

7/27/83

12 Modesto Ave
Santa Cruz, Ca. 95060

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in reference to Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, a teacher who is ostensibly encountering increasing governmental resistance to his desire to remain in the U.S. I implore you to do everything possible not to resist but instead to facilitate his presence here, for the reasons outlined below.

First, I must establish the ground on which I stand, that of an academican. In high school, a prestigious New England "prep" school in N. Andover, Mass, I was Head of the Upper School, elected to the Student Council, President of the Debating Society, Editor-in-Chief of the yearbook, a Voting Member of the Disciplinary Committee, Winner of School-Wide Awards in History and English, and graduated Magna Cum Laude. After acceptance to Yale and Cornell Universities, I spent 2 years at Cornell, and in addition to being on the Dean's List 2 of 3 semesters, was awarded the prestigious "College Scholar" recognition. This rare privilege acknowledged sufficient academic prowess to study, literally, whatever I chose during my entire stay at the University.

Next I spent 2 years completing my study at the University of California at Santa Cruz, receiving my BA (June 1983) in Environmental Studies with a Minor in Psychology ("The Death Instinct, A Dualistic and Dialectical Perspective"). My work, as early as high school, has been published in both newspapers and academic journals.

As an academican, I respect Bhagwan Rajneesh's intelligence immensely. I have tremendous respect for his work in Environmental Studies and Psychology, and value his perceptions in the latter more than any other scholar in the field. Quite frankly, I consider his acumen in this area unparalleled by any other living individual. His books and religious discourses set a standard for perspicacity unrivalled by all I have encountered.

EXHIBIT "A-1757"

As it appears to be an area of confusion, I would also like to comment on Bhagwan's silence. I personally became a disciple of this man, understood his message, as it were, while he was in silence. Actually, to me, the entire issue is specious, as throughout history and modern times - from Lao Tzu to Meher Baba, great religious leaders have advocated silence as an ultimate stage of their religious work.

Bhagwan himself has said, on several occasions, "I use words only to bring you to wordlessness... to silence." He has also said, "Truth is beyond words, and even meaning... It is a flowering of silence. For as far back as I can recall, it was always in silence that I have had my most profound and beautiful religious experiences. Please, let's not confuse the real issues by focusing on Bhagwan's silence. It is the very aspect which initially drew me to Him, and in elemental if not essential component in my own and His own definition and experience of religiousness.

...The religious leader issue totally set aside, on academic grounds I implore you to do all within your means to facilitate Bhagwan's presence in this country. His abilities in Science, particularly Psychology, have drawn and will continue to draw international acclaim. I urge you, for us all, not to miss this opportunity to keep this exceptional man in our country as long as possible.

Sincerely,

James H. Cogan

James H. Cogan

[Sw. Satyam - Jim]