

JULY 20, 1983

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I AM WRITING THIS LETTER IN SUPPORT OF THE ENLIGHTENED MASTER AND CREATIVE GENIUS, BHAGWAN SHREE RAJNEESH, AND IN SUPPORT OF HIS NEW APPLICATION FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

I HAVE BEEN A PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR IN THIS COUNTRY FOR THE PAST FOURTEEN YEARS (SEE RÉSUMÉ ENCLOSED). AS A MEMBER OF THIS PROFESSION, IT HAS BEEN MY RESPONSIBILITY TO COMMUNICATE TO MY STUDENTS THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND VALUES OF CONTEMPORARY CIVILIZATION THAT MAY ENHANCE THEIR APPRECIATION OF LIFE AS WELL AS THEIR ABILITY TO PROSPER IN AN OCCUPATIONAL ~~OR~~ AREA. ALTHOUGH I BEGAN MY CAREER WITH THE CHARACTERISTIC ENTHUSIASM OF THE NOVICE (SOMEWHAT AKIN TO A BULL IN THE PROVERBIAL CHINA SHOP), I BEGAN TO FEEL THAT AN INDEFINABLE, CRITICAL ELEMENT WAS MISSING IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS. THERE WAS A SPARK LACKING THAT RESULTED IN BOREDOM, ROUTINE, INEFFICIENCY, AND RESTLESSNESS IN THE SCHOOLS. TEACHERS BLAMED THE SITUATION ON STUDENT DULLNESS AND LACK OF DISCIPLINE, WHILE STUDENTS FOUND FAULT WITH

THEIR TEACHERS' INABILITY TO DEAL WITH RELEVANT ISSUES AND TO INSPIRE EXCELLENCE.

A PARADE OF INSTANT PANACEAS MATERIALIZED IN THE FORM OF NEW TEACHING METHODS AND PROCESSES, BUT NONE OF THESE WENT DEEP ENOUGH TO REMEDY THE MALAISE. THE WRONG QUESTIONS WERE BEING ASKED, SO NATURALLY THE SOLUTIONS WERE NOWHERE TO BE FOUND. AS MY OWN ENTHUSIASM FOR TEACHING BEGAN TO WANE, I BEGAN TO SEARCH FOR ANSWERS WITHIN MYSELF. I ASKED MYSELF IN A PROFOUNDLY PERSONAL WAY, "HOW CAN EDUCATION TRULY ASSIST EACH INDIVIDUAL IN THE EVOLUTIONARY JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE TOWARD CREATIVITY, INTELLIGENCE, LOVE, WISDOM, AND FULFILLMENT?"

MY SEARCH TOOK A PHILOSOPHICAL BENT, FOR I WAS SEEKING ANSWERS CONCERNING MY OWN LIFE AS WELL AS THOSE THAT WOULD ENHANCE AND ENRICH THE LIVES OF MY STUDENTS. I REALIZED THAT WHAT I, MYSELF, DID NOT HAVE COULD HARDLY BE SHARED WITH OTHERS. I HUNGRILY READ HUNDREDS OF VOLUMES BY THE FOREMOST SOCIAL SCIENTISTS AND PHILOSOPHERS, BOTH IN THE EAST AND IN THE WEST. AFTER EIGHT YEARS, MY QUEST WAS CULMINATED IN THE READING OF BHAGWAN SHREE RAJNEESH.

FROM THE MOMENT I READ BHAGWAN'S WORDS, I FELT A DEEP JOY AND EXHILARATION. HE WAS THE TRUE MASTER OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES. HE SPOKE ON EVERY SUBJECT WITH EQUAL DEPTH AND FACILITY. HIS ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WENT STRAIGHT TO THE ROOTS, AND FROM THOSE DEPTHS HE CARRIED THE READER INTO THE OPEN SKY OF WISDOM. NEVER HAD I READ EVIDENCE OF SUCH PERFECT GENIUS AND INTELLIGENCE. THE KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM THAT FLOWED SO ABUNDANTLY FROM HIM WAS SO WHOLE AND INTEGRATED: PHILOSOPHY, PHYSICS, PSYCHOLOGY, ECOLOGY, EDUCATION, RELIGION WERE WOVEN TOGETHER IN A SINGLE TAPESTRY OF BRILLIANCE.

I WAS TRULY OVERWHELMED BY MY INITIAL EXPERIENCE, AND GREEDILY DEVoured THIRTY OR FORTY BOOKS BY BHAGWAN. MY WHOLE PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE AND ON EDUCATION WAS TRANSFORMED.

AS I BEGAN TO EXPERIENCE GROWTH AND CHANGE FROM WITHIN, THE QUALITY OF MY PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE IMPROVED DRAMATICALLY. MY STUDENTS BEGAN TO RELATE TO ME AND MY TEACHING WITH MORE INTENSITY AND LOVE. FOR THE FIRST

TIME I BEGAN TO MINISTER TO THEIR REAL LEARNING NEEDS, INSTEAD OF MY IMAGINED WANTS FOR THEM.

