

Friends,

You may have heard about the recent trademark decision of the US Patent and Trademark Office, deciding that OSHO cannot be registered as a trademark in the USA. They decided that "Osho" cannot be a trademark because under US law it is too "generic." As an example, you can protect the name "Feldenkrais" because it has a limited and specific meaning, but the word "bodywork" would be too generic to trademark. Attached you will find the copy of a press release that Osho International Foundation issued in response.

For the centers and other people involved in his work, we would like to share some additional information.

Since the early 70's, at Osho's specific request his name and a number of his methods have been trademarked and the copyright of his works has been officially registered with the appropriate international authorities. When the name was changed to "Osho," the *Osho International Foundation*, who Osho gave this responsibility to, also trademarked "Osho."

This has allowed the Foundation to "protect his name and work" as Osho has specifically requested. In particular, trademark law allows the Foundation to act against people who misuse the name Osho. For example, anyone changing any of the Osho meditations, and still presenting them as "Osho" meditations, can be stopped from putting the title "Osho" on the changed meditation.

If this decision against "Osho" as a trademark becomes final, it means that the Foundation will no longer be able to protect the use of "Osho" in the United States. However, this ruling is only about the US and does not affect some 40 other countries and jurisdictions, such as the European Union, where Osho's name continues to be protected by the existing "Osho" trademarks registered in those locations.

In addition, this ruling has no impact on Osho's copyright which has been registered since the early 70's. Osho's spoken words are fully protected in accordance with copyright laws worldwide.

The people in the Inner Circle Osho formed, and the trustees of the Foundations responsible for Osho's work will continue to do as Osho has asked them to – and as they and people before them have been doing for the past 35 to 40 years: they will ensure that everything possible is done to make Osho ever more widely available. Not to mention the countless numbers of people who are supporting this effort out of their meditation, celebration, creativity and contribution – the essence of our work together as Osho describes it. We thank everybody who is involved in the work and continues to make this existential proposal available.

And of course, the most powerful way to minimize the inevitable misunderstandings about Osho and his work is simply to let Osho speak for himself. This is definitely happening. There are already some 2,500 titles in print in 57 languages. Osho's complete works are available online at www.osho.com in English and Hindi, and soon in other languages too. Most of the Osho Talks can now be downloaded on audio from osho.com and listened to anywhere. The same will be true of the Osho Videos.

As Osho slowly becomes a most prominent voice of sanity in an increasingly insane world, we sense this explosion of his availability around the world is so timely. And no matter how enormous these numbers are, our guess is he will always respond with a chuckle and ask, "And what's next?"

OSHO International