

AFFIDAVIT

I, Swami Satya Vedant, being duly sworn, do depose and say as follows:

I first became familiar with the writings of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh in 1968. As Chairman of Comparative Studies at the California Institute of Asian Studies and as a lecturer of South Asian Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, I used His published works in my courses.

I met Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh in Poona, India, on January 11, 1975, and became a sannyasin on the same day. Since then, I have regularly practiced Bhagwan's meditation techniques, attended His discourses and Darshans in Poona, and read many of His books.

Since that time I have received religious guidance from Bhagwan. On many occasions He also provided continuous encouragement and support while I wrote The Awakened One: The Life and Work of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, a book describing Bhagwan's life and His religion, Rajneeshism.

On July 7, 1983, I was appointed an Acharya of Rajneeshism. In my capacity as an Acharya, I have been given extensive guidance by Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh over the past year. In particular, He has advised me to be more creative and productive in helping people to actualize their spiritual potential and thereby develop a new religious awareness in the world. In response to His advice, I have made myself available 24 hours a day for informal counseling in my area of worship and for answering questions regarding Bhagwan and Rajneeshism.

I have taught religious studies in American universities

for fifteen years, and can verify that Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh is recognized, not only in India, but around the world, as an enlightened spiritual teacher of remarkable stature. The value of His contribution to the fields of religion, psychology and science is inestimable. Bhagwan has given us, through Rajneeshism, the means to bring about a transformation in human consciousness. His outstanding abilities are witnessed by His religious activities at Rajneeshpuram over the past year. In Bhagwan's silent presence in Satsangs and Darshans, I have experienced a heightening of spiritual awareness. His presence encourages me to attain a state of innocence which allows my heart to open. I feel in unison with Bhagwan and everyone present. From talking to others who attend these same religious celebrations, I find that their experiences are similar to my own.

The United States pioneered the cause of freedom of religion and has inspired other nations to follow that spirit. I believe that the dream of religious freedom which was shared by our founding fathers has been further enriched by the efforts of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh to create a synthesis of the world's religions.

The foregoing is within my personal knowledge and if called as a witness I could testify competently thereto.

Dated: September 26, 1983

Swami Satya Vedant

Swami Satya Vedant, M.A., Ph.D.  
(Literature) Ph.D. (Education),  
D.Litt.M. (RIMU), Former Chancellor  
of Rajneesh International Meditation  
University

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1983.

Evelyn Jones

Notary Public for Oregon

My Commission Expires: 7-18-87