















23

Damas, le 9 juillet 1956

Cher Ami ,

Je m'excuse de tout coeur de ce long temps que j'ai mis pour répondre à votre aimable lettre. J'étais - durant les semaines passées - occupé dans la préparation du Congrès des Peuples Musulmans ainsi que dans les réunions de ce Congrès, qui vient de clôturer ses séances après avoir pris d'importantes décisions concernant la Palestine et l'Algérie, décisions qui auront pour effet certain, le retour de la Paix et de la Sécurité à ces deux pays musulmans.

Pour les quelques questions de détail que vous m'avez posé, je suis à même de vous donner les éclaircissements suivants :

1.- Mon nom - pour une prononciation française - doit s'écrire comme suit : Saïd Tahsine; pour une prononciation anglaise, je vous laisse le soin de la trouver, puisque vous connaissez mieux que moi votre langue.

2.- Mon adresse s'écrit : Abou-Roummaneh Avenue.

3.- Quant à l'Association Arabe pour les Beaux-Arts, je l'avais fondée depuis déjà bien longtemps; pour des raisons personnelles, je ne me suis plus occupée d'elle. D'ailleurs, elle s'est divisée en plusieurs autres associations. Toutefois, d'après mes propres connaissances, je ne connais pas d'autre artiste syrien qui s'occupe de peintures métaphysiques. Je ne peux donc vous être d'une grande utilité à ce sujet.

4.- Le nom anglais que je préfère donner à mon tableau est : SOUL & BODY. Le nom "SOUL & FLESH" viendrait bien en second rang.

5.- Afin de réaliser votre demande, j'ai fait appel à Mr. Georges Derzi, l'un des meilleurs photographes professionnels de Damas, pour me faire une reproduction photographique de mon tableau. Vous trouverez donc, ci-joint, la photo qu'il a faite. Je trouve qu'elle n'est pas mal du tout et j'espère qu'elle plaira à votre éditeur. Le cas contraire, je crois que la meilleure chose à faire, c'est de faire une copie de la reproduction en couleurs que je vous ai déjà envoyée. Comme vous le constaterez aussi, j'ai pris un soin tout particulier dans son emballage pour qu'elle vous arrive en bon état.

6.- Il est exact que la date de ce tableau est 1948 et ses dimensions sont 97 cm x 76 cm.

7.- En ce moment, je n'ai pas de tableaux de nature métaphysique à vendre. Toutefois, je suis en train de préparer quelques uns mais je ne crois pas pouvoir les terminer avant un certain temps. En outre, les deux autres tableaux de nature métaphysique que j'ai faits, se trouvent dans la collection des reproductions que je vous ai faite parvenir.

Je tiens cette occasion pour vous remercier pour les jolies reproductions représentant la vie du Messih que j'ai bien reçues en temps.

Tout en vous souhaitant le meilleur succès pour votre travail, je vous prie de croire à mon amitié sincère et à mes cordiales salutations  
SAÏD TAHSINE, Abou Roummaneh Avenue, DAMAS.

*Saïd Tahsine*

*Permissum*

Je n'ai aucune opposition à publier tout ce que je viens de vous écrire, avec mon tableau " L'Âme et le Corps " duquel vous trouverez ci-joint une photographie . P

Pour ce qui est des tableaux qui exprimeraient des idées métaphysiques et autre humaines, ces tableaux sont encore à l'étape de préparation et d'étude. J'espère pouvoir les achever au cours des deux années prochaines avec la grâce de Dieu .

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I the undersigned SAID TAHSEEN hereby allow Professor  
Dr. RAYMOND F. PIPER to publish the picture entitled " Body &  
Soul " which is my work in his book and also allow him to  
republish the picture in accordance with his wish .

This certificate is given in testimony thereof.

Damascus, Oct. 20, 1961

SAID TAHSEEN

Said tahsine .

Tahsine

#66

65- Soul versus Body  
by Tabsumi

Letter of Oct. 29, 1961:

"I agree to the publication of  
the picture of the painting  
"Body & Soul".

#66

65

Tahsine

✓  
✓

66

SAID TAHSINE.

