

25 July 1983

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in support of permanent residency status for Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh.

I hold a BA degree in Sociology from the State University of New York at Buffalo and have done graduate work in the Dept. of Counseling Psychology at the same school. I worked in social services for five years with emotionally disturbed children in the city of Lockport, N.Y. Over the past ten years, I have been studying and working in the fields of depth psychology, meditation, religion, mysticism, and related disciplines.

I can easily testify that the work of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh is at the very core of my fields of endeavor. His (more than) 300 books are a shining example of his incredibly comprehensive contribution to the social sciences. I have read at least a dozen of his books as well as watched or listened to about one hundred of his taped and video-taped religious discourses on an infinite variety of topics which cover the essence of every major approach to the expansion of consciousness.

His profound insight into man and society is truly the absolute state-of-the-art that exists today in the fields of religion and social sciences. His present phase of silence is exactly an expression of this fact. Everything meaningful that can be said about religion in our time he has already said! Now, the very best expression of his religiousness is this path of silence, which has also been demonstrated by many great spiritual leaders in the past. The inner truth of religion is non-verbal and beyond intellectual comprehension. At a certain point in consciousness, words become a hindrance. Bhagwan's silence does not mean at all that his religious work has stopped. On the contrary, it is symbolic of the utter failure of language when one becomes the experience of godliness. Historical record gives the example of the silence of Jesus when asked by Pontius Pilate, "What is truth?"

America cannot afford to close its doors to a man who has attained the level of consciousness of Socrates, Jesus, Lao Tzu, St. Francis.

Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh is obviously both an exemplary religious worker and a man of outstanding capabilities and proven merit in the various fields of social sciences. His presence is a great blessing for America. He should be granted permanent residency and welcomed with open arms as the outstanding human being that he is as soon as is possible.

Sincerely,
Swami Suryadas - Dr. F. Oldenburg
Chuang Jen Dept.
Rajneeshpalem, Or.
97741