

Magic and Mysticism

(Letter from Sadananda in Calcutta 15.5.60, 1.6.60)

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Vamandas, Hella, all friends, [...]

But I also know that people in the west flock like flies on porridge [a German expression] when an Indian of *flesh-and-blood*, a “vaishnava” or a yogi comes, because a “guru” is expected to do magic, suddenly to solve the conflicts of life, and work *wonders* – if not physical, at least mental-spiritual. [...]

You know that I [...] don't give any mysticism [...], first I *tear down*, then I erect, on a *new* foundation, and no one likes this. [...]

I always recede where and when I have the impression that it is about name, honour or money, and the “bhakti”(?) only is a means to this end – which is altogether outrageous and disgusting. But it is not my task to praise or blame anyone – only at best to wait till someone once more opens up to the power of grace. [...]

Because I am so *grave*, dry and strict with myself, I just cannot be what people expect from a “guru”. I want to convey to people a completely *different* view of the world and God, to help them to reach a new spiritual outlook – a new inner direction – to make a 180° turn from everything man thought and considered himself to know through religion and reason. [...]

Always Your *Sadananda*