

7/27/83

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to you to ask that you approve the visa application of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. I am a sannyasin and at the moment I am living in the City of Rajneeshpuram.

At this writing I am a few weeks short of my 48<sup>th</sup> birthday. Most of my life has been spent in and around New York City. I am a graduate of The City College of New York, Class of 1957. My major field of study was Documentary Film Techniques; my minor subject was Physics.

My business life, 25 years in all, has been spent in the field of Advertising, more specifically the production of television commercials. I am a film producer, responsible for the assembly of a television commercial. I work with the creative teams of advertising agencies in addition to the film Director + Editor. Over the years I have held the position of President of companies with sales volumes ranging between \$1 to 3 million dollars. I have also been V.P. in charge of production for companies with sales volumes of \$6-10 million dollars. This is a business I have grown up in and loved.

In 1978, at the suggestion of a friend, I bought a book written by Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. In the course of the next four years I read at least 30 more books and listened to innumerable tapes and watch many videotaped lectures. In his talks I found something very beautiful and exciting. I found myself relating to my business associates in a different manner, + most importantly, I found my relationship to my wife and children changing in a very great way.

I became more open to them, as separate people and more loving as a Father and husband. My life took on a newness and freshness - I was easier to be with and more loving. With this experience as an incentive I took a trip to Sectam, a Sannyasin ashram in Lucerne Valley, CA. It was here in the Spring of 1982 that I became a Sannyasin. For the past year and a half I have been living in and around his communes, either in Calif. or in Rameshpuram.

My first attraction to Bhagwan was not on a religious level - it was more psychological. His writing and ideas are so simple and to the point, I found myself saying "yes, yes, this is the way it should be". In the six months following my initiation as a Sannyasin I spent 115 days in group training - taking everything from "Dance + Body Awareness" to "The Advanced Counsellor Training". I feel my life has changed in a dramatic and beautiful way.

My experience doesn't seem to be an isolated case. Several weeks ago 15,000 Sannyasins from approximately 40 countries flew into Rameshpuram to celebrate the 2nd Annual World Celebration. I can't think of another place in the world where people from so many countries gather, and work together in such peace, love + harmony. All of us seem to have our own reason for being here, yet there is a common bond and that is Bhagwan + our love <sup>for</sup> him.

I never think of Bhagwan as being "in silence". His voice and his words are constantly with me. There is no other religious leader in the history of the world with as much

documentation of his life and work as Bhagwan. And even in his silence there is a constant communication with me. Just sitting with him in Satyan or Darshan is an incredibly fulfilling experience. I am constantly moved by his very presence. I'm not sure what the definition of religion is but the feelings I have with Bhagwan must be the essence of it.

I am happy and content with my growth under the guidance of Bhagwan. I am pleased with my life with Bhagwan. There is a difference in the quality of my life now as opposed to a year and a half ago and that difference is Bhagwan.

I am sure, that upon due consideration, you will approve Bhagwan's application. It would be a pity for America to lose this great man. He has already done so much for us, both spiritually and economically. He lives it here and I would love to have him stay.

Thanking you, in advance, for your consideration I remain

Very Sincerely yours,

Sivami, Deva Tardito.