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c/o Story
1, Charra Street
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To whom it may concern.

From 1974 to 1977, whilst in my early fifties, I studied sociology at the Flinders University of South Australia under Professor Ivan Szelenyi, my friend and tutor, who subsequently became a professor of sociology at Madison, Wisconsin.

My Honours thesis, on the Sociology of Childbirth, earned me a first-class Honours degree, and also a University Medal. Some of it was published in the periodical, Women's Studies International, and the thesis itself was used (and, indeed, still is being used) by doctors, midwives, members of consumer groups and others concerned with the practices of childbirth in Australia.

Shortly after completing my thesis, I met Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh at the Ashram in Poona, India, and after a while became a sannyasin. As well as the changes that this meeting has made to my inner life, it has also affected my understanding of the world as a sociologist. It is as though things that I previously only perceived dimly have become illuminated - half-understood patterns have become clearer, discrepancies have fallen into place.

The city of Rajneeshpuram, where I am fortunate enough to be visiting for a short while, is, *inter alia*, a unique sociological venture, and Bhagwan is the core, the inspiration, the heart of all that is happening here. I suspect that in a few years' time we will all, with hindsight, recognise the beauty and creativity of Bhagwan's work here. For the present, we can only hope that what is happening can continue to flourish.


Maryan Beams