

EUROPEAN LECTURE TOUR
A RUNNING NARRATIVE

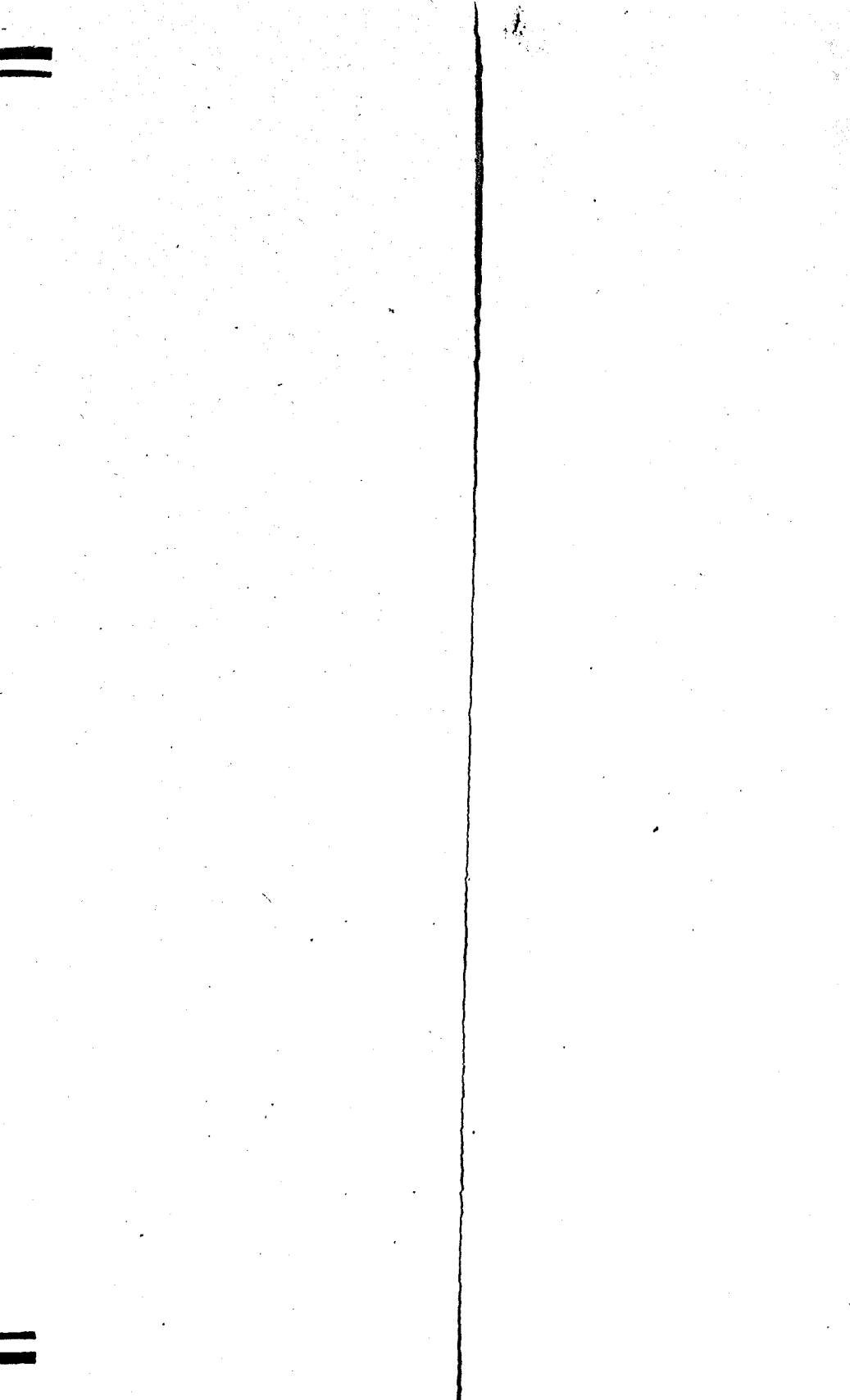
by

SWAMI RANGANATHANANDA



RAMAKRISHNA MISSION
NEW DELHI
1961

55



✓

9

P.79

79



EUROPEAN LECTURE TOUR
A RUNNING NARRATIVE

by

SWAMI RANGANATHANANDA

For private circulation only

Not for publication in any form

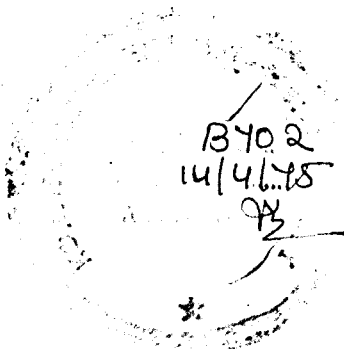


RAMAKRISHNA MISSION
NEW DELHI
1961

Issued by
Swami Vareshananda
Ramakrishna Mission
New Delhi

PC
294.555
RAN

We wish to express our grateful thanks to a kind friend in Delhi who has borne the entire printing expenses of this Narrative.



