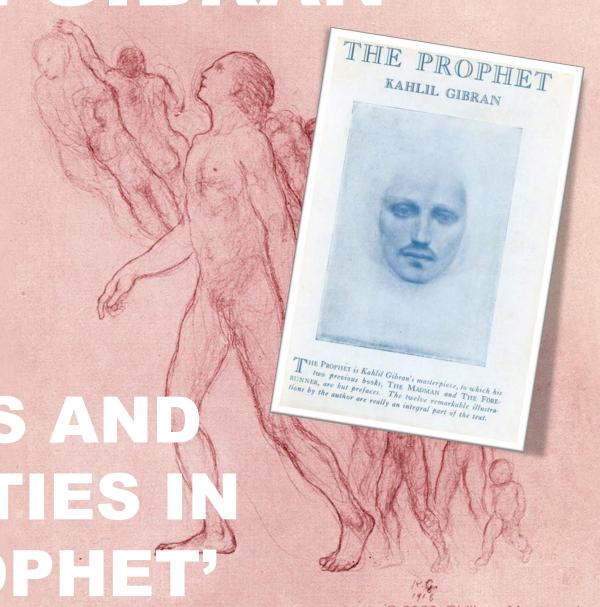
And I say that life is indeed darkness save when there is urge,

And all urge is blind save when there is knowledge, And all knowledge is vain save when there is work, And all work is empty save when there is love; And when you work with love you bind yourself to yourself, and to one another, and to God.

Work is love made visible.



CHANGES AND
CURIOSITIES IN
'THE PROPHET'

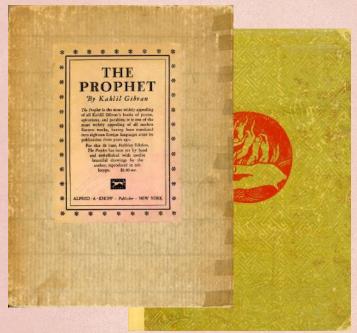
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### Changes and curiosities in 'The Prophet'

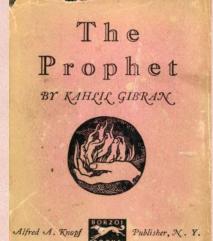
- 1. 'Sleeping mother' vs. 'sleepless mother' in the prologue
- 2. 'On Love' following the prologue or as a separate chapter
- 3. Table of Contents
- 4. 'On Reason and Passion' and 'On Prayer' swapped
- 5. 'The Prophet' and its sequels

#### 4 different editions in the United States

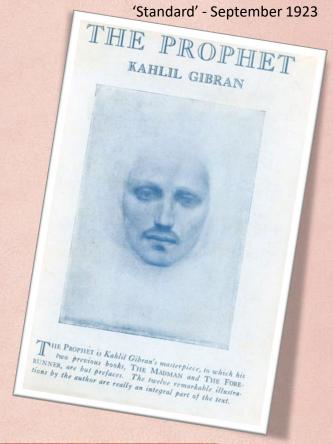
 And countless more ever since the text got into the public domain in 2019.

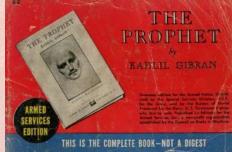


'Deluxe' - November 1926



'Pocket' - March 1927





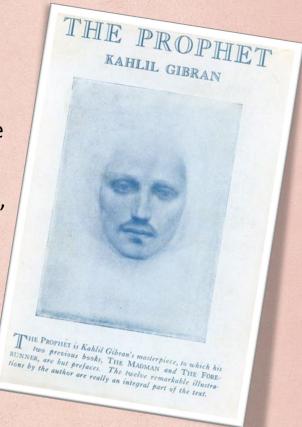
'Armed Services Edition' - 1943

### THE PROPHET

© 2023, Philippe Maryssael

#### A multi-record phenomenon...

- More than 10 million copies sold in the United States alone (2<sup>nd</sup>, after the Holy Bible)
- Never dropped from the catalogue of its publishing house since 1923 (reprinted 188 times)
- Translated into 116 national, regional and local languages, and even in languages with but a few surviving speakers (e.g. Pacific Islands)
- In French, 31 different translations since 1926 (Madeline Mason-Manheim)
- Audiobooks, animated film, comic book, editions illustrated by various artists and calligraphers



Kahlil Gibran arguably the 3<sup>rd</sup> most read author in the world, after William Shakespeare et Lao Tzu.

A multi-record phenomenon...

Early translations...

