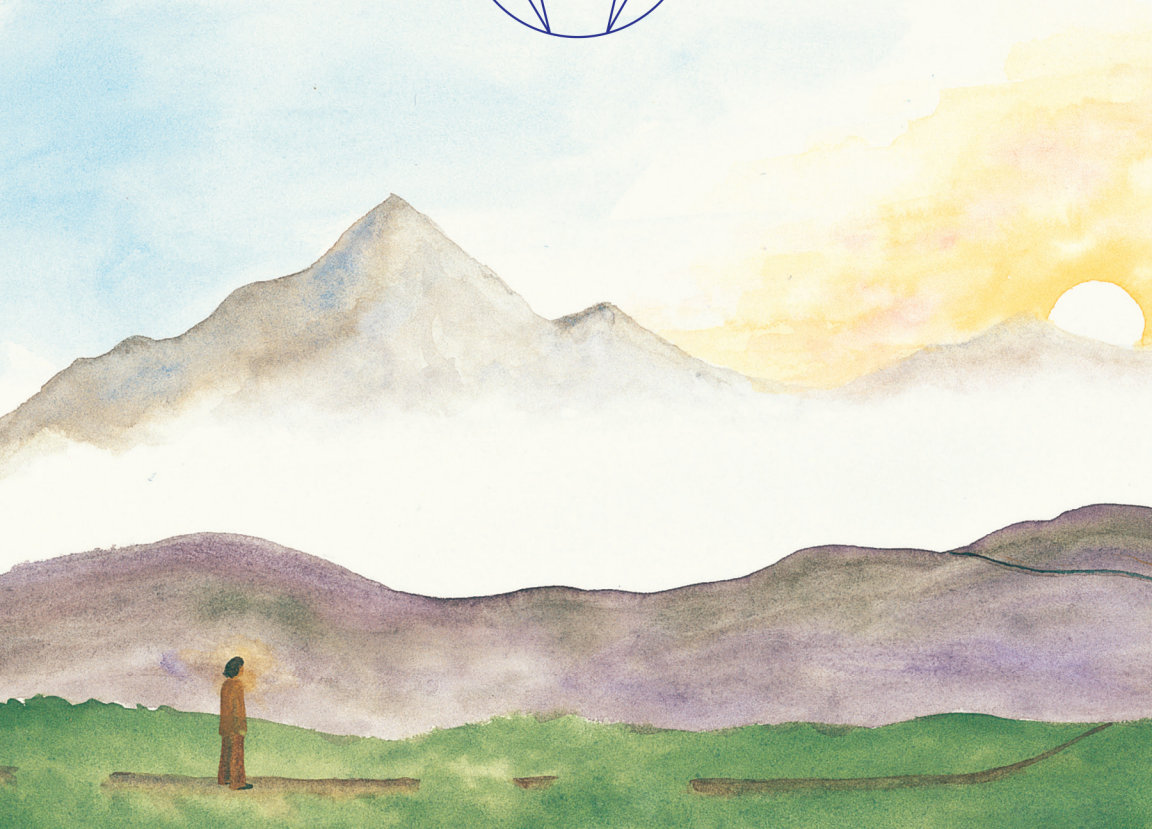


G. I. GURDJIEFF

Edited by Stephen A. Grant

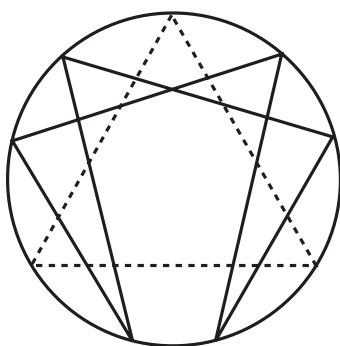
IN SEARCH *of* BEING

The Fourth Way to Consciousness



IN SEARCH *of* BEING

The Fourth Way to Consciousness



G. I. Gurdjieff

EDITED BY
Stephen A. Grant



SHAMBHALA

Shambhala Publications, Inc.
2129 13th Street
Boulder, Colorado 80302
www.shambhala.com

©2012 by FourthWay Editions, Inc.
Edited by Stephen A. Grant, a senior member
of the Gurdjieff Foundation, New York.
This edition published 2021.

