



THE
BOOK OF
MIRDAD

The strange story of a monastery
which was once called The Ark

MIKHAIL NAIMY

CONTENTS

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THE STRANGE STORY OF A MONASTERY
WHICH WAS ONCE CALLED THE ARK

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The Book of Mirdad, timeless allegorical story which has touched the hearts of so many readers, continues to show new generations how it is possible to expand one's consciousness to uncover God in man by dissolving man's senses of duality.

The book is essentially a dialogue between Mirdad and his disciples. These dialogues occurred during the time he was admitted as a servant in the monastery of Atlas Peak. The dialogue consists of questions and answers with his chief disciple Harunda. Mirdad's teachings cover all the important life issues such as love, the master-servant relationship, creative silence, money, the moneylender and the debtor, the cycle of time and death, repentance, old age etc. Mirdad's words are the words of an enlightened Sufi master.

Mikhail Naimy was a contemporary of Kahlil Gibran and his writing style is very much influenced by the style of Gibran. The way the book has been written, unravelling one layer after another, shows it has descended from some mysterious source.

Legend, mysticism, philosophy and poetry have been woven with magic skill in this strange and powerful story. A classic of spiritual literature.

"Millions of people have tried to write books so that they can express the inexpressible, but they have utterly failed. I know only one book, *The Book of Mirdad*, which has not failed, and if you cannot get to the very essence of it, it will be your failure, not his! *The Book of Mirdad* is one of the greatest devices that have been created down the ages. Don't read it like any other book. Don't read it like *Shri Bhagvadgita* or *Holy Bible*. Read it as beautiful poetry, as music spread on the pages. Read it as a message from a master of meditation. The words are code words. Don't look for their meaning in the dictionary. Their meaning is when they strike something in your heart." **Osho**

"It is not for me to assess the relative literary merits of Kahlil Gibran and Mikhail Naimy, but although as a much younger man I derived immense satisfaction from reading *The Prophet*, I now find a much deeper wisdom in the less well known works of the Prophet's friend, Mikhail Naimy." **Dr Kenneth Walker**

Mikhail Naimy was born in Baskinta, in central Lebanon. He was educated in Russia and obtained degrees in Liberal Arts and Law at the University of Washington USA. In 1916 he moved to New York where he founded with his close friend, **Kahlil Gibran**, a dynamic movement for the rejuvenation of Arabic Literature. He wrote this book on his return to Lebanon after World War II. He has been described as one of the greatest spiritual writers of the 20th century. He died in 1988.

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