Der Prophet, 1925 Georg-Eduard Freiherr von Stietencron



LES CAHIERS NOUVEAUX LE PROPHÈTE KAHLIL GIBRAN Traduction de MADELINE MASON-MANHEIM

AUX EDITIONS DU SAGITTAIRE CHEZ SIMON KRA. 6. RUE BLANCHE, PARIS

Al-Nabī, 1926 Anţūniyūs Bashīr

De Profeet, 1927

Elisabeth Visscher Valckenier

Le Prophète, 1926

Madeline Mason

**Le Prophète** Salah Moussawy

#### A multi-record phenomenon...

Animated film, illustrations...

**The Prophet**Salma Hayek, Liam Neeson



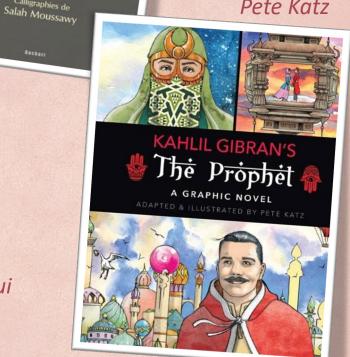
KHALIL GIBRAN
LE PROPHÈTE
LE PROPHÈTE
LE PROPHÈTE
LE PROPHÈTE



**Le Prophète** Lassaâd Metoui

ROPHET

The Prophet
Pete Katz

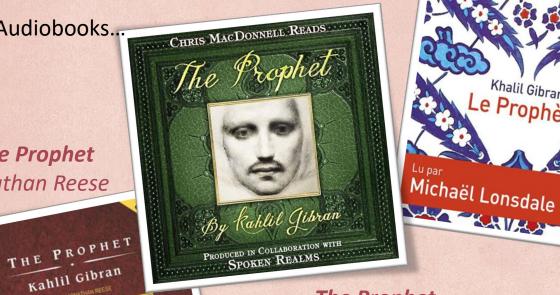


Le Prophète Michaël Lonsdale

#### A multi-record phenomenon...

Audiobooks...

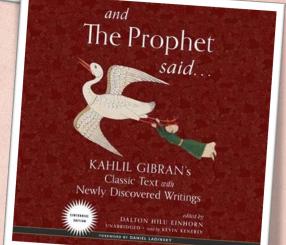
The Prophet Jonathan Reese



The Prophet Chris McDonnell

> The Prophet Kevin Kenerly

Khalil Gibran Le Prophète



Tantor Unabridged Classics

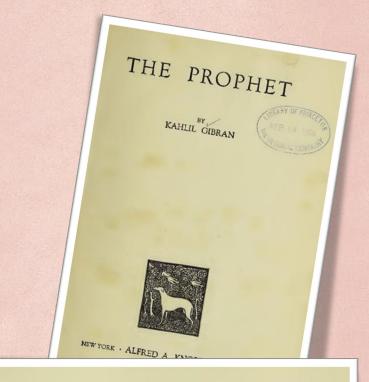
### Changes and curiosities in 'The Prophet'

- 1. 'Sleeping mother' vs. 'sleepless mother' in the prologue
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#### 'Sleeping mother' vs. 'sleepless mother'

On page 10 of the 1<sup>st</sup> print (September 1923)

And you, vast sea, sleeping mother,
Who alone are peace and freedom to
the river and the stream,
Only another winding will this stream
make, only another murmur in this glade,
And then shall I come to you, a boundless drop to a boundless ocean.



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Published September, 1923

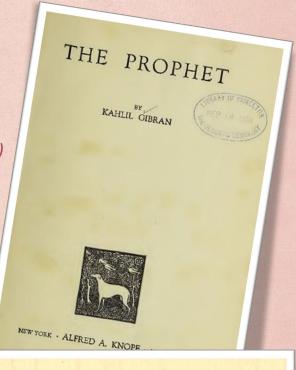
### THEPROPHET

### 'Sleeping mother' vs. 'sleepless mother'

On page 10 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> print (March 1924)

And you, vast sea, sleeping mother,
Who alone are peace and freedom to
the river and the stream,
Only another winding will this stream
make, only another murmur in this glade,
And then shall I come to you, a boundless drop to a boundless ocean.

Copy owned by Glen Kalem-Habib (Australia)



And you, vast sea, sleepless mother,

Who alone are peace and freedom to

Philips

Only another winding will this stream

only another murmur in this glade,

make, only another murmur in this glade,

And then shall I come to you, a boundless drop to a boundless ocean.

to Copy owned by Philippe Maryssael (Belgium)

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Published September, 1923 Second Printing, March, 1924

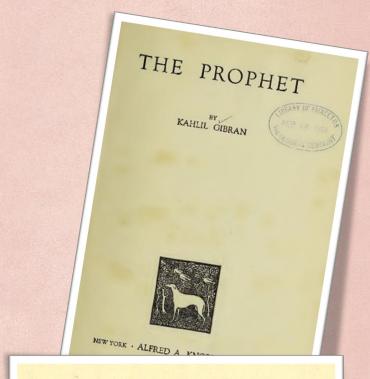
# KAHLLGBRAN

### 'Sleeping mother' vs. 'sleepless mother'

On page 10 of the 3<sup>rd</sup> print (August 1924)

And you, vast sea, sleeping mother,
Who alone are peace and freedom to
the river and the stream,
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make, only another murmur in this glade,
And then shall I come to you, a boundless drop to a boundless ocean.

