

19 July, 1983

To whom it may concern:

I am professor of the History of Religions at the University of Marburg, West Germany (for further professional details please consult the "World of Learning" or "Kürschners Deutscher Gelehrten-Kalender"). It was in connection with a seminar held by Professor Schwebel, a theological specialist, and me during the summer session of 1982 that I began to work with the teachings of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. The following session I spent on sabbatical leave in California where I could further these studies at the "New Religious Movements Research Collection", Berkeley. Since Professor Schwebel and I were asked by a publisher to prepare a book on this religious leader and his followers, my religio-historical inquiries have lately become even more extensive.

From what I have come to know so far I can safely support those who believe Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh to be a religious teacher and spiritual leader of exceptional ability. He calls himself a Bhagwan, a Buddha, a Siddha, and there is evidence in support of these claims. To be sure, what is meant are states of consciousness not commonly known and valued in Europe and the U.S.A. They do find, occasionally, expression in ways that may seem to some of us quaint or even unseemly. Being still part of a foreign cultural background, they remain, nevertheless, religious in nature.

Yours sincerely,

*Hans-Jürgen Greschat*