

New Light on Gurdjieff's Neglected Legacy

THE GURDJIEFF MOVEMENTS

A Communication of Ancient Wisdom

By Wim van Dullemen

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Gurdjieff Work / Spirituality / Music / Dance

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Scores of books exist about the life and teachings of the Russian spiritual visionary G.I. Gurdjieff (~1866-1949), yet few devote significant coverage to "the Gurdjieff Movements." These several-hundred precise and mostly asymmetrical gestures, arranged into detailed choreographies for groups of practitioners, were designed by Gurdjieff himself. This new book reconsiders the eminent role of the Movements, revealing them as a vital yet often-neglected component in the transmission of Gurdjieff's legacy.

Van Dullemen, whose first Movements' teacher received her instruction from Gurdjieff himself, is in a unique position to offer background, theory and first-hand experience about this subject. He is a professional musician and a long-time practitioner of the Gurdjieff work who trained in these Movements and served as a master accompanist for the practice for over thirty years.

"No book can teach the Movements," the author clearly asserts. And, he makes no such attempt here. Far from an instruction manual, *The Gurdjieff Movements, A Communication of Ancient Wisdom*, offers invaluable insight into and greater understanding of the *whys* and *wherefores* of this fourth arm of the vast teaching that comprises Gurdjieff's complete communication: his books, his oral teachings, his music and finally his Movements.

Along with fascinating stories of his own journey of discovery, van Dullemen has skillfully integrated:

- autobiographical descriptions of the master Gurdjieff
- interviews with direct pupils of Gurdjieff
- diligent research within a wide range of firsthand sources
- descriptions of the scientific, cultural and social climate during Gurdjieff's time, and
- the relationship between these and his teaching.

The book is also a rare accomplishment. While highly authoritative, it is nonetheless written in a direct style with clear language, making it accessible to the public at large who may have interest, but little background, in this esoteric science and practice.

A BOOK FOR BOTH NEW AND LONGTIME STUDENTS OF THE GURDJIEFF WORK AND OTHER TRANSFORMATIONAL/SPIRITUAL PATHS, PRACTITIONERS OF DANCE AND BODY-MOVEMENT TECHNOLOGY, MUSICOLOGISTS, SCHOLARS AND HISTORIANS. A VALUED ADDITION TO BOTH UNIVERSITY AND PUBLIC LIBRARY COLLECTIONS.

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