Soul and Body (Divine Revelation)

1948. Syria

*Versus Flesh*

46

"Carnal Man indulges in the gratification of his bestial appetites to his eventual annihilation, whilst Spiritual Man seeks infinity in the transcendental harmonies of the Celestial spheres," Thus does Dr. Adnan Aitah characterize this painting, ~~and adds~~ *from a letter of* According to the artist; "The large seated figure represents the believer whom I express as resplendent light. The Koran on his knees aids him in securing happiness in both lives. He shares in the Divine revelation and thus obtains eternal bliss. He is in a state of ecstasy before the symphony of eternity, through the rays of Divine Light which permeate his heart and mind." He lives half on earth and half in the ~~spirit~~ *sky*. The five descending rays symbolize spiritual rapport between believer and God."

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N 20

\* (Pamphlet, "Paintings of the Orient", Hashimieh Edition, Damascus, 1948, p. 3)

*whom I express as resplendent light*  
~~expressed by~~ *resplendent light*

check

[Data for index:] Tahsine, Said. ~~1904~~ Born 1904 in Damascus of

Moslem parents. Soul and Body, p. Oil, 30 x 38". Owner, artist.

Revelation or Soul versus Flesh,

66. SAID TAHSUNE. Soul and Body. (Divine Revelation) 1948. Syria

"Carnal Man indulges in the gratification of his bestial appetites to his eventual annihilation, whilst Spiritual Man seeks infinity in the transcendental harmonies of the celestial spheres," Thus does Dr. Adnan Aitah characterize this painting. \*

According to the artist, "The large seated figure represents the believer who has just arrived in the presence of God. The Koran on his knees aids him in securing happiness in both lives. He shares in the Divine revelation and thus obtains eternal bliss. He is in a state of ecstasy before the symphony of eternity, through the rays of Divine Light which permeate his heart and mind.\* He lives half on earth and half in the spirit. The five descending rays symbolize spiritual rapport between believer and God."

\* (Pamphlet, "Paintings of the Orient", Hashimieh Edition, Damascus, 1948. p/ 3)

TAHSINE, SAID. Syria

<sup>66</sup>  
#127B. Soul and Body, or Divine Revelation. 1948. Oil, 38x30".

Cool colors: mainly blues and greens. Owner, artist.

A Soul and Body was thus characterized by an Arab artist: "Carnal Man indulges in the gratification of his bestial appetites to his eventual annihilation, whilst <sup>+</sup>Spiritual Man seeks infinity in the transcendental harmonies of the celestial spheres." (Pamphlet, "Paintings of the Orient" Hashimieh Edition, Damascus, 1948 p. 3.) *Dr. Adnan Aitah*

The artist declares, "The truth! This is the rapport of human beings with God. Intelligence cannot imagine nor compare the Person of God because God has no equal or likeness. That is why I have expressed God as a light. The sky is filled with angels who exalt God by their songs under the form of interminable circles.

"The large seated figure represents the believer who has just arrived in the presence of God. [He raises his hands heavenward in thanksgiving and prayer.] The Koran on his knees aids him in securing happiness in both lives. He shares in the Divine revelation and thus obtains eternal bliss. He is in a state of ecstasy before the symphony of ~~et~~ eternity, through the rays of Divine Light which permeate his heart and mind." [He lives half on earth and half in the sky.] Thus the five descending rays symbolize spiritual rapport between the believer and God."

Biography:

SAID TAHSINE. Syria

#127B. ~~XXXX~~ Soul and Body, or Divine Revelation. 1948. Oil, 38 x 30"  
(97 x 76 cm.). Cool colors: mainly blues and greens. Owner, artist.

The paintings of Tahsine spring from three sources of inspiration:

1. Pride in the glories of his Arab heritage and in the Arab awakening of today.
2. Love of man: his profound sympathies for human liberty and human miseries, such as the sufferings, starvation and massacres which he witnessed in service during both World Wars.
3. Religious faith. "The primary source of my inspiration is God."

