

Meeting #1 Nov 6th

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AI Summary

Quick recap

The team discussed the complexity and cultural context of the Tales of Beelzebub, emphasizing its allegorical nature and the importance of understanding its literary devices. They also explored the nuances of reading in a foreign language, specifically German, and the importance of precise word meanings. Lastly, they delved into the literary techniques used by Gurdjieff, the influence of English culture on his work, and the role of editing in shaping his writing.

Next steps

All participants to read the first 5 pages of Beelzebub's Tales to His Grandson in both English and German versions.

All participants to practice reading the text in three ways as advised by Gurdjieff: mechanically, as if reading aloud to another person, and trying to penetrate the essence of the writing.

Ekant to provide German translations when necessary during future discussions.

All participants to pay attention to literary devices, symbolism, and allegories used in the text during future readings.

All participants to note differences between English and German versions of the text for discussion in future meetings.

Robin to give additional presentations in the next two meetings to provide further context for studying the Tales.

All participants to familiarize themselves with Gurdjieff's symbolism and its connection to New Testament symbols.

All participants to be prepared to discuss the concept of "objective science" as presented in the Tales in future meetings.

All participants to consider the three-centered exercise of reading as described by Robin when studying the text.

Summary

Exploring Tales of Beelzebub Complexity

Robin shared a presentation about the Tales of Beelzebub, emphasizing its complexity and the effort required to understand it. He highlighted the book's unique literary style, its use of various literary devices, and the importance of understanding the cultural context of the German version. Robin also mentioned the book's high vocabulary requirements and the need for a dictionary while reading. The group agreed to study the book from two distinct perspectives, with some members having already studied the English version.

Exploring Allegory in Tales of Beelzebub

Robin introduced the concept of allegory in literature, emphasizing its importance in the Tales of Beelzebub. He explained that allegory is a primary vehicle for b-influence and can have a profound impact on the reader's magnetic center. Robin also discussed the difference between

allegory and satire, using examples from Gulliver's Travels and The 1,000 and One Nights. He mentioned that William Shakespeare was a great allegorical writer in Europe, but his works were often misunderstood. Robin also touched on the concept of objective science in the Tales, stating that it is not similar to contemporary science and comes from a higher mind. He concluded by suggesting that the group read the first five pages of the Tales, with Robin providing guidance on when to stop.

Book Translation and Reading Techniques

Barbara discusses a book originally written in Russian and Armenian that has been translated into other languages under the author's direction by specially trained translators. Ekant then provides extensive quotes from the book's introduction, which advises readers to read the book three times: first mechanically, second as if reading aloud, and third to deeply understand its essence. The introduction states this will allow readers to form their own opinion and gain the intended benefit. Ekant also reflects that people of all backgrounds tend to invoke a certain phrase, like "In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit," when beginning a new undertaking.

Reading in a Foreign Language

The group discussed the nuances of reading in a foreign language, specifically German, and the importance of understanding the precise meaning of words. Robin emphasized the need for a three-centered exercise when reading, involving the eyes, vocal cords, and moving center. The group also discussed the translation of certain phrases and the use of subjunctive and conjunctive forms in German. They agreed on the importance of these distinctions and encouraged others to try reading in this manner for a more profound understanding.

Exploring Pianola and Mechanical Tunes

The team discussed the concept of a "pianola" or a player piano, which was introduced by Robin. They explored the differences between the English and German terms for it, with Robin explaining that the German term, "wiegersmiert," refers to well-oiled machinery, while the English term, "pianola," refers to playing a tune. The team also discussed the cultural significance of the pianola, noting that it was an American invention that never gained popularity in England. Robert suggested that the concept of a well-oiled machine might be connected to the idea of a tune in German culture. The team also touched on the idea of mechanical tunes being played, which was a concept introduced by the American culture.

Gurdjieff's Literary Techniques and Influence

The team discussed the literary techniques used by Gurdjieff, particularly his use of hyphens and dashes to create single words from phrases. They noted that this technique was more natural in German than in English, and that it could affect the meaning of the text. The team also discussed the influence of English culture on Gurdjieff's work, and the role of editing in shaping his writing. They touched on the use of different languages in Gurdjieff's writing, with some tales written in Russian and others in Armenian. The team agreed to continue exploring these differences as they read through the text.

Other Notes

Philology - not mentioned in German version

Impromptu has the old meaning (in Friendly Advice) means in readiness

To write on is to write about.

And in the name of the Holy Ghost (abnormal both in Germany and England

Try **and** fathom the gist (means two efforts) not in the German...

Toulosites - Cathars They sang chants and hymns as they walked into the fire.

(Sandra) https://youtu.be/HlGO9IRJeqg?si=9j3iPTK_9EryMkCy

This is the Aeioiua I mentioned today in regard to the Toulosites. Richard Miller sent it to me originally, if you recall him.

<https://youtu.be/QLDjlMcqFpw?si=wW-R7lbB3TFY93C>

Then I just found this one. It tells the Toulosite story directly. Sandy