

July 27, 1983

P.O. Box 10,  
Rajneeshpuram,  
OR. 97741

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am writing in support of allowing Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh's permanent residence in the United States. For the past fourteen years, I have been a high school and college teacher as well as an administrator on the university level. Ten years ago I began a spiritual quest that led me from Florida to Alaska and finally, two years ago, to Poona, India.

From the first moment that I read a book of Bhagwan's discourses, I knew that my search had ended, and that I had found my Master. From that point, I read forty or fifty of Bhagwan's books and visited the Rajneesh Meditation Center at Geetam in California. In 1981 I prepared to leave for Poona, India, to take sannyas (initiation into discipleship). Two months before departing for India, I received word that Bhagwan had gone into silence and that the ultimate phase of his work would be done through a heart-to-heart communion with his disciples. This was an exciting, though mysterious event for me, and I was not aware of its implications until I took sannyas in India in June of 1981.

At that time, Bhagwan had just left Poona for the United States. Strangely enough, this was not a great disappointment for me, because Bhagwan's presence on the spiritual plane was so strong in the ashram even in his physical absence. This presence was felt by all of us in Poona, especially in the therapy groups, the satsangs, and the meditations. Incredible changes were happening to me, within me, that words could never evoke. The Master's silence was going far beyond and much deeper than mental-audio word processing could achieve.

I returned to Alaska after that summer and resumed my job as Director of Graduate Studies for the University of La Verne Residence Center in Anchorage, Alaska, but within me everything had changed. As I continued my silent meditations for the next two years, I felt Bhagwan's presence more and more strongly, despite the physical distance and because of his beautiful silence.

Finally, I returned to be with my Master at the Second Annual World Celebration here in Rajneeshpuram, Oregon, in June, 1983. It was my first visit here, and I was astounded at the energy, love and physical manifestations of his powerful silence. This desert in two short years was rapidly becoming a Garden of Eden. The loving

creativity and organization that flows from him through his sannyasins into every detail of this commune is clearly visible to anyone who visits here. The inspiration of his silence has truly created a Buddhafield of love unlike anything the world has experienced before.

The meditations and satsangs in Bhagwan's presence were the most beautiful experiences of my life. The love that emanates from this Master is beyond words, which are totally inadequate to describe the inner journey his silence brings to us. His darshans and daily drive-bys are flashes of inner light, peace, and love that keep us centered in the Divine.

Bhagwan has changed my life. Three days after my arrival here I intuitively knew that my time to be here had come. I resigned my jobs with the university and the Anchorage School District, and I am now a resident, tending His gardens and carrying out the work that his silence inspires and directs.

Please allow this gentle, loving, compassionate being to remain in this country. He offers profound relief from a stress-ridden, strife-torn world, and his vision offers new hope for humanity to live in harmony and love.

Sincerely,

Swami Premesh (Alan Bassett)

Swami Premesh  
a.k.a. Alan Bassett