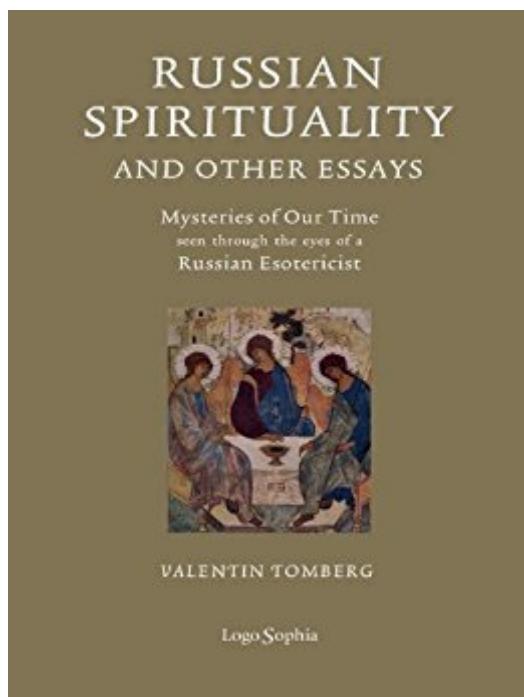


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Russian Spirituality And Other Essays: Mysteries Of Our Time Seen Through The Eyes Of A Russian Esotericist



Synopsis

These wisdom-filled articles are gems offered us by the Russian esotericist Valentin Tomberg (1900–1973). Written in the 1930s, at the time he was also writing important studies on the Old Testament, New Testament, and the Apocalypse, these early articles presage Tomberg's later, more mature works on Christian Hermeticism. This was the "anthroposophical" phase of his life, which ended during World War II, when he followed Christ's call to join the Catholic Church in order to bring the Christian esotericism of the Church of John into the exoteric Church of Peter—a step that truly represented a sacrifice on the part of this remarkable man. For in following this call of Christ to the Catholic Church, Tomberg took the step of leaving his karmic community—that of the anthroposophical movement founded by Rudolf Steiner (1861–1925). This step was a fulfillment of the words of Christ, of the Risen One, to Peter concerning John: "If it is my will that he should wait until I come again, what is that to thee?" (John 21:22). These words relate to the task of the Church of John to "wait"—that is, to cultivate the esoteric teachings "behind the scenes" until the onset of Christ's Second Coming, which began during the 1930s, when they could begin to emerge by bringing the esoteric teachings into the Church. For students of Christian Hermeticism, these early articles by the founder of this new spiritual stream reveal in particular something of the esoteric teachings underlying the author's Russian spirituality. The penetrating insights they offer are seeds that subsequently blossomed in his later works. As well as being of interest to students of Christian Hermeticism, these essays are relevant to anyone interested in Russian spirituality and, moreover, to everyone interested in esoteric perspectives concerning the present situation of humanity. The author of this work was a spiritually enlightened teacher whose care and concern extended beyond the plight of the Russian people under Soviet communism to include the challenges facing every human being in our time. Understood as a manual for enlightenment, to be worked with meditatively over and over again, this work is one of the great treasures of humanity's spiritual literature—a priceless jewel for every spiritual seeker in our time.

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Customer Reviews

Valentin Tomberg was a very important part of Twentieth Century spiritual thinking. Emphasis on thinking. Mentioning the word spiritual often excludes all ideas of thinking. In fact, we can have no access to the spiritual dimension of the human being unless we do think. Tomberg stimulates this thinking in a surprising way if you contemplate his ideas.

"Russian Spirituality and Other Essays" is a book containing articles by Valentin Tomberg, a Russian-born esotericist who started out as an Anthroposophist, but later converted to Catholicism, which he attempted to amalgamate with Hermetism. Tomberg's most famous work is "Meditations on the Tarot", published anonymously. "Russian Spirituality", by contrast, contains relatively unknown articles written during the 1930's, when Tomberg was still an Anthroposophist. The articles are extremely difficult to comprehend, unless you are very familiar with the Anthroposophical worldview. In the main essay, Tomberg discusses how Anthroposophy could be introduced into Russia, reaching the conclusion that it must somehow be connected to the thought of Vladimir Solovyov. The Russian sage spoke about Sophia, and this "semi-incarnate" spirit-entity has now appeared on Earth in the form of Anthroposophy (Anthropo-Sophia). This balance between individual freedom and social cooperation is threatened by the utter materialism of Bolshevism, but also by "Chinese" or "Mongolian" spirituality which Tomberg fears might replace (or fuse with?) Bolshevism. Unfortunately, Tomberg lost me about here, and I didn't really comprehend the rest of

his work...I'm not sure how to rate a book I don't really understand, but since I don't wish to scare off anyone interested in Tomberg, I eventually decided on the OK rating (three stars).

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