

SUE MCDEVITT
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July 26, 1983

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to acknowledge the exceptional ability of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh and to underscore his dramatic and positive influence on my personal and professional life. I am a professional in the field of Civil Rights and have many years of experience as a community activist on behalf of Blacks, other minorities and women. In more recent years I have worked as an investigator of employment and housing discrimination cases for the State of California. I am currently writing educational materials for the State to promote compliance with fair housing laws. I feel fortunate to be in a profession which aligns so closely with my personal and social values. And I find that Bhagwan's teachings not only support but also encourage me in my professional life.

It is a source of tremendous inspiration for me to be part of a world-wide community of people in which everyone is respected for who they are and everyone has the opportunity to participate fully and equally in all aspects of meditation, work and play. It is truly an exceptional experience to be in a community where people of all ages, nationalities, and ethnic and religious backgrounds are living and working in harmony. I am especially grateful for the opportunities which Bhagwan gives women to experience our full potential without the hindrances of social roles and his instilling of confidence in our capacities to really be ourselves.

In addition, my personal experiences in the Rajneesh Ashram in Poona, India, at Rajneeshpuram in Oregon and at the Church of Rajneeshism in Laguna Beach, California, have opened my eyes to the realization that people of all backgrounds can attain a higher sense of purpose and self realization by living together under the guidance of a living master.

As a philosophy and religion major in college, I studied all of the world's great religions and the contemporary religious movements in the U.S. of the 1960's. I am familiar with the beautiful variety of religious expressions that have emerged throughout the history of humankind. In addition to my participation in the Church of Rajneeshism, I also practice zazen meditation at a Zen Buddhist temple in Los Angeles and have developed very close and meaningful relationships with members of that community as well as my own.

The beauty of Bhagwan's teaching is his appreciation for the essential truths of all the world's great religions and enlightened masters and his encouragement to each of his disciples to discover our own way, our own path, our own expression of our true nature.

EXHIBIT "A-316"

It is with the deepest gratitude that I acknowledge Bhagwan's influence on my own process of personal growth and maturity. Because of Bhagwan's willingness to share his wisdom and compassion with all those who draw near to him, I feel increasingly capable of expressing my own wisdom and compassion in all aspects of my life--personal, professional and relating with others. I appreciate the opportunity to share my views with you.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue McDevitt". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a prominent initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Sue McDevitt