



## The Novices of Sais: With illustrations by Paul Klee

*By Novalis*

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The Novices of Sais is a Romantic meld of poetry, philosophy, and transcendental journey. Revolutionary yet profoundly simple at once, Novalis' reverence for the natural world pours out of every page. Translated into French in 1925, it was embraced by artists and poets alike and is often quoted by the Surrealists. Paul Klee's drawings were inspired by this visionary exploration of the inner life of modern humankind.

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## The Novices of Sais: With illustrations by Paul Klee By Novalis Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Review

The Novices of Sais is a kaleidoscope of interpretations, visions and allegories of nature . . . a transfiguration of the commonplace, giving "the ordinary a mysterious countenance, the known the dignity of the unknown.

—**Ross Benjamin**, *The Nation*

There are two poets at work in the body of this mysterious and transporting book, one using language, the other line. And what an intriguing, epoch-spanning duet they form . . . Klee's complex, lovely, whimsical, and enigmatic drawings evince a profound affinity for Novalis and add dimension to the intricate text, while Novalis's fable provides a provocative context for Klee's images. —**Donna Seaman**, *Speakeasy*

In his brief 29 years on earth, Novalis asked the questions heard in age-old mystery schools and his poems and poetic thinking lifted the inner life of the modern soul to new dominions. He is a founding spirit for the works of the likes of Rilke, Hesse, Heidegger and Celan, among many others, and this grand meditation on Nature reveals him at his finest. —**Jack Hirschman**

### About the Author

Novalis (Friedrich von Hardenberg) is one of the great pillars of German Romanticism. He is perhaps best known for his volume of poetry *Hymns to the Night* and his novel *Heinrich von Ofterdingen* —where his elusive "blue flower" was planted. He died at the age of 29 in 1801. Ralph Manheim was one of the great translators of the 20th century. He translated the works of Günter Grass, Bertolt Brecht, Louis-Ferdinand Céline, and Hermann Hesse, among others. The PEN/ Ralph Manheim Medal for Translation is a major lifetime achievement award in the field of translation.

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Various are the roads of man. He who follows and compares them will see strange figures emerge, figures which seem to belong to that great cipher which we discern written everywhere, in wings, eggshells, clouds and snow, in crystals and in stone formations, on ice-covered waters, on the inside and outside of mountains, of plants, beasts and men, in the lights of heaven, on scored disks of pitch or glass or in iron filings round a magnet, and in strange conjunctures of chance. In them we suspect a key to the magic writing, even a grammar, but our surmise takes on no definite forms and seems unwilling to become a higher key. It is as though an alkahest had been poured over the senses of man. Only at moments do their desires and thoughts seem to solidify. Thus arise their presentiments, but after a short time everything swims again before their eyes.

I heard a voice say from afar that the incomprehensible is solely the result of incomprehension, which seeks what it has and therefore can never make further discoveries. We do not understand speech, because speech does not understand itself, nor wish to; the true Sanskrit would speak in order to speak, because speech is its delight and essence.

A little later, there was one who said: "The holy scripture needs no explanation. He who speaks true, is full of eternal life, his written word seems wondrously akin to the mysteries, for it is a chord taken from the symphony of the universe."

Surely the voice was speaking of our teacher, for he knows how to gather together the traits that are scattered everywhere. A unique light is kindled in his eyes when he lays down the sacred rune before us and peers into our eyes to see whether in us the light is risen that makes the figure visible and intelligible. If he sees that we are sorrowful because the night does not recede, he comforts us and promises future happiness to the assiduous, faithful seer.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **William Vogt:**

This The Novices of Sais: With illustrations by Paul Klee book is simply not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is definitely information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This The Novices of Sais: With illustrations by Paul Klee without we realize teach the one who reading it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry The Novices of Sais: With illustrations by Paul Klee can bring when you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' become full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even telephone. This The Novices of Sais: With illustrations by Paul Klee having excellent arrangement in word in addition to layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

#### **Na Urquhart:**

Now a day individuals who Living in the era everywhere everything reachable by match the internet and the resources included can be true or not require people to be aware of each data they get. How individuals to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the reply is reading a book. Examining a book can help persons out of this uncertainty Information specially this The Novices of Sais: With illustrations by Paul Klee book because book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the details in this book hundred per cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you probably know this.

#### **Richard Rodriguez:**

Reading a reserve tends to be new life style in this era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information which will give you benefit in your life. Having book everyone in this world can share their idea. Ebooks can also inspire a lot of people. A great deal of author can inspire all their reader with their story or even their experience. Not only situation that share in the ebooks. But also they write about advantage about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors these days always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some analysis before they write with their book. One of them is this The Novices of Sais: With illustrations by Paul Klee.

#### **Melissa Cox:**

Is it anyone who having spare time and then spend it whole day by watching television programs or just lying on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This The Novices of Sais: With illustrations by Paul Klee can be the reply, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are so out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this completely new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these books have than the others?

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