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To whom it may concern;

I am a permanent public official (lifetime tenure) with seven years teaching experience in Munich Public School system. I graduated from Munich University as a secondary school teacher after four years of study in education and psychology.

Through this experience I have become aware of the problems confronting education today. The emotional stress and nervousness resulting from the tremendous social pressure to excel and achieve inhibit the learning process. These pressures remain, even with the best curriculum, and a child's natural thirst to explore and learn of the world around him seems to disappear.

While searching the fields of psychology and family therapy for solutions to these problems, I came across the meditations and books of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. He has eloquently spoken of real education as developing the natural intelligence and abilities within; that teachers should be more like gardeners, preparing the ground, caring for the plant to come to flower. The key to this kind of education is love and acceptance.

Kahlil Gibran says in his book, 'The Prophet':

"Your children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing
for itself.
They come through you but not from you,
And though they are with you yeŕc they belong not
to you.

You may give them your love but not your thoughts,
For they have their own thoughts.
You may house their bodies but not their souls,
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,
which you cannot visit, even in your dreams.
You may strive to be like them, but seek not to
make them like you.
For life goes not backward nor carries with
yesterday."

The clearest example of the impact of Bhagwan's approach to education I have seen is in my daughter, who is living with me and my husband here at Rajneeshpuram. In Germany, although always a good student, she was bored with school. Here, she is once again excited with school. She spends half the day involved with her regular studies and the other half in a vocational training program. Through this program she has experienced a wide variety of work situations, enjoying the responsibilities and challenges of being part of the adult world.

I am grateful for having found my ultimate teacher in Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. His teaching is now through his silent presence, nourishing each of us to sprout and blossom. At Rajneeshpuram, Bhagwan's vision of joyful and loving humanity is a reality.

*Ula Deva Nandan (Analia Chaitanya
Schluter,*