

Ma Anand Surti
Rajwadehyaram
OR. 97741

July 14, 1983

To whom it may concern,

I am an English teacher. I studied four years at the University of Paris - NANTERRE, where I received a B.A. in English in 1975. Since then I have been teaching English extensively, using mostly audio-visual methods designed for the needs of adults for whom a knowledge of English is essential in their career. I have been teaching small groups, as well as classes and individuals. I have also been involved in book translations for magazines, and have been working with a French publishing company, Tchou Editeur, in selecting English and American books suitable for translation.

I am also a sannyasin, a disciple of Bhagwan Shree Rajwade. In my opinion, and in my heart, He is undoubtedly a person of exceptional ability, in his field, religion and in mine, education.

How could I describe to you the deep impression, the heart-sturdness I received upon meeting in the street, by chance, one of his sannyasins. Something sprang from the sannyasin's eye, something like silence and

quietness, directness, all that allied with the warm and loving feeling produced by the sannyasin's soft red clothes. All that was more than the person directly in front of me, it was the very presence of Bhagwan, directly encountered. I started reading His books, letting the words of His recorded discourses sink in, a totally turn me upside down, flooding me in waves of warmth and love. Since the moment I became a sannyasin, a deep transformation occurred, a new centeredness, a new acceptance of life slowly arising.

I became also intellectually amazed by His incredible way of transmitting His knowing, of sharing his being with us. This process could hardly be described as education in its usual meaning, but is in reality the essence of any true learning: getting rid of the old crippling ideas, to be able to open to the new, in total alertness. I was thrilled by the implications this could have on my own work. I remember him saying in one of his lectures that the word "education" is beautiful; that it comes from the Latin "educare" which means "pull out", making come out what's already there, inside. In my understanding, it's the only way to learn anything, that the essential has to come out of an own being. It was so refreshing, after years of having been crammed full of all kind of information, books, dates, facts, opinions etc... My whole approach to teaching became radically transformed by Bhagwan's teachings. I started encouraging

relaxation in the students by some minor of meditation or dance, using jokes and stories, helping each student to start afresh in a new language, becoming aware of the needs of each and going from there. I went on using the same methods, but experimenting with them, adding more expression techniques, becoming always more responsive to the student's needs and difficulties. Not only did it radically change the feeling in the classroom, but much better results were obtained, and a much closer contact developed between teacher and students, and between students themselves. All that evolution in my work I owe to Bhagwan.

I had the chance, just now, to be present at the 2nd Second Annual World Celebration, here in Rajneeshpuram. I was absolutely stunned on my arrival by all the work that happened in Rajneeshpuram since its creation. Bhagwan's sannyasins have created a city, a oasis in otherwise desertsic land. All facilities were amazingly convenient, the food was excellent and we were all being taken care of so lovingly. And for these 7 days, I could sit in the presence of my Master, Bhagwan, this incredible human being, feeling His silence, His joy, His delight in sharing with all of us present, with all of humanity everywhere. I was shaken to the roots, my usually noisy head silenced for once, at peace, the happiness of being alive in His presence creeping up from my toes to the top of my head.

So what else can Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh be than an exceptional human being, a person of exceptional ability in teaching and in religion, dealing in the quick of life, going straight to the root, to the essential, by his silent presence. This is teaching as cannot be found be found anywhere else, in no books, no university whatsoever. He is a rare and unique human being, seeing him during this festival was a gift.

So I am sure his presence, as an exceptional and internationally recognized human being and spiritual teacher, in any country, can only give that country and bear witness to that country's openness of mind and lack of religious discrimination

Yours sincerely

Ma A. Sumati