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to whom it may concern

After obtaining a First Class Honours MA degree in Modern Languages (French and German) at Cambridge University in 1955, and working as an assistant principal in the British Foreign Office (UN Dept., 1956-57) I settled in Italy, where I taught at the British Institute in Rome (1958-62) and subsequently became a partner in the publishing company La Pietra (Milan, 1963-).

My 25 years of work on books - reading, translating, editing, research .- finally led me to indipendent writing - after publishing Mutus Liber (Mazzotta, Milan 1980), a book about alchemy and the European esoteric tradition, I discovered the works of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. I can testify that Rajneesh's teaching represents the influx of a strong new current into a stream of knowledge - the gnostic heritage which over the course of time, as the gap between science and religion widened, had grown dry and almost inaccessible. Rajneesh's unequalled achievement has been his ability to teach a way to bridge that gap as it appears in individuals in the form of a split between direct knowledge and intellectual understanding. I can think of no other living writer who has been so able to illuminate for modern minds the path of material and spiritual evolution that the medieval alchemists also followed, in their sublime attempt to turn lead into gold.

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