(The artist's words come from letters.) ¶ An Arab critic affirmed, "Strongly religious by nature, he looked for comfort and inspiration to the Islamic belief<sup>f</sup> in the ultimate victory of Spirit over Flesh, of Good over Evil, / Love over hatred. It is in this present field of symbolism in painting that Said Tahsine has become the founder of a new school in the Arab countries." (Pamphlet, "Paintings of the Orient", Hashimieh Edition, Damascus, 1948, p. 2.) In 19\_\_ he founded the Arab Association of Fine Arts. Probably he is still the only metaphysical painter in Syria.

The same critic thus characterized Soul and Body: "Carnal Man indulges in the gratification of his bestial appetites to his eventual annihilation<sup>i</sup>, whilst Spiritual Man seeks infinity in the transcendental harmonies of the celestial spheres."

(Ibid., p. 3.)

The artist declares, "The truth! This is the rapport of human beings with God. Intelligence cannot imagine or compare the Person of God because God has no equal or likeness. That is why I have expressed the idea of God as a light reflecting names [??] and having the form of angels. The sky is filled with angels who exalt God by their songs under the form of interminable circles.

"The large seated figure represents the believer who has just arrived in the presence of God. He raises his hands heavenward in ~~thanksgiving~~ thanksgiving and prayer. The Koran on his knees aids him in securing happiness in both lives. He shares in the Divine revelation and thus obtains eternal ~~happiness~~ <sup>bliss.</sup> He is in a state of ecstasy ~~ecstasy~~ before the symphony of eternity, through the rays of Divine light which permeate his heart ~~and mind~~ and mind. He lives half on ~~the~~ earth and half in the sky. ~~Thus the five descending rays~~ Thus the five descending rays symbolize spiritual rapport between the believer and God."

Biography. (No works for sale.) Born in 1904 in Damascus, of Moslem parents. 1937-1941: Professor in Bagdad Normal School. From 1950, active on Council of World Peace, with wide travel and radio addresses in Paris, Moscow and Peking, on peace, liberty, and the brotherhood of man. <sup>Abou</sup> ~~Abou~~-Roummaneh Ave., Damascus.

Other works: The Vision, Death, The Soul After  
Death, Victory of Humanity.

SAID TAHSINE: Soul Versus Flesh or Revelation.

1948. Syria

20  
"Carnal Man indulges in the gratification of his bestial appetites to his eventual annihilation, whilst Spiritual Man seeks infinity in the transcendental harmonies of the Celestial Spheres." Thus does Dr. Adnan Aitah characterize this painting.

From a letter of the artist: "The large seated figure represents the believer who has just arrived in the presence of God, whom I express as resplendent light. The Koran on his knees aids him in securing happiness in both lives. He shares in the Divine revelation and thus obtains eternal bliss. He is in a state of ecstasy before the symphony of eternity, through the rays of Divine Light which permeate his heart and mind. He lives half on earth and half in the sky. The five descending rays symbolize spiritual rapport between believer and God."

SAID TAHSINE: Soul Versus Flesh or Revelation.

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#65

Tahsine

Damascus, October 20, 1961

Said Tahsine  
Abou-Roummaneh Avenue  
Damascus, Syria

Dr. Raymond F. Piper  
Professor of Philosophy, Emeritus  
Syracuse University  
1310 Comstock Avenue  
Syracuse 5, N.Y.  
U. S. A.

Dear friend,

It made me very glad to read your kind letter which expressed your noble feelings. I was reassured about your health and your esteemed project. Thank you for your good wishes towards me and I hope God will keep you and your family in good health and that peace will continue on earth. Your letter arrived about one month late because it came by sea mail by mistake.

Permission

I have corrected some words in article and I would have liked to expand in spiritual expression, but you informed me there would be no more space. I agree to the publication of your article about me in your valuate book and the picture of the painting "Body & Soul" according to the certificate attached to this letter. I suggest that in order to obtain a very good photograph of the painting that you copy it from the coloured picture you have because it is very clear and you can obtain a black and white photograph which is very clear, unless you want to print it in colour because colour in spiritual picture is stranger and deeper in expression than lines it would be in the interest of your project as I think. However, the decision is yours to take. I regret I do not have a photograph which is better than the one you have.

