

TSG Foundation, a Pathway for Self-Transformation

By: Gita Saraydarian

The purpose of a human being is to find the most essential and eternal values and live by them; it is to become an instrument of Divine Love, Divine Intelligence, and Divine Will.

On November 1st, 1987, while still living in Los Angeles, I was inspired to start a publishing company that would focus exclusively on the writings of my father, Torkom Saraydarian. This inspiration would take me through uncharted waters and unknown challenges and would eventually result in an organization dedicated to providing tools of self-transformation, using the creative works of an amazing teacher.

I had a secure job, great family and friends, years of academic training and various degrees, and had traveled and studied cultures and languages. Yet, something was missing in my life. Every individual has a true purpose that is beyond physical comforts and academic degrees. I wanted to find what that was.

My father had a huge influence in my life. He was an intensely spiritual person; an extraordinary human being. He was trained in the mystical, religious traditions at a young age and our home life was imbued with his learning and experiences. He studied the Ageless Wisdom Teachings, which emphasized the unity of all religious and philosophical thoughts and the unity of mankind. He started sharing his learning by teaching a small group of people in the early 60's in the garage of our home and publishing his own books. He became a successful teacher and leader. Students from all over the world continue to study his writings and meditation courses.

I knew that my inspiration would be the thread that would lead me to a new path in life. Although that thread was not yet physically tangible, it was real to me. I went to visit my father in Sedona and told him of my plans. He was thrilled; this had also been part of his dream: an independent publishing company that would devote itself to his books, and eventually a spiritual University. We sat and talked into the night, making plans and speaking of the future. That night is still etched in my memory. We sat near a wood-burning stove, the glowing fire filling the room with its sparkle and intense heat, looking over manuscripts, and deciding which ones were to be the first published. He kept bringing the notebooks out, one by one, and piling them on the floor. "Here is Other Worlds, here is Battling Dark Forces, here is Cosmic Shocks, here is New Dimensions in Healing...." He would admire the virtues of each one, his eyes full of the excitement of future possibilities. He would read from one notebook, and move on to the next, flipping pages, then pausing and reading. I was awestruck! How many books did he write? I did not even know the depth and breadth of my father's creative works and would not know the full extent for many years to come. I left with a carload of manuscripts and drove back to Los Angeles. I chose the first book to be published: Cosmic Shocks! Little did I know how prophetic this book would become in my life.

The publishing of spiritual books made no business sense to many. But to me, it did. We were not merely producing books; we were providing tools for self-transformation. I had faith and my father strengthened that faith in me by saying: "This is not a mundane business, it is God's business, just concentrate on your service and the rest will follow." His words comfort me even now.

Like many others who trained with Torkom, I found that when I read the beautiful books and listened to the music, I gained the strength to understand and deal with the challenges of life. His books and music create a universal approach to spirituality—a focus on meditation, service to others, doing no harm, and learning how to develop in soul consciousness. In learning the Ageless Wisdom Teachings from a great teacher, we can grow in maturity and wisdom in a sane and balanced way.

Torkom Saraydarian's books, lectures, and music always found their expression through the Seven Higher Principles: Beauty, Goodness, Righteousness, Joy, Freedom, Striving, and Service to others. These seven principles are richly colored threads woven throughout all of his works; they are the vehicles through which our inner divinity can bloom. He often said, "All my books, all my lectures, turned on the axis of these seven principles. We emphasize great principles and these great principles work."

Torkom's contributions will guide us through life. A huge shift in our emotions and minds is taking place on individual and national levels. We are passing through crises in much of our institutions. If we continue living in our old belief structures, we will continually perpetuate separatism, hatred, and violence. If we can find a way to embrace the spirit in each other, and allow the expression of each flower in the garden of God, we can change our life. A teacher once reminded us that manifold worlds dwell in the abode of the Almighty, and the Holy Spirit soars throughout. We are one, in the One God.

Torkom passed away on January 5, 1997. TSG Publishing Foundation, Inc. has been fulfilling his legacy by publishing and distributing his books (100 titles in print and many more to come), music, and lecture videos and audiotapes. A theatre production of one of his dramatic writings is currently in the making. After moving to Cave Creek in 1994, weekly classes and monthly full moon meetings were organized. Meditation courses were expanded and seminars and workshops added. An annual retreat and conference is held in every spring. The Torkom Saraydarian University was born in September 2000 for the purpose of training teachers and providing self-enrichment courses online and at TSG. Torkom's spiritual university has become a reality!

The biggest challenge facing humanity is how to end separatism, the root cause of all kinds of human misery endured by people in every part of the world. Separatism creates false identifications, perpetuating distrust and dislike of others. The Ageless Wisdom Teachings provide a philosophical basis on which we can build a unified world. We do not need to make everyone believe as we do, just respect and love that which unites us all and let each flower and tree bloom in its particular beauty. There is no need to control others. There is the need to love, appreciate, and honor the One Who lives in all of us.