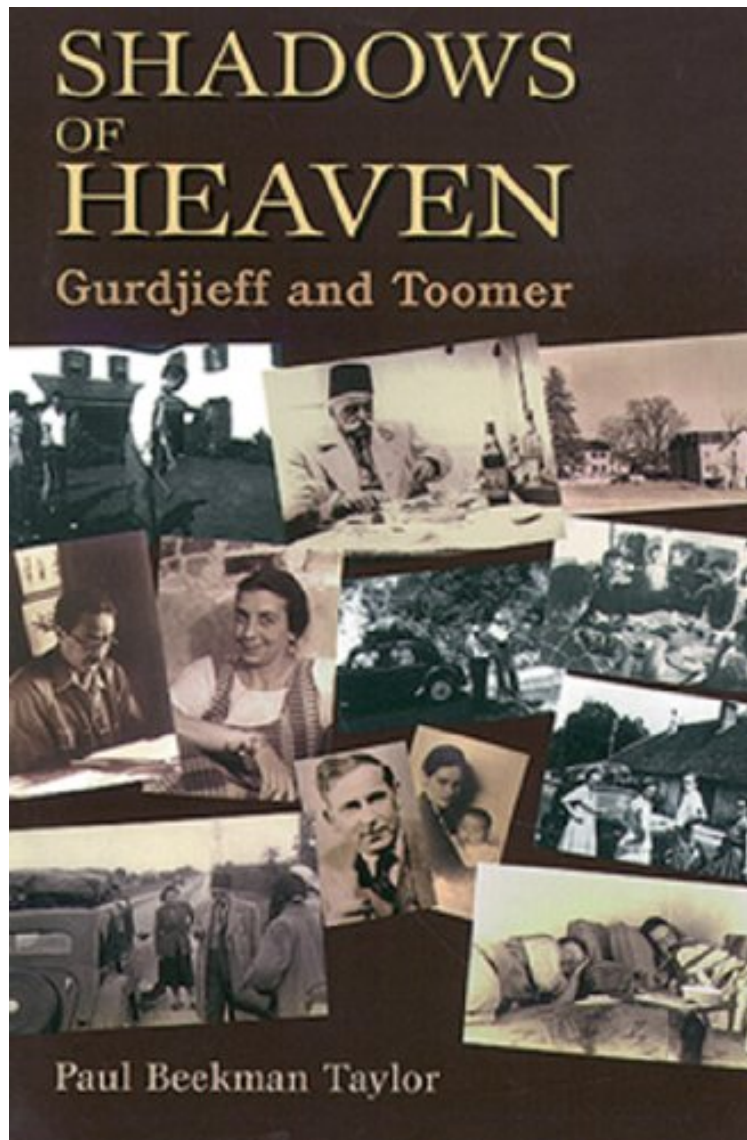


(Library ebook) Shadows of Heaven: Gurdjieff and Toomer

Shadows of Heaven: Gurdjieff and Toomer

Von Paul Beekman Taylor

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Von Paul Beekman Taylor : Shadows of Heaven: Gurdjieff and Toomer before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shadows of Heaven: Gurdjieff and Toomer:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Taylor's book an interesting account from two perspectivesVon Bob SwainPaul Taylor's book has two perspectives. One is that of an insider who grew up within the Gurdjieff movement. His mother was Gurdjieff and Jean Toomer's lover. His own father remains an unsolved mystery. He tells many stories of the rather Bohemian love affairs the various

