

P.O. Box 10,
RAJNEESHPURAM, OR. 97741

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I was raised a Catholic and went as deeply into Catholicism as possible for the first 24 years of my life. In 1960, I graduated from a Catholic High School in Tucson, Arizona. Then I studied five years in the Carmelite Seminary, Mt. Carmel College, in Niagara Falls, Ontario, graduating with a B.A. Philosophy major. That was followed by one semester of graduate study in theology at Catholic University, Washington, D.C. By this time it had become clear to me that something was missing in my life. Although I excelled at religious studies and loved the Catholic liturgy, a part of me still longed for expression and fulfillment. So, with no regrets, I left the Carmelite Seminary just 2½ years short of being ordained a priest and having already been a Carmelite monk under vows for 3½ years. I therefore had an intimate acquaintance with a major traditional religion from the inside.

It wasn't until nearly ten years later that I came across my first book by Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. I read it with fascination for here was a man who spoke a religious truth I had not heard put so clearly, so honestly before. In November, 1977, I flew to India and became a disciple of this beautiful spiritual leader. So for the past 5½ years I have been closely associated with Rajneesh, both in India and here in my own country.

Certainly the forms of worship and the teachings of the Catholic Church and Rajneesh are different. But as far as their essence is concerned, that is, to help lead us to the Divine - there is the same purpose. In fact, my personal experience is that my religious experience has been much more enhanced by Rajneesh in less time than by all my years in the Catholic Church. His religious teachings, as embodied in the many books transcribed from His years of daily discourses, are more profound, deeper, and more alive to contemporary man than are the Scriptures of the Catholic Church. If this man is not a religious teacher, then there are no religious teachers anywhere and neither was Jesus a religious teacher. That He is now 'teaching' through silence does not make Him less a teacher and an inspiration to His followers. To have a religious teacher of such outstanding and exceptional ability as Rajneesh in America is a singular blessing for all of us in this land of religious freedom and material plenty. His spiritual message, more than all others, speaks to 20th Century, even to 21st Century man, especially western man who has had his material needs fulfilled and has found them wanting. He has a religious message especially suited for Americans and we would be as least as foolish to cast Him out as the Jews and Romans

were/.....

EXHIBIT "A-36"

were to crucify Jesus. It is not too late for America to remember its heritage and its high calling and welcome this saintly religious teacher with open arms.

Robert Lazeres

Robert Lazeres

Subscribed and sworn to before me this *23* day of *July* 1983.

Evelyn Jones

Notary Public for Oregon

My commission expires *7-18-82*