

July 26 1983

To Whom it may concern;

I would like to offer some comments on the incredible phenomenon which is taking place in Eastern Oregon, around the spiritual master Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. I've had the opportunity over the last few years to visit on a number of occasions, the communal city of Rajneeshpuram and I find this experiment unique in the world.

I feel qualified to offer my opinion on the matter for a number of reasons. When I was pursuing my university studies in sociology, my primary area of interest was communal living projects, both historical and contemporary and thus I had ample time to delve in depth into some of the noble failures which have preceded Rajneeshpuram. This interest has led me to participate in and visit other communes around the world in my

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post university years. Secondly, my profession, photography, allows me to observe first hand a wide spectrum of social conditions in many lands.

It isn't difficult to see why Rajneeshpuram is thriving in an atmosphere of love and understanding while the rest of the world runs continually into the same old frustrating walls. The difference is Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. His emphasis on the evolution of the new man and his enlightened example of a man not bound by the past, have galvanized the community to attempt the impossible and to succeed. Not only is Rajneeshpuram succeeding, it is blossoming at such a phenomenal rate, that even such regular visitors as myself spend the first few days of each visit in open-mouthed amazement explaining the transformation.

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As it is said, "The proof is in the pudding", and the most cynical of critics could not help but be swayed by the physical impressiveness of Rajneeshpuram and by the quality of people residing there.

Bhagwan is the sun around which this mini solar system revolves. Rajneeshpuram is a tribute to His vision and a note of gratitude to Him from His disciples everywhere for all He has shared with them. All other communes I have studied, have failed because after the initial idealism expired, basic human self-interest with its inherent competition, has arisen to drag the community under. At Rajneeshpuram, the celebration of the living master replaces self-interest as a guiding principle. In the let-go this allows, commune members find themselves moving into a new kind of awareness,

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A new kind of loving interdependence in which the Buddhafield exists and flowers. It is all a living monument to Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. Without Him, and the sparkle of His presence, none of this would be possible. It is imperative that this incredible man be allowed to stay in America so we all can see what is possible on the open frontiers of human potential and the art of living together.

Yours.

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