

Mid-term Revision

This week we might consider the following quotation regarding the nature of a Fourth Way School and whether these aims remain relevant, or how they may have changed or developed, for our particular branch of this work.

... a school of the Fourth Way. . . does not have a defined and permanent form which, properly speaking, means neither dogma nor ritual. It is for ever disappearing and for ever having to be discovered and rediscovered.

It imposes no preliminary renunciation, but demands, within the framework of every day life, a set of conditions appropriate for *real work on oneself*. It opens up a perspective of profound transformation of being through *awakening* and self knowledge. It presupposes a sincere search in oneself for truth, the realization of one's own 'nothingness,' the recourse to effort—and to super-effort—for the development of one's power of consciousness.

It also allows one to discover and to realize certain hidden possibilities by means of a simultaneous and inter-related activation of one's intellectual, emotional, and physical capacities toward a voluntary concentration on the struggle which takes place in oneself between one's positive and negative tendencies.

This perpetual struggle operates within every seeker according to the principle of relativity which governs the relationship of the different levels of energy in human nature, as it governs the whole of the universe.

(from: *Gurdjieff: Essays and Reflections on the Man and His Teaching*,
by Henri Tracol. Continuum, 1996)

This enquiry may also provide the opportunity to ask ourselves whether we have any specific or non-specific aims in relation to this Work, and also what it may be that we have understood from what has been discussed over the last few months —and whether whatever we may have understood is helping us in a practical way.

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