

Dear Sirs:

I would like to take this opportunity to endorse the permanent visa status of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh to the United States. Bhagwan's presence in America will provide Western man, followers and not, an opportunity to experience/benefit from his humanistic teachings, teachings based on his own spiritual journey. The Bhagwan's intuitive insight into the nature of man can lend a tremendous contribution to psychology in the west, much as Suzuki did when he brought Zen to the west in the 1960s-70s. In a world so divided, a world at risk of nuclear destruction, we need to dissolve the barriers created by East/West, the barriers of aggression. Bhagwan and his teachings exemplify to the individual an inner core of compassion and love which unites all of human kind, the vital communication needed between people to maintain a peaceful world.

My views are personal views and in no way represent the views of my employer. I would, though, like to express my opinion regarding the negative media attention concerning Rajneesh and his followers. Granted, the costume and the open display of affection shown at gatherings is quite different than mainstream America. This makes great material for media sensationalism, depictions of the Bhagwan as a "Manson like" character, brainwashing vulnerable people to dress in costume, engage in orgies, leud sex etc. Based on my experience with disciples of the Bhagwans in Nashville, Tennessee, nothing can be further from the truth.

Folks who come to the Rajneesh Center in Nashville include, for the most part, highly educated persons of high socio-economic class...businessmen, psychologists, etc. These people are highly productive, independent members of the Nashville community. They have come to the center voluntarily and have adopted Bhagwan's philosophy after much spiritual seeking. Their choice is based on their individual freedom as Americans.

I've attended growth workshops and individual sessions at the center conducted by the center's director. It is difficult to explain in words an experiential involvement, but I can say that the director's background in social work in addition to his use of the Bhagwan's progressive therapeutic techniques give him unquestioned skills. This insight and skill is evidenced by an increasing demand for his services and professional respect from high calibre residents of this community.

People are drawn to the Rajneesh Center here, and I believe to the Bhagwan, because of the ~~the~~ example of courage, courage to grow struggling face to face with their own pain and fears. This commitment to individual growth and self-love is the reason for the Bhagwan's following. He doesn't seek followers, they seek him.

Bhagwan's teachings get back to the basics of love and trust in human kind, basics which can expand American's beyond self interest, interest in amassing power and wealth. Bhagwan's teachings can help us redirect, from power and aggression to love and peace, from a quantifiable to a qualitative existence.

Sincerely,

Tom Crane
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EXHIBIT "A-781"