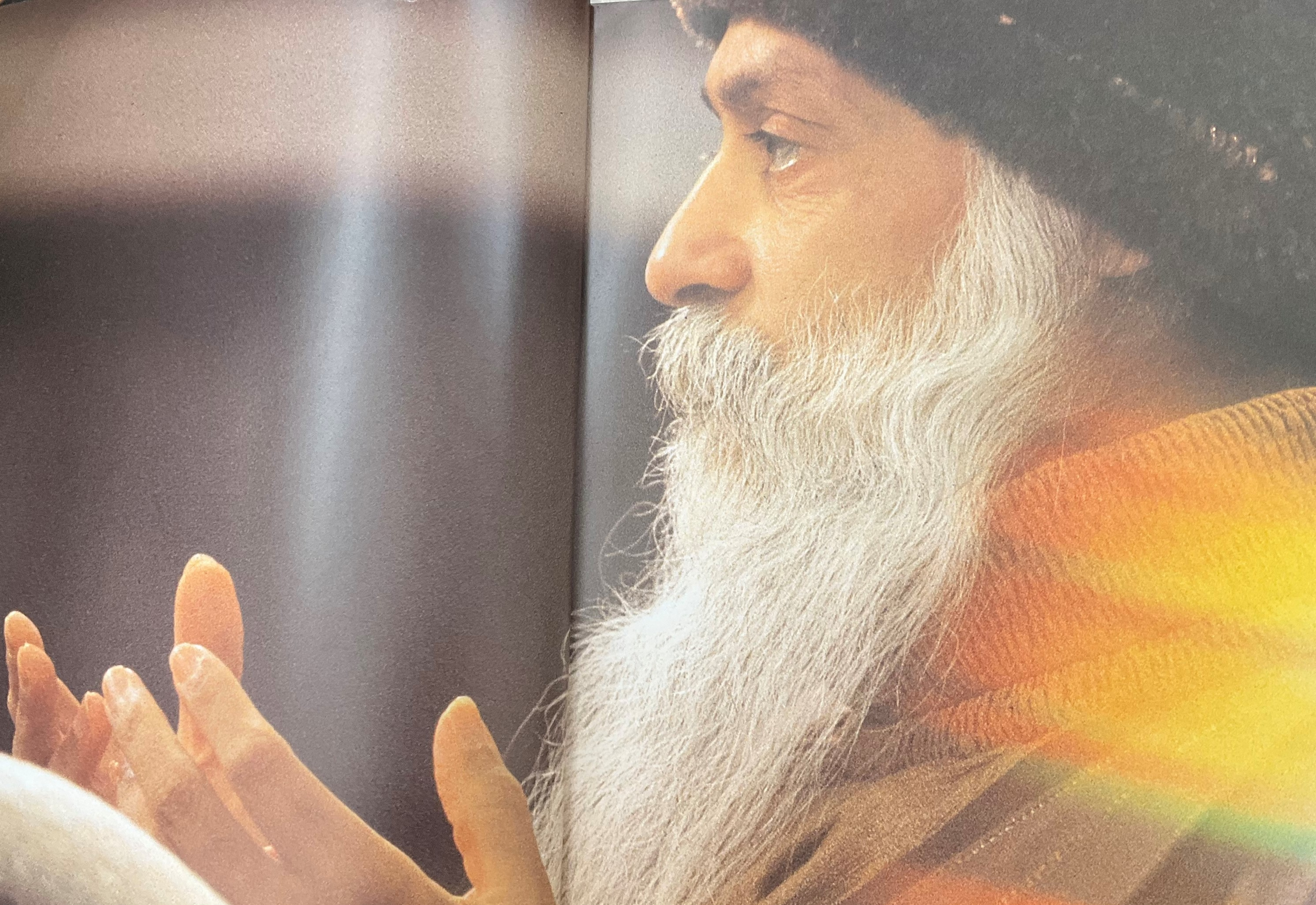
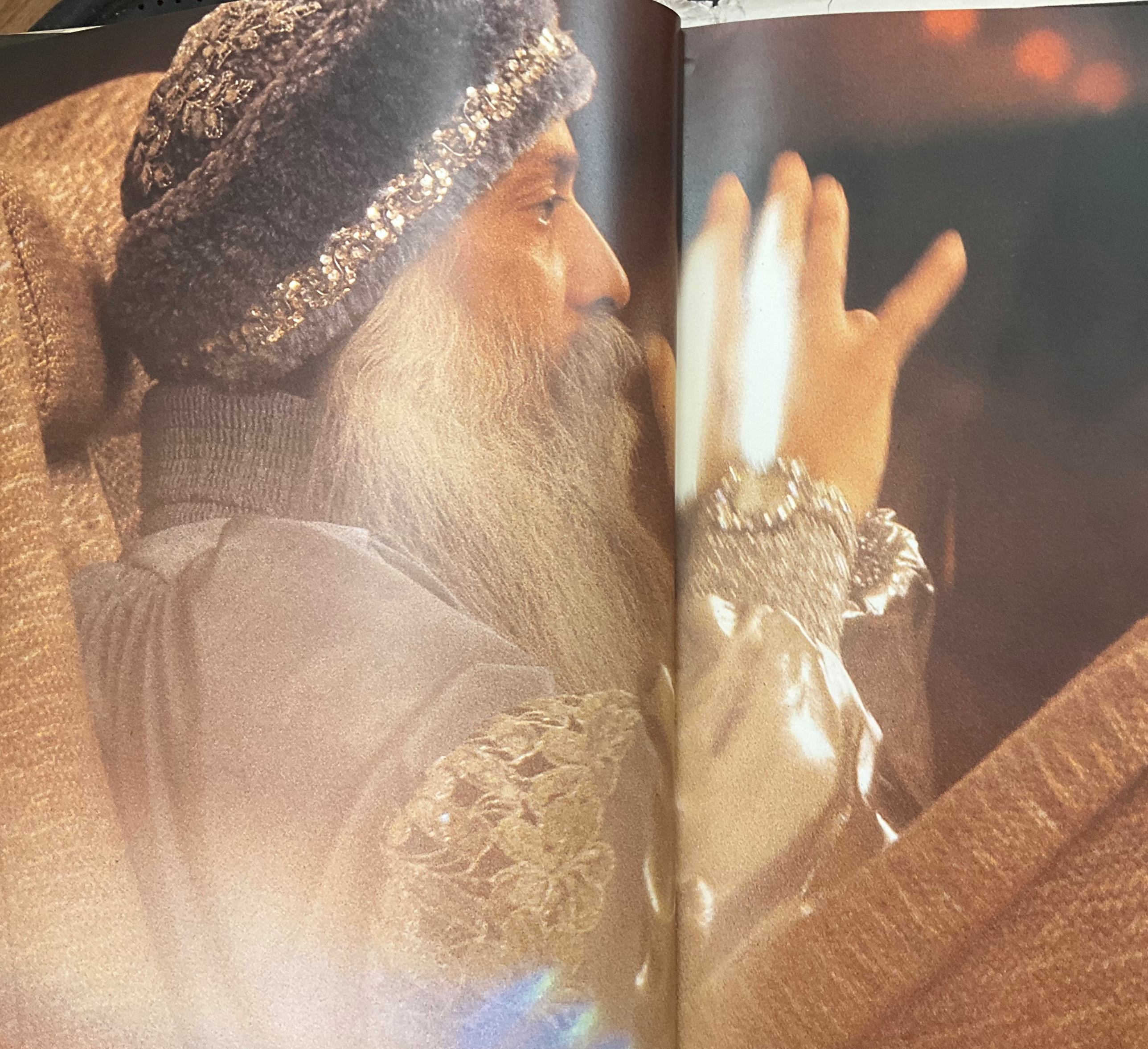
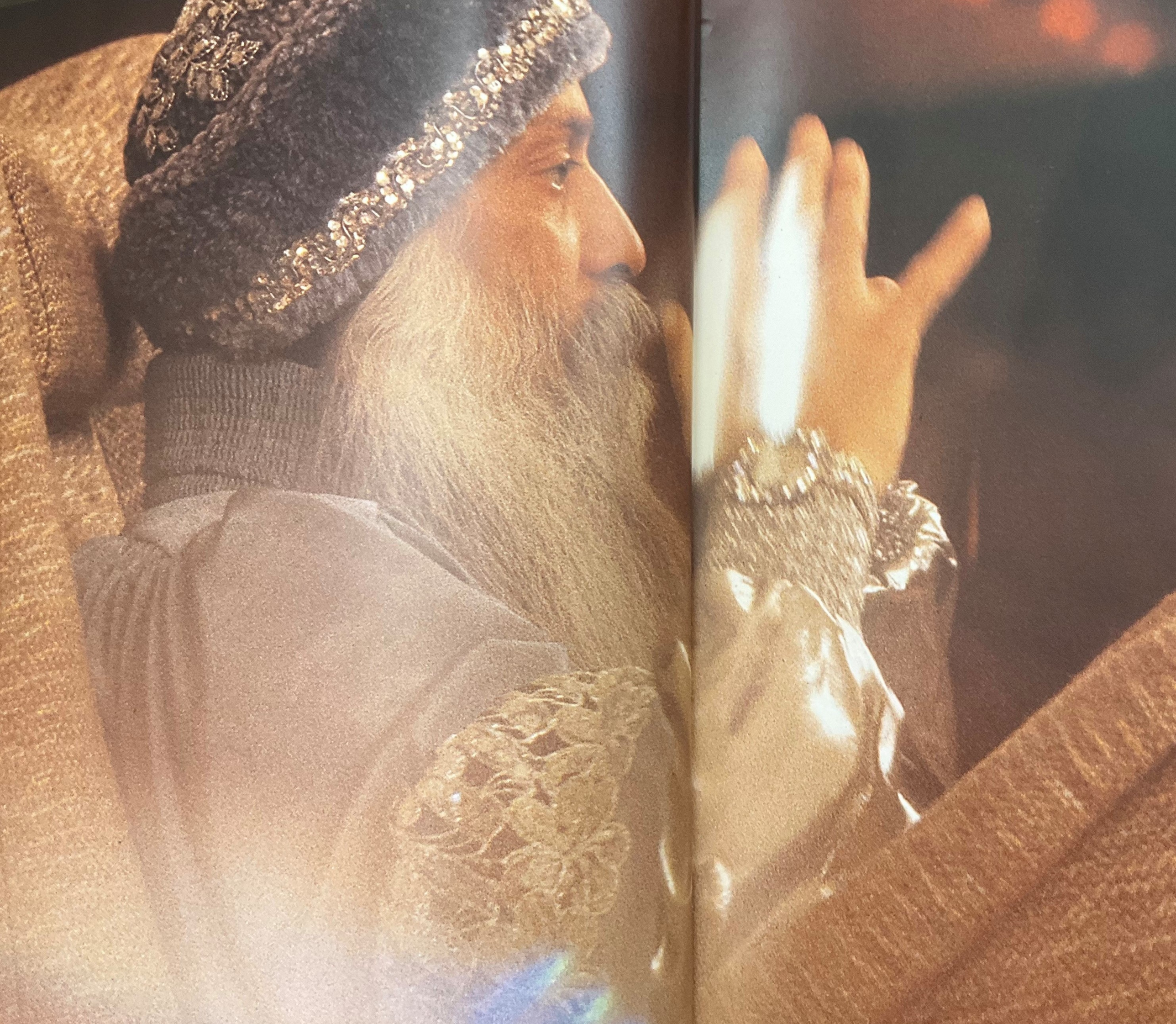
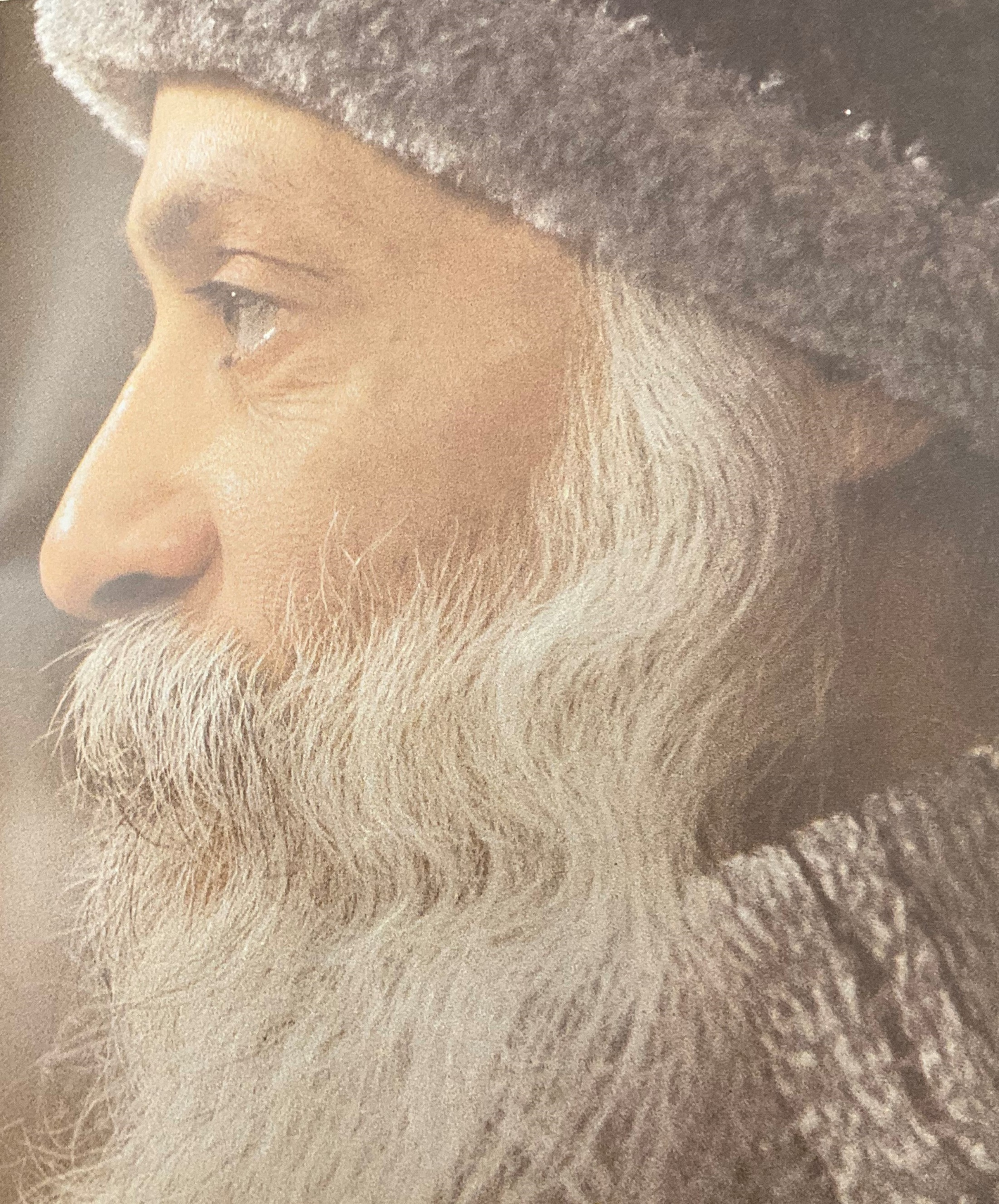
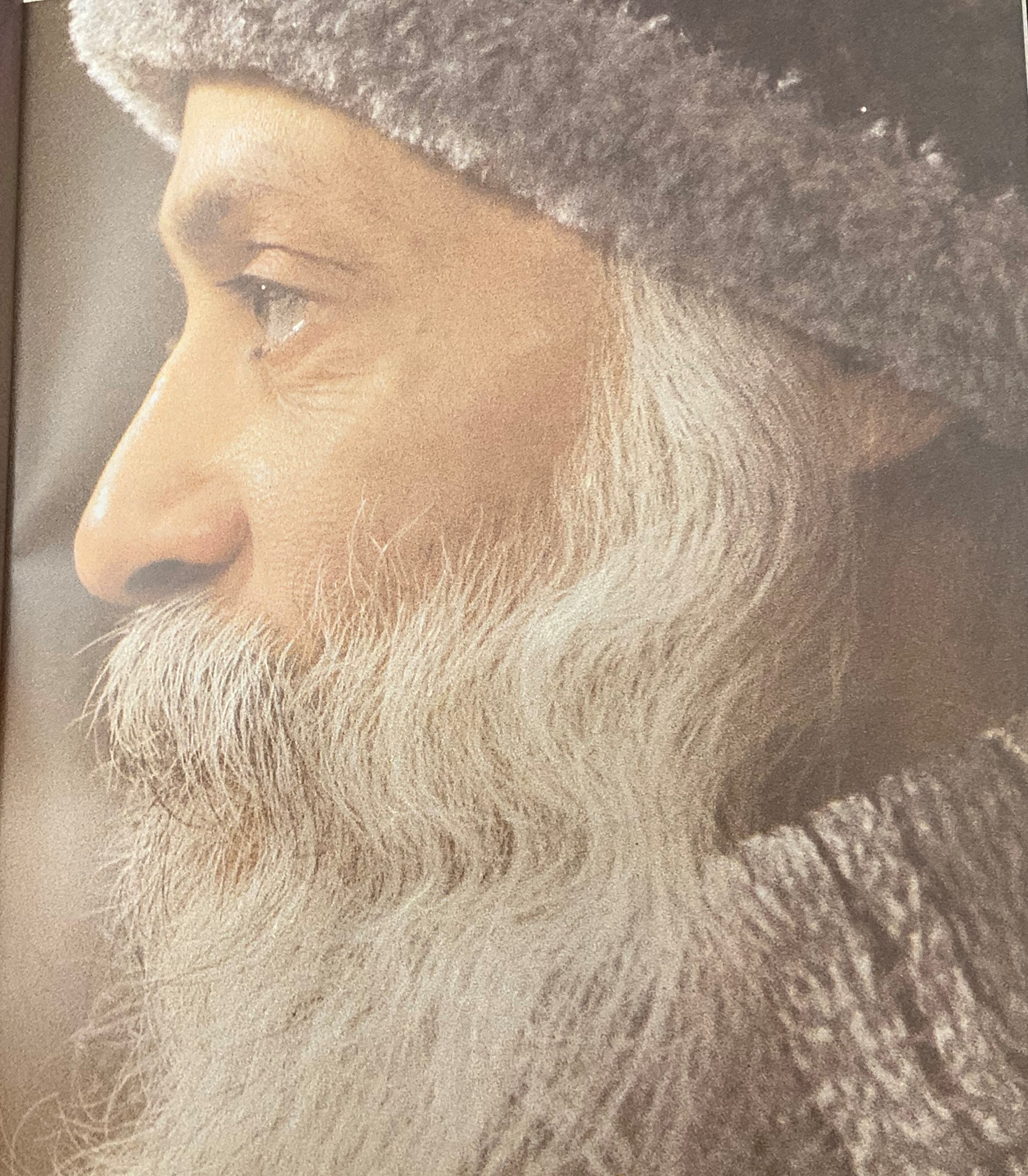
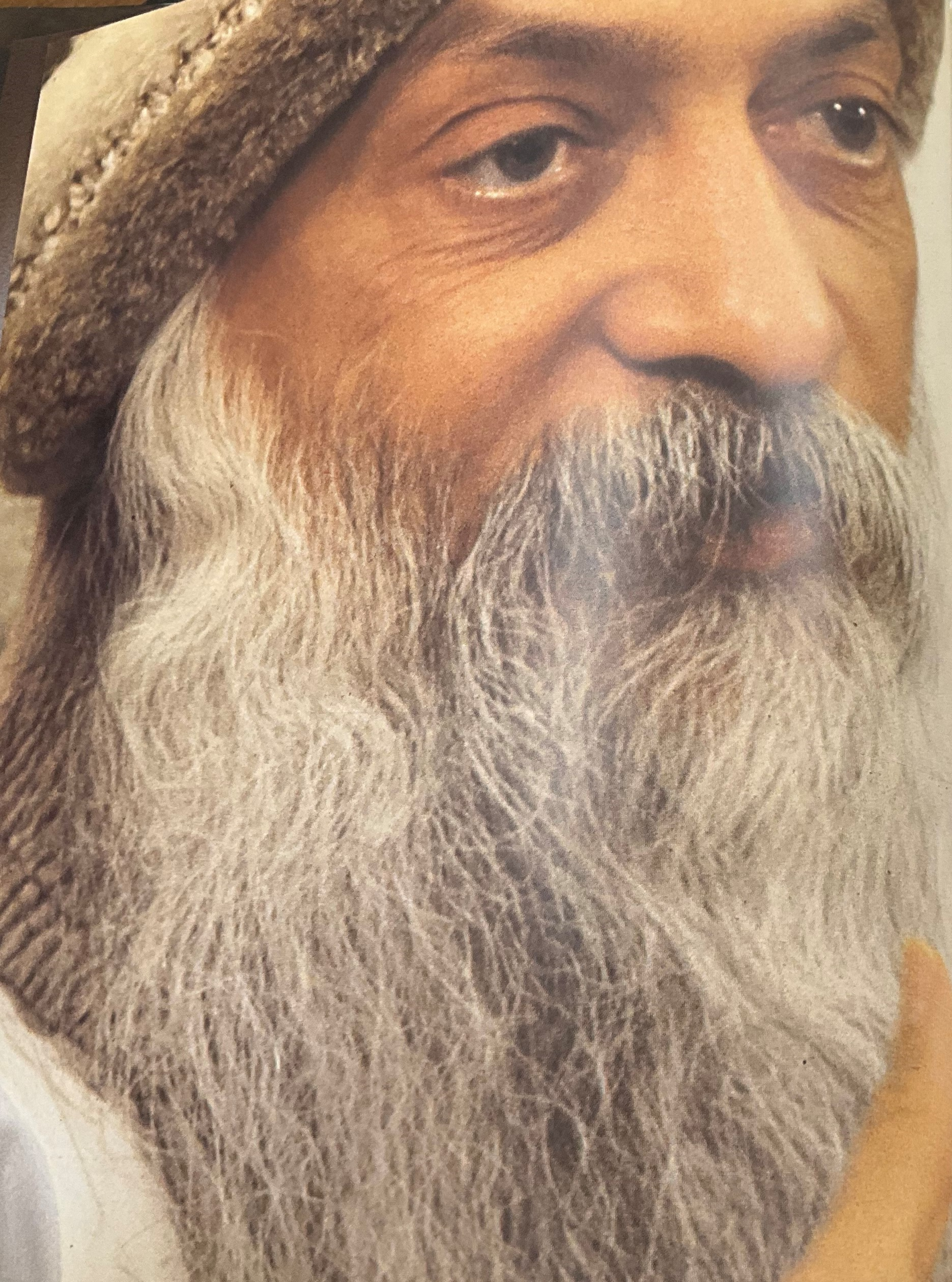
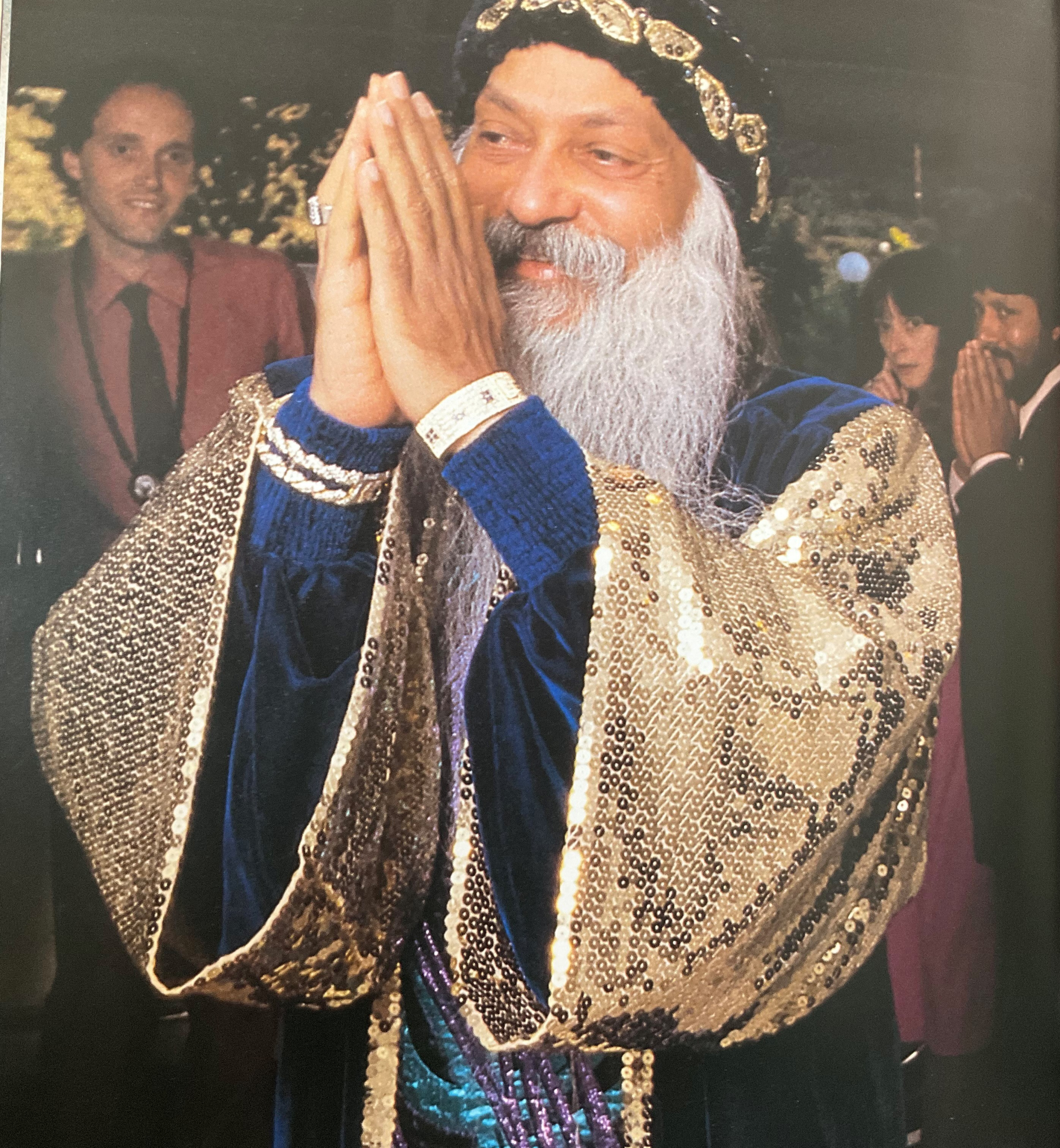
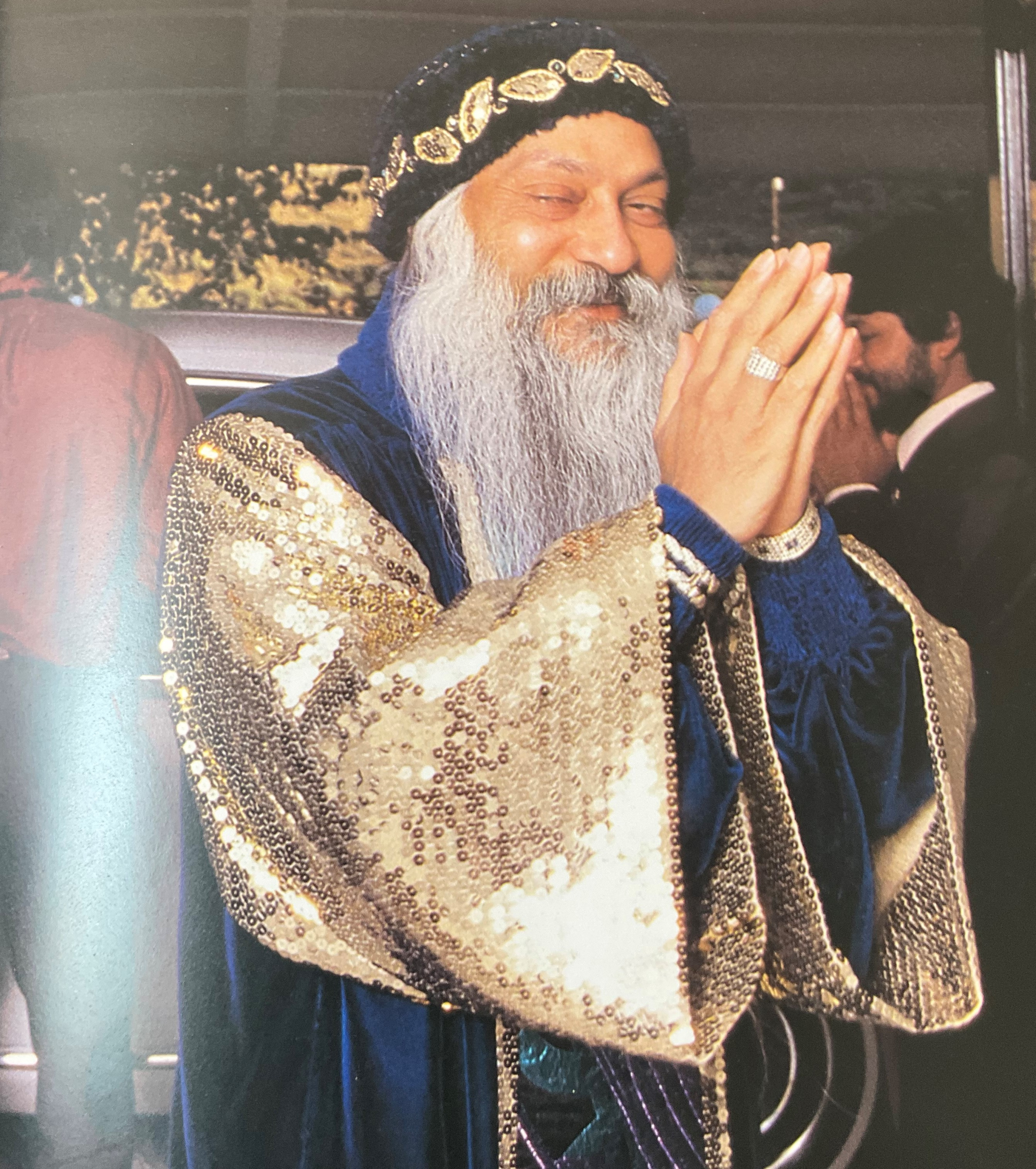
