

Political Ponerology

The Scientific Study of Evil
Adjusted for Political Purposes
by Andrew M. Lobaczewski

Political Ponerology: The scientific study of Evil adjusted for Political Purposes was forged in the crucible of the very subject it studies. Scientists living under an oppressive regime decide to study it clinically, to study the founders and supporters to determine what is at play in the rise and propagation of man's inhumanity to man.

Shocking in its clinically spare descriptions, poignant as the author reveals the suffering experienced by the researchers, this book should be required reading by every citizen of every country that claims a moral or humanistic foundation. For it is a certainty that morality and humanism cannot withstand the predations of Evil. Knowledge of its nature, how it creates its networks and spreads is the only antidote.

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PROPHET FOR A DARK AGE

A COMPANION TO THE WORKS OF RENÉ GUÉNON

By Graham Rooth

400 pages, paperback

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Truths of a certain order are by their very nature resistant to popularisation: however clearly they are expressed... they will only be understood by those who are qualified to understand them, and for anyone else they may as well not exist.

— René Guénon

René Guénon or 'Abd al-Wahid Yahya (1886-1951) was one of the great luminaries of the 20th century who was thought to have single-handedly restored the true meaning of the primordial tradition — traditional metaphysics — also known as the *philosophia perennis* — the perennial philosophy.

It was this underlying religion that was threatened to virtual disappearance in the Western world. If there is at all access to any such writings expounding the concepts related to the primordial tradition or perennial philosophy in the contemporary era, the credit goes first-and-foremost to René Guénon.

This *Companion* to the works of René Guénon is important for several reasons:

- To make the works of René Guénon more known and accessible to the general public and also to the academic world even though neither was Guénon's original aim;
- To reawaken the idea of tradition and metaphysics in a social *milieu* that is militantly anti-traditional and anti-metaphysical;
- To provide spiritual seekers with

a means to accurately understand the doctrines and methods of their own respective paths;

- To provide an integral method of understanding cultural diversity and interfaith dialogue in an era that is fundamentally plagued with such dilemmas.

With these initial points made, such a book warrants a certain amount of caution because for the serious reader of Guénon's writings the initial thought conceivably exists: what is there to be added to the writings of this great intellect?

This presents a sizeable question, for if the writings of Guénon were perceived to be complete what would be the need for such an auxiliary text? And yet any writer, of whatever stature, may be repudiated posthumously for whatever may have been omitted by him consciously or otherwise.

Similarly one could argue that perhaps numerous, if not all of the alleged omissions, may appear to be otherwise should the transcendent meaning contained within be accurately understood.

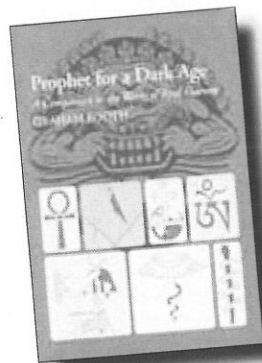
Another obstacle to be considered for the serious reader of Guénon

is why not read directly from his *corpus*? This scenario is analogous to purchasing bottled water from an unknown vendor when freshwater direct from its source is available.

This also brings up the question of intellectual aptitude and whether there would be someone qualified or eligible to engage in such an arduous and multifaceted undertaking.

Regardless of how one may address the above issues, serious Guénon readers will appreciate that Dr. Graham Rooth, the compiler of this work, allows Guénon to have his own voice: "The objective is to allow Guénon to speak for himself rather than produce a critique of his ideas" (p.20). With the potential obstacles of this work examined, we will now proceed with the contents of the book.

Rooth informs the reader that



his initial intention was to complete a translation of the French work: *Le Dictionnaire de René Guénon* (Grenoble: Éditions Le Mercure Dauphinois, 2002) by Jean-Marc Vivenza but yet decided that for those unfamiliar with Guénon's works such a format would not be sufficient.

