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Statement concerning person and teaching of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh

As a Christian theologian and professor for practical theology at the University of Marburg/Fed.Rep.of Germany I like to express shortly my opinion of the meaning of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh for contemporary religious life and religious-cultural movements:

I myself have visited the Ashram of the Rajneesh-Foundation in Poona/India and found the immediate influence, the teaching and the books of Bhagwan most stimulating, giving a lot of impulses to keep religious traditions alive and to transform them into present myths to live by. Though I did not become a disciple of him I will not miss or underestimate his influence on my theological insights.

According to far-eastern traditions (and in structural correspondence to certain ways of Christian ascetism and monasticism) it is quite normal that a teacher-"guru" like Bhagwan stops speaking and teaching by words (cf. Sri Aurobindo/Pondicherry-India) at a certain time of his life. His meaning is not hindered by that going into the realm of silence (his close disciples continue to speak, his books can be studied, some 100 books!). His teachings are not obscured by that fact. His influence and importance remains or will even increase.

Dr. Gerhard Marcel Martin