

Rolde July 16 1983

To whom it concerns,

I Mattheus, Josephus, Maria van Langen, also known as Swami Deva Siddhartha, being duly sworn, do depose and say as follows:

I was born in 1934 in Amsterdam. After my basic school period I went to the roman catholic high school in Driehuis Velsen, where I decided to study Philosophy and Theology. After seven years studies I was ordained as a roman catholic priest 24 aug. 1959 in the congregation of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (M.S.C.) (Missionarii Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu). After that I studied two years Pastoral Psychology in the theologian faculty of the M.S.C.

For five years I worked as a chaplain in the St. Joseph Church in Sittard. At the same time I was working as a religious teacher in the Catholic Social Academy in Sittard. Then I was asked as religious leader of the Noviciate of the monastery of the fathers MSC in Brummen and Stein. I was responsible for the teaching of new priests. I was asked as Moderator on the monastery-school in Velsen and worked there four years. After that period I was a priest for younger people.

In that period I felt the crisis of the younger christian boys and girls, because they were very religious, but they could not agree with the official Roman Catholic Church. So also for myself I came more and more in a religious crisis. After a few years of a crisis I asked the Pope, Paul VI to give me the permission to stop my priesthood, because I was in a deep religious crisis with the roman catholic church. I was an exception for that reason, because most of the ex-priests could get permission only, because they wanted to marry. My motivation was the religious crisis. After a longer time the Pope gave me the permission. In that time I studied books of Khrisnamurti, Aurobindo and other Eastern Religious Masters. When I saw a book of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, called The Musterdseed, it was a complete eye-opener. I felt that this vision on Jesus was what I was always looking for during my theologian studies. I could see more and more that my religious crisis was a crisis that

Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh is describing as going from false religious insights to true religion. The more I studied the Rajneesh vision on Jesus, Bible etc. the more I was impressed about the real spiritual truth, written by this Eastern Master. Then in 1978 I decided to be a sannyasin of Bhagwan Shree RAJNEESH. The more I came in contact with the teachings of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, the more I saw that this vision on religion was the fulfillment of my spiritual searching during my whole life. And I could see it also with other people. In that period I was working as a staff member in a catholic educational center for adults in Zeegse (Dr.) I led some weekend for people who were interested in new religious movements and I saw how many people from catholic and protestant churches were open for the teachings and meditations of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh.

The Dutch Editor Arcanum asked me to write a book about my process of being a priest to sannyasin of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. So I wrote the book "Van Rome naar Poona" (ed. Arcanum 1981, Amsterdam).

In the reviews of some catholic magazines this book was described as a "new spiritual autobiography" (christian bibliotheque review). The reactions I get from all kind of people are nearly almost positive about Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh as an important religious Master for the future. People tell me how they see him as a new Jesus Christ of this age.

I lived in a neo Rajneesh Commune in Soest and I felt how this way of living together in love and peace with each other, sharing all the money etc., is what I was always looking for during my priesthood. So I can see that this Rajneesh Religion is the fulfillment of that which I could not find longer in my catholic monastery and priesthood-period. Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh is for me one of the biggest spiritual Masters after Jesus Christ.

The above is within my knowledge and belief, and if called upon I would competently testify thereto.

Seen for legalization of the signature of mister Mattheus Josephus Maria van Langen, living at Rolde, the Netherlands, van Blankenheimlaan 11 by me Mr. Hendrik Broekema, notary public, practising at Groningen, the Netherlands, on this eighteenth day of july nineteen-hundred and eighty three.



*[Handwritten signature of Mattheus Josephus Maria van Langen]*