

SPECIAL TOPIC: RUSSIAN SOUL: A REPORT FROM THE EUROPEAN TRANSPERSONAL ASSOCIATION

Russian Soul: A Report from the European Transpersonal Association 2005 Conference in Moscow

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The 2005 European Transpersonal Association (EUROTAS) conference exemplified its theme of “Human Consciousness and Human Values in an Interconnected World.” The Russian Association of Transpersonal Psychology and Psychotherapy, with the support of several other organizations, graciously hosted over 200 participants from more than 20 countries. Vladimir Maykov, Gennady Brevde, and a team of volunteers guided us through four days of presentations (June 23-26), translating tirelessly between English and Russian.

The following pages constitute a small tour of the conference, offering a series of six presentations drawn from the 70-some offerings on the program. These were selected for their ability to reflect the flavor of the conference and for highlighting topics that were more original in character or less widely known. Vladimir Maykov (Russia) opened the conference by situating it in the context of a Russian transpersonal project that reaches back to antiquity. He spoke from a uniquely-informed vantage point, as one of the most accomplished members of the Russian transpersonal community and part of the underground transpersonal movement in the late Soviet era. Jason Wright (UK) drew on his work with addicts to weave a story of how psychological healing can grow out of rebuilding narratives that are the very fabric of “self.” Jason’s work reaches deep into theoretical and scientific realms to understand experiences of transformation he witnesses with his clients. Vitor Rodriguez (Portugal) offered a glimpse into his clinical experience with the diagnosis and treatment of psychic attack. He began with a fascinating clinical story that shows the practical value of

an esoteric approach. Mark Burno (Russia) shared fruits from 30 years of practice using “spiritual culture” as an avenue to therapy. He made an insightful distinction between idealist and materialist approaches to spirituality. Rupert Tower (UK) used an enchanting Russian fairy tale to lead us into the shadow, frankly broaching issues of power and leadership in psychotherapy training organizations. Tanna Jakubowicz (Poland) rounded out this special topics section with an inspiring call to direct action.

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