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To whom it may concern

I studied history, German language and philosophy at the University of Münster. After my first examination in 1979 I have been employed at the Evangelical Theological Seminary at the University of Münster working in research projects on the history of Lutheranism. In 1983 I received my PhD in history. The main fields of my research are the role of conservatism in the 19th century and the beginnings of the Lutheran Church in America (Henry Melchior Muhlenberg).

It was four years ago, that I first heard of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. I read some of his books and started to experiment with the meditation techniques developed by him. I felt that his words touched me so deeply that I wanted to see that man. I travelled to Poona in 1979. Since that time Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh is my spiritual master. The personal presence of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, the meditations and group programs have changed my life and made it richer in many ways.

For me Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh is an outstanding figure whose approach to life influences many people all over the world. Although he has now stopped giving public discourses his work goes on. His mere presence can have a strong impact on everyone. His influence can not only be seen in the lives of his Sannyasins, it also has effects upon people who are not his disciples. This became very clear to me just a few days ago when I went to a lecture on neo-religions given by a professor of catholic theology. Many of the students of catholic theology who participated

in the discussion, reported that Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh had become an inspiration in their religious life and they expressed their respect for the creative impulses coming from the neo-sannyas-movement.

To me it seems undoubtable that Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh has a great attraction for people; this is especially true for people working in the fields of humanities, art, psychology, and education. He is able to create an atmosphere in which a new creative potential can flower.

*Johnnie Fildelung*