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Published September, 1923 Second Printing, March, 1924 Third Printing, August, 1924

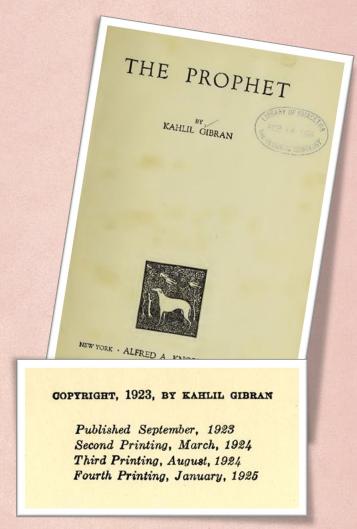
## THE PROPHET

#### 'Sleeping mother' vs. 'sleepless mother'

- On page 10 of the 4<sup>th</sup> print (January 1925)
- Subsequent prints similar to 4<sup>th</sup> print

And you, vast sea, sleepless mother,
Who alone are peace and freedom to
the river and the stream,
Only another winding will this stream
make, only another murmur in this glade,
And then shall I come to you, a boundless drop to a boundless ocean.

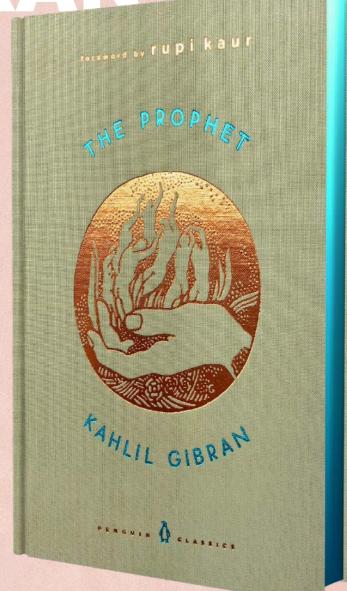
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### THEPROPHET

#### 'Sleeping mother' vs. 'sleepless mother'

- From the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> print, Alfred Knopf seems to have messed it up. What happened? Could it be that, faced with an early success of 'The Prophet,' the printer ran two lines of production to shorten the time-to-market?
- In the latest, the 188<sup>th</sup>, print by Penguin Books (that merged with Random House that acquired Knopf in 1960), 'sleepless mother' is the definitive version.



### THE PROPHET

### 'Sleeping mother' vs. 'sleepless mother'

The deluxe, pocket and Armed Services editions: 'sleepless mother'

And you, vast sea, sleepless mother, Who alone are peace and freedom to the river and the

Only another winding will this stream make, only anstream, other murmur in this glade,

And then I shall come to you a boundless drop to a

And you, vast sea, sleepless mother,

Who alone are peace and freedom to the river

Only another winding will this stream make, and the stream, only another murmur in this glade,

And then shall I cor drop to a boundless oce

nest shall the eagle fly across the

Now when he reached the foot of the hill, he turned again towards the sea, and he saw his ship approaching the harbour, and upon her prow the mariners, the men of his own land.

And his soul cried out to them, and he said.

Sons of my ancient mother, you riders of the tides,

How often have you sailed in my dreams. And now you come BY KAHLIL GIBRAN

in my awakening, which is my deeper dream.

Ready am I to go, and my eagerness with sails full set awaits the wind.

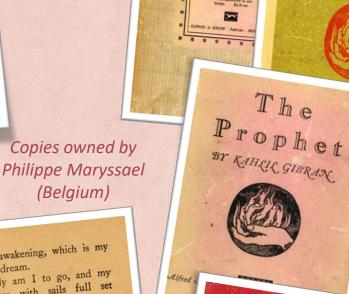
Only another breath will I breathe in this still air, only another loving look cast backward,

And then I shall stand among you, a seafarer among seafarers.

And you, vast sea, sleepless

Who alone are peace and freedom to the river and the stream,

Only another winding will this stream make, only another mur-



THE ROPHE

The

THE

PROPHET

KAPILIL GIBRAN

THIS IS THE COMPLETE BOOK-NOT A DIGEST

### Changes and curiosities in 'The Prophet'

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# KAHLGBRAN

### 'On Love' following the prologue or as a separate chapter

On page 15 of the 1<sup>st</sup> print (September 1923) up to the 56<sup>th</sup> (before November 1953), the Counsel 'On Love' follows the prologue.