members of the entourage "enjoyed" -- although they mostly sound miserable and crazy. Taylor, an English professor at the University of Geneva, also manages to put Jean Toomer and Gurdjieff into a larger academic perspective -- commenting on Toomer's race, and Gurdjieff's proximity to other philosophers and writers of his period. The book is well-written -- maintaining at one time a personal perspective, and a wider, more objective, academic perspective. For Gurdjieffians and Toomer fans alike -- the book is highly readable and informative.-- Kirby Olson0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A biography with a unique perspective. Von Critical ViewerFodder for those "upset" with the man, focusing more on "G" than his teachings. Since G was not inclined to use money for selfish purposes, his means of acquisition must be tempered with this knowledge. The debate may rage forever regarding the notion of whether or not the ends justify the means. Taylor has done a good job bringing us into some of the personal aspects of a man he thought of as a great and profound teacher. A subjective glance at a man without much focus on the teaching, this is a good book for those more interested in gossip than spiritual growth. For those of us on the sidelines and in possession of ignorance, being critical is a simple matter which Taylor proves post haste. He does, however, lend some discussion to the way in which he clearly benefitted from being in the presence of the greatest teacher of the 20th century.0 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Exposes "real-life" Gurdjieff: Rip-off artist misogynist Von Ein KundePerhaps it was his great respect for Toomer that inspired Taylor to expose the side of Gurdjieff who used others to further his own endeavors. Gurdjieff used a variety of people to provide him with money, including Toomer. Toomer finally had the good sense to say "enough." Other "pupils" of Gurdjieff have alluded to this side of the man, but they tend to gloss it over because, after all, he was such a great guy. Taylor himself isn't above such glossing, and he seems to seesaw between starry-eyed devotee and realistic (if bitter) observer throughout his account. Another example of Gurdjieff's thievery is "Beelzebub's Tales," which was the product of various people, but of course Gurdjieff took full credit. For someone who could barely grunt in English, the book came out pretty well--could it have been Orage and Toomer that we have to thank for that? Interestingly, Taylor has a half-sister whose father was Gurdjieff. His mother was yet another unlucky participant in satisfying Gurdjieff's desires. Sounds like the old man left behind quite a string of unhappy women. Unfortunately, Taylor's mother (who was emotionally abused by Gurdjieff during her pregnancy with HIS child, not to mention his total negligence of the children he brought into the world) doesn't evoke the same level of sympathy from Taylor that Toomer does. Personally, I'm tired of the "boys will be boys" attitude that pervades "spiritualism." Gurdjieff believed that women's role was to help men, and this is unfortunately something that many men like to hear. It has an especially wonderful ring to it when such an "enlightened fellow" gives women-hating his blessing. Taylor's book was good reading, but it would have been better if he'd given more than a perfunctory glance at the bigger issue he exposed in his book--how acceptable outright misogyny is in "spiritualism" and especially in Gurdjieffian circles.

KurzbeschreibungA great deal of mystery surrounds G.I. Gurdjieff and "The Work." Today, many on the path of self-exploration find themselves drawn to the symbolism of the enneagram, and to Gurdjieff's other teachings. Gurdjieff was undeniably charismatic many famous and influential people lived in his "shadow," accepting his guidance while changing and transforming their lives. Shadows of Heaven focuses on the relationship between Gurdjieff and the poet-novelist Nathan Jean Toomer, from 1924 until Gurdjieff's death in 1949, as well as each man's relationship with Edith Annesley Taylor and her son Paul, the author of this book. Caught in the middle of this tense triad of interests was the English critic-publisher A.R. Orage, who was close to all three parties, and whose wife, Jessie, was Edith's best friend. Paul Taylor's unique life experience has made it possible for him to combine his mother's memoir's conversations between Toomer and Gurdjieff, and entries from Jessie Orage's diary into this fascinating book. It is probably the first to reveal something of Gurdjieff's "love life" with the mothers of his children. Several new descriptions of Gurdjieff's voyages with his pupils reveal aspects of Gurdjieff's character not documented elsewhere. Excerpts from Jessie Orage's diaries testify to the magnetic attraction Gurdjieff exercised over those he felt were vital to the dissemination of his ideas. With 16 pages of never-before published photographs, this book presents a fresh new picture of Gurdjieff and his teaching, adding to his legend a tangible humanity to which we can all relate.