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To whom it may concern.

I am a disciple of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. I was born in 1947, juli 3, in Amsterdam, Holland, and I lived most of my life in this country. I studied information technology at the Technical University of Delft. From early adolescence I had a growing interest in many questions of life, and a deep longing to find fulfillment. For many years I was reading much about psychology and social history. Then one day I found books of an author, Alan Watts, who pointed out a vision to me from which everything was clear. This was an enlightening experience, but it did not last. The insight was only intellectual. From then I practiced meditation, mainly in the form of T'ai Chi, which became my main occupation for about 5 years.

Then I read a book of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, in 1976. For me this was an experience at least as enlightening as reading Alan Watts. This time however the insight did not remain intellectual, because I could follow it up with practicing meditation techniques and participating in what I would call "discovery groups", which are usually known as gestalt and encounter groups. Also I could go to see Bhagwan in Poona, India, which I did in 1977. Meanwhile I had written to Bhagwan, from Holland, that I wanted to be his disciple, even though I had not seen him yet. Bhagwan gave me a new name: Swami Anand Virendra.

In Poona it was like waking up in an other dimension. I can not find rational terms to describe or explain it. The best word for me is "intensity", intensity of feeling, intensity of seeing. In the beginning it was frightening. It was like if the ground under my feet was pulled away and I landed in empty space. Intellectually I could not make heads or tails out of anything, but the feeling of the experience was like waking up to reality - and the splendour of it. I don't know which element of the situation "caused" the experience. I was sitting every day listening to Bhagwan for 1½ hour, together with thousands of other people, I participated in very intensive groups like "gestalt" and "encounter", and I was loafing about the ashram and its environment. Bhagwan calls all this together "the Buddhafield".

After 3 months I returned to Amsterdam to earn my living. Living in the "normal" world, I felt the need to keep in touch with "the source". I had to choose between earning enough money to go for a long time to the ashram in Poona, meanwhile being on my own, or participating in the activities of the local meditation center. I choose the second possibility because it was close by, and gradually I started to work more and more in the meditation center. This "work" was at least as much for my self as it was to keep the center going, providing facilities for people to get in touch with Bhagwan's vision. This also was part of the "Buddhafield". I worked in Amitabh, the Amsterdam Rajneesh meditation center, then I went to Arnhem, were I helped to set up a Rajneesh community and meditation center, then I came back to Amsterdam, were a big Rajneesh community was started: Sadhana. I am still living and working full time in this Sadhana. The name means "spiritual Practice".

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Last year I went to the summer festival in Rajneeshpuram, Oregon, together with all the people who live in our community. Though the experience of living and working in a Rajneesh community feels very much like being in contact with intense living reality - which I realised best at those times that I was outside the Buddhafield - being in Rajneeshpuram during the festival felt like coming back home. Home in enlightenment. The fact that Bhagwan did not speak anymore, during the daily gatherings, was more like a relief than a loss. I had heard his words very often, on tape and in reality, and I read many books and articles from him, and I enjoyed all this very much. His presence in silence however was all the more nourishing.

Back in Amsterdam, I felt greatly inspired, in doing my work, in living my life. This summer we went again to the festival. The "extra" this time was for me to see the incredible amount of love with which the people in Rajneeshpuram do their work. This is now a new inspiration in my own work, here in Amsterdam, transforming ordinary work into worship.

Fred H. Giebel

Swami Anand Virendra.