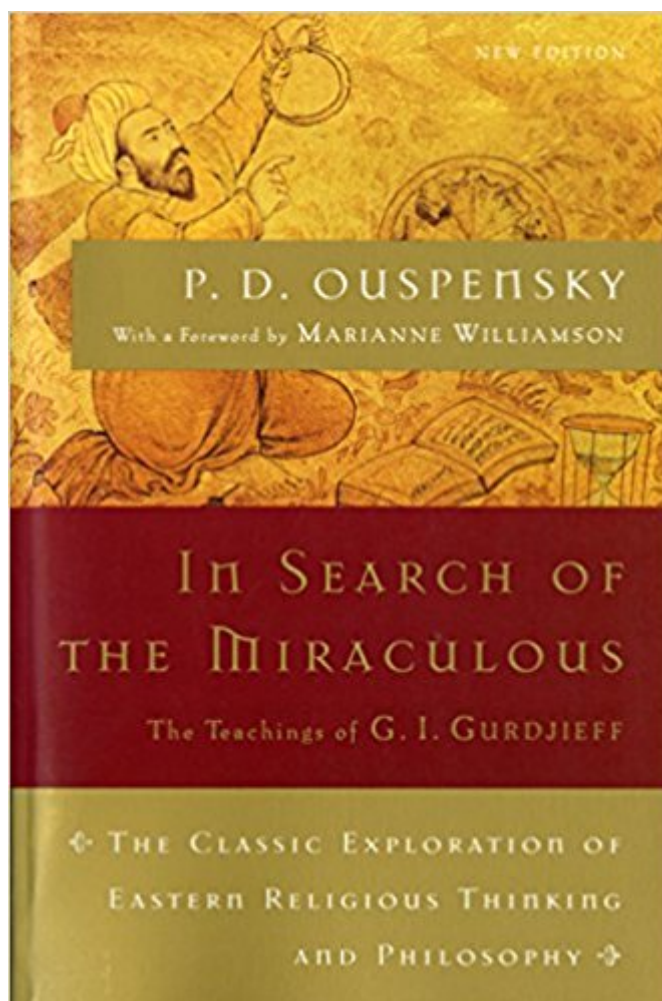


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# In Search Of The Miraculous (Harvest Book)



## Synopsis

A new edition of the groundbreaking spiritual treasure, with a foreword by bestselling author Marianne Williamson. Since its original publication in 1949, *In Search of the Miraculous* has been hailed as the most valuable and reliable documentation of G. I. Gurdjieff's thoughts and universal view. This historic and influential work is considered by many to be a primer of mystical thought as expressed through the Work, a combination of Eastern philosophies that had for centuries been passed on orally from teacher to student. Gurdjieff's goal, to introduce the Work to the West, attracted many students, among them Ouspensky, an established mathematician, journalist, and, with the publication of *In Search of the Miraculous*, an eloquent and persuasive proselyte. Ouspensky describes Gurdjieff's teachings in fascinating and accessible detail, providing what has proven to be a stellar introduction to the universal view of both student and teacher. It goes without saying that *In Search of the Miraculous* has inspired great thinkers and writers of ensuing spiritual movements, including Marianne Williamson, the highly acclaimed author of *A Return to Love and Illuminata*. In a new and never-before-published foreword, Williamson shares the influence of Ouspensky's book and Gurdjieff's teachings on the New Thought movement and her own life, providing a contemporary look at an already timeless classic.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Fascinating and provocative."-The New York Times Book Review  
A very provocative book that can

lead to a complete reassessment of what a reader takes to be his knowledge."-Saturday Review

P. D. Ouspensky was born in Moscow in 1878 and died in 1947. A highly respected intellectual and former student of G. I. Gurdjieff, he authored such critically acclaimed books as *The Fourth Dimension*, *Tertium Organum*, *A New Model of the Universe*, and *In Search of the Miraculous*, which was published posthumously. Marianne Williamson is a philosopher, speaker, teacher, and author who lectures regularly about the application of spiritual principles to daily living. Her highly acclaimed and bestselling books include *A Return to Love*, *A Woman's Worth*, and *Illuminata*. She lives in Michigan.

