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To Whom it may Concern,

I feel compelled to write in regards to the question over Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh and his application for permanent resident status. The very question seems absurd. Not only is he bringing a new vision of religion into the world; that vision embraces the whole of life from the arts to the sciences in a more comprehensive form than has ever existed on this earth.

I am a dancer and through my search for the essential heart of dance I found Bhagwan. In Him I have found the ultimate dance master. I say ultimate because by exploring His techniques one can find not only the essence of dance but the essence of life.

Before finding Him I had studied for years in the techniques of Ballet, Modern, improvisation as well as African and Indian dancing. While practicing intensely I also read every book on the arts I could find, searching for the lost soul the arts had embodied. These days one finds the arts are merely an expression of various forms of neurosis. Dance has lost its wings just as dancers are no more visions of God on the earth but merely puppets of a dead technique and empty ideals...

My search for the real dance led me to India in December of 1972 at the age of seventeen. I saw Bhagwan in February 1973 for the first time and can never forget that meeting. He entered the room to give a talk and His very quality of movement suggested more to me than all the prima ballerinas I had ever witnessed. A single gesture of His hand as He spoke seemed to encompass not only the room but the whole of existence.

I could not believe that what I had been seeking with such intensity could really be embodied in this man and that He was ready to devote His life to sharing it, teaching it. But now after ten years of being with Him I can say with authority that who so ever is deeply searching not only through the arts but also through psychology, science or even medicine can find their ultimate expression with His teaching.

The magnitude of what He has to offer is far beyond any description. He is not only a scientist of the inner world, opening new frontiers in the consciousness of man but an artist of supreme inspiration. His very presence is enough to awaken love and celebration in the hearts of thousands. He embodies the creative force of life and thus is an expression of the divine on earth.

For anyone dedicated to the principles upon which America was founded it is obvious that He is a tremendous treasure for this country, a mystic genius far beyond any petty judgements.

Please don't make the same mistake Pontius Pilot did when he catered to the ignorance of the masses. It needs courage to speak out in favor of intelligence, in favor of something new, but that is the American way.

Included with this letter is a quotation on the dance taken from one of Bhagwan's discourses.

Sincerely

Ma Ananda Sarita

Taken from: Nirvana, the Last Nightmare, Chapter 4

"God is a dancer. He is not a creator in the sense of a painter; he is a creator in the sense of a dancer. Then let me say it in another way. God is not a creator but creativity ... a dynamic energy. The moment you say creator, he is dead. The very word "creator" has a full stop in it. Creativity with an open end, tremendously moving and moving and reaching to higher and higher peaks ...

The animals are a dance of god. The trees are also a dance of god. Humanity is also a dance of god, reaching higher and higher. God is moving faster and faster - more mad, more fast, getting dissolved into his dance. A Buddha or a Jesus is the ultimate of his dance ... where the dancer is so completely drunk and mad that he has become the dance. That's why I say that if you live life in its dynamism you will come closer to god - because he is still dancing."

Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh