

Rajneeshpuram, OR

July 27, 1983

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in response to the question which has arisen concerning Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh's stay in this country. As a spiritual leader I find Bhagwan rich with beauty and insight - his gifts are ours for the taking. His vision for mankind sees man living in harmony with nature, himself and others in his environment. Bhagwan emphasizes the true peace and joy that arise when people love and respect oneself, each other and the earth itself. Plainly his teachings and very presence are a reflection of this.

I have attended the festivals in Rajneeshpuram both last and this year. I find Bhagwan's compassion more and more each moment I am with him. When I say compassion I mean this is a state of being in which he loves everything and everyone for its totality. Bhagwan's availability moves me deeply. I feel touched by him in such a way that I feel more available to other people. This has helped me immensely in my occupation of nursing. Before Bhagwan I found myself judging others almost unconsciously. Now, rather than judging

I see them as a person with a heart and feeling.
Bhagwan has helped me to see people as a whole,
and be open to their needs without judgement.

Bhagwan spoke on a vast variety
of subjects for many years. The wisdom and
insight he shared with us cannot be compared
in my opinion, to the words of any other
religious leader or teacher that I have ever known
or heard of. Now, however, Bhagwan has entered
another phase of his work - the silent phase.

Our master has many beautiful
messages for us, but perhaps the singly most
beautiful ideal he has given us is that of
celebration. To me, celebration means a way of
thanking existence for the awareness to feel!
Now, just as Bhagwan spoke on celebrating
everything we celebrate his silence and yet his
ever presence among us.

on the ranch Bhagwan drives
past everyday. It is such a beautiful and precious
moment for each and every person that the
ranch everywhere becomes silent. I feel inspired
and fulfilled to look upon Bhagwan's shining
face. Nothing is said yet the joy I feel in that
moment I take with me and share it in whatever
else I do during the day. Words are no longer
needed from Bhagwan because his message is
alive in the Sannyasin family living around
the world.

see Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh
 bringing about a vast change in how we view health. I say "health" as a facet of the field of science. Yet this simple word is actually very encompassing. It includes what we eat, how we treat and feel about our bodies, how adults and children interrelate, where we live, how illness and stress happen, how to deal with those and so much more. Clearly, for the most part sannyasi are a healthy lot and much can be learned there.

I feel strongly that Bhagwan has much to share and give to mankind. His vision is manifesting in the city and commune of Rajneeshpuram as a model for the entire world.

If the critics of Rajneeshpuram would visit our city perhaps they could ~~view~~ allow themselves to view with an unbraided eye. What I speak of can take on an even deeper meaning for those open to the beauty here.

I urge you again to grant Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh a visa and remain in our country. He is plainly very influential in the arts and sciences and many other fields as well. Bhagwan is exceptional in what he is giving to religion and deserves to be acknowledged as such.

Sincerely,
 Ma Deva Gitika
 AKA Joan M. Vanet