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To whom it may concern,

I first came to know of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh during my final year of reading Psychology for a Bachelor of Science Degree at the University of Leicester, England, and as he has greatly influenced my life since, I wish to acknowledge that influence. My chosen dissertation project looked into a variety of problems associated with heroin and other drug dependencies, including a review of the various treatment programmes available at that time. It was apparent that most of the traditional methods of treatment had very low rates of success, and so I began to look into more unorthodox methods, of which those involving meditation became of particular interest to me. Treatments offering meditation seemed to be a more holistic approach, affecting the persons entire outlook to life, rather than just a 'treatment module' which is distinct from the rest of that persons life.

During this period of intense study, I found that meditation was also of great benefit to myself personally and, coincidentally, I was at that time visited by a friend who was studying medicine in London, to attend

a weekend event organised by the Rajneesh Meditation Centre there. It was my first introduction to Bhagwan's work opened up a new way of looking at myself, and I also began to realise how his approach and deep understanding of man tied into my work and study in psychology, and he seemed to be answering many of the questions which, for me, the traditional approaches left unanswered.

While completing the degree course I became a follower of Bhagwan, and when I was awarded a first class degree, was offered a scholarship to do a 3 year postgraduate study, to research into Rajneesh methods of meditation. I decided to postpone further academic work as I planned to travel, visiting Rajneesh Meditation Centres around Europe, and this was accepted by the University as background research for my doctorate, and it was agreed that I could return at a later date to continue my studies.

For the last 3 months I have been staying as a guest at Rajneeshpuram, Oregon, on a programme of personal growth and meditation. It has been a beautiful experience for me to be here, and to see Bhagwan's vision of this commune put into practice and, furthermore to see how the lifestyle of the community, inspired by Bhagwan, is resulting in a totally new type of society. Virtually all cities in the modern Western world have discovered that as wealth and the standard of living increase, so do the modern 'social diseases' as many people come to rely heavily on the 'support' of alcohol or drugs, ranging from the socially acceptable tranquilisers and sleeping tablets, to those more generally seen as deviant such as heroin and the other

opiates. There have been many hundreds of studies investigating the reasons why modern man finds it necessary to turn to these artificial supports, but most simply conclude that the drugs are used by the person in an attempt to fill some 'gap', a feeling of something missing in his life. Some fulfillment, whether psychological, emotional or spiritual is lacking. And so each 'civilised' nation spends time and resources investigating methods of treatment and rehabilitation for those addicted. Regarding such areas of investigation, Rajneeshpuram is remarkable in that there is no such study underway, solely because there is no need. There is no alcohol or drug dependence. These problems which are thought to be many to be inevitable in any Western society are absent, and similar comparisons could be drawn with other modern social problems ranging from vandalism to child abuse to a high suicide rate. In this new commune there is some quality, something about the way of life which provides each person with loving support from others in the community, and, probably even more importantly, a strong personal feeling of fulfillment in day to day life.

With these observations drawn from what has been a relatively short stay at Rajneeshpuram, I would propose that the commune be seen as a important experiment in an alternative way of life, the most exceptional fact being that this radical society has come about solely as a result of the religious vision of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. His wealth of knowledge and insight has resulted in a community where the citizens are not only rich in the material sense, but also in their psychological and emotional wellbeing.

While most of this letter has been concerned with the influence of Bhagwan on my approach, my psychological study and impressions of the Rajneesh community, I would like to be able to describe more eloquently the changes that I personally have undergone, firstly by becoming a sannyasin, and even more intensely since being here at Rajneeshpuram, so close to Bhagwan. But for myself it is something that can be felt, not written about, I just know how deeply beautiful the feeling is when I do feel a close connection to him, when sitting with him in Satsang, or greeting him everyday as he drives past.

Perhaps it is because I'm British, but I still see the U.S.A. as a land of opportunity and freedom to express new ideas, and I hope that America will not miss the opportunity to accept a man with as great insight and far-sighted vision as Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh.

yours sincerely,

Ma Bodhitara.