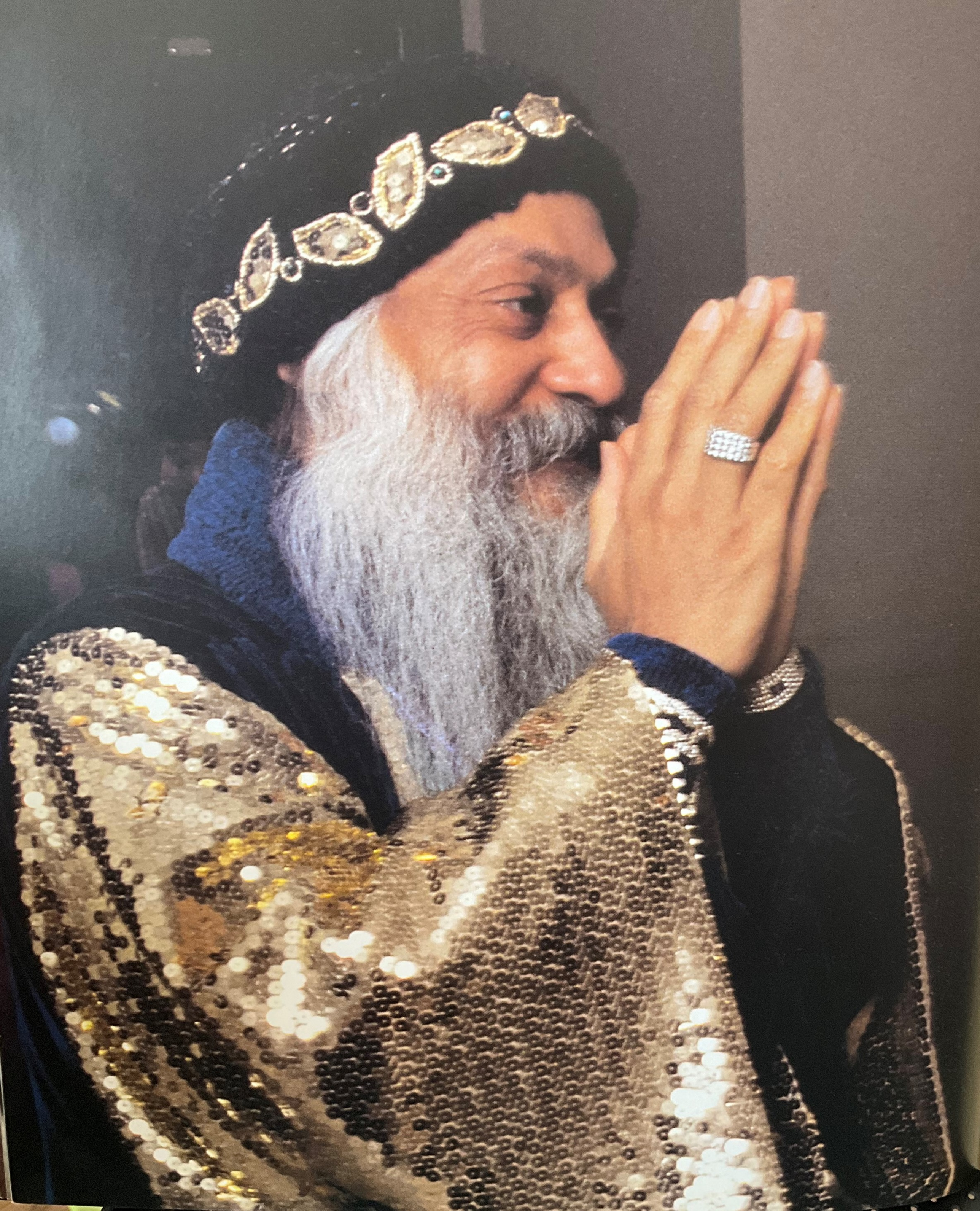
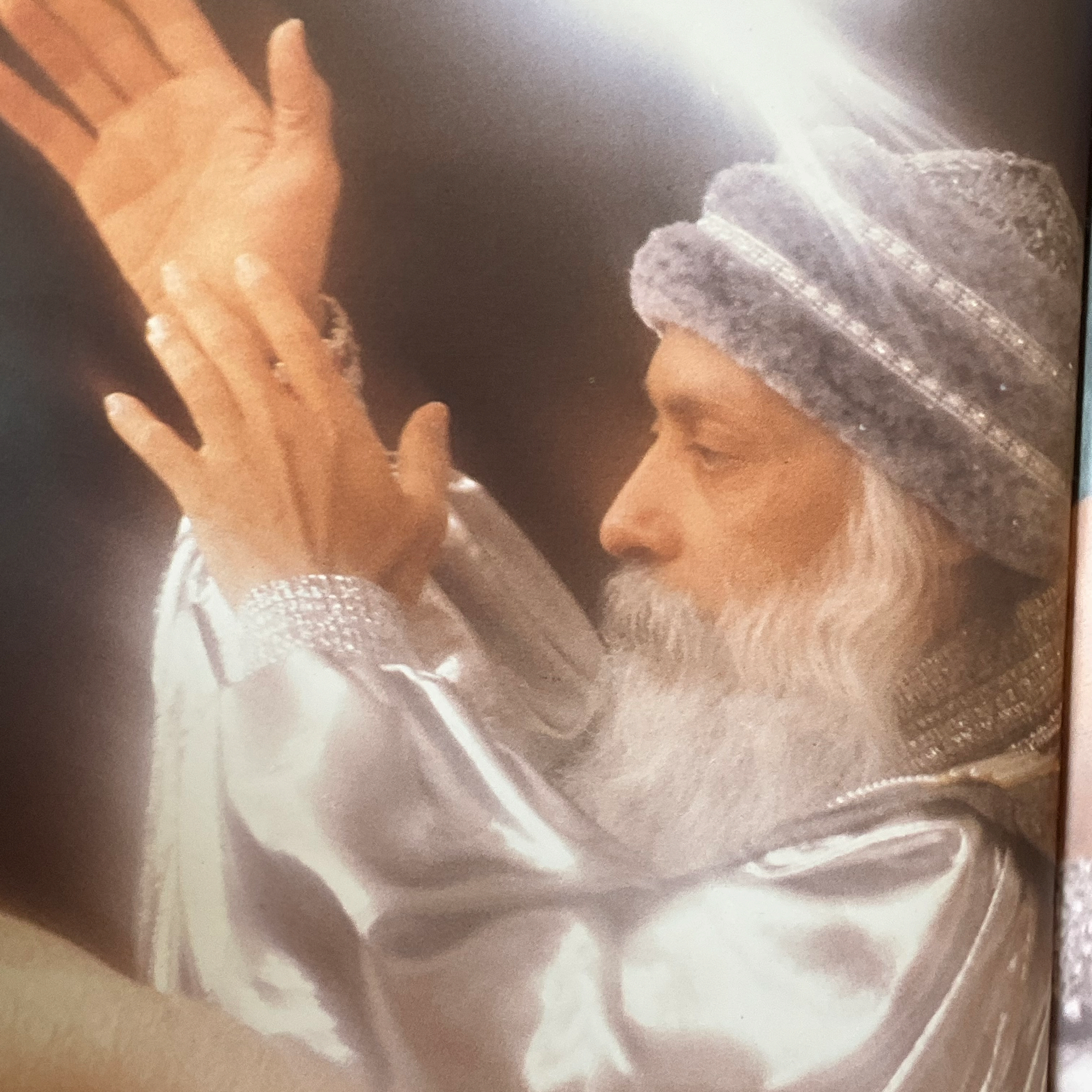
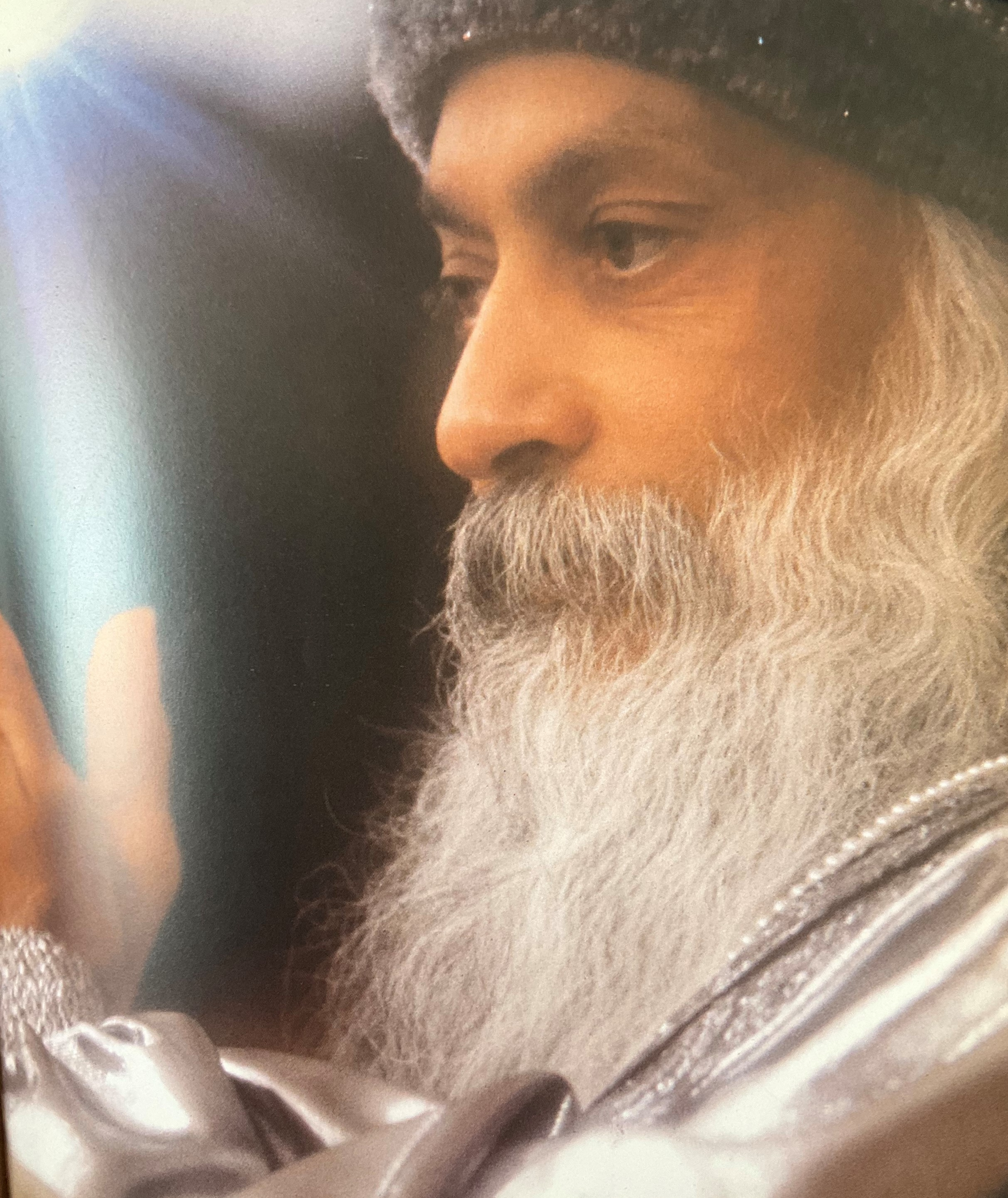
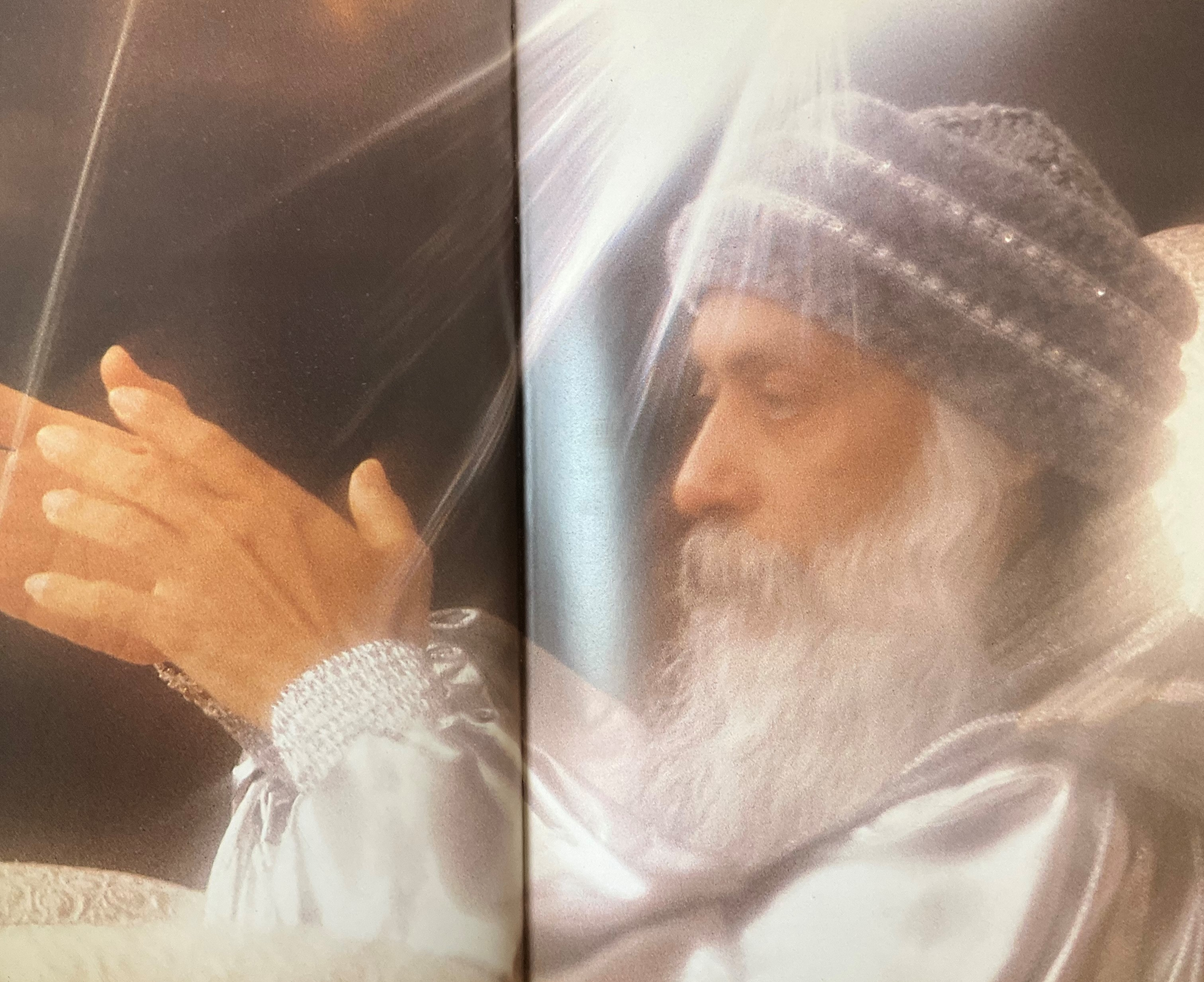
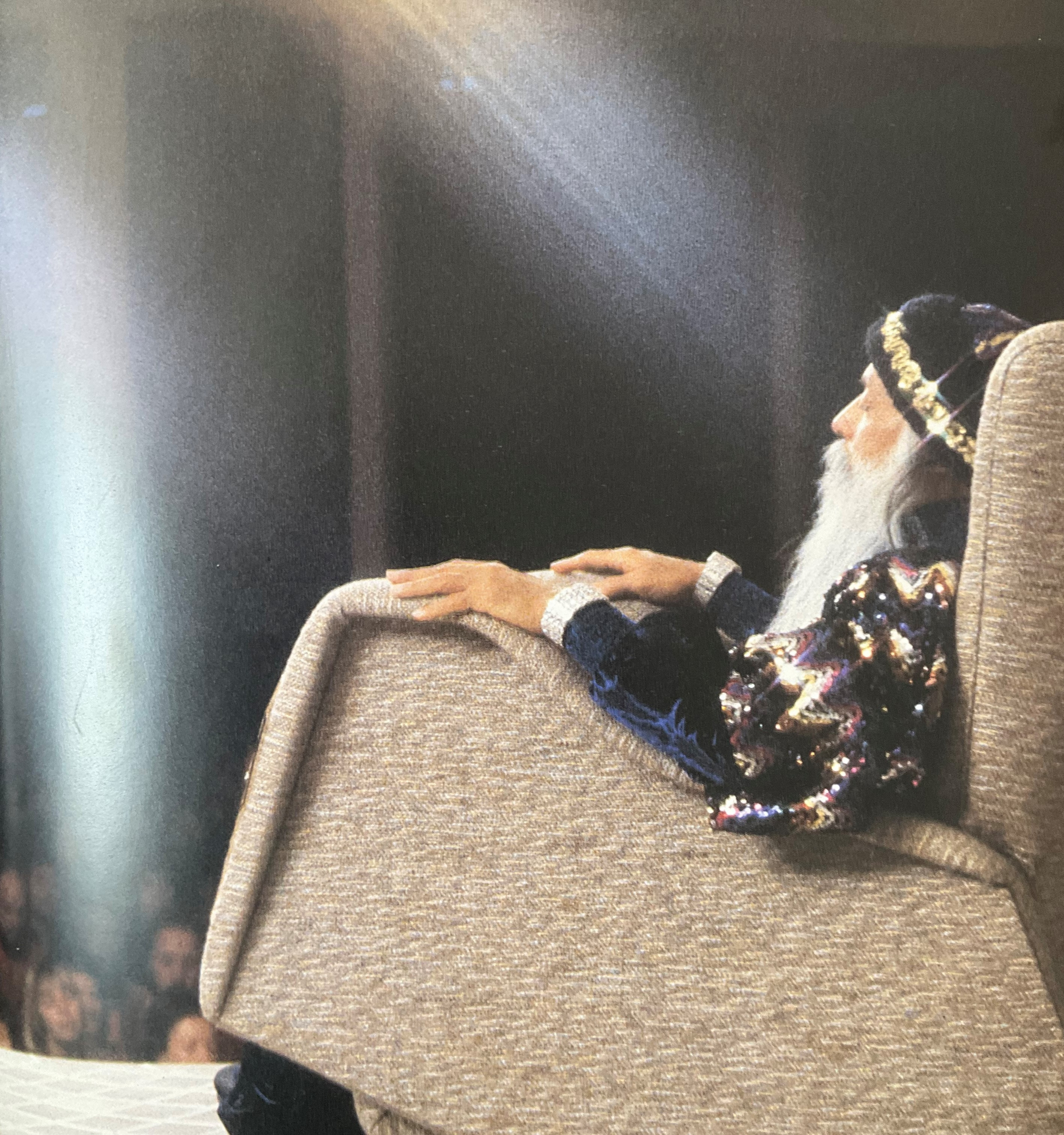
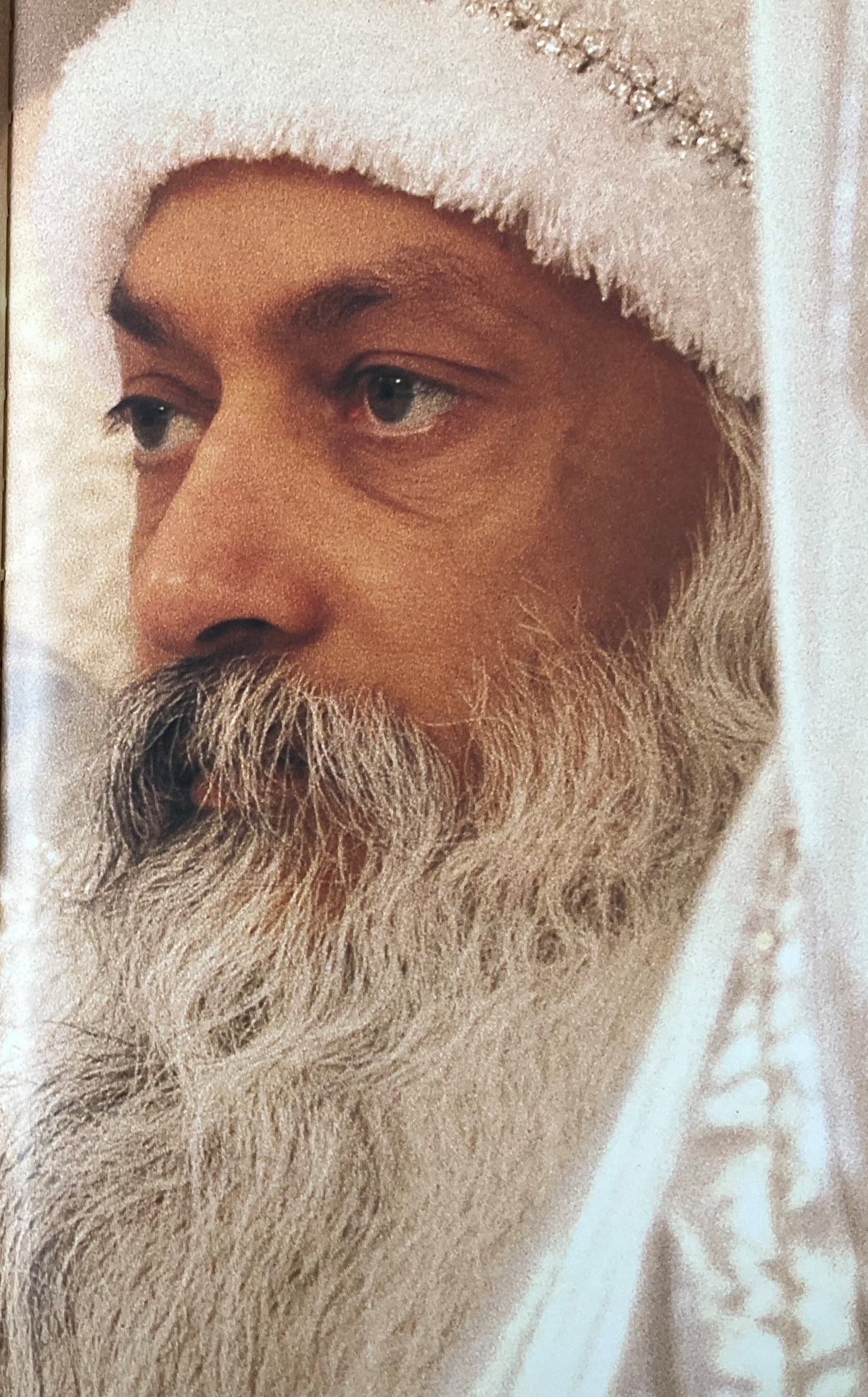
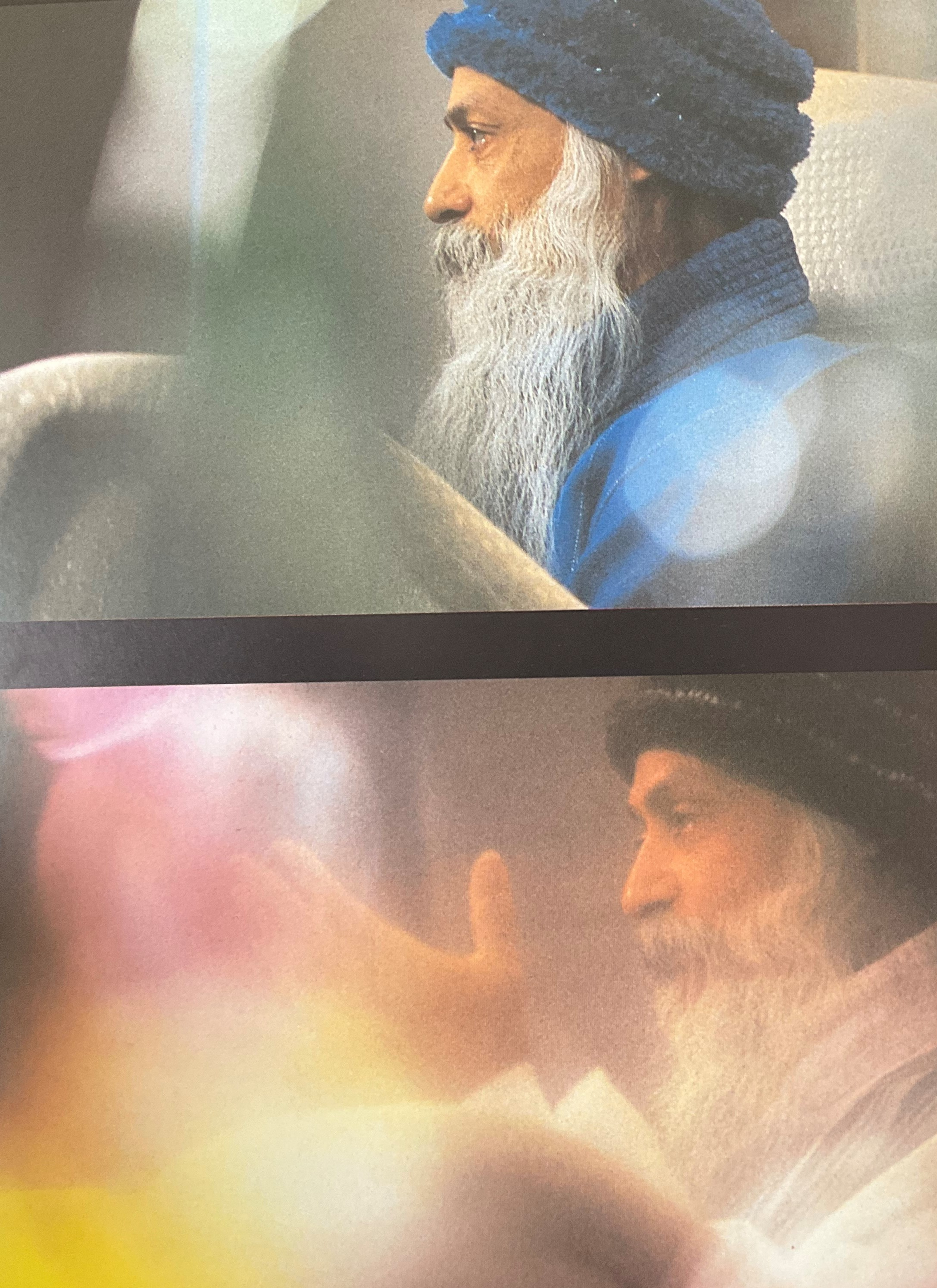
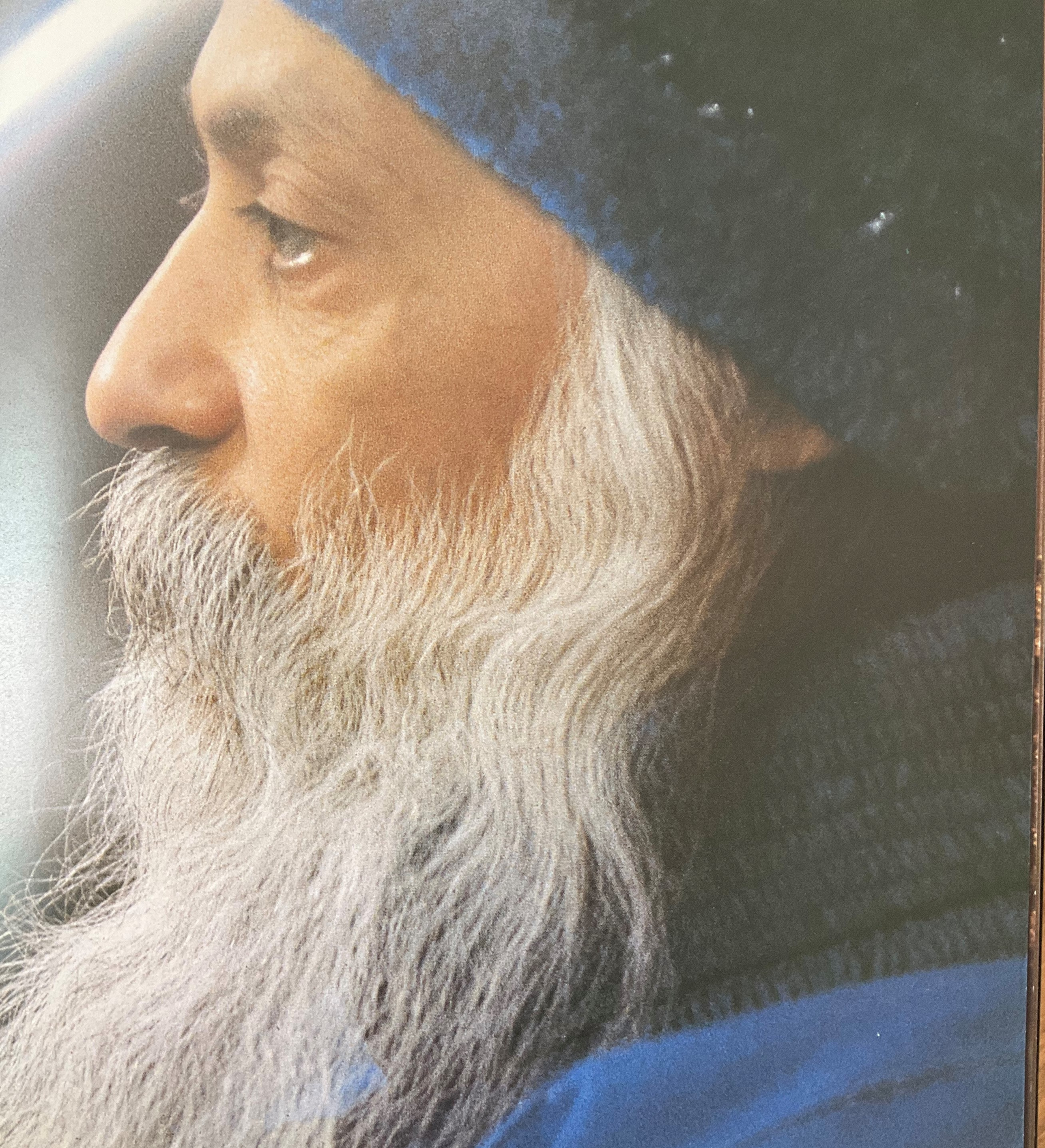
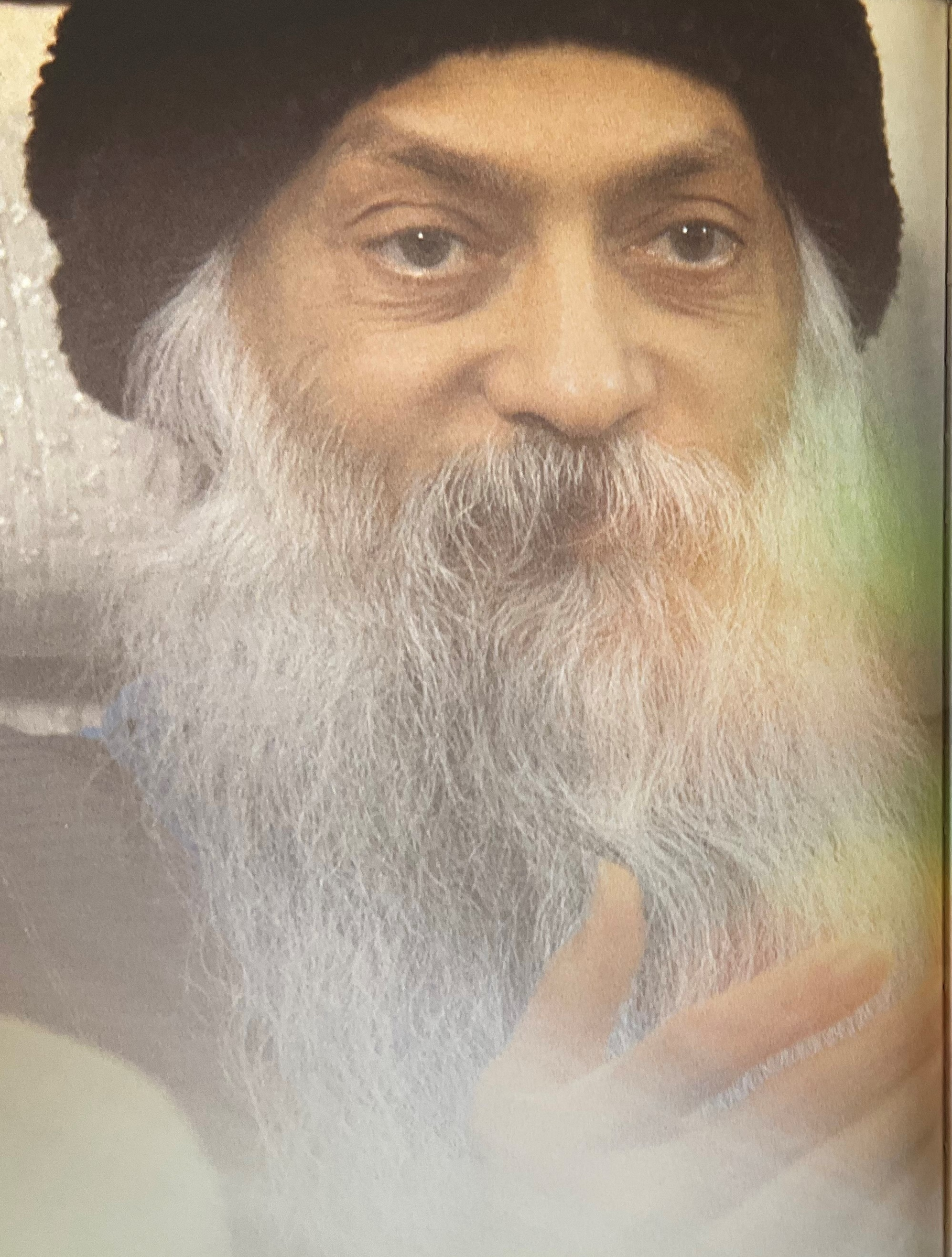
