

August 8, 1983

To Whom It May Concern:

In 1965, after having been named valedictorian of my high school class, I received a California State Scholarship to St. Mary's College in Moraga, California. While at St. Mary's, I was a member of the varsity crew that won the 1971 Western Sprints and finished fourth in the U.S. National Championships in the same year. I am presently a member of the Saint Mary's College Hall of Fame.

In 1969 I received a Bachelor of Arts degree and began to attend California State College at Hayward as a California State Fellow, working towards a Master's Degree in literature. I interrupted my studies in 1970 to go to Algeria as a member of an International Voluntary Services teaching team to fulfill my two years' national service obligation as a conscientious objector.

I lived and worked in Constantine, Algeria, as an English teacher in an Algerian government boarding school, and also taught a literature study course at the University of Constantine.

In 1972 I returned to California and began working again on my Master's Degree. I completed my thesis in the spring of 1973. In September of that year I returned to Algeria, this time as a senior lecturer at the University of Oran. There I taught literature, creative writing, and English grammar and composition.

During this time I also travelled extensively over most of Western Europe and the British Isles.

Returning to the United States in 1975, I began a specialized Master's program in Teaching English as a Foreign Language at San Francisco State University. In 1977, after completing the program, I was awarded a Junior Fulbright Lectureship at the University of Priština in Yugoslavia. There I taught English language and linguistics and also participated in seminars for English teachers in several of the Yugoslav republics.

In 1979 I was back in California and took an instructor's post with the San Francisco Community College District in English as a Foreign Language. In the 3½ years I taught in the District, I worked almost exclusively with newly-arrived refugees from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. In the fall of 1980, I watched a 45-minute videotape of one of the discourses of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. In 1981, I became a Rajneeshite.

The techniques of meditation that Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh has developed were and are for me a potent source of transformation and renewal. During the years I was teaching and meditating I saw a marked change, an increasing calmness and richness in my relationship with my students and in our ability to work and learn together. I consider this period to be the apex of my teaching career, the best and most sensitive work I have ever done.

Now that I am living and working in Rajneeshpuram, the richness only continues. I am a waiter and maître d' at Zorba the Buddha Rajneesh restaurant in Portland, which puts me

in contact with every kind of person - as many as I met in my various travels around the world. I feel that the quality that Bhagwan's love has brought to my life enables me to see each person I deal with through new eyes, to serve them and take care of them with the same sensitivity I have towards myself through meditation and towards my brothers and sisters in the commune.

Bhagwan offers a new vision of life, a religious vision in the true sense of the word because it is present, vital, and it works. To have Him present in the world is a blessing; to live with Him is an indescribable gift. He has much to offer us all, unconditionally, and we have only to take it.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Menager