

# RAJNEESH FOUNDATION

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NEWS OFFICE

NR 119

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"I LOVE DEMOCRACY BUT A BENEVOLENT DICTATORSHIP IS NEEDED,"

SAYS BHAGWAN SHREE RAJNEESH

"I love democracy so much that I am even ready for a fifteen years' temporary benevolent dictatorship to train the country, to teach the country how to be free," said Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh in his morning discourse at Shree Rajneesh Ashram today, responding to a question requesting an explanation of his recent remark that India needs no democracy for the next fifteen years.

"I love democracy. I love freedom. But to transform a country which has lived for two thousand years in slavery is not possible through democratic means," he explained. "Democracy needs a certain context which is missing in India. That's why all the work that has been done since India attained its so-called freedom has not been of any value."

Democracy was just a beautiful word that had been borrowed from others, he added. "In fact, because India was under British rule, all the great Indian leaders were educated in England. They saw democracy working beautifully there, but England has a context of at least one thousand years of freedom. It can function in England, but where is the context here?"

"These thirty years have been a time of sheer nonsense. India should think first about its own tradition, history, past, and in that context we should create a government. We cannot

borrow a certain ideology from another context. The mind of India has become accustomed to slavery, and when you give freedom suddenly to slaves they go berserk."

Bhagwan then drew attention to the upsurge in communal violence, the rising rates of crime, rape, murder and arson, the explosive rate of population growth and the resulting widespread poverty. "Ninety-nine per cent of the people have nothing to do with democracy," he explained. "They need bread, butter, shelter; they don't have the essentials to exist, to survive! And talking to these people about democracy is ridiculous.

"Democracy is not a problem for the poor. They are ready to sell their votes for just two rupees or five rupees. Now in a country where people are ready to sell their votes for five rupees, how do you think a democracy can function?

"It is impossible in a democratic set-up to bring people to their senses," he added. "But I say a benevolent dictatorship. And what do I mean by a benevolent dictatorship? I mean a dictatorship which is used only as a means--the end is democracy."

Bhagwan said that he was bound to be criticized by the politicians for his remarks, because the present so-called democracy was of immense benefit to them. "Morarji Desai has already said in Rajkot that 'Acharya Rajneesh should not be allowed in Gujarat because he is against democracy'." said Bhagwan. "Now just look at Morarji Desai's statement. If India is a democracy then I can live anywhere, wherever I choose! You see the stupidity of his remark?

"All these stupid politicians who are creating chaos in the country can be stopped; all the crimes which are growing every day can be stopped," he added. "I love democracy but still I insist that for fifteen years it is better to put the idea aside. The time has not yet come for it."

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1.9.80