

## WIKIPEDIA

# CERN ritual hoax

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The **CERN ritual** is a video that depicts an alleged occult ritual occurring in the grounds of CERN, a European particle physics research organization. The video shows several people dressed in black cloaks surrounding a statue of the Hindu deity Shiva and apparently stabbing a woman in a mock human sacrifice. The video ended with the person filming crying out and running away.<sup>[1]</sup>



Frame from the video depicting men in cloaks gathered around the statue of Shiva

The video went viral in August 2016 in mockery of the many conspiracy theories concerning CERN. CERN later stated in its FAQ that the video was "fiction" and the actions violated its professional guidelines, as would indeed a real ritual sacrifice.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Reactions

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A CERN spokesperson stated that the video was a hoax and that no one was actually harmed.<sup>[3]</sup> The enactment was performed without any official permission. CERN stated that it "doesn't tolerate this kind of spoof" and that it can "give rise to misunderstandings about the scientific nature of our work".<sup>[4]</sup>

The video caused controversy both by creating mockery of existing theories and by fueling existing conspiracy theories about CERN activities. Given that the ritual was performed in front of a statue of a deity, some believed the ritual was satanic in nature. This further fueled theories that CERN's goal was to use their Large Hadron Collider to create a portal to hell, summon the antichrist, or resurrect the ancient gods.<sup>[5]</sup>

## References

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