

MARK LEATHER
Flat 1.

53, Aberdare Gd.
London NW1.

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to
you concerning the application of
Bhagwan shree Rajneesh for a resident's
permit for the U.S.A.

It was at university in England that
I first became interested in some of
the basic issues of life. I read
Economic and Social History at Nottingham
and a large part of the course was
about the history of ideas and philosophy.
I saw how philosophies and religions
were important in shaping the course
of events and the lives of ordinary
people in the world. Many of these
philosophies and religions grew out of

the lives and teachings of truly great and enlightened men such as Jesus, Mahomed and Buddha. Yet there was apparent a huge gap between what they stood for and the way in which people interpreted and exploited these teachings. The motivating forces behind most civilisations were actually fear, greed and violence - basic primitivism. These forces would help create civilisations, and ultimately prove to be their downfall.

The most disturbing thing for me was that these same symptoms were manifest throughout the world today, ~~and~~ haven't yet learnt! And now we possess such total methods of destruction, who knows where it might all end!

It was obvious to me that if we were to survive, we had to be a more successful way of living in this world, a way that must involve a marked change in attitudes and objectives - maybe even a new religion.

This conclusion really focused after I graduated, in 1974, and was coupled with another, very personal, realisation, which was that the most important objective for me was to discover who I actually was, to find out the truth about myself. We only have the life to live, so we might as well make the most of it, and this self-discovery seemed to be the key to enjoying life. Meanwhile, I spent five years working in the Arts Council, and then in a crafts business, always aware that somehow my life was not complete. Then in 1979 my search led me to the Poona ashram where Bhagwan and I soon saw that here was a man who had found what I, and everyone else (in my opinion) was looking for. Here was somebody, at last, who knew what he was talking about. Only that, was showing others what he had discovered. A rare man! Here was a living master, a once in a blue moon phenomenon!

So I became a sanyasin, and I never looked back since. To cut it short, the change that has happened for me through being with Bhagwan has been incalculable. My life has been very full and rich, materially and spiritually. I've learnt how to live positively and creatively, to love life and to share it with others in work and play. It is an ongoing process that continues if anything more intensely now that Bhagwan is in silence. In that silence I get a true reflection of myself - and that is what religion is about; finding oneself. That is what he is giving to me now, in his silence he is a mirror, and that is tremendously important for me. So I will be coming back to ~~the~~ Rajneeshpuram to visit in the future, and I just want to let you know that it is great for us that Bhagwan is in America, and it's great for America that Bhagwan is here. Take a look, something very

remarkable is happening at Rajneeshpuram
around Bhagwan, something unique in
America and the world which can be
of great benefit to our civilisation.
If you are open-minded about it, I
sure you will find that Bhagwan
and Rajneeshism deserve your full
support.

Best regards
Mark Leadley