

St. Anthony's Rectory

615 Eighth Street
Union City, N. J. 07087

July 26, 1983

867-3818-19

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

IT IS CLEAR TO ME THAT BHAGWAN SHREE RAJNEESH IS A SPIRITUAL LEADER. MY INITIAL EXPERIENCE OF BHAGWAN CAME THROUGH READING A BOOK, "THE MUSTARD SEED" WHICH WAS FOUND AMONG THE RELIGIOUS BOOKS IN A BOOKSTORE. THE TITLE CAUGHT MY ATTENTION AND A QUICK PERUSAL OF THE PAGES GAVE ME THE IMPRESSION THAT BHAGWAN HAD A LOT TO SAY.

NEEDLESS TO SAY; I WAS NOT DISAPPOINTED. BHAGWAN GAVE ME INSIGHTS INTO THE WORDS AND THOUGHTS OF JESUS WITH A DEPTH OF UNDERSTANDING WHICH I HAD NEVER EXPERIENCED BEFORE. SINCE THEN, I HAVE READ SEVERAL OF HIS BOOKS AND HAVE BEEN NOURISHED SPIRITUALLY THROUGH HIS WORDS. I HAVE FOCUSED ON HIS BOOKS PERTAINING TO THE WORDS OF JESUS. HOWEVER, I HAVE BEEN ENRICHED SPIRITUALLY THROUGH HIS WORDS FROM THE FRAME WORK OF OTHER RELIGIONS.

SEVERAL OF BHAGWAN'S BOOKS HAVE BEEN SOLD FOR THE SPIRITUAL BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THIS PARISH. I HAVE RECOMMENDED HIS BOOKS BOTH IN MY ROLE AS A PARISH PRIEST AND AS A PASTORAL PSYCHOANALYST. HIS WORDS HAVE BEEN A TREMENDOUS SPIRITUAL BENEFIT TO THE EDUCATED AND THE UNEDUCATED. THIS REPRESENTS THE SIMPLICITY AND THE DEPTH OF BHAGWAN'S SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING.


BHAGWAN'S BASIC MESSAGE IS THAT OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE FOR ONESELF. THIS IS THE ESSENCE OF ANY HEALING MESSAGE. IT APPEARED IN A NON-SPIRITUAL BOOK WHICH IS TITLED, "I'M O.K., YOU'RE O.K.". THIS UNCONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF ONESELF ENABLES THE MUSTARD SEED OF DIVINE LIFE WITHIN US TO UNFOLD NATURALLY. SELF-REJECTION TO ANY DEGREE HINDERS THE UNFOLDMENT PROCESS.

I FIND THAT BHAGWAN'S MESSAGE IS VERY COMPATIBLE WITH THE MESSAGE OF ERIC BUTTERWORTH WHO IS A LEADER OF THE UNITY MOVEMENT IN THE NEW YORK CITY AREA. BUTTERWORTH WOULD FOCUS ON THE PRESENCE OF GOD WITHIN.

IT IS DIFFICULT FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND HOW ANYONE WHO HAS READ ANY OF THE BOOKS CONTAINING BHAGWAN'S TALKS COULD COME TO ANY OTHER CONCLUSION THAT BHAGWAN IS A HIGHLY ENLIGHTENED SPIRITUAL LEADER.

FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT UNDERSTAND HIS WORDS IN DEPTH, ^{They} MIGHT BECOME FRIGHTENED. BHAGWAN'S ^{can} CAN BE VERY DISTURBING BUT THE TRUTH HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A TWO-EDGED SWORD PIERCING TO THE VERY DEPTHS OF OUR SOUL. ONE WOULD NEED A HUNGER FOR TRUTH TO RECEIVE HIS MESSAGE WITHOUT DISTURBANCE.

SINCERELY,


(REV) RONALD H. D'ANGELO

P.S. I AM AN ORDAINED ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST WHO IS ACTIVE IN BOTH PARISH MINISTRY AND PASTORAL COUNSELING. I WAS ORDAINED IN 1966 AND WAS CERTIFIED AS A PSYCHOANALYST IN 1980.

EXHIBIT "A-24"