

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

With this affidavit, I affirm my conviction that Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh is a religious teacher and spiritual leader of world stature, who has made unique contributions to mankind.

During the past year alone, he has inspired his people to outstanding advances in the two areas familiar to me.

1) His disciples have brought about the metamorphosis of a piece of semi-arid waste land into an environmental and ecological model for all others interested in living harmoniously with the land and each other while creating an oasis, geographically and culturally. One only has to inspect Rajneeshpuram and compare it with the adjacent countryside to appreciate the truth of this view.

2) His religious vision has further led his people, and all who will listen, on the inner path to one-ness with God. As one of his disciples I can personally attest to the spiritual flowering into greater aliveness and sense of celebration of life that he has created in me.

I speak of environmental and ecological affairs with the authority of 34 years of scientific work in the field of earth sciences, which have brought me to an active retirement from Shell Oil Company's research laboratory in Bellaire, Texas. I am, or have been, a member, fellow, honorary member, editor, and officer in various professional societies, including the Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists, Geological Society of America, American Association of Petroleum Geologists, West Texas Geological Society, Geochemical Society of America. I am generally recognized as an international authority in my field of speciality, as attested by the measured frequency with which my publications are cited by workers dealing with problems of exploration for oil and gas in limestone and

dolomite, in Asia and Europe, as well as in Latin America, Canada, and the United States.

I urge the authorities involved to act favorably on Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh's application for permanent resident status.

Signed: Swami Nijananda
aka Robert J. Dunham, PhD
Chuang Tzu Temple
P.O. Box 10
Rajneeshpuram, OR 97741

Date : July 11, 1983