Printed at
Hind Union Press
New Delhi

EUROPEAN LECTURE TOUR

A RUNNING NARRATIVE

Monday : April 10, 1961

At the request of the Indian High Commissioner in London, and the Ramakrishna Vedanta Centre, London, the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs of the Government of India invited me to undertake a lecture tour of 16 European countries, including UK during April-August 1961, similar to the tours I had earlier undertaken to Japan in 1958 and 7 countries of South-east Asia in July-September, 1960.

The Ministry started correspondence with the Indian embassies in the concerned European countries from September 1960 regarding the organization of this tour. Finally at the end of March 1961, a tour schedule was drawn up, with the co-operation of Air-India International, to cover the period from April 10 to August 10. The Ministry supplied me with an official passport and gratis visas for the concerned countries for this tour. Besides sanctioning a rupee grant of Rs. 1,600/-, towards the presentation of books to important persons in these countries, Rs. 350/- towards my equipment expenditure, Rs. 5,002/- towards air tickets for the entire tour and including Rs. 1,124/- for excess baggage coupons, the Ministry also handed over to me travellers' cheques worth £225 in foreign exchange to meet part of my expenses abroad during the tour.

At the request of the Ministry, I had supplied copies of my brief biographical note, photograph, diet chart, and the following list of 16 subjects for lectures, all of which the Ministry had sent to our various embassies : 1. The Spirit of Indian Culture ; 2. The Spiritual Life of the Indian People ; 3. The Charm of the Upanishads (The Vedanta) ; 4. The Universal Message of the Gita ; 5. The Sages of India ; 6. The Eternal Message of the Buddha ; 7. The Philosophic Background of Buddhism ; 8. The Christ We Adore ; 9. Shri Ramakrishna & the Spiritual Heritage of Man ; 10. The Meeting of East & West in Swami Vivekananda ; 11. The Appeal of Vedanta

Date Label

NORTH-EASTERN HILL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

The book taken from the Library is to be returned within 7 days. A fine will be charged under the rules of the Library for each day the book is kept beyond that time.

Date of Issue	.Due. Date	Date of Issue	Due Date

N. B. Book lost, defaced or injured in any way shall have to be replaced by the borrower.

Like the gentle dew that falls unseen and unheard, and yet brings into blossom the fairest of roses, has been the contribution of India to the thought of the world. Silent, unperceived, yet omnipotent in its effect, it has revolutionised the thought of the world, yet nobody knows when it did so. It was once remarked to me, "How difficult it is to ascertain the name of any writer in India," to which I replied, "That is the Indian idea." Indian writers are not like modern writers who steal ninety per cent of their ideas from other authors, while only ten per cent is their own, and they take care to write a preface in which they say, "For these ideas I am responsible." Those great master minds, producing momentous results in the hearts of mankind, were content to write their books without even putting their names, and to die quietly, leaving the books to posterity. Who knows the writers of our philosophy, who knows the writers of our Puranas? They all pass under the generic name of Vyasa, and Kapila, and so on. They have been true children of Shri Krishna. They have been true followers of the Gita; they practically carried out the great mandate, "To work you have the right, but not to the fruits thereof."

—SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

Complete Works, Vol. III p. 274-275

YAM
294.555
Class No. _____ Acc. No. _____
Book

Author Ranganatha

Title European
Tour: a Memoir

Borrower's No.	Due Date	Borrow No.

NORTH-EAST
HILL UNIVER
LIBRARY

Acc. No. _____ B.70

“Look upon every man, woman and every one as God. You cannot help anyone ; you can only serve : serve the children of the Lord, serve the Lord Himself, if you have the privilege. If the Lord grants that you can help any one of His children, blessed you are ; do not think too much of yourselves. Blessed you are that that privilege was given to you, when others had it not. Do it only as a worship. I should see God in the poor, and it is for my salvation that I go and worship them. The poor and the miserable are for our salvation, so that we may serve the Lord, coming in the shape of the diseased, coming in the shape of the lunatic, the leper, and the sinner ! Bold are my words ; and let me repeat that it is the greatest privilege in our life that we are allowed to serve the Lord in all these shapes. Give up the idea that by ruling over others you can do any good to them. But you can do just as much, as you can in the case of the plant ; you can supply the growing seed with the materials for the making up of its body, bringing to it the earth, the water, the air, that it wants. It will take all that it wants by its own nature, it will assimilate and grow by its own nature.

Bring all light into the world. Light, bring light ! Let light come unto every one ; the task will not be finished till every one has reached the Lord. Bring light to the poor ; and bring more light to the rich, for they require it more than the poor. Bring light to the ignorant, and more light to the educated, for the vanities of the education of our time are tremendous ! Thus bring light to all and leave the rest unto the Lord, for in the words of the same Lord, “To work you have the right and not to the fruits thereof. Let not your work produce results for *you*, and at the same time may you never be without work.”

—SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

Complete Works, Vol. III p. 246-247