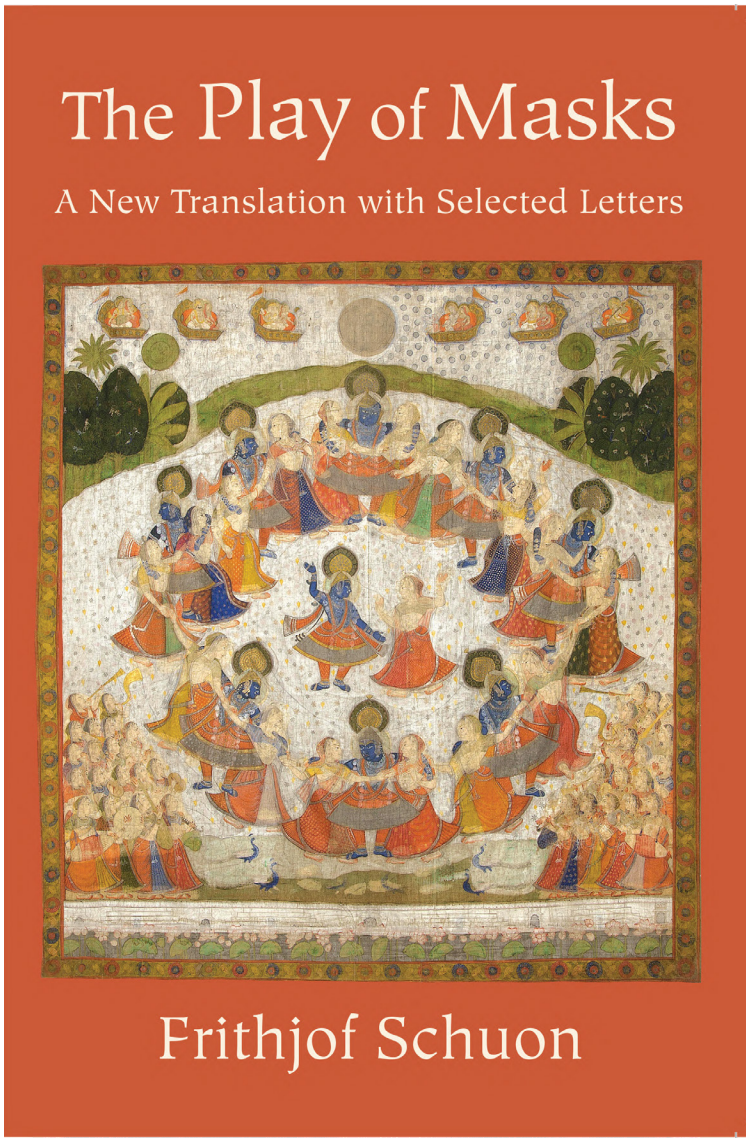
The Play of Masks

A New Translation with Selected Letters

Frithjof Schuon



This late work of Frithjof Schuon represents a general survey of his metaphysical perspective, which is that of the *Sophia perennis*, or "perennial wisdom" at the heart of the world's religions. This new edition features a fully revised translation from the French original as well as over 50 pages of new material, including previously unpublished selections from the author's letters and other private writings.

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About Frithjof Schuon

Frithjof Schuon (1907-1998) is best known as the foremost spokesman of the Perennial Philosophy. A gifted artist and poet as well as the author of over twenty books on religion, metaphysics, sacred art, and the spiritual path, Schuon's books have been translated into over a dozen languages and are respected by academic and religious authorities alike.

About the Editor

Harry Oldmeadow was Coordinator of Philosophy and Religious Studies at La Trobe University Bendigo, Australia, until his recent retirement. He is a well-respected authority on the Perennialist school of comparative religion and the author of *Frithjof Schuon and the Perennial Philosophy*. He lives in Bendigo, Australia.

Praise for Frithjof Schuon

"The man is a living wonder. . . . I know of no living thinker who begins to rival him."
—Huston Smith, Professor Emeritus, University of California, Berkeley, author of *The World's Religions*

"If I were asked who is the greatest writer of our time, I would say Frithjof Schuon without hesitation."
—Martin Lings, author of *What is Sufism?* and *A Sufi Saint of the 20th Century*

"The object of this book is . . . to provide contemporary seekers with fundamental keys to help them rediscover their true nature: the awareness of the Real with their whole intelligence, will, and soul."
—Patrick Laude, Georgetown University, author of *Keys to the Beyond: Frithjof Schuon's Cross-Traditional Language of Transcendence*

"*The Play of Masks* . . . [is] characterized by a move towards a more lyrical and poetic mode of expression, and by the intention to 'essentialize' traditional teachings."
—Harry Oldmeadow, Bendigo University, author of *Frithjof Schuon and the Perennial Philosophy*, from the editor's preface

"Schuon possesses the gift of reaching the very core of the subject he is treating, of going beyond forms."
—Seyyed Hossein Nasr, George Washington University, author of *Knowledge and the Sacred*