

A Man on his Way

by Adriano Porqueddu / correspondent

An uncommon man on an uncommon journey. Fred Nassiri is a man who does not go unnoticed, one who leaves a mark – as he has done in 15 countries the world over, pausing for the time necessary to shoot some footage for a narrative music video. His music is about peace about this unusual journey around the world. Nassiri travels the roads of the world and stops to speak with the people he meets. In Rome he stopped at Termini, the central railroad station, where he met with the tramps in their home – the pavement – and talked with them about their life and their difficulties; then, with an odd yet natural decision, he handed out money for all. An odd action, an uncommon man; we decided to meet him and to tell you his story, it too an uncommon one. Born in Iran, he has been living for years in Las Vegas, Nevada. He speaks about peace and conversion, about goodness and solidarity. He is a wealthy man yet has a mild character, very friendly, and I must say that despite my initial perplexities I was captivated by him during the interview. Listening to him speak, I was thinking that this man's journey, which began far away and has gone even farther, might be the metaphor of a journey into one's self, through the eyes and the words of people living in a world calling out for peace.



You were born in Iran. What took you from there to Nevada?

I was young, 26 years old, and I wanted to challenge the world, to discover things and especially to learn more about the Western world.

What do you do in Nevada?

I've worked in the fashion business and now I deal in real estate, but the job that keeps me busy 24 hours a day is music: I never have enough time for music.

Where does your music come from, and your project for peace?
From above.

You wrote your first work (which we can now hear on your CD) ten years ago. Why did you wait so long to make a recording?

I started writing music ten years ago, but I've been improving it all this time. I love music and I want to make my moves professionally. I want to improve myself because there is certainly no shortage of great singers. They don't need me, but my project is important. It's a project for spreading peace, and it needs to be introduced transparently – it must be first-rate. I don't want people to say: this man is rich and wants to use his wealth to become a singer.

When did you become a Christian?

I went to three different parishes: the priests in the first two would not baptize me: maybe they didn't believe in my faith. The third one listened to me and I convinced him to baptize me. Now I feel very close to Jesus.

You made part of your video in Assisi.

Yes, it's a wonderful place where you seem to breath in peace. It's also a place of inspiration for my music – I feel like a brother to Saint Francis.

Tell us something about your project?

The aim of the project is to spread peace in the world, and I've chosen to deliver this message through music, because I believe that music goes directly to the heart of people. I want to visit all the countries I can and sing in as many languages as possible, and talk about peace straightforwardly.

You have visited countries of Muslim, Hindu and Christian religion. What is your position toward world religions?

I respect all religions and find good in all, so that I can establish a dialogue with them.

There's something I'm wondering about, and perhaps our readers too: how do you find peace and spirituality in a place like Las Vegas?

Las Vegas is a city of sin, fraud, drugs, sex and gambling. But that's exactly why my experience and my project are special – because they come from a place like that.

So far you've visited 15 countries. What's your idea on the world's state of health?

I don't like what I see; it's worse than Sodom and Gomorrah; there's great confusion about values. God gave us freedom but I don't like what man is doing with his freedom. We've got to find the courage to make bold decisions for the common good.