Published September 1923
Reprinted fifty-five times
Reset and printed from new plates, November 1953
Fifty-eighth printing, May 1955
Fifty-ninth printing, August 1956
Sixtieth printing, January 1958

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Consulted prints: 1 (1923), 2 & 3 (1924), 4 (1925), 9 & 10 (1926), 12 (1927), 15 (1928), 24 (1930), 25 (1931), 41 (1944) speak save of that which is even now moving within your souls?

Then said Almitra, Speak to us of

And he raised his head and looked upon the people, and there fell a stillness upon them. And with a great voice he

When love beckons to you, follow him,
Though his ways are hard and steep.
And when his wings enfold you yield to
him.

Though the sword hidden among his pinions may wound you.

And when he speaks to you believe in

Though his voice may shatter your dreams as the north wind lays waste the garden.

### 'On Love' following the prologue or as a separate chapter

- On page 11 of the 57<sup>th</sup> print (November 1953) up to the 188<sup>th</sup> (2019): the Counsel 'On Love' starts as a new chapter.
- For the 57<sup>th</sup> and later prints, the text of the standard edition was reset and printed from new plates.

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Consulted prints: 56 (1953), 60 (1958), 66 (1962), 80 (1968), 87 (1971), 188 (2019)

Yet this we ask ere you leave us, that you speak to us and give us of your truth.

And we will give it unto our children, and they unto their children, and it shall not perish.

In your aloneness you have watched with our days, and in your wakefulness you have listened to the weeping and the laughter of

Now therefore disclose us to ourselves, and tell us all that has been shown you of that which is between birth and death.

And he answered,

People of Orphalese, of what can I speak save of that which is even now moving within your souls?

H

THEN said Almitra, Speak to us of Love. And he raised his head and looked upon the people, and there fell a stillness upon them. And with a great voice he said:

When love beckons to you, follow him, Though his ways are hard and steep. And when his wings enfold you yield to

Though the sword hidden among his pinions may wound you.

And when he speaks to you believe in

Though his voice may shatter your dreams as the north wind lays waste the garden.

For even as love crowns you so shall he crucify you. Even as he is for your growth so is he for your pruning.

Even as he ascends to your height and caresses your tenderest branches that quiver in the sun,

So shall he descend to your roots and shake them in their clinging to the earth.

# KAFLILGBR

'On Love' following the prologue or as a separate chapter

 On page 11 of the 1<sup>st</sup> print (November 1926) of the deluxe edition onwards and on page 12 of the 1<sup>st</sup> print (March 1927) of the pocket edition onwards, the Counsel 'On Love' starts as a new chapter.

HEN said Almitra, Speak to us of Love.

And he raised his head and looked upon the people, and there fell a stillness upon them. And with a great voice he said:

When love beckons to you, follow him,

Though his ways are hard and steep.

And when his wings enfold you yield to him,
Though the sword hidden among his pinions may wound

you.

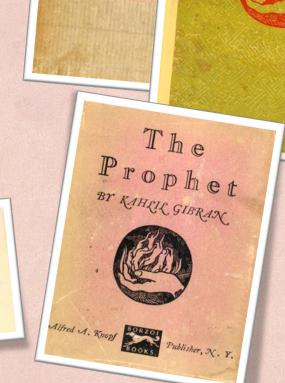
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And he raised his head and looked upon the people, and there fell a stillness upon them.

And with a great voice he said:

When love beckons to you, follow him,

When love beckons to you,
Though his ways are hard and steep.



#### 'On Love' following the prologue or as a separate chapter

On page 18 of the Armed Services Edition (1943), the Counsel 'On Love' also starts as a new chapter.

children, and it shall not perish.

In your aloneness you have watched with our days, and in your wakefulness you have listened to the weeping and the laughter of our sleep.

Now therefore disclose us to ourselves, and tell us all that has been shown you of that which is between birth and death.

And he answered, People of Orphalese, of what can I speak save of that which is even now moving within your souls?

18

ON LOVE

THEN said Almitra, Speak to us of Love.

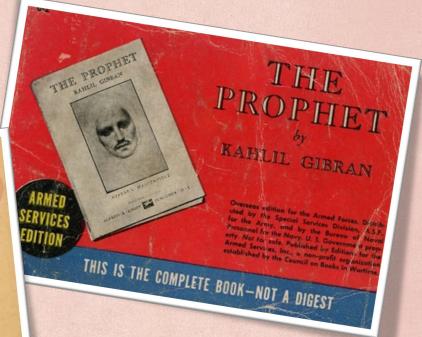
And he raised his head and looked upon the people, and there fell a stillness upon them. And with a great voice he said:

When love beckons to you, follow him,

Though his ways are hard and

And when his wings enfold you yield to him,

Though the sword hidden THE PROPHET



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### Changes and curiosities in 'The Prophet'

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#### **Table of Contents**

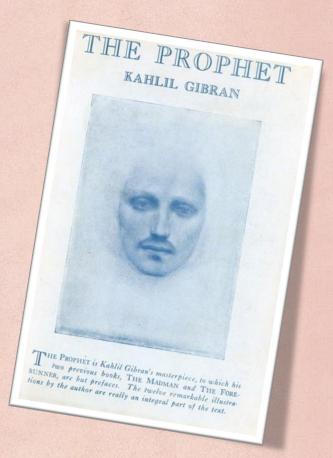
 Based on the copies of the various prints of the standard edition consulted, a table of contents was inserted in the 9<sup>th</sup> print. In the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> prints, there was no table of contents.

 The table of contents was inserted between the 5<sup>th</sup> (May 1925) and 9<sup>th</sup> (October 1926) print.

Table of contents from the 9<sup>th</sup> print (October 1926)

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	CONTENTS	PAGE
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	E COMING OF THE SHIP	15
Ти	E COMING OF THE	19
0	LOVE	21
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ON	CHILDREN	27
01	GIVING DRINKING	
0	GIVING AND DRINKING	31
0	N WORK CORROW	35
0	N WORK N JOY AND SORROW	37
0	N Houses	41
0	N CLOTHES	43
C	ON CLOTHES ON BUYING AND SELLING ON PUNISHMENT	45
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	ON TALKING	72
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	ON GOOD AND EVIL	79
	ON PRAYER	83
	ON PLEASURE	87
	ON BEAUTY	90
	ON RELIGION	92
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	THE FAREWELL	



### THEPRO

#### **Table of Contents**

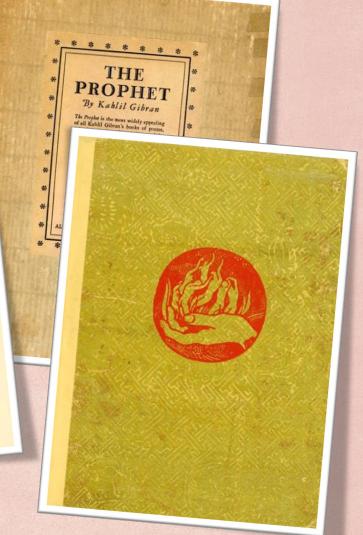
The deluxe edition had a table of contents from the 1st print on.

#### November 1926

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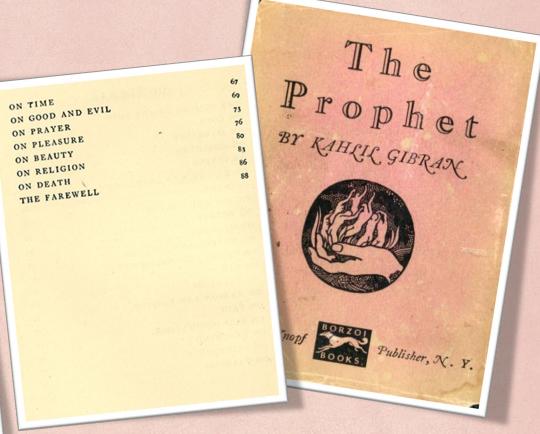


#### **Table of Contents**

 The pocket edition had a table of contents from the 1<sup>st</sup> print on.

#### March 1927

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1	ON JOY AND SORROW	37
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	ON SELF-KNOWLEDGE	61
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	ON FRIENDSHIP	6
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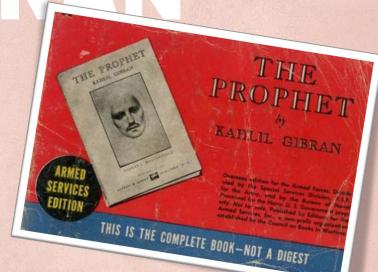
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#### **Table of Contents**

 The Armed Services Edition (1943) also had a table of contents.

CONT	EN	TS				
		1. 19				11
OF THE SHIP						18
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	ON LAWS ON FREEDOM ON REASON AND PASSION ON PAIN ON SELF-KNOWLEDGE ON TEACHING ON FRIENDSHIP ON TALKING ON TIME ON GOOD AND EVIL ON PRAYER ON PLEASURE ON BEAUTY ON RELIGION ON DEATH THE FAREWELL	48 50 53 53 55 57 58 60 62 63 65 68 70 74 77 79 81
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All Counsels are introduced by questions asked or requests submitted to Almustafa by the people of Orphalese.

