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17th July 1983

To whom it may concern,

I am a sub editor employed by the South Wales Echo newspaper and a B.A. (Hons) graduate of the University of Lancaster. It was while studying religion at Lancaster in 1978 that I first came across the teachings of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh.

Lancaster has the largest Religious Studies department of any university in the United Kingdom and is generally considered as the leading department in Europe for the study of comparative religion. Several members of staff are visiting lecturers to universities in the United States of America, including Professor Ninian Smart who is widely acknowledged as one of the foremost experts in the world today on religion as author of The Religious Experience of Mankind.

Books by Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh are recommended reading for certain courses, especially Buddhism, and numerous of his works are available at the university library. I frequently read Rajneesh during my studies at Lancaster and found them invaluable in improving my understanding of both Buddhism and Hinduism. In my opinion, Rajneesh has the rare ability of clearly explaining the more abstruse concepts of Indian religions to students in the West.

During my three years at Lancaster, Rajneesh's work aroused a growing interest and respect among both students and members of staff. A fellow undergraduate devoted the greater part of her studies to completing a major thesis on Rajneeshism. When I graduated in July, 1981, the department were planning to include the teachings of Rajneesh in a course on new religions.

Yours sincerely,

John Clarke