More new ideas per page than any other book I have read in my 73 years. I first read this at 36, and have kept it on my reading table for all this time, rereading here and there at random sometimes, when I need a "restart", or digging in to a particular line of thought brought by this account of a real student in front of a real teacher. It takes time to realize that there is always more here than I "get", more here than I read the last time I opened it. Worth the years of revisit needed to start to penetrate what is here and "make it mine" — not in theory, but to begin an honest practice. And, for sure, somewhere along the line, one needs to find companions who have a similar "bent" as this book really cannot be penetrated along. But beware of those who pretend to know! There are groups and "self named teachers" out there for the unwary.

This is a book of knowledge . It's not something one can review or have an opinion about in the contemporary sense. Think *Art of War* or *Bhagavad Gita* . Some days I'm wrapped up in every word...other, I'm not sure it's in English. But even that is a state of mind reflection which is where this book takes you.

I have read and reread this book many times and I always find it helpful regarding the identification of the self and methods for improving the self from within. The book, as well as the *Fourth Way* it is related to, is not for the lazy reader. I find it top heavy in regard to making the intellect more important than the heart but that is probably necessary as a counter-balance to making too much of emotion. My only disagreement with the theory of self promoted by the book is the blanket denial of negative emotions. Even the denial of negative emotions is a negative emotion. I think a better position is the aim of making the best possible balance of positive and negative emotions relative to any situation. Jim Yoes author of, *Seventy Meditation Lessons from My Universe*

I found this book to be a good overview of the various teachings of Gurdjieff. It does go into some detail, and I took notes while reading it, which were helpful to me in the reading of the text. My advice to a reader of this book would be to pay careful attention to the terms used in the writings, as these terms are later used without an explanation of them again. It is an interesting read, and it captivated my interest. I am now reading more Gurdjieff, and see how this book by Ouspensky was a helpful first book to read. Some of the ideas presented in Gurdjieff's books appear in "In Search of the Miraculous" and it helps to know what he is referring to in these further books by having a little knowledge from "In Search of the Miraculous". I would recommend this book as a beginning text for those who are interested in the writings and teachings of Gurdjieff.

About 15 years ago this was the one book that started my quest for things important, things eternal. It still holds its place of value for me as I continue to refer back to it or reread portions of it. It serves as a map for me on the basics of the Fourth Way, like Self-remembering, Attention, Identifying, Considering etc. I use the book on my Kindle which is great for doing a search. Doing a search using In Search..... makes for great learning. Ouspensky, Gurdjieff, Nicoll, and about 20 plus other thinkers, writers and masters who live and preach this gospel, are ready to be discovered. Do yourself a favor.

Ouspensky was one of the great brainiacs of his generation who not only was a contributor to mathematics and science as commonly recognized, but also had a taste for the esoteric. This book gives a fascinating account of his apprenticeship to G.I. Gurdjieff, the rascal sage who had a body of knowledge usually associated with far East mystics, shamans, lore of ancient knowledge, and the occult. It's both entertaining and instructional for those interested in exploring the fabric of the cosmos itself and the possible ways that humans can relate to it. Worthy of owning a copy and returning to it regularly.

I discovered Ouspensky in a passing encounter in the cafeteria at Magill in '69. This book hit me like a bomb. Subsequently, I tried a workgroup in Boston, but nothing that anyone was doing then ever came up to the promise of the ideas. Although I have long since become skeptical about Gurdjieff himself (and yes, the science is whacked), I find that the conceptual framework he presented is as valid for me as ever. But then, even Ouspensky ultimately had to separate the man he knew from his work. Hands down, personally, it's the most important book I ever read. Most moving for me, was

the analysis of the problem of being human, unconscious, and not free in a world of illusion and self delusion. This is one book that will challenge your world view, and may cause you to look further for answers.

Human beings are living in the hypnotic bubble of their own making which is driven by the impulses/interpretation of their own belief system. This book will wake you up and transform you from being a "machine" to being truly conscious and aware human being. This knowledge is not a belief system but a fact of who we are as human beings. Belief systems are actually a human Straight Jacket!

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