In all prints of the standard editions, the requests concerning the Counsels 'On Reason and Passion'

and 'On Prayer' are as follows:

And the priestess spoke again and said: Speak to us of Reason and Passion.

And he answered, saying:

Your soul is oftentimes a battlefield, upon which your reason and your judgment wage war against your passion and your appetite.

Would that I could be the peacemaker in your soul, that I might turn the discord and the rivalry of your elements into oneness and melody.

But how shall I, unless you yourselves be also the peacemakers, nay, the lovers of all your elements?

Your reason and your passion are the rudder and the sails of your seafaring

If either your sails or your rudder be soul. broken, you can but toss and drift, or else be held at a standstill in mid-seas. 57

Then a priestess said, Speak to us of Prayer.

And he answered, saying:

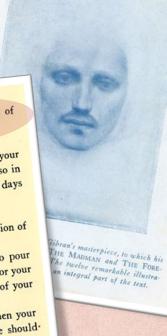
You pray in your distress and in your need; would that you might pray also in the fullness of your joy and in your days of abundance.

For what is prayer but the expansion of yourself into the living ether?

And if it is for your comfort to pour your darkness into space, it is also for your delight to pour forth the dawning of your

And if you cannot but weep when your soul summons you to prayer, she shouldspur you again and yet again, though weeping, until you shall come laughing.

When you pray you rise to meet in the air those who are praying at that very 76



THE PROPHET KAHLIL GIBRAN

17/07/2023

In the deluxe editions...



IND the priestess spoke again and said: Speak to us of Reason and Passion.

And he answered, saying:

Your soul is oftentimes a battlefield, upon which your reason and your judgment wage war against your passion and your appetite.

Would that I could be the peacemaker in your soul, that I might turn the discord and the rivalry of your elements

But how shall I, unless you yourselves be also the peaceinto oneness and melody. makers, nay, the lovers of all your elements?

Your reason and your passion are the rudder and the sails of your seafaring soul.

If either your sails or your rudder be broken, you can but toss and drift, or else be held at a standstill in mid-seas.

For reason, ruling alone, is a force confining; and passion, unattended, is a flame that burns to its own destruction.

Therefore let your soul exalt your reason to the height of

And let it direct your passion with reason, that your paspassion, that it may sing; sion may live through its own daily resurrection, and like the phoenix rise above its own ashes.

[ 45 ]



HEN a priestess said, Speak to us of Prayer. And he answered, saying:

You pray in your distress and in your need; would that you might pray also in the fullness of your joy and in the your days of abundance.

For what is prayer but the expansion of yourself into the

And if it is for your comfort to pour your darkness into living ether? space, it is also for your delight to pour forth the dawning of

And if you cannot but weep when your soul summons your heart. you to prayer, she should spur you again and yet again, though weeping, until you shall come laughing.

When you pray you rise to meet in the air those who are praying at that very hour, and whom save in prayer you may

Therefore let your visit to that temple invisible be for not meet. naught but ecstasy and sweet communion.

For if you should enter the temple for no other purpose than asking you shall not receive:



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... in the pocket editions...

ND the priestess spoke again and said: Speak to us of Reason and Passion. And he answered, saying:

Your soul is oftentimes a battlefield, upon which your reason and your judgment wage war against your passion and your appetite.

Would that I could be the peacemaker in your soul, that I might turn the discord and the rivalry of your elements into oneness and

But how shall I, unless you yourselves be melody. also the peacemakers, nay, the lovers of all your

Your reason and your passion are the rudder elements? and the sails of your seafaring soul.

If either your sails or your rudder be broken, you can but toss and drift, or else be held at a standstill in mid-seas.

[ 55 ]

The Prophet Br KAHLIK GIBRAN

Publisher, N. Y.

THEN a priestess said, Speak to us of Prayer. And he answered, saying:

You pray in your distress and in your need; would that you might pray also in the fullness of your joy and in your days of abundance.

For what is prayer but the expansion of yourself into the living ether?

And if it is for your comfort to pour your darkness into space, it is also for your delight to pour forth the dawning of your heart.

And if you cannot but weep when your soul summons you to prayer, she should spur you again and yet again, though weeping, until you shall come laughing.

When you pray you rise to meet in the air those who are praying at that very hour, and whom save in prayer you may not meet.

[74]



... and in the Armed Services Edition.

your being in constant half embrace, the desired and the dreaded, the repugnant and the cherished, the pursued and that which you would escape.

These things move within you as lights and shadows in pairs that cling.

