

Gurdjieff and Hypnosis: A Hermeneutic Study

By Mohammad Tamdgidi

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This book explores the life and ideas of the enigmatic twentieth century philosopher, mystic, and teacher of esoteric dances George Ivanovitch Gurdjieff, performing a hermeneutic textual analysis of all his writings to illuminate the place of hypnosis in his teaching. Foreword by J. Walter Driscoll.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Tamdgidi sets a benchmark for Gurdjieff Studies in relation to two recognized but insufficiently explored areas, his writings as a unified field and his exploitation of hypnosis in its broadest sense. His compact interpretation of Gurdjieff emphasizes - for the first time - a search for meaning based on recognizable keys within about 1,800 pages of Gurdjieff's four texts as a single body of work, with particular focus on subliminal and subconscious dimensions of impact and interpretation, an approach which might be termed the 'Hermeneutics of Gurdjieff.' Thus, Tamdgidi's work is an important original contribution to the constructive, independent, and critical study of Gurdjieff's four books. Anyone who has seriously attempted to read Beelzebub's Tales to His Grandson or Meetings with Remarkable Men can vouch for their intentionally beguiling or 'hypnotic' effect. These readers will appreciate Tamdgidi's interpretive virtuosity and focus - he keeps each tree and the entire forest in sight throughout." - From the Foreword by J. Walter Driscoll, independent scholar and bibliographer; editor and contributing author, Gurdjieff: A Reading Guide, 3rd Ed.; contributing editor, Gurdjieff International Review (1997-2001); co-author, Gurdjieff: An Annotated Bibliography

"A wondrous odyssey and extraordinary argumentation! Nothing in the corpus of writings on Gurdjieff's works goes near to matching this masterful reading. Each time one looks back into the text, one finds more gold, no dross." - Paul Beekman Taylor, Professor Emeritus at the University of Geneva, and author ofG. I. Gurdjieff: A New Life; Gurdjieff's Invention of America; The Philosophy of G. I. Gurdjieff; Gurdjieff & Orage: Brothers in Elysium;andShadows of Heaven: Gurdjieff and Toomer

"In the ocean of literature on Gurdjieff, the brilliant book of Mohammad Tamdgidi has a very special place. It is the first serious academic attempt at a hermeneutics of Gurdjieff's texts, taking as key the core of Gurdjieff's teaching - the enneagram. Of course, Gurdjieff's teaching cannot be understood apart from its practice. But it is also true that this teaching cannot be understood without a rigorous study of the writings of Gurdjieff himself." - Basarab Nicolescu, author of Manifesto of Transdisciplinarity

About the Author
MOHAMMAD M. TAMDGIDI is Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts, Boston, USA.

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