

THE
SECRETS
OF THE
HEART

KHALIL GIBRAN

THE SECRETS OF THE HEART

SELECTED WORKS

by

Kahlil Gibran

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KAHLIL GIBRAN

(1883 - 1931)

Syrian - American mystical writer and artist, was a native of Bechari, Lebanon. Gibran's people were affluent and cultured, his mother's family the most musical in the countryside. The boy displayed precocity in drawing, building, modeling and writing; at eight he was greatly impressed by Michelangelo and Leonardo. His earlier literary work comprised prose poems in Arabic. His plays were known to the entire Arabic world, from China to Spain, and gave rise to a new word Gibranism. They displayed "mystical vision, metrical beauty, a simple and fresh approach to the so called problems of life." Before he was twenty Gibran adopted English exclusively as his medium of expression. *The Prophet* discussed man's relation to fellowman; *The Garden of Prophets*, man and nature; and *The Death of the Prophet*, man and God. Their aim was to discover some workable way of feeling, thinking, and living which would lead man to mastery of his life. As an artist, Gibran's portraits and ideal heads are "frequently magnificent and Leonardesque quality."

Gibran's well-known *Jesus, the Son of Man* is an attempt to show Christ through the consciousness of his immediate contemporaries, enemies and friends alike. Claude Bragdon describes him as being "compact, strong, swarthy," with a sensitive face, austere, but with nothing of the ascetic about him, modest and unpretentious:

Principal Works: *The Prophet*, 1923; *Sand and Foam*, 1926; *Jesus the Son of Man*, 1928; *The Earth Gods*, 1931; *The Garden of the Prophet*, 1933.

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