He then decided to organise a *Companion* arranged by topics and themes which also functions as a *Dictionary* for addressing specialised terms. Rooth acknowledges that he owes "everything" to the above title for this book's selections.

Dr. Mark Sedgwick, the author of the controversial book, *Against the Modern World: Traditionalism and the Secret Intellectual History of the Twentieth Century* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004) provides the Foreword for this book leaving serious Guénon readers to perhaps consider this decision.

The title of this work also elicits some query and clarification – *Prophet for a Dark Age* – for it should be emphasised that René Guénon described his function to be in effect theoretical, to recover what the Occident had fundamentally forgotten.

Furthermore he did not consider himself as a "spiritual master" or "guru" as such nor was he interested in "individualist considerations" or biography. Rooth explains in more detail what the title of the book signifies:

"He was a prophet in the sense that he was acutely aware of the spiritual failings of his society and 'spoke forth' about these issues with relentless passion in the hope that he might achieve a crucial shift in perception in a sufficient number of spiritually gifted individuals." (pp.21-22)

The book is condensed into four parts exploring the quintessence of Guénon's providential *oeuvre*: Part One, 'The Primordial Tradition and Religion'; Part Two, 'The Spiritual Journey and the Integral Being'; Part Three, 'Western Society and the

Emergence of Modernity'; and Part Four, 'Symbolism and Symbols'.

Part One, 'The Primordial Tradition and Religion' explores the idea of the primordial tradition or traditional metaphysics in the context of Guénon's work.

It is from this timeless and universal perspective that Guénon presents the One-and-Only Truth at the core of the world's spiritual traditions. Guénon demonstrates how religions differ only in their exotericisms or outer dimensions, articulating the heart of religion in its esotericism or inner dimension, and underscoring that there is no esotericism without exotericism.

Part Two, 'The Spiritual Journey and the Integral Being' explores the nature of the spiritual path and what authentic spiritual integration is in the truest or most orthodox sense.

This part examines the role of spiritual initiation and transmission, including the important distinction between that of spiritual realisation affirmed in esotericism and that of "salvation" often described in the exoteric dimensions of the Abrahamic monotheisms – Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Axial to the perennial philosophy is the idea that the human individual occupies only one state within innumerable different states simultaneously existing within the same human individual – known as the doctrine of multiple states of being.

Part Three, 'Western Society and the Emergence of Modernity' demonstrates what could be acknowledged as the most radical critique of modernism ever to be put forward. The historical antecedents that contributed to the current spiritual eclipse of the modern era are elaborated.

Guénon examined the dangers of progress, egalitarianism, scientism, psychologism, individualism, pseudo-religion, etc. that mark the utter bankruptcy of the West and its fatal course on this downward spiral.



René Guénon (1886-1951)



of East & West

This new paperback (127 pages) presents a remarkable spiritual premise: a single primordial religion spread from its Indo-European origins, diverging over time into Eastern and Western varieties with many forms. Drawing on teachings from the major Eastern and Western spiritual philosophies, including those of Christian scientist and seer Emanuel Swedenborg, German Ursula Groll, M.A. concludes that there is still one religion - universal principles being practised by people who believe in a Divine Being and aspire to lives of kindness.

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Spiritual Unity of East & West

will be of great interest.

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Guénon proposed that the only way out of this crisis, which now appears to be a global meltdown, was the creation of a spiritual/intellectual elite to restore traditional civilisation and facilitate the reconnection to the Absolute.

Part Four, 'Symbolism and Symbols' explores the paramount function of symbols in the light of the perennial philosophy.

This collection provides a broad and informative overview of many of the most noteworthy symbols that Guénon, an unsurpassed master of the science of symbolism, had written about throughout his life. For example, the Cross, Mountain, Pole, Cave, Omphalos, Light, Water, Zodiac, Serpent, Trees, Androgyny, Eye, Heart, Door, Wheel and Swastika.