Cover Art: *The Road to Cold Mountain*
by Natasha de Castro
Interior Design: Lora Zorian

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced
in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical,
including photocopying, recording, or by any information
storage and retrieval system, without permission
in writing from the publisher.

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

First Paperback Edition
Printed in the United States of America

♻️ This edition is printed on acid-free paper that meets
the American National Standards Institute z39.48 Standard.

♻️ This book was printed on 30% postconsumer
recycled paper. For more information please visit
www.shambhala.com.

Distributed in the United States by Random House, Inc.,
and in Canada by Random House of Canada Ltd

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CATALOGS
THE HARDCOVER EDITION OF THIS BOOK AS FOLLOWS:

Gurdjieff, Georges Ivanovitch, 1872–1949.

In search of being: the fourth way to consciousness /
G.I. Gurdjieff.—1st ed.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-61180-037-1 (hardcover: alk. paper)

ISBN 978-1-61180-082-1 (paperback: alk. paper)

1. Fourth Way (Occultism) 2. Self-consciousness (Awareness)
3. Awareness. I. Title.

BP605.G815 2012

197—dc23

2012026373

Contents

Foreword	ix
Introduction	i

I. KNOW THYSELF

<i>What Are We?</i>	7
<i>Man Cannot “Do”</i>	13
<i>No Unified “I”</i>	19
<i>Toward Self-Knowledge</i>	25

II. OUR HUMAN MACHINE

<i>Functions and Centers</i>	29
<i>States of Consciousness</i>	34
<i>Essence and Personality</i>	39
<i>Immaterial Bodies</i>	42
<i>Inner Alchemy</i>	48

III. WORLDS WITHIN WORLDS

<i>Inside the Milky Way</i>	57
<i>The Law of Three Forces</i>	60
<i>The Ray of Creation</i>	63
<i>The Law of Octaves</i>	67
<i>Degrees of Materiality</i>	74

IV. THE POSSIBILITY OF EVOLUTION

<i>Conscious Evolution</i>	81
<i>Knowledge and Being</i>	85
<i>As Above, So Below</i>	89
<i>Levels of Development</i>	92
<i>Spiritual Ways</i>	97

V. THE AIM OF RELIGION

<i>A Conscious Nucleus</i>	105
<i>Inner Circles of Humanity</i>	109
<i>Religion Implies “Doing”</i>	114
<i>Esoteric Christianity</i>	117

VI. SEEKING THE WAY

<i>To Awake</i>	125
<i>Disillusionment</i>	129
<i>The First Threshold</i>	133
<i>“Schools” Are Imperative</i>	137
<i>Work in Groups</i>	142

VII. A PRACTICAL STUDY

<i>Beginning Self-Observation</i>	149
<i>Formatory Thinking</i>	154
<i>Start with Small Things</i>	158
<i>Identification</i>	161
<i>Lying to Oneself</i>	165

VIII. A WORK FOR CONSCIOUSNESS

<i>A Different Kind of Observation</i>	171
<i>To See the Whole</i>	174
<i>Separate Oneself from Oneself</i>	178
<i>Work with Three Centers</i>	183
<i>Self-Remembering</i>	188

IX. TOWARD LIBERATION

<i>Two Rivers</i>	197
<i>Voluntary Suffering</i>	201
<i>The First Liberation</i>	206
<i>Freedom from Influences</i>	210
<i>Acquiring a Soul</i>	215

X. KNOWLEDGE OF BEING

<i>Objective Art</i>	221
<i>A Stream of Myths and Symbols</i>	224
<i>Symbology and Self-Knowledge</i>	228
<i>The Enneagram</i>	233
 Biographical Notes	245
<i>George Ivanovitch Gurdjieff</i>	245
<i>Peter Demianovitch Ouspensky</i>	252
<i>Jeanne de Salzmann</i>	257
Fourth Way Centers	263
Index	265