

July 27, 1983

P.C. 30x10

Rajneeshpuram, Or. 97741

To Whom It May Concern :

I am a disciple of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, and I live in his presence at Rajneeshpuram. I have a masters degree in public administration and attended Smith College and the Universities of Washington and Wisconsin. Before coming to Rajneeshpuram, I held various management positions in local and state government, operated my own consulting firm in planning and government finance (in Seattle) and was a visiting professor at the University of Puget Sound (Seattle, Wa.).

Two years ago I had never heard of Bhagwan. I was living happily in Seattle operating my consulting business and sailing to Alaska each summer. He took me by surprise and turned my life upside down. I came across one of his books and felt a deep inner recognition that he was to be my teacher. I was planning a trip to India when I discovered that he had moved to Oregon and had stopped speaking. I couldn't image how Bhagwan could teach me without speaking, but I became a disciple anyway. If he could stop speaking, he could stop taking disciples, and I didn't want to miss that opportunity.

After becoming a sannyasin (disciple), I went to Rajneeshpuram to see my master (drive by) and to sit with him in silent communion at "darshan." I was amazed. When he drove by, I felt an incredible sweetness, like a perfume. When I sat with him, I felt so much love I could only cry. All my fear that he couldn't teach me without words disappeared. I was learning.

Since that visit two years ago, I have become

a resident of Rajneeshpuram. There is nowhere I would rather be than in the presence of Bhagwan. Each time he drives by or I sit with him in silence, an unknown part of my being blossoms. I become more trusting with people, more open and loving. I stop trying to prove that I'm better than other people. Competitiveness drops away. A great acceptance of life occurs and a deep relaxation happens.

There is an energy field around a master that his disciples blossom in. Experiences that may take five or six years to occur in a normal community happen in five to six months in the presence of a master. Why else would 15,000 disciples from all over the world come to sit with Bhagwan in silence for eight hours. There is a very real benefit that occurs through his presence which we all recognize.

Here at Rajneeshpuram we are creating a community that lives out Bhagwan's teachings. We're learning to work cooperatively for the first time in our lives. In all my years of management consulting, I've never seen people able to focus on the task without putting energy into competitiveness. I've never seen people able to overcome daily interpersonal frictions and to work lovingly and humorously together. This is happening here as a result of Bhagwan's teachings and as a result of the effect his presence has on us. We're learning that it is only our ideas that limit us. People are doing jobs they were never trained for with exceptional results. In fact, inexperienced workers in a field often prove better than "experts" because they have no fixed ideas about what is possible to do. Government personnel practices were never like this.

In short, although Bhagwan's presence has an intense emotional effect, the results are pragmatic and concrete. He is a teacher in the art of "knowing oneself" and in living with others, comparable to none I have ever experienced. He is a religious leader in the same category as a "Buddha" or a "Jesus". It is important to me as a United States citizen that you allow Bhagwan to remain in this country. I want the opportunity to be in his presence and to create a community where people live out his vision. If it can't happen in the United States where we have government by law and a tradition of freedom of opportunity, it can't happen anywhere in the world.

I urge you to allow Bhagwan to remain in this country. He is a person of exceptional ability in the art and science of human psychology. His books and tapes have been translated all over the world. He is a tremendous asset to our country.

Sincerely,

Ma Shantam Saino, M.P.A.