

*Religionshistoriska Institutionen*

Humanistiska avdelningen

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July 15, 1983

Rinzai Department  
c/o Rajneesh Hotel  
1115 SW 11 Avenue  
Portland, Oregon  
97205 USA

To whom it may concern,

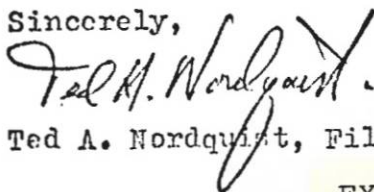
The undersigned has for the past nine years researched 'new religious movements' as they have been called within the scientific study of religion. As research assistant at the Department of the History of Religions, Uppsala University, the undersigned has conducted interviews with members of the Bhagwan Rajneesh Movement, studied their literature, read many of the books written by Bhagwan Rajneesh, and observed center activity as part of a three-year project funded by the Swedish government.

In addition, as member of the British Sociology of Religion Study Group, the undersigned has attended numerous conferences around the world including the World Congress of Sociology in Mexico City last summer, where our group discussed the 'new religions' in an international context.

In view of what we know of the many alternative religious groups being founded in the West, the Bhagwan Shri Rajneesh Movement is indeed one of the largest and most rapidly expanding group with the widest field of therapy related programs available today. As an 'Indian Guru' Rajneesh has been criticized by the anti-cult organizations and members by wearing red clothing and a 'mala' have been identified in many countries as 'cultists'.

However, after a serious study of the movement, a knowledge of religious history and mysticism, a respect for human development in psychology, and an extensive experience of similar groups, the undersigned would like to state that the person of Bhagwan Rajneesh as reflected in his centers throughout the world and in his literature and books (from live taped talks) must be considered exceptional. The man's ability in mysticism, religion and psychology cannot be denied. Whether or not one agrees with his methods is always open to question. I, for one, have found no evidence of the sort that might support rejecting him as a truly religious man.

Sincerely,



Ted A. Nordquist, Fil.dr.

EXHIBIT "A-32"