With the recent publication of this book we encourage readers to also consult the *Collected Works of René Guénon* which contains the illustrious corpus of his lifework.

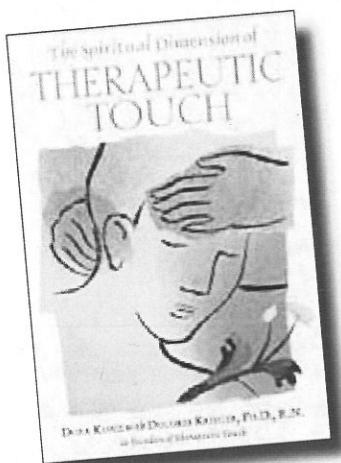
It would be unfortunate if this *Companion*, which is only a partial representation of Guénon's work, and can only be such by definition, due to its sweeping topographic scope, were to be employed as the singular or standard resource to approach his writings.

Guénon's writings were assembled in accordance to the selections that he specifically believed needed to be addressed and in the order in which they needed to be conceived. With this said, we trust that this *Companion* will further assist in making Guénon's writings better understood, more approachable and more accessible to wider audiences, including first time readers.

Readers should note that this *Companion* like other works by Guénon is not an easy read and analogously there is nothing easy about the spiritual path.

We will conclude this review with a celebrated motto of René Guénon: *Vincit omnia Veritas* – Truth conquers all and yet the unspoken motto is: "Seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you." (Matthew 7:7).

– Samuel Bendeck Sotillos



THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF THERAPEUTIC TOUCH

By Dora Kunz with Dolores Krieger, Ph.D., R.N.

262 pages, paperback

Published by:

Bear & Company

Order online at:

www.newdawnbooks.info

Therapeutic Touch (TT) is a bio-energetic technique for rebalancing the body's energy through touch, visualisation and the working through of emotional blocks.

It was first developed as a healing modality in the early 1970s, based on the collaboration of Dora Kunz and Dolores Krieger. It is now used by health care workers around the world in hospitals, hospices and other healing centres.

The technique depends very much on the interrelationship between patient and therapist during the healing process.

Dora Kunz (1904 – 1999) was a past president of the Theosophical Society of America, a medical intuitive and fifth generation clairvoyant. Dolores Krieger is a pioneer researcher on the dynamics of healing. Their unique collaboration has put genuine healing into health care.

The material in the book is made

up of never-before-transcribed lectures and case studies by Dora Kunz, with commentary and neat editing by Dr. Krieger. It is at once engaging and informative in the areas of the nature of consciousness and healing.

Seven of the book's sections deal with progressively more complex ideas and concepts, starting with a valuable introduction to TT itself and the life work of Dora Kunz. Readers will learn about how to centre the self and then engage their inner self in order to help others.

At the very front is a List of Exercises that has dozens of exercises which are embedded as sidebars in the text. The value of this list becomes clear once you have read the book and want to refer to specific exercises.

Readers should not be surprised that much of the material is based on a Theosophical view of the universe and its hierarchy. From the initial section on levels of consciousness through the purpose and nature of meditation in healing, those with a metaphysical background will notice those familiar signposts of Theosophy.

The discussion of death as transition is a much-needed look at what peace may be possible at the end of our lives. The later section on *Dynamics of TT* and *TT in Personal Growth* shows that the whole process works two ways, in that both the healer and the healee are affected by the TT process. It is presumed that the personal journey of the TT worker will be one of continuing self-development.

Section 4 is pleasantly large, dealing with the *Chakras and TT*. As TT is a technique for rebalancing the body's energies, including those of the subtle bodies, it is crucial to know all about the chakras, where they are and what they do.

The overall concept that I received from this section was that chakras cannot themselves be 'sick.' The energy driving them can be unbalanced due to a number of factors. These might include disease or environmental and emotional factors but the broader circumstances are simply reflected in the chakras.

Intuitive healers are able to per-