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Rajneeshpuram, Ch. 9.
July 20, 1983

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is in behalf of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, asking that he be granted permanent residence in the United States as an Indian Citizen of exceptional abilities.

My qualifications are as follow: Attended Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., from 1968-1972 received a Bachelor of Music. During 3 years of this time I was the principal bass player in the Chicago Lyric Opera orchestra, one of the top 3-4 opera companies in the country. From 1972-1978 I was a member of the Minnesota Orchestra, again one of the top orchestras in the country. From 1978-1980 I performed with the National Symphony under Mstislav Rostropovich, and since that time I have been involved with the Rajneesh commune in various ways.

My initial exposure to Rajneesh came from a few of his disciples who were teaching hatha yoga. It was obvious that they loved their work, were very open people with great senses of humor, and were quite intelligent and life-affirmative. I was more impressed by the fact that they never talked about their master in a proselitizing manner; in fact, they rarely mentioned him at all. He was more a force behind their lives; the relationship was quite a personal one, not to be put on display.

During this time I began to do some of Rajneesh's meditations and took part in a 24-hour intensive group. This had a radical effect on my life as a musician. Classical music training consists of more & more technical perfection, fine-tuning the ears and the muscles.

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Rajneesh's methods opened my heart to my music; instead of merely coming from my fingers and mind, it started coming from beyond me. The only way I can describe it is that it felt as if I was playing at my true potential; nothing was being held back, and my whole body + soul was involved in the music-making, disappearing into it. This is the height of music, it's what every musician seeks, and it cannot be taught or learned in a classroom or an orchestra.

In my experience, Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh's teachings and meditations would be of incalculable benefit to every musician of any kind. It would be a tremendous loss if he was required to leave the country. To say that this country needs men like him is a wrong statement, because there are no others like him. He is a man of infinite grace and peace, and should be welcomed as a citizen.

in His love,

Ma Prem Arti