And when the shadow fades and is no more, the light that lingers becomes a shadow to another light.

And thus your freedom when it loses its fetters becomes itself the fetter of a greater freedom. BY KAHLIL GIBRAN

ON REASON AND PASSION

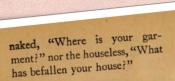
And the priestess spoke again and said Speak to us of Reason and Passion.

And he answered, saying:

Your soul is oftentimes a battlefield, upon which your reason and your judgment wage war against your passion and your

Would that I could be the

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THE PROPHET

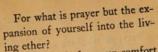
#### ON PRAYER

THEN a priestess said, Speak to us of Prayer.

And he answered, saying:

You pray in your distress and in your need; would that you might pray also in the fullness of your joy and in your days of abundance.

68



THIS IS THE COMPLETE BOOK-NOT A DIGEST

And if it is for your comfort to pour your darkness into space, it is also for your delight to pour forth the dawning of your heart.

And if you cannot but weep when your soul summons you to prayer, she should spur you again and yet again, though weeping, until you shall come laughing.

When you pray you rise to meet in the air those who are THE PROPHET

#### 'On Reason and Passion' & 'On Prayer'

Most probably, Kahlil Gibran (with or without Mary Haskell)
 asked the two Counsels to be swapped shortly before the
 'go-for-print,' and did not realize that the two requests by
 the priestess had to be adapted.

The rectified requests would have been something like...

Then a priestess said: Speak to us of **Reason and Passion**.

And he answered, saying:

Your soul is oftentimes a battlefield, upon which your reason and your judgment wage war against your passion and your appetite.

And the priestess spoke again and said, Speak to us of Prayer.

And he answered, saying:

You pray in your distress and in your need; would that you might pray also in the fullness of your joy and in your days of abundance.

### THE PROPHET

### Changes and curiosities in 'The Prophet'

- 1. 'Sleeping mother' vs. 'sleepless mother' in the prologue
- 2. 'On Love' following the prologue or as a separate chapter
- 3. Table of Contents
- 4. 'On Reason and Passion' and 'On Prayer' swapped
- 5. 'The Prophet' and its sequels

'The Prophet' and its sequels: a trilogy...

THE DEATH OF THE PROPHET

of Gibran's immortal trilogy

The Death of the Prophet,

1979-1988 (Jason Leen)

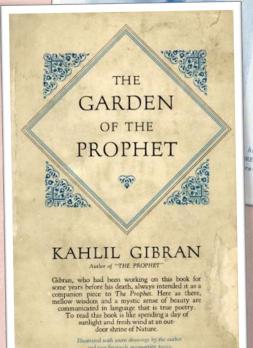
The Powerful Completion of Kahlil Gibran's Immortal Trilogy

THE DEATH OF THE PROPHET



The Prophet Trilogy, 2003 (Gibran-Leen)

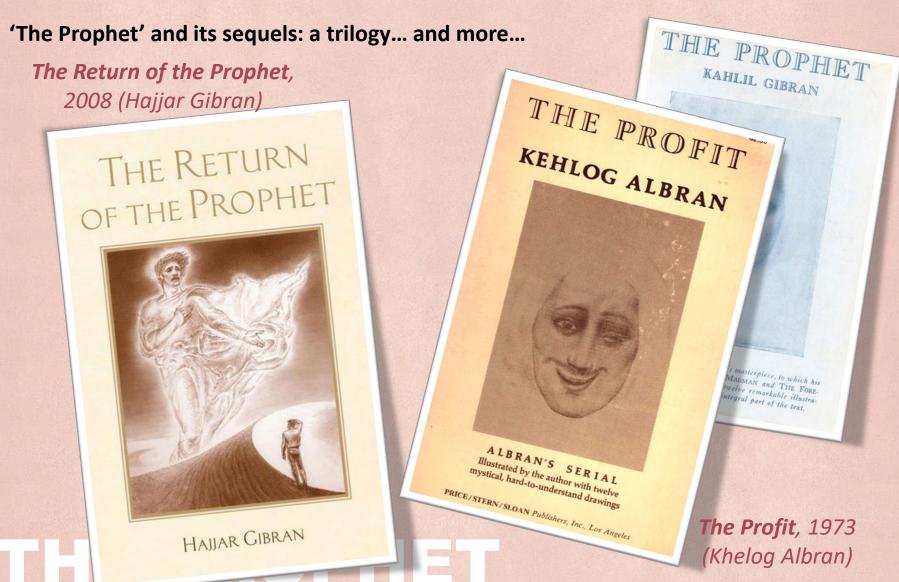
The complete and authorized edition lippe Maryssael