BHAGWAN BECAME MY MASTER AND TEACHER. I WAS DRAWN TO HIM IN POONA, INDIA, LIKE A MOTH TO A FLAME. THERE, IN 1981, I LISTENED TO HIS DISCOURSES AVIDLY. WHEN HE WENT INTO SILENCE, THE ENERGY HE RADIATED BECAME LESS MENTAL AND MORE SPIRITUAL, A HEART-TO-HEART COMMUNION. I REALIZED THAT LOVE, THE BASIS FOR ALL POSITIVE ENERGIES, IS COMMUNICATED ONLY IN SILENCE, AND THAT THIS WAS THE FOUNDATION OF BHAGWAN'S INNER WORK: THE VERY TRANSFORMATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL BEING.

I RETURNED TO MY TEACHING FOR THE FOLLOWING TWO YEARS, THE MOST SATISFYING TIME OF MY CAREER. BHAGWAN'S INFLUENCE ON MY LIFE MADE MY CLASSROOM AN ALIVE LABORATORY OF LIFE AND ENERGY. STUDENT INTEREST, RESPONSE, AND SELF-GROWTH BECAME THE RULE RATHER THAN THE EXCEPTION.

I AM NOW IN RAJNEESH PURAM, OREGON. THIS IS MY FIRST VISIT HERE, AND BHAGWAN'S ENERGY IS TRANSFORMING THIS BARREN LAND INTO A GARDEN OF EDEN. AS THIS ECOLOGICAL WONDER UNFOLDS,

ONLY THE PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION OF THOSE THAT WORSHIP HERE IS MORE MIRACULOUS. THE LOVE, CREATIVITY, AND ENERGY HAPPENING HERE THROUGH HIS PRESENCE IS EVIDENT THROUGH THE CREATION OF THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY. BHAGWAN'S VISION OF A NEW MAN AND A NEW LAND IS BECOMING A REALITY EACH MOMENT. HIS WORDS ARE NOW TAKING MATERIAL AND SPIRITUAL FORM THROUGH HIS SILENCE. THIS POWERFUL AND LOVING GENIUS IS MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO THIS COUNTRY UNEQUALLED AND UNPARALLED IN THE HISTORY OF CIVILIZATION. PERHAPS AN EQUALLY UNPARALLELED TRAGEDY IN U.S. HISTORY WILL OCCUR IF HE IS NOT PERMITTED TO STAY HERE.

WITH LOVING SINCERETY,

Alan A. Bassett  
aka Swami Premesh

SRA Box 1875

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99507

# RESUMÉ

NAME: ALAN A. BASSETT

SSN: 224-66-2061

ADDRESS: SRA BOX 1875  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99507

DATE OF BIRTH: OCTOBER 11, 1946

## EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

- (1) FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
DATES ATTENDED: 1964-1969, 1972  
DEGREES RECEIVED: B.A. AND M.A.  
MAJORS: HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS - UNDERGRADUATE  
EUROPEAN HISTORY, AMERICAN HISTORY, EDUCATION - GRADUATE
- (2) FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY, BOCA RATON, FLORIDA  
YEAR ATTENDED: 1972  
MAJOR: SECONDARY EDUCATION
- (3) UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA  
DATES ATTENDED: 1976-1977, 1982  
SPECIALIZED COURSES IN EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY
- (4) UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE, LA VERNE, CALIFORNIA  
DATES ATTENDED: 1982-1983  
ENROLLED IN THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COUNSELING PROGRAM

## WORK EXPERIENCE:

- (1) ~~TEACHER~~ TEACHER, NOVA HIGH SCHOOL, DAVIE, FLORIDA  
DATES: 1969-1974  
SUBJECTS TAUGHT: EUROPEAN HISTORY, AMERICAN HISTORY,  
RUSSIAN HISTORY, COMMUNISM AND CAPITALISM, ANTHROPOLOGY,  
POLITICAL SCIENCE.
- (2) TEACHER, HOLLYWOOD HILLS HIGH SCHOOL, HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA  
SUBJECTS TAUGHT: GEOGRAPHY, WORLD HISTORY, PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY  
DATES: 1974-1976
- (3) INSTRUCTOR AT BROWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE, DAVIE, FLORIDA  
DATES: 1970-1971  
SUBJECTS TAUGHT: WESTERN CIVILIZATION 101 AND 102

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- (4) INSTRUCTOR, NOVA UNIVERSITY, PLANTATION, FLORIDA  
DATES: 1972-1973  
SUBJECTS TAUGHT: WORLD HISTORY I & II
- (5) INSTRUCTOR, CHAPMAN COLLEGE, ELMENDORF AFB, ALASKA  
DATES: 1976-1977  
SUBJECTS TAUGHT: RUSSIAN HISTORY (SENIOR LEVEL) AND GREAT PERSONALITIES IN WESTERN CIVILIZATION
- (6) TEACHER, ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA  
DATES: 1977-PRESENT  
SUBJECTS TAUGHT: MATH, SOCIAL STUDIES, ENGLISH IN AN ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM FOR DISADVANTAGED TEENAGERS.
- (7) DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE, ALASKA EXTENSION CAMPUS, ELMENDORF AFB, ALASKA  
DATES: 1977-PRESENT  
ORGANIZED AND DIRECTED THE LARGEST TWO GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN MANAGEMENT AND COUNSELING IN THE STATE OF ALASKA.