

Georgi Ivanovitch Gurdjieff The Man, The Teaching, His Mission

William Patrick Patterson

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I have spent a lifetime studying the work of G.I. Gurdjieff and P.D. Ouspensky and while so many so called representatives of the tradition have modified it with new ageism or other religious systems, Patterson has always presented the tradition without distortion or obscuration. Having received his training via Lord Pentland Patterson's transmission of the teaching has always been incisive, clear and rigorous. Patterson has a prodigious output when it comes to publications, nine books (including this one), a magazine, *The Gurdjieff Journal*, four DVD's and The Gurdjieff Studies Program. He is considered by many, including myself, to be the most significant teacher of The Fourth Way today.

The book *Georgi Ivanovitch Gurdjieff – The Man, The Teaching, His Mission* is a work of incredible dedication, it took over eight years to write and it is quite a tome, some 668 pages in length with 200 pages in supplements. Patterson offers an exemplary biography of both Gurdjieff and Ouspensky. It seems he had read every available biography and source materials and brought these together to write the most accurate and comprehensive biography of both men currently available. Exhaustively referenced this is really quite an achievement

This feat is amazing in itself but this book is not simply a biography but an outline of the "Way of the Sly Man" or The Fourth Way. Patterson gives one of the most extensive expositions of The Fourth Way with exceptional clarity and succinctness. Being succinct is an art, it means ignoring literary pretensions and ego aggrandizement and using words carefully and with immense care. Patterson's way of writing is direct and without undue padding; others writing this volume would have made it three times the size, but Patterson writes to do a job and does it well. His outline of the nature of The Fourth Way shows a lifetime of study and practice and offers insights not found in any other similar volume.

The reference materials included in this volume are rare and include such never-before-published essays "Why I Left Gurdjieff" and "Where I Diverge from Gurdjieff"; original deleted material from *Search*; Uspenskii's American femme fatale, Carman Barnes; Jessie Dwight Orage's short stories "Elsie at the Prieuré" and "Elsie and Allah"; notes of Kathryn Hulme and Solita Solano (1935-39); *The Science of Idiotism*, and the complete scenario of Gurdjieff's ballet, *The Struggle of the Magicians*.

The book itself is beautifully presented as a 6 x 9 hardcover with sewn binding, essays, notes, references, bibliography, photos and a comprehensive index.

The most significant thing about *Georgi Ivanovitch Gurdjieff—The Man, The Teaching, His Mission* is its focus. As someone who has read lots of books on The Fourth Way Patterson time and time again reminds us of the “why” of the tradition, that is to wake up slumbering mankind. This is not a book written for the sake of it but written for an age in crisis when we must examine our own lack of awareness, our own confusion and lack of a true self and consider making the urgent journey to forge a soul. This is clearly a difficult if not dangerous task but one which is becoming more and more mandatory in a world dominated by superficiality, consumerism and distorted forms of culture and spirituality.

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Gurdjieff Introduces the Teaching. Gurdjieff's Russian Group. Gurdjieff's Journey from Russia to Europe. The aim is to give an objective, panoramic view of Gurdjieff's life, the inner substance of the seminal and scientific teaching of self-development he discovered, and his unrelenting mission to introduce and establish this esoteric teaching in the West. Included are Uspenskii's (original Russian spelling) never-before-published essays "Why I Left Gurdjieff" and "Where I Diverge from Gurdjieff"; original deleted material from Search; Uspenskii's American femme fatale, Carman Barnes; Jessie Dwight Orage's short stories "Elsie at the Prieur" and Georgi Ivanovitch Gurdjieff book. Read reviews from world's largest community for readers. William Patrick Patterson is the founder/director of The Gurdjieff Studies Program, the author of seven books on The Fourth Way, and the director-writer-narrator of the award-winning documentary video trilogy "The Life and Significance of G.I. Gurdjieff. He is also the founder/editor of "The Gurdjieff Journal" (est. 1992), the first domestic and international Fourth Way journal. He has led groups of William Patrick Patterson is the founder/director of The Gurdjieff Studies Program, the author of seven books on The Fourth Way, and the director-writer-narrator of the award-winning docume Such a man serves his own interests only, and so can never get beyond himself. He is a will-worshipper, a worshipper of his own will, a worshipper of self (as Paul said of such people: "which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will-worship, and humility, and severity to the body . . ." Col. ii.23). The more he works, the more will he inevitably imprison himself in himself—that is, in his self-love and his self-worship. We have in recent papers made some commentaries on the fundamental teaching of this Work that it is necessary to increase consciousness. We are not yet properly conscious. We talk and behave, think, feel and judge on the assumption that not only we but others are fully conscious beings. Gurdjieff began his work as a teacher in Russia around 1912, on the eve of the civil war that led to the Russian Revolution. In 1914 he was joined by the philosopher P. D. Ouspensky and soon after by the well-known Russian composer Thomas de Hartmann. This characteristic of the Gurdjieff teaching reflects what Gurdjieff perceived as the center of gravity of modern man's subjectivity—the fact that modern civilization is lopsidedly oriented around the thinking function. Modern man's illusory feeling of "self" is built up around his thoughts and therefore, in accordance with the level of the pupil, the ideas themselves are meant to affect this false sense of self. George Ivanovitch Gurdjieff: The Man, The Teaching, His Mission represents William Patrick Patterson's ninth and final book on the life and teachings of Gurdjieff and is fundamentally a summation of forty-four years of Patterson's researching, studying, and applying Gurdjieff's Fourth Way teaching. An impressive work of definitive scholarship, the book is enhanced with photos and essays, as well as extensive Notes, Chronology, a lengthy roster of References, a list of Gurdjieff students, and impressive Bibliography, and a comprehensive Index. A critically important resource and