

FOREWORD

can understand how one could suffer because of one's own nature. Nobody is surprised at his own insatiability, but looks upon it as his birthright; he does not realize that the one-sidedness of the diet of his soul ultimately leads to the most serious disturbances of balance. It is this which forms the illness of the Westerner, and he does not rest till he has infected the whole world with his greedy restlessness.

The wisdom and mysticism of the East have, therefore, a very great deal to tell us, provided they speak in their own inimitable speech. They should remind us of what we possess in our own culture of similar things and have already forgotten, and direct our attention to that which we put aside as unimportant, namely the destiny of our inner man. The life and teachings of Śrī Ramana are important not only for the Indian but also for the Westerner. Not only do they form a record of great human interest, but also a warning message to a humanity which threatens to lose itself in the chaos of its unconsciousness and lack of self-control.

C. G. Jung

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L'Occidental ne peut comprendre comment il souffre dû à sa propre nature. Personne ne se questionne de sa propre insatiabilité, mais la regarde plutôt comme un droit de naissance; il ne réalise pas que l'unilatérisme de sa diète de l'âme le conduit ultimement au plus sérieux déséquilibre. C'est ce qui constitue la maladie de l'Occidental, et il ne se reposera pas, tant qu'il n'aura pas infecté le monde entier par son agitation sans borne. (avidité sans limite)

Traduit par Claude Vinet