

SW. DEVA MANDIRA
(MATTHIAS SCHULZE)
STEILSHOOPER STR 16
2000 HAMBURG 60
W-GERMANY

To whom it may concern

I was born in Hamburg, Germany in 1951. Having left school in 1969, I became a merchandise apprentice and finished that education in 1971. During that time I developed a wide interest in Sociologie, Psychologie and other social sciences. So I decided to study social work in the course of which I came in contact with all the fields that I was interested in. During my studies I had lots of opportunity to participate in social work projects initiated by our university or by the social authorities themselves. Specially I was interested in working with children and juveniles from social deprived areas. Under the protection and financial support of the social authorities in Hamburg we provided a "community work" project for a specially assigned area in Hamburg, where we gave a "meeting point" to the age 10-13 and 14-18. We were successfully covering and interesting 70% of all the kids and juveniles we were aiming at. All the clients were socially deprived, undereducated, aggressive and

alcoholic potentials (in case of the 14-18 year olds).
Our aim was to help them in all their affairs (specially legal), to give them space to spend the spare time, support them to find jobs and education and provide an atmosphere in which they could be together and see themselves.

Studying the theories that apply to social work (Sociologie, Psychologie, Methodologie etc..) as well as practising social work I came to feel that something was missing in all the cross-cutting theories and all the good intentions in the practical work: a sense of centredness, a reason "why", a perspective that pointed beyond a way out of the frustration that resulted out of the refitting of people back into the same society that had produced them.

In short, it led to the question: who am I to others, who am I to interfere with others' lives? What is behind all the helping, all the do-gooderism? Seeing that I was basically doing "myriaphus" or I went on a search for something else. I completed my studies in 1976 with a degree from the University of Hamburg and governmental acknowledgment and worked as a social worker a year after completing the studies.

My search led me to India, where, after many and attending courses of different teachers I came across Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh in 1978.

In his presence I became aware, that was missing in my work all these years.

"Yes, only companion is therapeutic because all that is ill in man is because of his lack of love. He has not been able to receive love. He has not been able to share his being. That's the misery. That creates all sorts of complexes inside," I heard Bhagwan saying. Also I became aware that in all these social work theories and projects, behind all the intention of social workers is the idea of a better man. The social deprived have to be better people, the aggressive have to be less aggressive, the drunkard have to be less of a drunkard.

But Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh was talking about a new man. The new man is not necessarily the better man. He will be live he will be more joyous, he will be more alert but as far as politicians are concerned he will not be a better soldier, he will not be competitive, he will not be interested just in accumulating junk."

So I became a disciple of Bhagwan. It was more than a rational conclusion. I had simply fallen in love with him. He provided an opportunity for me to experience further communal living and working at his Ashram in Poona / India. To sit in his presence during his daily discourses and evening "darshans" have

proved to lead to a total change in my life. The things that I was doing became a playful affair, became more like an end to themselves rather than a struggle, serious and competitive for more money.

Totality is the other side of that coin, to work with ones total being in whatever it is. This is the flavour of this new commune in Rajneeshpuram / Oregon. A space, where I have experienced again the togetherness of people in joy and totality and love.

If you'll ever have the chance: Come and see come and see the amount of "good" that is done here without the slightest intention of "do-good". A man of exceptional qualities is somebody who is able to lead you beyond your limited views, who can give you a vision beyond the which you know.

America has the opportunity to invite such a man to reside within its boundaries. It should be proud to do so.

with love

Sw. Deva Krishna
Chattian Solunke