

“He was invariably concerned with others, and considerate of them. He never failed, for example, to thank me and to apologize to me when I had to bring him coffee, half-asleep, at three o’clock in the morning. I knew instinctively that such consideration was something far more than ordinary, acquired courtesy. And, perhaps this was the clue, he was interested. Whenever I saw him, whenever he gave me an order, he was fully aware of me, completely concentrated on whatever words he said to me; his attention never wandered when I spoke to him. He always knew exactly what I was doing, what I had done. I think we must all have felt, certainly I did, when he was with any one of us, that we received his total attention. I can think of nothing more complimentary in human relations.”

*Fritz Peters, “Boyhood With Gurdjieff,” p. 32*

## ❧ ENJOYMENT ❧

“Too much theorizing was tending to make the minds of [Ouspensky’s] London followers too rigid and our behavior too calculated and grim. We were in danger of acquiring the chapel-going faces of Plymouth Bretheren and we needed loosening up. If anyone was fitted to bring about this loosening process it was surely Gurdjieff... ‘*It is necessary,*’ Gurdjieff reminded us, ‘*to know when to be serious and when to laugh.*’”

*Kenneth Walker, “Venture with Ideas,” p. 154*

“Many imagine these [ceremonial meals at Mr. G’s apartment] as occasions of serious philosophical discussion. Not at all! ... Most of our time was spent in howls of laughter. G’s gift of mimicry and masterly comic timing infected everyone, young and old, of every nationality. He could point out situations and special characteristics in people with a wit that was sharp, but an attitude that was so warm and affectionate that although we all laughed in immediate recognition, it was with the person, not at them.”

*Jessmin and Dushka Howarth, “It’s Up to Ourselves,” p. 450*