Frithjof Schuon (1907-1998) was widely acknowledged as the foremost 20th century exponent of the Perennial Philosophy.

These selections, chosen under his supervision, were approved by him during his lifetime and confirmed as a representative volume of his magisterial writings.

What can be learned from this volume?

This volume covers an enormous range of topics including:

- the nature of religion;
- esotericism and mysticism;
- love and knowledge of God and
- theology and philosophy.

Schuon’s unique approach to comparative religion, metaphysics, aesthetics, prayer, the spiritual path, and criticism of the modern world, as expressed in this volume, opens the way to understanding one of the most influential philosophers and spiritual leaders of our time.

Additional Publication Information

*The Essential Frithjof Schuon* is edited and introduced by Seyyed Hossein Nasr and contains an extensive bibliography of Frithjof Schuon’s works. The book has a publication date of September 2005 and the suggested retail price is $23.95.
An Excerpt from *The Essential Frithjof Schuon*

“One of the keys to the understanding of our true nature and of our ultimate destiny is the fact that the things of this world never measure up to the real range of our intelligence.... Among all the intelligences of this world the human spirit alone is capable of objectivity, and this implies—or proves—that what confers on our intelligence the power to accomplish to the full what it can accomplish to the full what it can accomplish, and what makes it wholly what it is, is the Absolute alone.”

About the Author of
*The Essential Frithjof Schuon*

Frithjof Schuon (1907-1998) was arguably the leading light of the Traditionalist/Perennialist school of thought during many of its formative years in the twentieth century. This school is marked by its dedication to exploring the single timeless Truth that finds its various expressions in the many spiritual traditions that have guided humankind over the millennia.

Over thirty titles of Schuon’s work have appeared in English, covering themes on metaphysics, philosophy, comparative religion, symbolism, esoterism, critiques of the modern world, aesthetics, and the nature of human existence. In addition, he wrote thousands of poems in his native German, and produced hundreds of paintings, often with images of the American Plains Indians or Mary, the mother of Jesus. These poems and paintings, just as much as his prose, always carried a profound spiritual message for seekers who could think beyond the bounds of modernist prejudices.

Schuon was born in Basle, Switzerland, but was moved at age 14 by his widowed mother to France, where he learned French, the language in which he later wrote his masterpieces of metaphysics. From a very young age he was attracted to sacred things of both East and West, to beauty of soul and beauty of artistic creation, and to scriptures such as the Bhagavad Gita, the Vedas, the Koran, and, of course, to the Bible. Schuon was also attracted to Platonic thought and ideals. While still in his teens, he began to read the works of the pioneering Traditionalist René Guénon. Around 1930, Schuon began a correspondence with Guénon that lasted till the latter’s death in 1951.

Schuon completed military service and moved to Paris, where he learned Arabic and Arabic calligraphy. In 1932 he left Europe to spend some months with the renowned Sufi master, Ahmad al-‘Alawi, in Algeria. Following additional trips to the Orient, Schuon returned to France to again enter military service due to the Nazi threat. He was captured by the enemy but escaped to Switzerland, where he settled for the next forty years. Now focusing on his writing, Schuon became an important contributor to a number of journals on traditional spirituality and comparative religion and soon became known as the preeminent interpreter of the Perennial Philosophy. Frithjof Schuon moved to America in 1980, where he continued to write and paint.

Visit the “Press Room” at www.worldwisdom.com for more information.
During the last years of his life he composed over 3000 short, mystical poems in a beautiful, lyrical German. He died in 1998.

