



IASOS

INTER-DIMENSIONAL MUSIC*VIDEO

July 21, 1983

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am writing in regards to Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. I understand that the immigration office is considering removing him from this country on the grounds that he is not really a "religious" teacher, on the grounds that he is "in silence" and therefore not really teaching.

I wish to state emphatically that Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh is in fact a bona fide religious teacher, in every authentic sense of the word - he has a direct "connection" and sense of divinity, he has religious followers, and he has MANY books out and even video-tapes that expound his own personal religious beliefs. Therefore, in EVERY sense of the word, he is a religious teacher.

Religion is a very subjective, rather than objective phenomenon. For example, if a person believes he is having a religious experience, is he really having it, or does he just believe he is having it? It's totally subjective. There is no objective external manner of verifying it, just as no one can objectively "prove" the existence of God. The subjective experience of a religious experience is its own proof and its own validation. If any one believes he is having a "religious experience", then in fact, that very belief means he is in fact having a religious experience. In the case of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, the very fact that he has thousands of religious followers is tremendous proof of the authenticity of the religious teachings he offers.

Although the teachings of Rajneesh are not in precise alignment with my own personal religious beliefs, I nevertheless, totally acknowledge him as an authentic and most influential religious teacher, with profound wisdom to share.

To expel Rajneesh from this country on the grounds that he is not really a religious teacher, would be the highest religious bigotry, on the same level as the Salem witch hunts. Just because he is not teaching the "traditional" American religions of Catholics, Protestants, and Jews, does not invalidate the authenticity and importance of his teachings.

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EXHIBIT "A-711"



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I would strongly urge you to adhere to the American tradition of "FREEDOM OF RELIGION", and to accordingly honor his religious teachings though you may personally disagree with them. To expel Rajneesh on the grounds of him not really being a religious teacher, would be a flimsy excuse indeed. This is the same type of mentality that crucified Christ because he dared to claim to be the Messiah.

In summary, I would strongly urge you to reconsider and to honor Rajneesh with the respect of an authentic and powerful religious teacher, proof of which is his thousands of religious followers and his numerous books, cassettes, and video-tapes.

I myself am an American citizen, and a professional recording artist.

I pray you uphold the American tradition of
"FREEDOM OF RELIGION".

Sincerely,