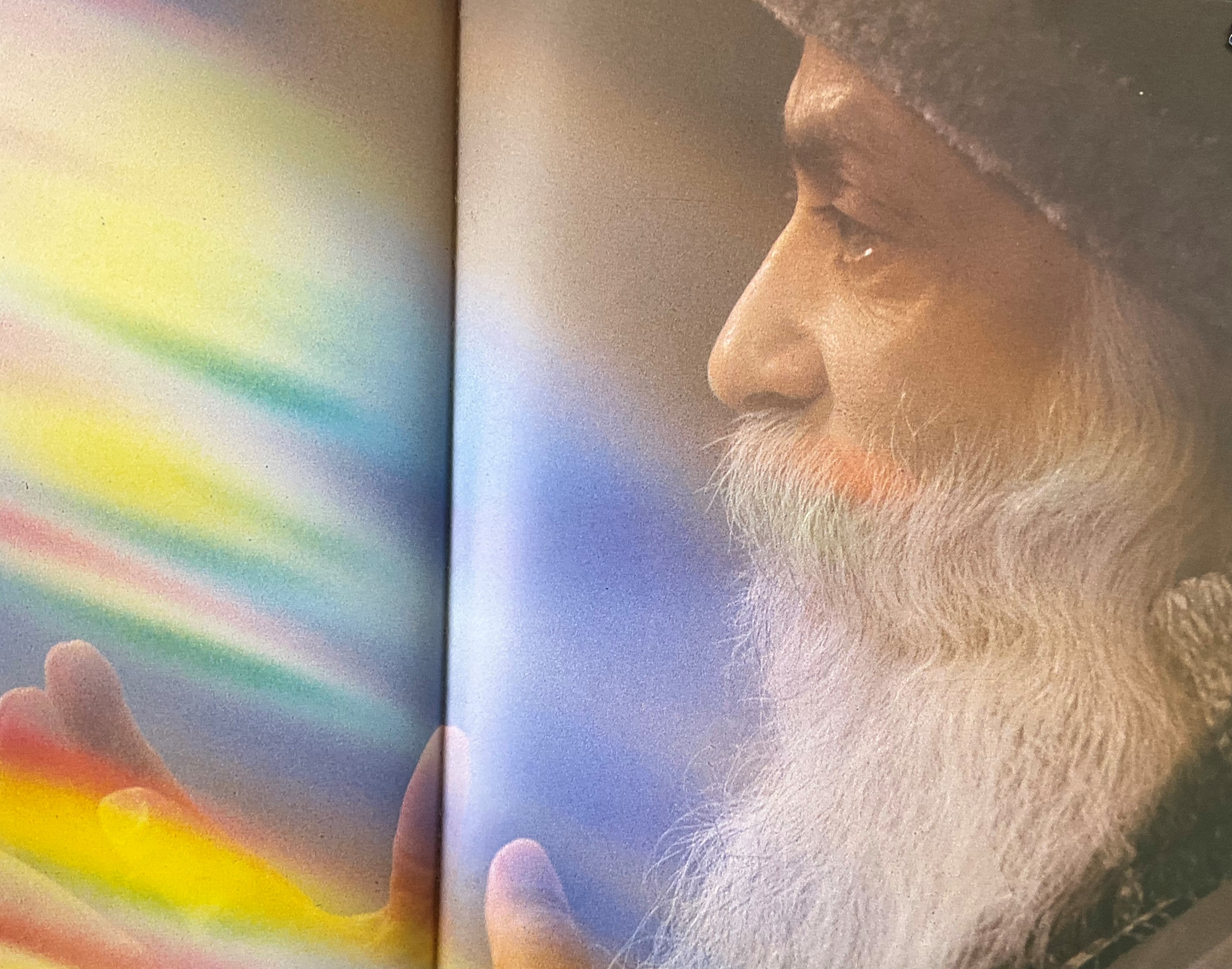
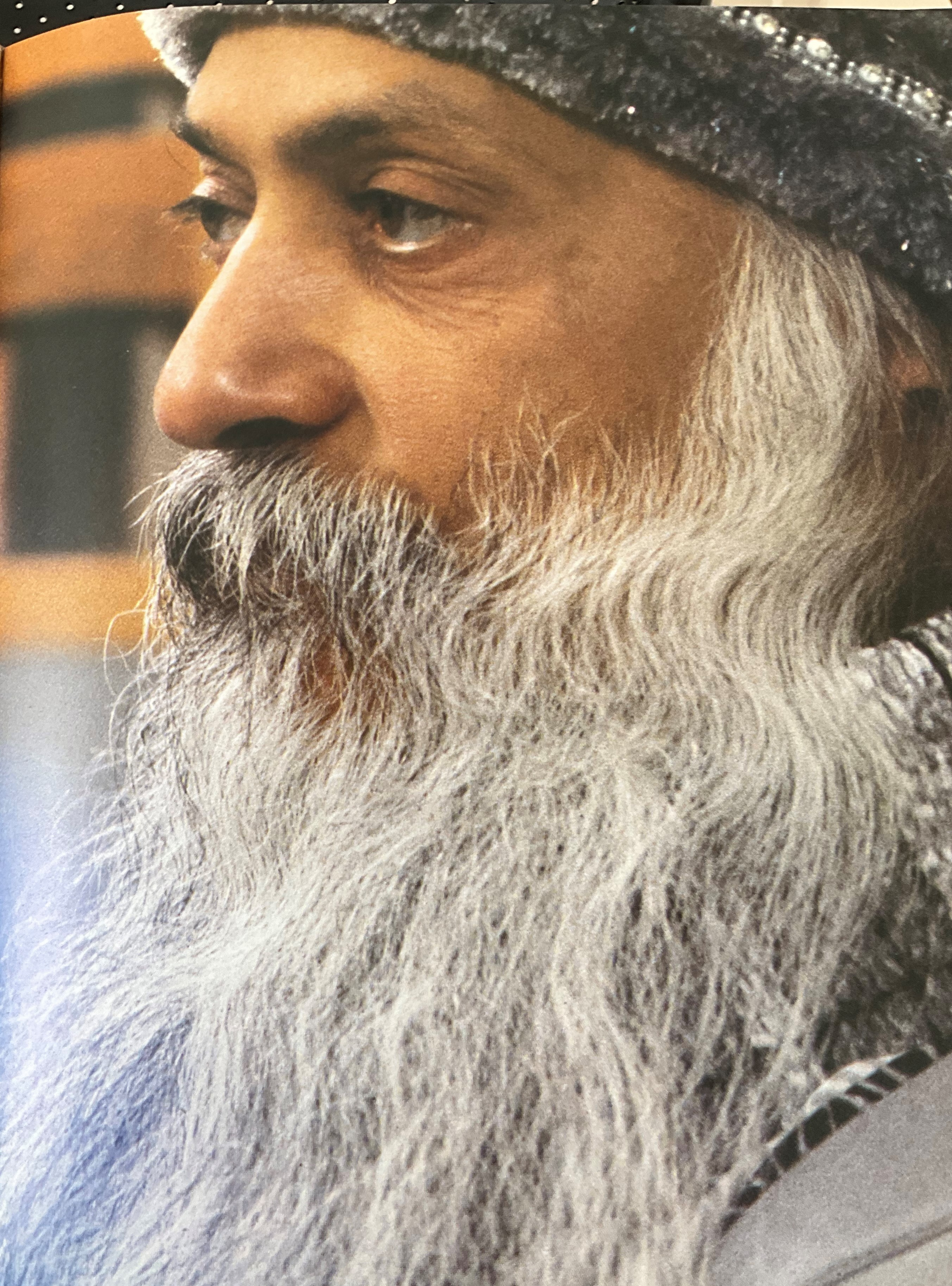
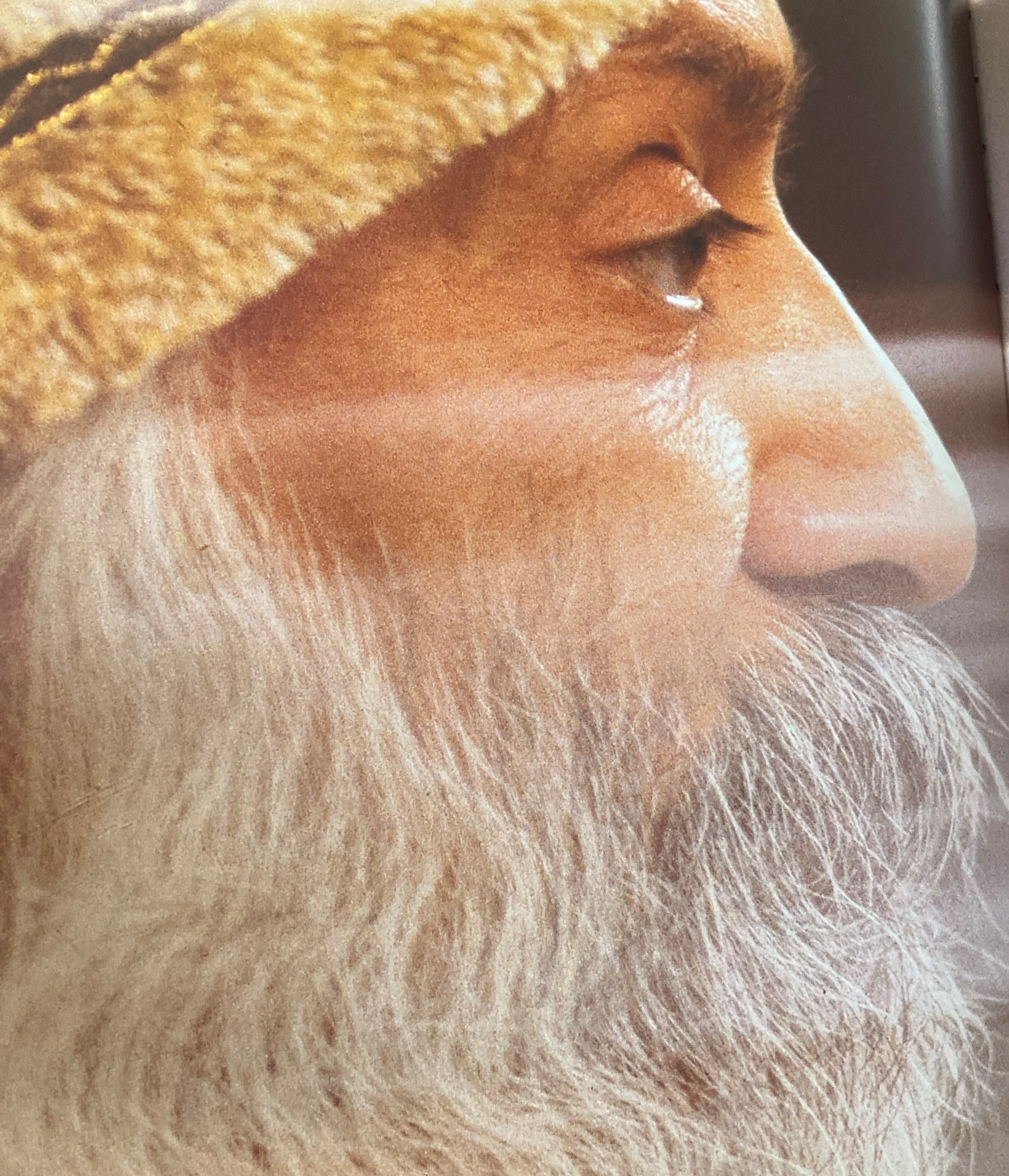
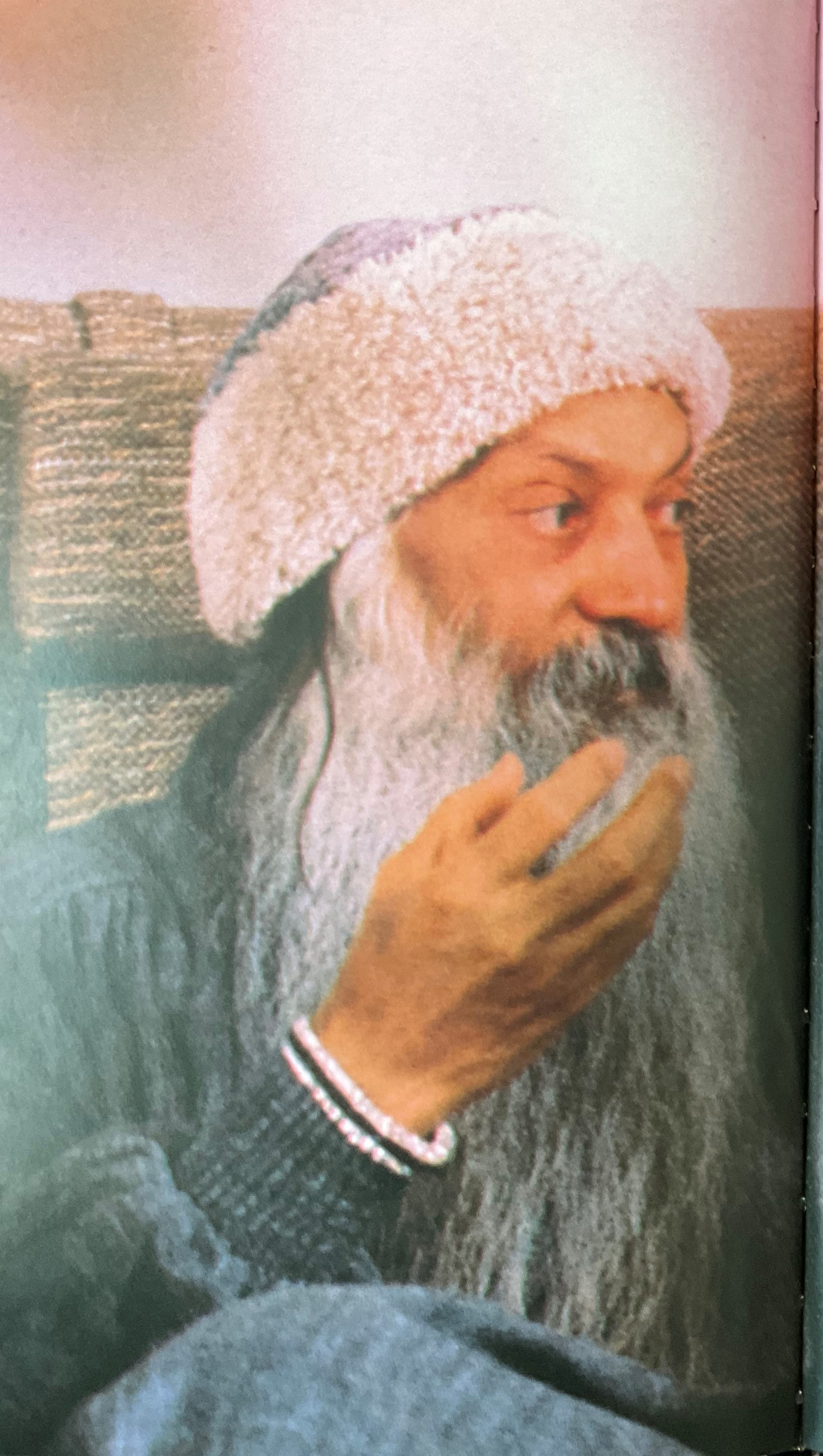
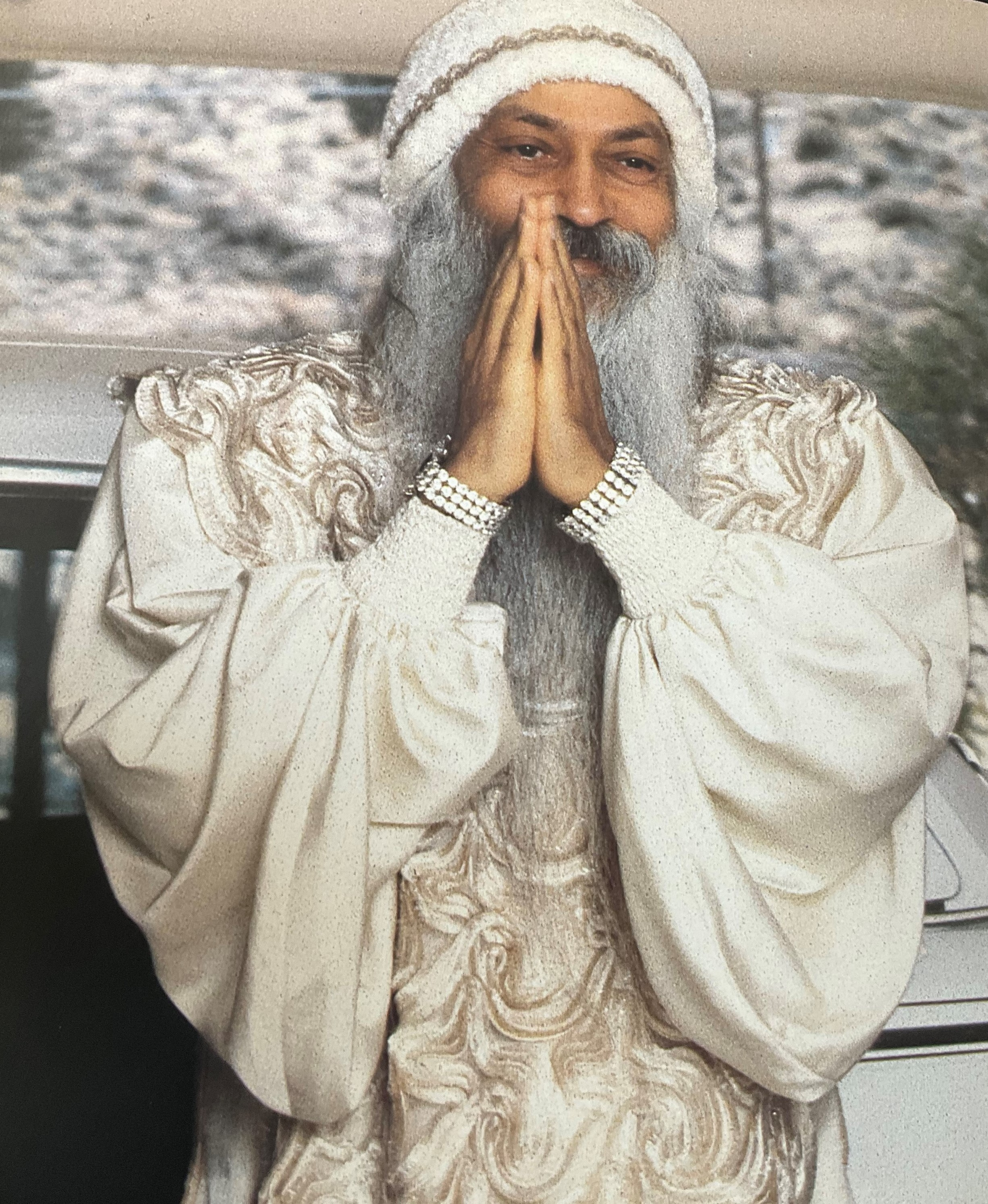
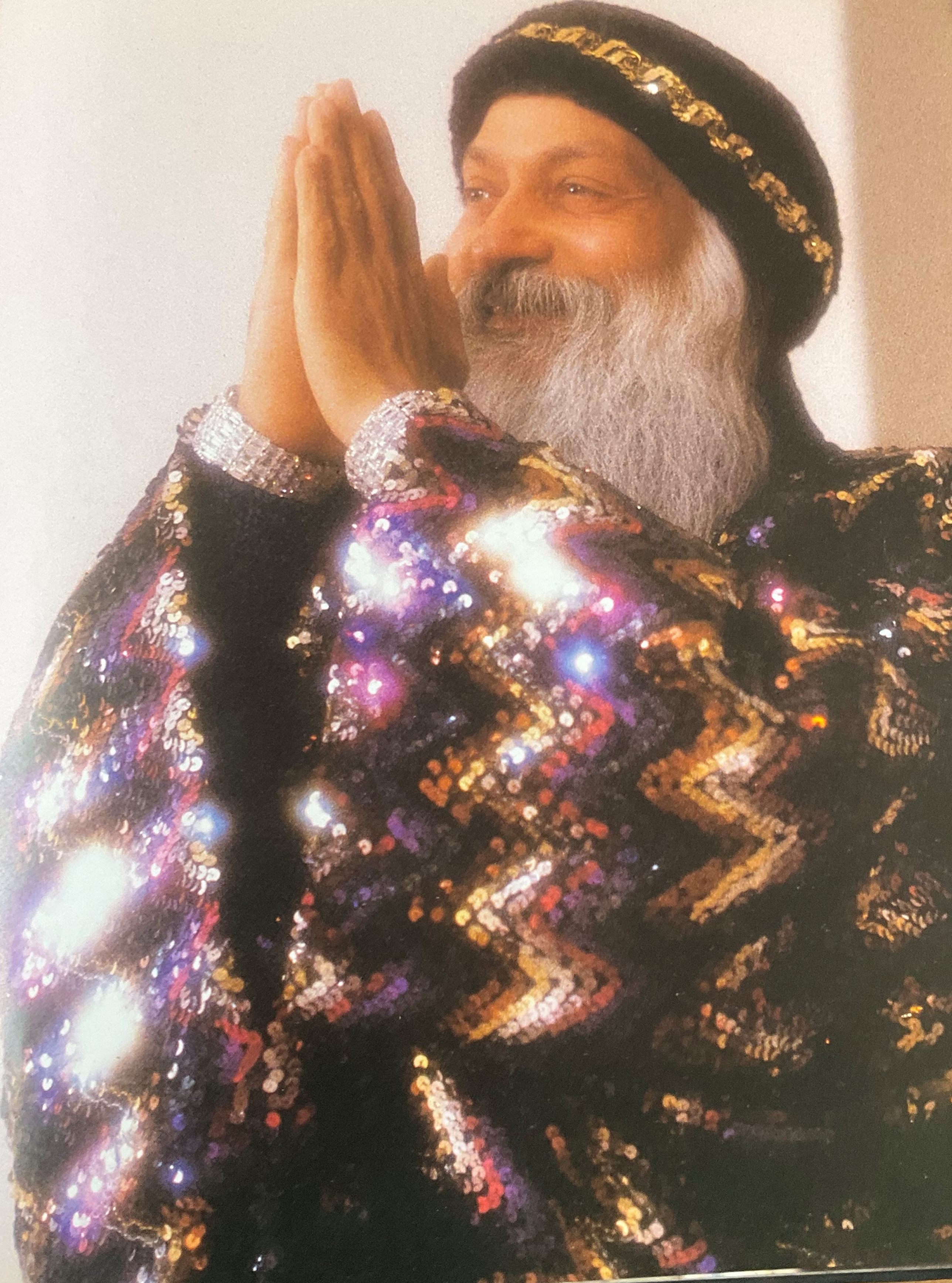
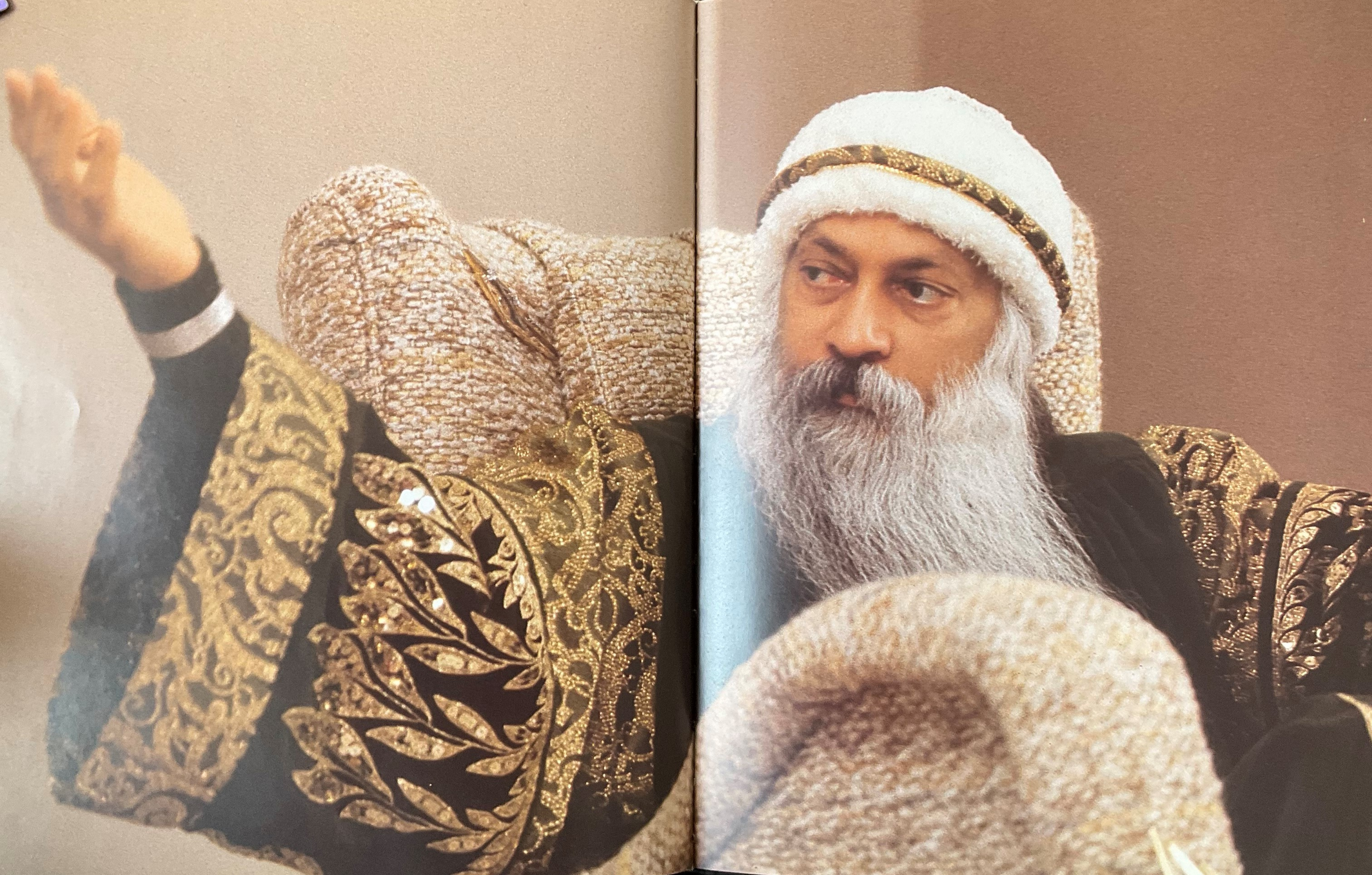
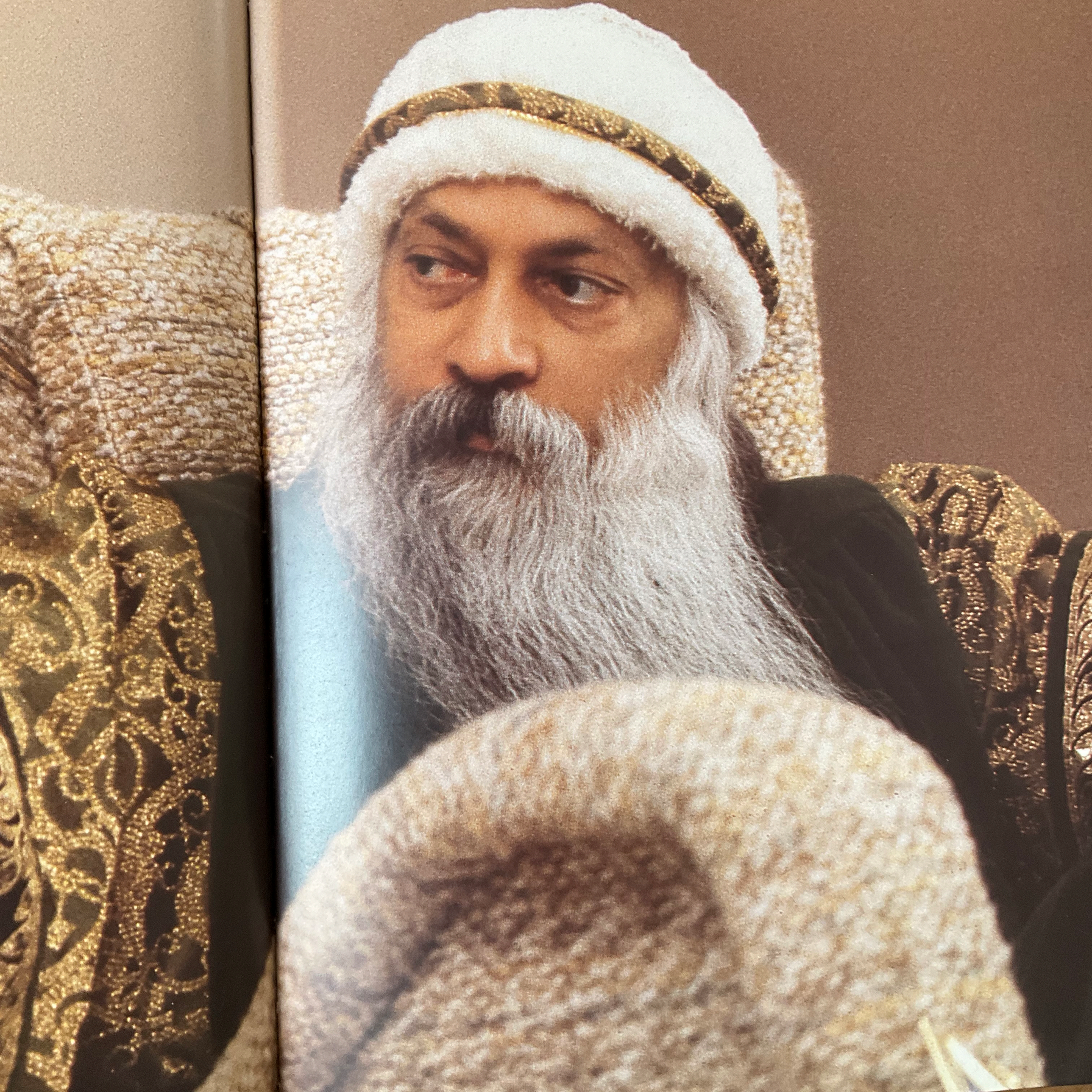