**What Others Have Said about Frithjof Schuon**

“I have met with no more impressive work in the comparative study of Oriental and Occidental religion.”
—T. S. Eliot, commenting on Schuon’s first book in English, *The Transcendent Unity of Religions*

“In reading Schuon I have the impression that I am going along parallel to him, and once in a while I will get a glimpse of what he means in terms of my own tradition and experience... I appreciate him more and more.... I am grateful for the chance to be in contact with people like him.”
—Thomas Merton, from a letter published in his *The Hidden Ground of Love*

“The man is a living wonder; intellectually a propos religion, equally in depth and breadth, the paragon of our time. I know of no living thinker who begins to rival him.”
—Huston Smith, author of *The World’s Religions: Our Great Wisdom Traditions*

“M. Schuon’s thought does not demand that we agree or disagree but that we understand or do not understand. Such writing is of rare and lasting value.”
—*Times Literary Supplement*, on Schuon’s *Stations of Wisdom*

“Readers ... will certainly find in the writings of Schuon ... completely new perspectives in every aspect of religious thought—on the meaning of symbolism, for example, or the idea of sin, or the warfare between scientism and religion, or the idea of esotericism, and much, much else. Very probably, it will seem to the reader that until now he has ignored an entire dimension in his thinking ...”
—Jacob Needleman, San Francisco State University

“It is a very good thing to see a book with Mr. Schuon’s writings about the American Indians. His words are important because he sees the Indian traditional religion with the eyes of a man who prays and who loves the Indians. He has studied all the religions in the world so he can compare our Indian ways to the ways of other religions.”
—Thomas Yellowtail, Crow Sun Dance Chief, on Schuon’s *The Feathered Sun*
Major Books in English
(with original publication dates)

- The Transcendent Unity of Religions, 1953
- Spiritual Perspectives and Human Facts, 1954
- Gnosis: Divine Wisdom, 1959
- Language of the Self, 1959
- Castes and Races, 1959
- Stations of Wisdom, 1961
- Understanding Islam, 1963
- Light on the Ancient Worlds, 1966
- In the Tracks of Buddhism, 1968
- Logic and Transcendence, 1975
- Esoterism as Principle and as Way, 1981
- Sufism: Veil and Quintessence, 1981
- From the Divine to the Human, 1982
- Christianity/Islam: Essays on Esoteric Ecumenicism, 1985
- The Essential Writings of Frithjof Schuon (S.H. Nasr, Ed.), 1986
- Survey of Metaphysics and Esoterism, 1986
- In the Face of the Absolute, 1989
- The Feathered Sun: Plains Indians in Art & Philosophy, 1990
- To Have a Center, 1990
- Roots of the Human Condition, 1991
- Images of Primordial & Mystic Beauty: Paintings by Frithjof Schuon, 1992
- Echoes of Perennial Wisdom, 1992
- The Play of Masks, 1992
- Road to the Heart, 1995
- The Transfiguration of Man, 1995
- The Eye of the Heart, 1997
- Songs for a Spiritual Traveler: Selected Poems, 2002
- Form and Substance in the Religions, 2002
- The Fullness of God: Frithjof Schuon on Christianity (J.S. Cutsinger, Ed.), 2004
- Prayer Fashions Man: Frithjof Schuon on the Spiritual Life (J.S. Cutsinger, Ed.), 2005
About the Editor and Author of the Introduction

**Seyyed Hossein Nasr**

Seyyed Hossein Nasr is University Professor of Islamic Studies at the George Washington University. The author of over fifty books and five hundred articles, he is one of the world’s most respected writers and speakers on Islam, its arts and sciences, and its traditional mystical path, Sufism. His publications include *Sufi Essays, Knowledge and the Sacred, Religion and the Order of Nature, A Young Muslim’s Guide to the Modern World, The Heart of Islam: Enduring Values for Humanity,* and *Islam: Religion, History, and Civilization.* A volume in the prestigious *Library of Living Philosophers* series has been dedicated to his thought.

An Excerpt from the Introduction

“His writings are universal, not only because the formless Essence is universal, but also because even on the level of forms he does not confine himself solely to a particular world, period or region. Schuon’s works are also comprehensive and all-embracing in the sense that they include practically the whole mountain of knowledge understood in the traditional sense... From the point of view of sheer scholarly knowledge... it is hardly possible to find a contemporary corpus of writings with the same all-embracing and comprehensive nature combined with incredible depth.” —**Seyyed Hossein Nasr**