The Prophet, 1923

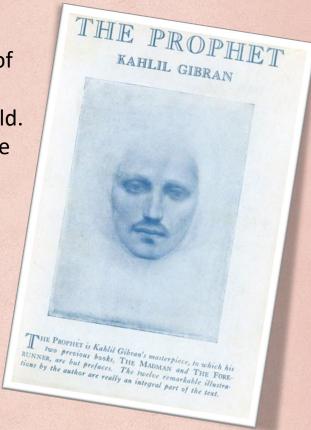
THE PROPHET

KAHLIL GIBRAN

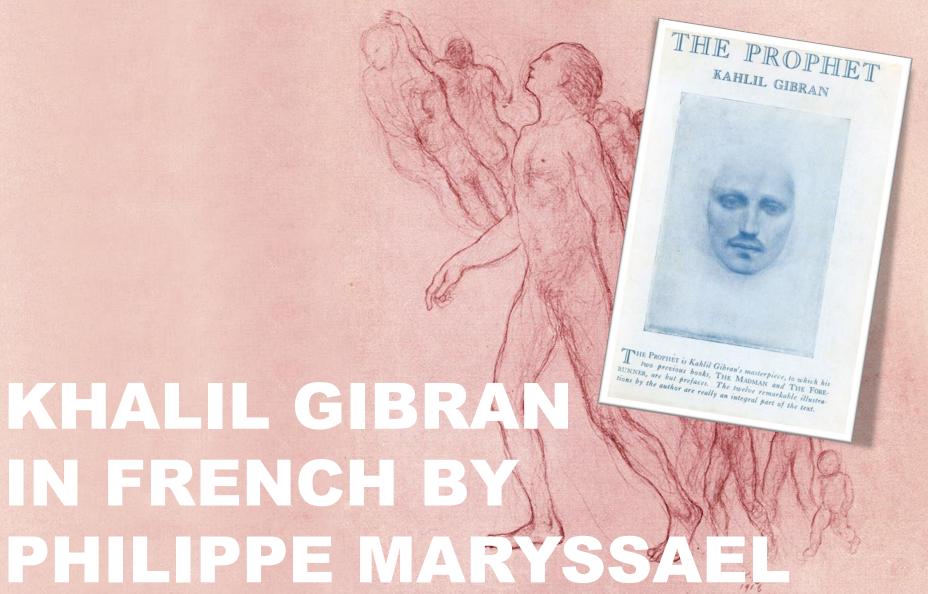


#### Conclusion

- For one hundred years, The Prophet has remained one of the longest seller of modern times and a favourite amongst readers in 116 languages in all parts of the world. And there is no doubt this will remain so for the next one hundred years.
- Many more studies will be conducted on the text, its variants, the illustrations in the various editions, the scope and depth of Gibran's message.
- More translations will be published, revealing unsuspected facets of Gibran's genius and the beauty of his masterpiece.
- Long live The Prophet by Kahlil Gibran!



Kahlil Gibran arguably the 3<sup>rd</sup> most read author in the world, after William Shakespeare et Lao Tzu.



KHALIL GIBRAN



Bilingual edition (5 February 2020)

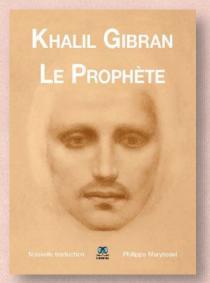
Bilingual edition (30 November 2020)



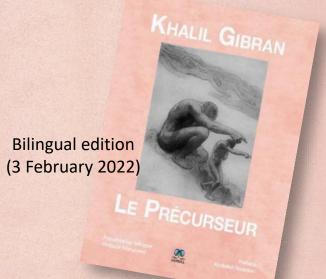
KHALIL GIBRAN LE FOL

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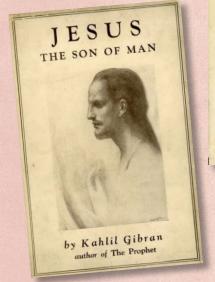
Bilingual edition (15 February 2019)

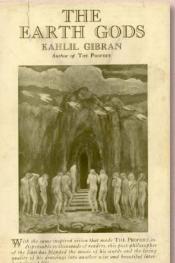


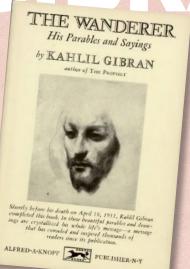
Monolingual edition (15 December 2021)



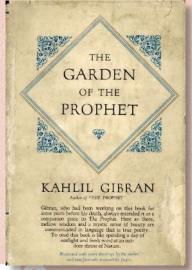
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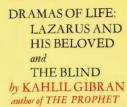














TRANSLATION PROJECTS....

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CHANGES AND CURIOSITIES IN THE PROPHET