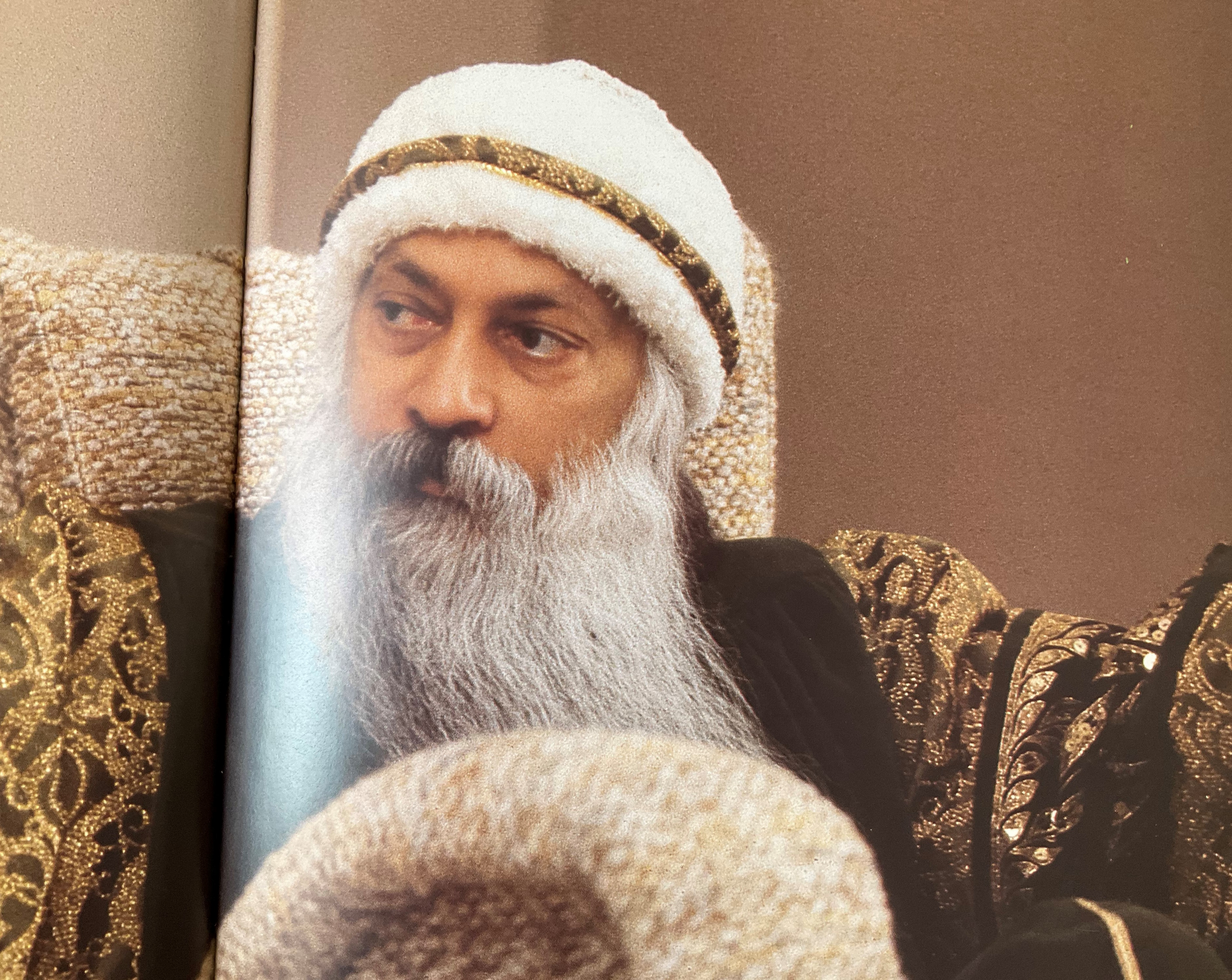
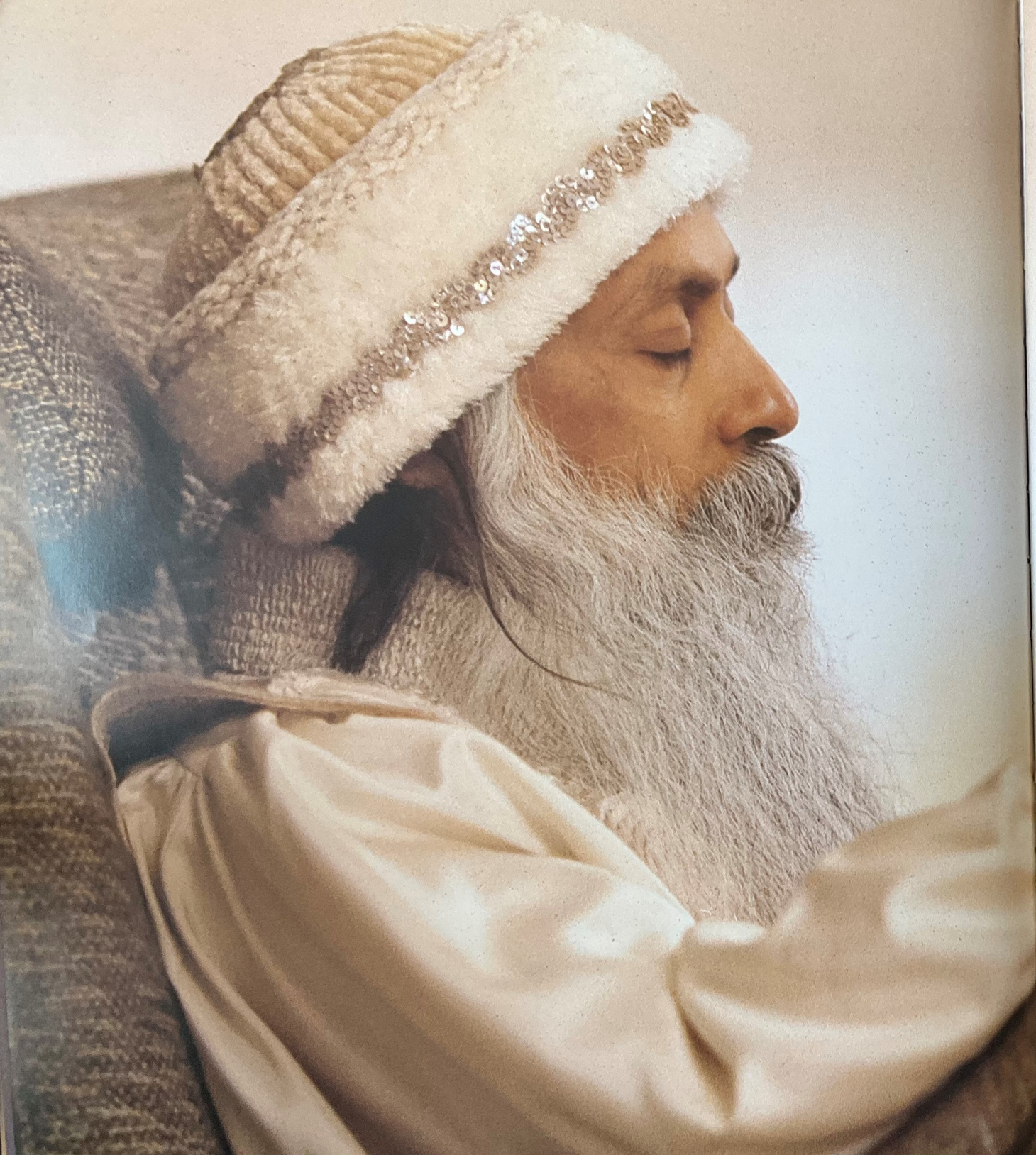
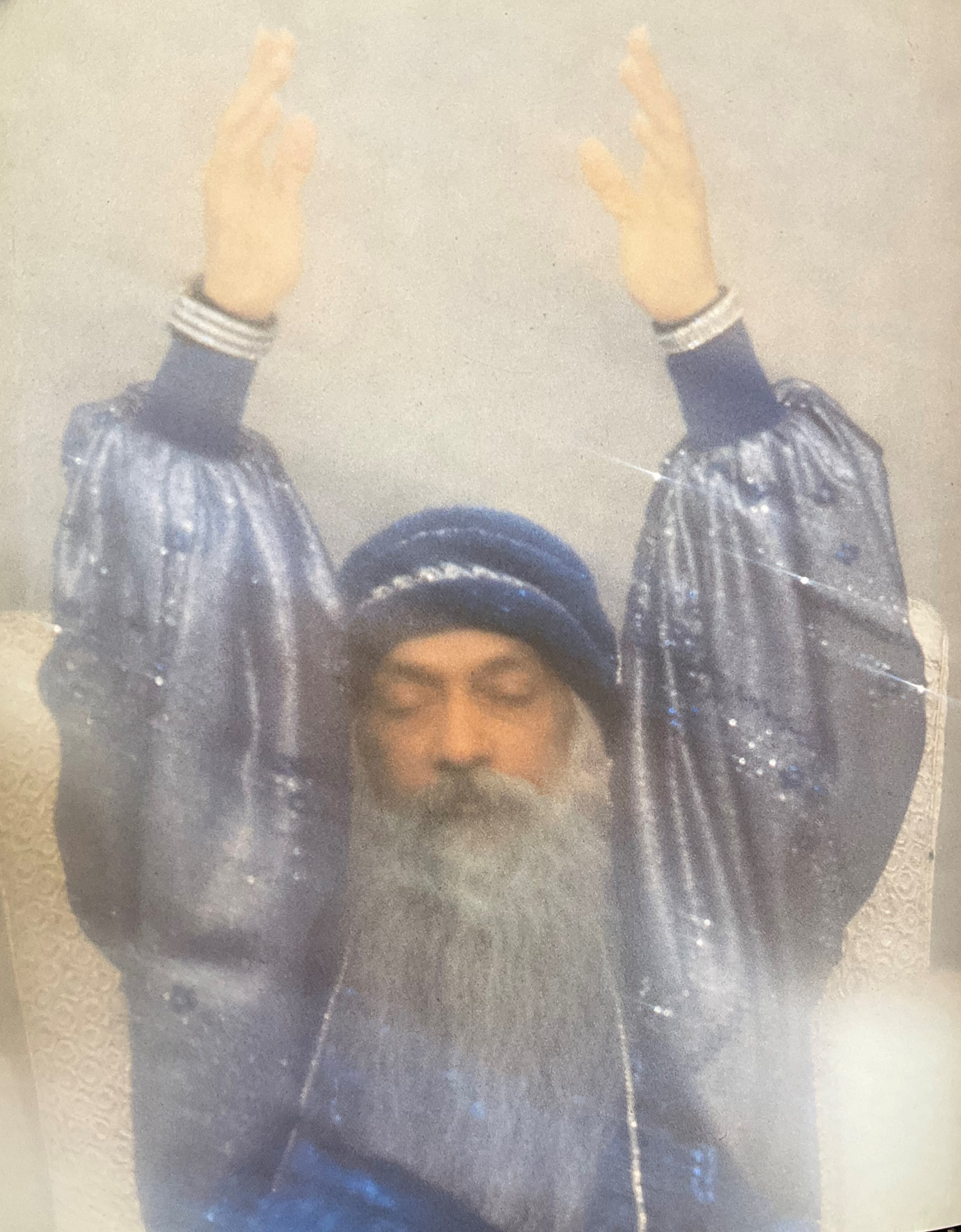
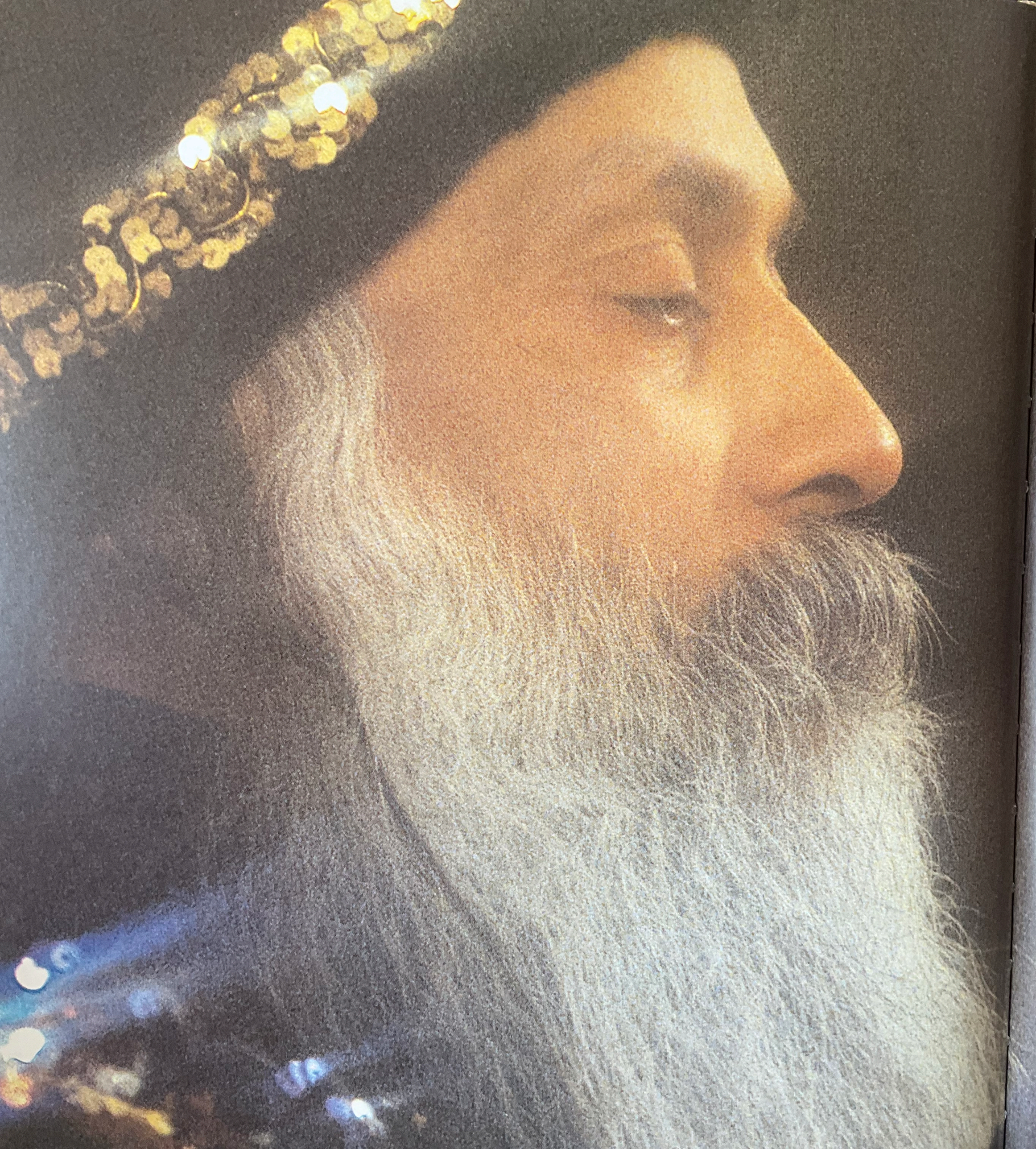
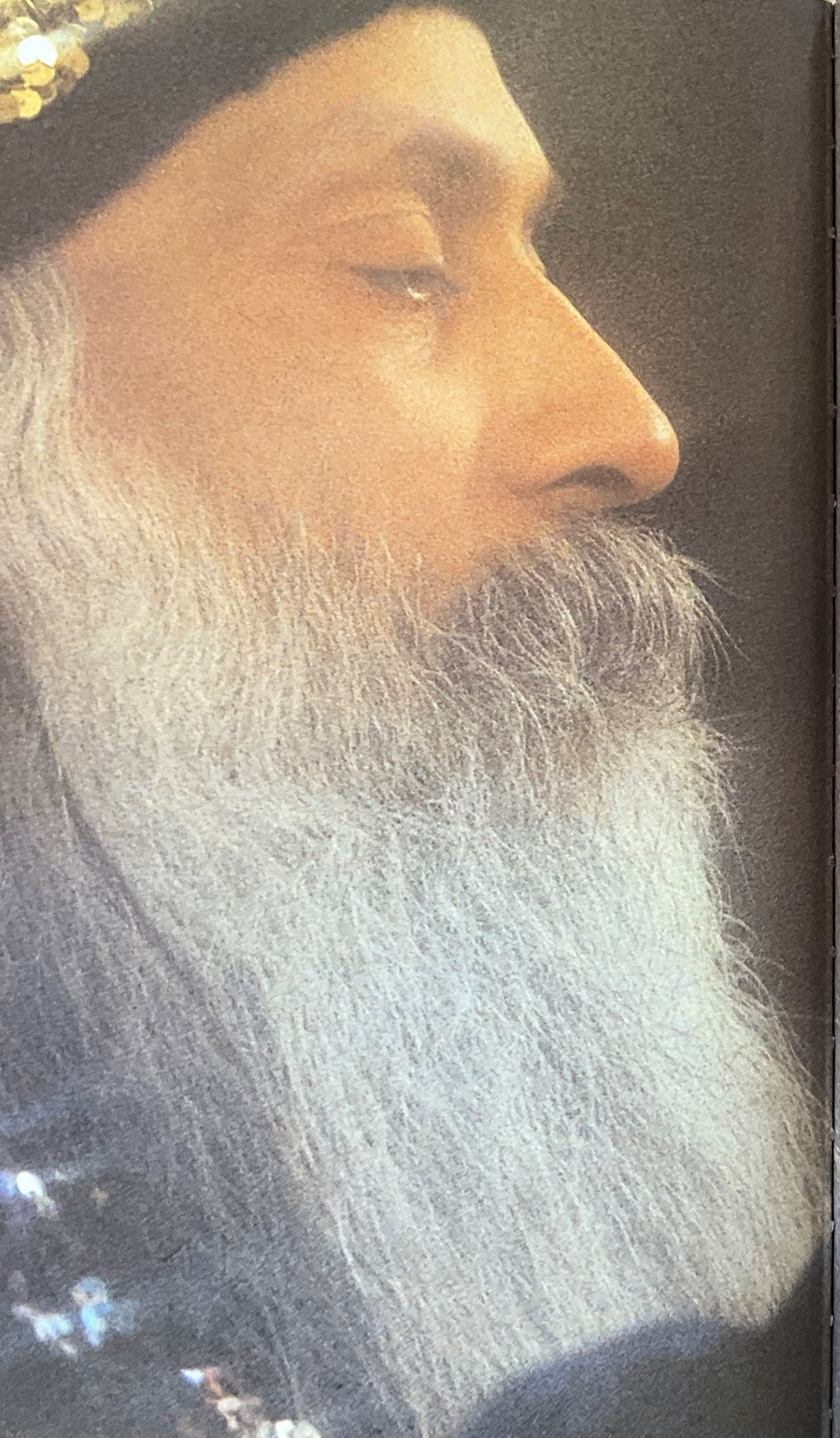
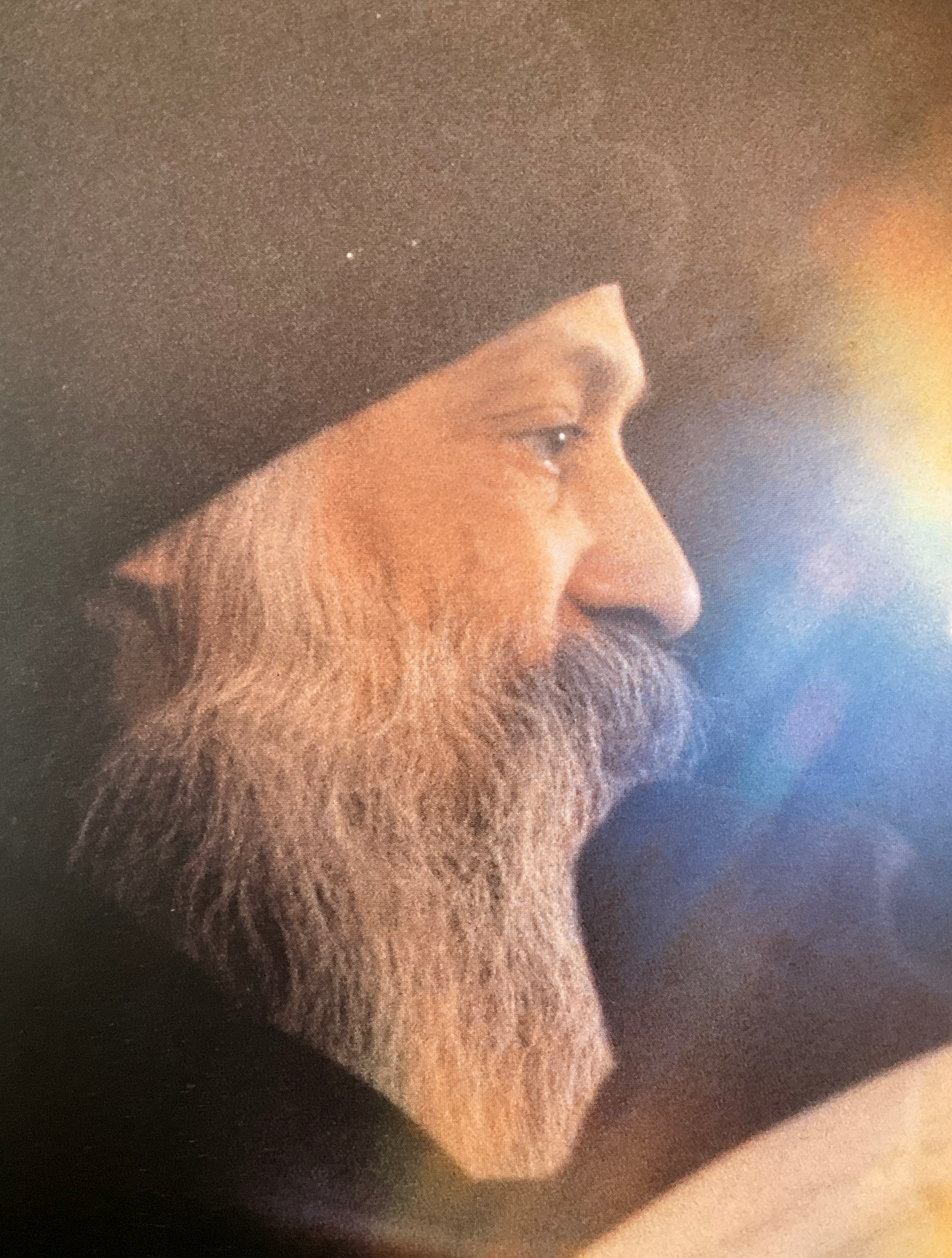
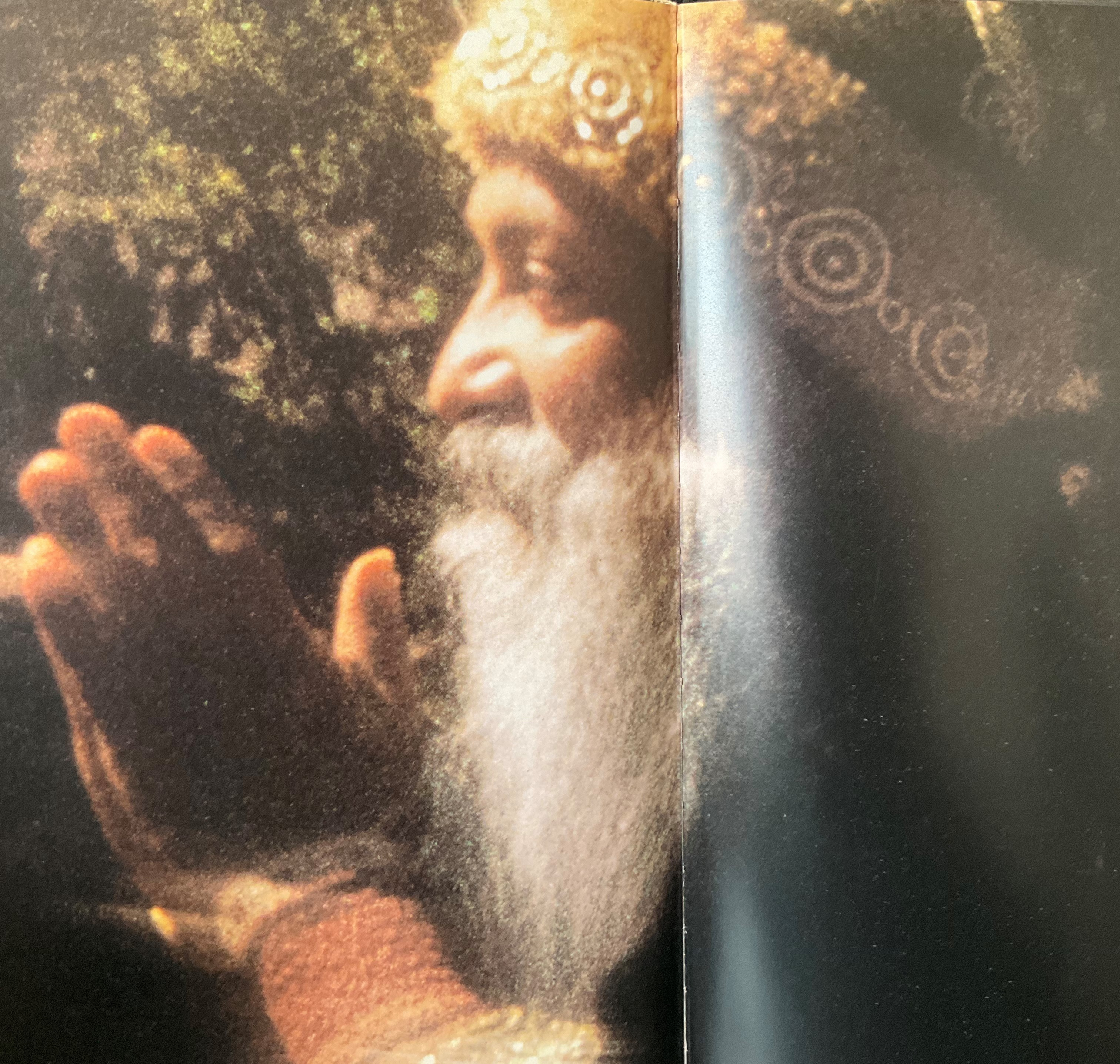
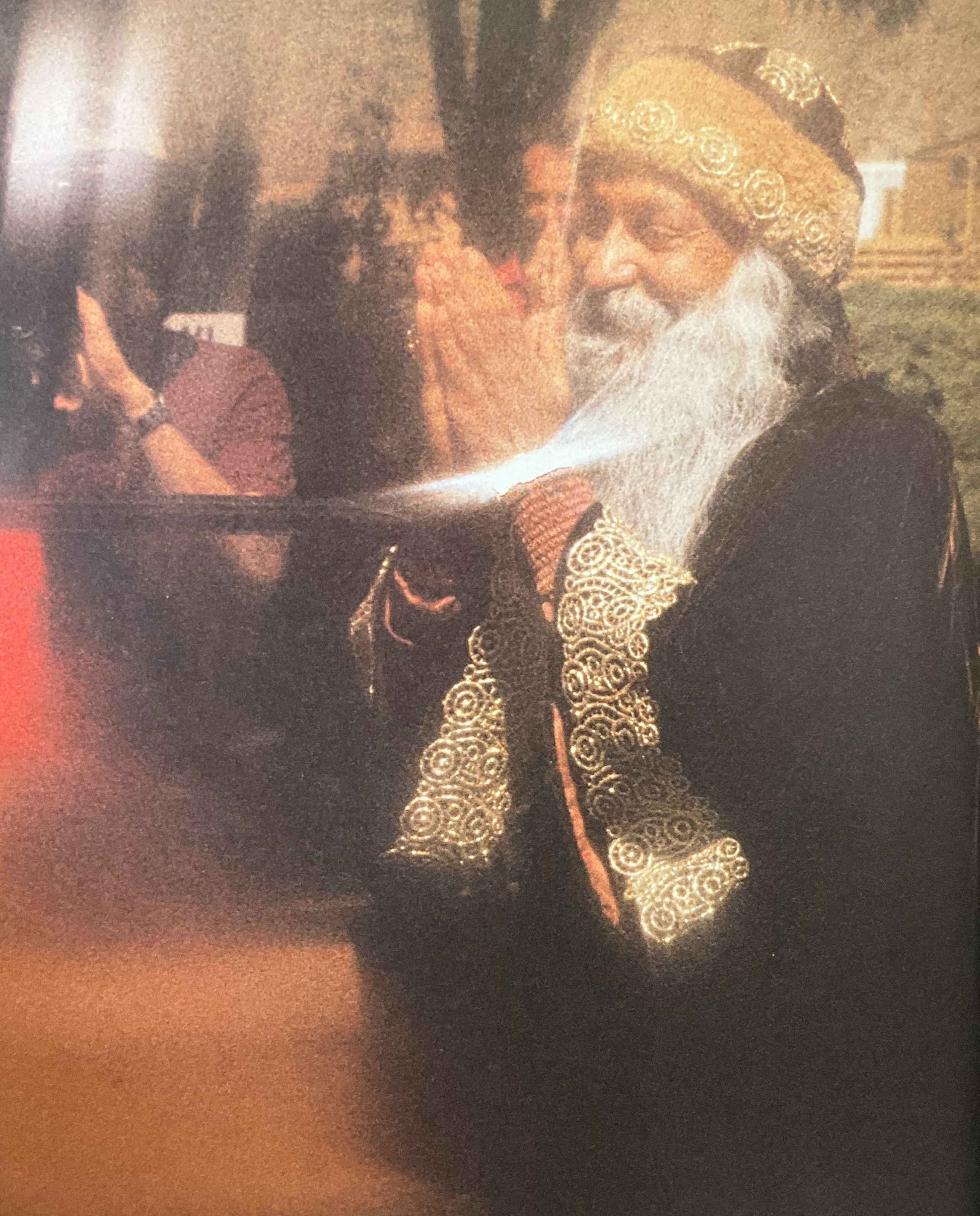
Shree Rajneesh and nature...

Shree Rajneesh *is* nature.

Hundreds of times I found myself as if paralyzed, facing the uncontainable vision of a magnificent sunset, the light changing from moment to moment. His movements, his words, his expressions come from a space of neither decision nor indecision, like the water in a mountain stream, or the leaves dancing in the wind. In front of me there were neither masks nor poses, but a simple human being who was being himself.

Unable to take pictures, waiting, trying to find the "right" moment, conscious that every single moment was "right" in itself and that there was no way to choose which moment was the "perfect" one. Many times my mind said, "You've got it," and yet my heart knew I'd missed the flux, the deeper beauty connected with the change...the "Ah" which comes up when one is face to face with the unexpected.

Looking into his eyes I saw an emptiness that nearly swallowed me. It was, how to say...as if he would disappear from in front of the lens. His body was there, as if held with difficulty by the force of gravity, but he wasn't there. This disappearing of the ego, which he calls the root of enlightenment, was present to my photographic eye as an incredible contemporality of presence/absence.

In the meantime, the camera has clicked many times. But who has been taking pictures?

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