

The Master Director

EXCERPT No. 4

Acting Director

(from Chapter 15)

One hears stories about Gurudev, many of them fantastic. His greatness is bound up in the layers of ambiguity that surround him. And the closer you draw to him, the thicker the fog becomes. He is like a magician pulling himself continually out of a hat, creating himself anew, showing himself, but always as if in a mirror, his true self—what he really is—standing apart from what he is showing. Yet that which stands apart seems to be of no more substance than the reflection, demonstrating that we are all actors and that the world is our stage. One time, some people were taking pictures. They had me sit next to Gurudev so that I'd be in the shot. He put his arm over my shoulder and we smiled for the camera. As the shutter clicked, he shook his head Indian fashion and said, 'Acting.' Then he put his fingertips to his chest and said, 'Acting director.'

