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July 27, 1983

RINZAI
Hotel Rajneesh
1115 S.W. 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97205

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to offer a professional evaluation of the published works of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh.

Many of the published works of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh are owned by the libraries of the University of California. They are well-read and are discussed often by scholars. Almost all are in the subject areas of philosophy of religion and theology.

As such, they are of the highest quality. I judge them to be of millennial stature, that is, of a quality that may appear perhaps once in a thousand years. They are, in my estimation, of a quality comparable to the works of Thomas Aquinas and Augustine, and will, unquestionably, have a comparable impact on the future of civilization.

The works of Rajneesh are unique in that they logically and clearly explain in words the inherently ecumenical nature of virtually all the world's major religions and philosophies. Rajneesh is an absolute master of the religions and philosophies of both the East and the West, and is able to explain in clear and logical language the common meanings of the most diverse religious, philosophical and ethical systems of both worlds. He has done this in his published works, and it is impossible to exaggerate the importance of this accomplishment to the future of mutual tolerance, understanding and appreciation among the peoples of the world.

Rajneesh is to the philosophy of religion what Einstein was to the philosophy of physics. He is a pivotal historical figure of great practical significance to all of us and to our collective future.

Although I am in no way affiliated with Rajneesh, either personally or with his organization, I feel that his work is of such fundamental intellectual importance that his presence in the United States of America is purely an asset. I urge that he not only be permitted to become a permanent resident, but that he also be encouraged to become a citizen.

(more)

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It is natural that his intellectual contributions be misunderstood, as uninformed individuals may try to retrofit them into their own habitual intellectual and conventional frameworks. In all periods, the great thinkers and writers of the world have had to contend with this. I hope that those who will decide upon whether Rajneesh is to stay and civically become one of us will view these misunderstandings in context, in perspective, and within the framework of the United States as the greatest free nation ever known religiously.

The published writings of Rajneesh exhibit the special qualities of the greatest philosophical works of all time. It is important to Americans that he remain and speak with us.

Sincerely,



Eugene E. Graziano
Assistant University Librarian
Services

EEG:blm
Attachment

P.S. Attached is my vita to indicate to reviewers my professional qualifications in offering this evaluation.