

1
Monika Dreise
Dhyan Pritamo

Rajneeshpuram the 24th July, 8

To whom it may concern

I write to you as a sannyasin of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh and a visitor of Rajneeshpuram. My background: I studied French and German language, history and literature, philosophy, pedagogy, and psychology from 1960 till 1965 at the Universities of Tübingen and Munich, Germany, and in Nice, France. In 1965 I finished my studies with the German "Staatsexamen", and I was teaching since then at a comprehensive school in Reutlingen, Germany, and at a boarding school "Lycee du Parc Impérial" in Nice, France.

With Bhagwan I came into contact in 1978 by reading one of his books about the old structure of family and society and his vision of a completely new form of living together in a community without comparison, competition and possessiveness. The title: "Alte Familie - neue Familie" (Old family - new family). I was at once fascinated by what I read. Not only did I recognize myself, the limitations, anxieties, frustration I was burdened with by my

inner concept of life and of myself and by the outer structures I lived in.

I was also struck by the clarity of his vision, his to finish with the old way of living and to start absolutely new in a simple and constructive way. Above all it was his tremendous love for mankind which I felt immediately to be the base of all his efforts.

At that time I had got my good job and everything I had always wanted: a family, a house, a car, friends, long journeys ... Deep down I felt that something was missing, but I was still far from even thinking of becoming a disciple of Bhagwan.

Then in 1980 I visited a friend of mine in Poona. What happened to me there, I can hardly describe. A sort of spiritual awakening. In his loving presence I understood that existence loves me, that I am in contact with everything, that it's a great gift and opportunity to be alive. I became his sannyasin.

As a teacher I am amazed to watch the children here in Rajneeshpuram. Our educational system sounds good in theory. Nevertheless we are confronted with frustration, aggression, destructive behaviour in Germany in practice every day life on both sides teachers and pupils.

What I see here I and my colleagues can only dream of. Children are learning playfully. They are cooperative, constructive, creative. The system is

3
• a healthy balance of freedom and discipline, of theory and practical work. The main thing to me is that these children are always treated as equal, worthwhile members of the community so that they develop their skills with pleasure and grow to responsible members of the big family from their very childhood. The kids here are sure of themselves in a healthy way as they are surrounded by love and acceptance. If any trouble occurs every child is entitled to call a meeting immediately so that no negativity can spread.

Bhagwan's concept is revolutionary, deeply human and above all: IT WORKS! And if he were not such a brilliant teacher himself, he would - in spite of his beautiful message - not reach thousands of men all over the world.

I deeply regret that my son, who is 21 years old now, did not grow up in Bhagwan's community, that he did not have this chance.

The hope of every country lies in its children. The educational system is of fundamental importance and up to now it's a problem in all countries, though great efforts are made everywhere.

The United States should not hesitate to grant Bhagwan permanent residency, they should not miss this unique chance given by the fact that he has chosen to live in this country.

Yours faithfully
Dhyan Pradano