FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAJNEESH DISAPPEARS WITHOUT TRACE

For the world's orthodox religious leaders there is some good news and bad news from Poona

First, the good news: Shree Rajneesh, the iconoclast and maverick mystic – who somehow survived being poisoned with thallium and blasted with radiation by the Reagan Administration – has suddenly disappeared without a trace.

Now, the bad news: you can't keep a good man down. The mystic has disappeared in name only. He is alive and well, but from now on will be known simply as "Osho."

The announcement was made by one of his personal secretaries, who told a gathering of disciples: "Osho will be coming out in a few days. And he said that when he does come, `A new man will be facing you who will no longer be known as Rajneesh. He will simply be called Osho.""

Osho dropped the title "Bhagwan" earlier this year. Subsequently, his disciples asked him to accept the word "Osho" as a new form of address, which he did, while still keeping his name – "Rajneesh." Now that name has also gone.

The recent flurry of changes in the Osho Commune in Poona has created a new atmosphere of excitement and uncertainty. In addition to the changes in Osho's name, disciples recently began to wear maroon robes in the commune during the day, and white robes during evening darshan.

End

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