



The Powers of the Word: Selected Essays and Notes 1927-1943

Rene Daumal

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Since his death in 1944, René Daumal has come to be recognized as one of the original minds of the twentieth century French letters. Poet, essayist, philosopher and translator, Sanscrit scholar and pupil of Gurdjieff, Daumal was a founder of the Grand Jeu group. He was iconoclastic and eclectic, able to embrace simultaneously Alfred Jarry's Pataphysics and Hindu teachings.

Daumal's two major works in English translation, *Mount Analogue* and *A Night of Serious Drinking*, have long been classics in this country; but until now, readers have not had access to the full range of his thought. *The Powers of the Word* spans a lifetime of essays and notes—many here translated for the first time—from the earliest incitements to drug use and revolt; through Daumal's unique readings of literary works; to his more mature, but no less ardent, meditations.

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