

July 21, 1983

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing this letter on behalf of Bhagwan Sri Rajneesh application for a permanent U.S. visa.

Bhagwan has been my spiritual guide and friend for two years. I was introduced to his works and meditations by a close friend. At the time, I was a second year medical student at the University of California in San Francisco. During my clinical studies at U.C.S.F., Bhagwan's teachings and meditations lead me to insights which often enriched my interactions with patients. Before graduating from UCSF I did a rural-medicine clerk at the medical clinic in Rajneeshpuram, OR. The clinic is well-equipped and high-quality, cost-effective Western medicine is practiced there I especially enjoyed working with people who ~~are~~ are willing to actively participate in their own health care & form a partnership ^(with) their phys.

Prior to beginning my internship, I was able to attend the 2nd Annual World Celebration in Oregon. I consider myself highly fortunate, even blessed, to have participated in such an incredible outpouring of love and positive energy. It's even more amazing to me the 'flavor' and feelings from the celebration continued after I returned to Los Angeles, and that my daily interactions with people seemed to have touched a deeper level, now.

I am presently doing an internship in internal medicine at Los Angeles County Hospital, which is affiliated with the University of Southern California. I'm working harder than I've ever had to in my life, as an intern. Somehow, feeling a "connection" with Bhagwan sustains me for fully meeting the challenge of my often overwhelming work (*new-interns, ^{are prone to} anxiety).

Over the past two years I feel I've grown considerably and I directly attribute this to Bhagwan's positive influence in my life. He is truly an exceptional, loving, and advanced being. The lessons of responsible love, and watchfulness I've needed to learn have not always been easy, but they were clear-cut and open, surprisingly gentle. Sometimes one gets a feeling the lessons are even 'accelerated' when one is in Bhagwan's presence or within a community of sannyasins.

As an undergraduate at the University of California in Los Angeles, I worked towards a B.A. in psychology. Even then I was looking for some type of guiding ~~step~~ philosophy which looked at the interactions of the 'mind with the body'. I looked and studied various systems for about 10 years. There seemed to be a thread of continuity in all of them but, none could fully answer my questions about 'life'. When I discovered Bhagwan's teaching, something inside me recognized their beauty & validity. As a sannyasin/disciple I feel I've learned a fresh way of simply 'participating with life' instead of just having an sort of systems-or rules to live by.

While I can understand how people fear or distrust people or ideas they don't comprehend or 'approve' of I fail to see why they want to restrict other people's experiences. This sentiment especially pertains to the often misinformed or misguided individuals who don't want Bhagwan to stay in

I and thousands of other American Rajneeshes feel that Bhagwan should be granted permanent residency. His very presence is a 'gift' to me and to many. Bhagwan's 'message' and work in America is positive, constructive and very unique. I sincerely trust that the appropriate government agencies will take steps to insure that Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh continue to reside in America.

Respectfully,

Ma Anand Sugito
(Cherie A. Hargis, M.D.)