I am still painting sophist spiritual paintings concerning the unknown world and I feel elation supassing imagination. My spiritual mind wanders in this eternal world to forget even for a few hours the cares of this life the most important of which is fear for humanity and its values from atomic dust and atomic weapons. I hope to God he will guide all these responsible in the world in the direction of good and right.

Until now I do not have a painting better than that of "Body & Soul". The other most important paintings are "Body & Soul", "Death", "Vision", "Eternity of the Spuit", and "Dervishes". Just to remind you, I took up painting in 1920 and painted hundreds of painting during the long years that followed that are distributed over different parts of world, especially the Arab countries and particularly Damascus at the Presidential Palace, the National Museum and other Government houses. I have large paintings that represent Arab glories and I still live from my profession.

.../...

I am sending you herewith some stamps I have . Please accept my apologies because they are so few.

I sincerely wish God to keep your good health & happiness.

Kindly accept my great gratitude and respect.

Yours Sincerely

*Said Tahsine*

SAID TAHSINE

Note:- The name of the autor who wrote " Paintings from theEast , is Doctor in Law Adnan Aitah.

As for the establishment of Arab Association for Fine Arts which I was the Head, it took place in May 1944 in accordance with Republicain Decree N° 472.

66  
SAID TAHFINE. Syria

#127B. ~~EMM~~ Soul and Body, or Divine Revelation. 1948. Oil, 38 x 30"  
(97 x 76 cm.). Cool colors: mainly blues and greens. Oweber, artist.

The paintings of Tahsine spring from three sources of inspiration:

1. Pride in the glories of his Arab heritage and in the Arab awakening of today.
2. Love of man: his profound sympathies for human liberty and human miseries, such as the sufferings, starvation and massacres which he witnessed ~~in service~~ during both World Wars.
3. Religious faith. "The primary source of my inspiration is God."  
(The artist's words come from letters.) An Arab critic affirmed, <sup>Dr. in law ~~Dr.~~ Adnan Aita,</sup> "Strongly religious by nature, he looked for comfort and inspiration to the Islamic belief in the ultimate victory of Spirit over Flesh, of Good over Evil, <sup>and</sup> Love over hatred. It is in this present field of symbolism in painting that Said Tahsine has become the founder of a new school in the Arab countries." (Pamphlet, "Paintings of the Orient", Hashimieh Edition, Damascus, 1948, p. 2.) In 1944 <sup>and he was its president.</sup> he founded the Arab Association of Fine Arts, <sup>Probably he is still the only metaphysical painter in Syria.</sup>

The same critic thus characterized Soul and Body: "Carnal Man indulges in the gratification of his bestial appetites to his eventual annihilation<sup>1</sup>, whilst Spiritual Man seeks infinity in the transcendental harmonies of the celestial spheres."

(Ibid., p. 3.)

The artist declares, "The truth! This is the rapport of human beings with God. Intelligence cannot imagine or compare the Person of God because God has no equal or likeness. That is why I have expressed the idea of God as a light <sup>emanating revelation</sup> reflecting <sup>names</sup> ~~names~~ [??] and <sup>surrounded by angels</sup> ~~having the form of~~ angels. The sky is filled with angels who exalt God by their songs under the form of interminable circles.

"The large seated figure represents the believer who has just arrived in the presence of God. He raises his hands heavenward in ~~thank~~ thanksgiving and prayer. The Koran on his knees aids him in securing happiness in both lives. He shares in the Divine revelation and thus obtains eternal ~~happiness~~ <sup>bliss.</sup> He is in a state of ecstasy ~~before~~ before the symphony of eternity, through the rays of Divine light which permeate his heart ~~and mind~~ and mind. He lives half on ~~the~~ earth and half in the sky. ~~Thus the five descending rays symbolize spiritual rapport between the believer and God.~~ Thus the five descending rays symbolize spiritual rapport between the believer and God."

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on peace, liberty, and the brotherhood of man. <sup>Abou</sup> ~~Abu~~-Roummaneh Ave., Damascus.

Other works: The Vision, Death, The Soul After  
Death, Victory of Humanity.



15th October, 1968.

Dear Mr. Yngo Swann,

In answer to your letter dated the 15.7.68, I hereby inform you that I left Damascus a long time ago, and I live now in the United Arab Republic. I had informed Mrs. Lilak Piper of my new address by a registered letter.

