

Responsible Officer.  
United States, Immigration and Naturalization Service.  
Re Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh.

National: 056-871-262  
International: 61-56-871-262

LIONEL ROCKMAN

R.M.B. 3733, Adams Rd.,  
Yanake, 3960.  
AUSTRALIA.

Dear Sir/Madame

I am 43 year old grazier and company-director. I live on my farm for three weeks out of one month on average, the rest of my time is spent in Melbourne where I have to manage my propertys and investments. I have lived for 14 years in the South Gippsland district in peace with my fellow citizens and am a member of the Victorian Farmers and Graziers Association. Before I settled here I was the holder of a commercial pilots license, had worked as a tourist guide in England and been the employee of the busines machine company Ollivetti.

I came across Bhagwan by casualy picking up a book that was lying on the floor, towards the end of an unhappy affair. Once I started reading him I could not stop and went thru one book straight after the other. For a while this was my only source of contact with him, as there were none of his followers around to influence me one way or the other. Later on that year (1978) I did get to know some of his sanniyasins on my way to his Ashram in Poona India, where I finally took sanniyas.

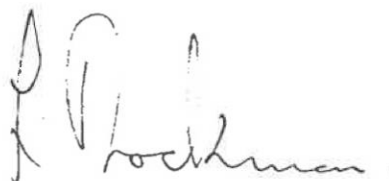
My relationship with Bhagwan rest on three pionts. Firstly, the people he attracts to him are those that I have the greatest commen ground with. Not necessarily in lifestyle or outlook but in those things that make up the intangible essance of life and affect the ultimate destiny of all. Of all social groups Bhagwans is the one where I find the highest percentage of people with whom it is possable to be real friends with. Outside sanniyas the world is a place where is is easy to make aquiantence but difficult to make honest if painfully truthfull friends. The reverse is the case with the people that gather around Bhagwan.

Being in orange clothes brings me up against people who will ask or challenge me about Bhagwan. It is then that I have to watch myself and the reactions within myself, for the truthfulness of my feelings and therefore the honesty of the response that I give that person. It becomes a mirror of one's inner thoughts and feelings. Finally Bhagwan answered a specific question that I asked him. Though that question was over four years ago, it is still relevant to what I am doing now. Every time ~~that~~ I replay that tape there is still something relevant for me in it.

Of all religious leaders this man is exceptional in the lucidity in which he imparts his message. One can take any part of his discourses and find something relevant to anyone or any situation. He conveys the most elevated concepts with a clarity and simplicity that can be understood by all from the simplest to the most sophisticated. As an example, a Japanese sannyasin and I were having difficulty in communicating with each other. When I asked how he was able to understand Bhagwan, he replied that Bhagwan's English was clear to him. Not only is this man exceptional in the range of people he reaches, communicates and brings together, but also in the way he is ministering to his people. In establishing the city of Rajneeshpuram he is flying in the face of those traditions that have been the conveyors of all that is negative and fearful. There he is trying to create a place where people can be free from those habits that have plagued humanity, greed, competitiveness, inflexibility and exclusiveness. Thus creating an environment where people can feel free to be open and loving towards each other. In doing this he is flying in the face of all that has gone before and at times he appears rude because of it. However if he succeeds in Rajneeshpuram the world will have one more chance to arrest the momentum towards nuclear holocaust.

In trying to show you what Bhagwan means to me and the potential that can happen at Rajneeshpuram, I am asking you to consider his application for resident status favourably.

Yours truthfully



Lionel Rockman.  
(Sw Anand Lionel)