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Between Reality and Magic: Indian Memory of the Lithuanian Missionary Fr. Donatas Slapšys

Fr. Donatas Slapšys (1921–2010), a missionary who spent 60 years in India, is better remembered in his mission field than in Lithuania. Qualitative interviews conducted in March 2024 in India revealed that he not only led the religious life of the locals but also became a hero in their memory, where reality and magic intertwine. This paper explores how the Lithuanian missionary became mystified and what contributed to this perception: cultural differences, the unique spirituality of Indians, or his efforts to change the locals.



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