I am very pleased to hear that Mrs. Piper entrusted you with the continuation of the late Dr. Piper's work and I wish you great success.

I hereby will send you some pictures of some of my paintings except for the films as I don't have them now. But maybe you could photograph them and thereby have the negatives.

This is the second time, I send pictures of my paintings as there was a letter exchange between me and Dr. Piper for many years. Even since 1950-1962. The last letter I received was just before his death where he expressed his and his friends admiration for my painting "The Gods Symphony" and chose it out of a thousand paintings by different artists, and he promised me to publish it in his book "Cosmic Art" with a short story of my life. You will find the picture among the ten pictures I enclosed in this letter. Among the pictures there are also two pictures which represent the two world wars. But for the painting "The Gods Symphony" it represents to me the belief in God and the Islam Mysticism. Therefore, Dr. Piper chose this my painting to publish it in his book, because of its symbolism and idealism and humanity.

Here is a short explanation of this painting. The painting is an inspiration of my belief in God and Humanity and feeling of fear - as we are in the age of outer space and the atomic age - of the nuclear war that would destroy Humanity for all its worth, and this painting beckons the people of this world to return to God according to their religions, because the belief in God and Doom Day leads the human being to Prosperity and human perfection. This is a symbolic painting and every one has the freedom to understand it with his own way and see from the angle he sees it.

You asked me also about my up to date paintings but all the world knows that our arab country in the Middle East is ever since the 5th of June, 1967 in a state of war and awaits the final results of the United Nations.

I did my duty towards art and I carved some expressive pièces.

..../.

You ask me also about my point of view about contemporary Cosmic Art.

By my travelling to Western and Eastern Europe, Scandinavia and China, I have acquired much knowledge about modern art and artists and my point of view and many with me, that value art found out that most modern artists tend to follow the modern school as they call it fashionably and deteriorate from talent and philosophy to things that even a child could do, or any one without talent or notion about art. By my travelling I also met old artists and they told me that they do not believe in these things as called fashionable as no artists can lie to another especially not to someone who is painting since 60 years.

Every artist has his mission either as painter or sculptor or sculptor or musician or poet. He is supposed to raise the standard of humans to live a better life to lead him to human perfections and ideas and express the truth like the old artists did and that is why their masterpieces are exposed in museums of all the world. But the modern artists don't mean anything in their paintings and if you ask them what they represent they don't know it themselves or explain things that do not even exist in them. And they like them just because it, because a fashion of the rich. As these fashions do not have a meaning they are not absorbed the moment you don't look at them any more you have forgotten all about them. That is they do not give you a deep feeling and meaning that you should not easily forget. Even here, in my country, there exists this modern fashion of art as there is always imitation and I try to advise them always when I established the first society of fine arts in Damascus and I was president ever since 1943 with a licence from the Ministry of Interior, but the current of fashion pulled them with it. Few listened to me. What we should do is express our feelings about the atomic wars so that we prevent a third world war.

I hope, I could be of more help to you to complete the works of Cosmic Arts.

Herewith I give you all rights for publication and permission to print the reproductions of my work. But, please let me know which of the pictures you will publish and of all criticisms and ideas that concern me and let me know if and when you received this letter and if all pictures are received .

Very truly yours,

My address:  
Said Tahsine  
Medinet el Awkaf  
11 Mahrouky Street  
Cairo - U.A.R.

  
SAID TASIN

#319/84 SYRIA

BODY AND SOUL (JUDGMENT DAY)

TAHSIN, Sa'id

~~Sect. D. JUDGMENT, HELL, HEAVEN~~

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negative: no*

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218

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O. V. Carr  
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Tahara 847  
Get both parts  
of similar types  
(in book)

Drum + 10

~~in notebook~~

Book

4121



By order and  
by order of  
James M. Smith

Said Tahsine. Syria  
Soul and Body or Revelation

(Take photo of colored reproduction in the booklet,  
Art of the Orient, over attic work desk)

#127B [#319, T 84; now T 49]

[Bottom]  
[Bottom]

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

(66000) 203  
(continued)