



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

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From the Office of the
Director of Studies, Regional
Tutorial Services

To Whom it may Concern

I have been employed for the last ten years to develop Vocation Counselling & guidance services for Open University students throughout the United Kingdom.

The educational problem of linking what one has learnt to what one is doing with one's life (i.e. work) is my principal concern.

Earlier in my academic career I lectured on a more precisely defined topic: namely phosphorus-nitrogen ring systems (chemistry).

The question of the use ('work')
to which such knowledge was
put — e.g. development of defoliants
nerve gasses etc concerned my
students & eventually me too.

I therefore studied (M.A degree) philosophy
Why students chose to study what
subjects they did also interested
me: again this required me
to study counselling, & occupational
psychology — manpower requirements.
Another degree! (M.A. London).

It was in this broad
context that I ran across the
writings of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh
Much of what he said, I already
knew from my own work. But
he had integrated 'psychology' &
philosophy (particularly epistemology & more
more articulately than I had.



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I therefore respect his stature
as an eminent professor &
scholar.

In my present work, the
vocational counselling of adults
as they develop (by academic study)
in their lives, I find the idea
of Rajkesh also relevant. In
Britain there are 3-4 million
unemployed - many of them "my" students.
They seek comfort, meaning & satisfaction
in their lives - usually from a
paid secure job. This is part of my
job: get my students into jobs too

+ let the less qualified go on to do

But this is not the whole solution: people's values may have to shift if they are to live satisfyingly whilst "unemployed."

Value's clarification exercises are a standard part of career literature. Rajneesh's perspective on values is one of questioning, & promotes harmony, whilst still retaining reliance on one's self.

These are messages in tune with the needs of this time: the fabric which keeps our society together is in change, anyway.

I believe therefore that the work of a Teacher such as Rajneesh is of potential benefit to many thoughtful people & the wider community in which he lives.

Sincerely, Allan Last