

Gurdjieff's Being and Knowledge

P. D. Ouspensky

About schools and about where he found the knowledge, which he beyond a doubt possessed, he said very little and just hinted at it. He mentioned Mount Athos, Sufi schools in Persia, Tibetan monasteries and Chitral schools in central Asia and eastern Turkestan. He referred to dervishes too, but all this was always in a very indefinite manner.

There was one question which I was never able to answer, namely, what had he been born with and what had he been given by schools, if he had passed through a school. I often thought about this and at times it seemed to me, and some of us came to the conclusion, that G. was a genius in his own domain, that he scarcely had to learn, that what he knew could not be learned and that none of us could hope to expect to become like him.

But when I thought thus, another voice always said in me that though I could indeed never learn much that G. knew, this did not in the least deter me because I could undoubtedly learn many things . . .

In Search of the Miraculous: Fragments of an Unknown Teaching
From an early draft.