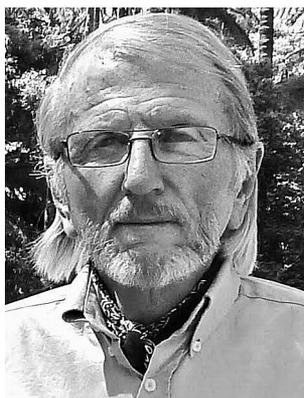


# The Wisdom of Sidi Mansur

*By Fatima Jane Casewit*



**A**lyvn Godfrey Mansur Murray, 'Sidi Mansur,' as he was called, had a profound, lifelong love for and devotion to the Truth. He was known for his gift of being able to lucidly explain metaphysics to young seekers and to those around him. Although he had little academic training, he was able to clarify the most complex metaphysical concepts. He was also known for his sublime aesthetic sensitivity, especially reflected in his home and garden, which he always said he owed to the teachings about the centrality of beauty as expounded by Frithjof Schuon. Sidi Mansur was a landscape gardener by profession, as well as having taken up English language teaching following his emigration to Morocco. The stunning gardens he designed around his home in the Ourika Valley, south of Marrakesh in Morocco, attested to his astute knowledge of landscaping principles and complemented the awe-inspiring view of the high Atlas Mountains which overlook the valley.

As a young man, Sidi Mansur spent five years in the proximity of Dr. Martin Lings before returning to Australia, where he married, and then travelled overland with his new wife to begin a new life in Morocco. In 2019 he returned to Australia for bureaucratic reasons; alas, he never saw his beloved garden again as he returned to his Lord in 2020 rather than to his beloved Morocco.

A close friend of his in Sydney, Australia, described Sidi Mansur as a man 'having excellent qualities and great humility.' What follows are extracts from some essays written by Sidi Mansur towards the end of his life, before his final return to Australia. The passages remind one of the way he spoke and how he generously gave his time speaking to spiritual seekers, in often lengthy conversations, about Principial Reality and the Self.

### **Excerpts from Sidi Mansur**

Written in Ourika, Marrakesh, Morocco 2006

There is no development in truth. There is, however, development in our apprehension of it. The reality of Deity and the truth of universal metaphysics are evident as they have always been. Our task is to become more and more aware of them.



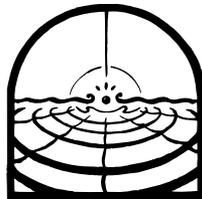
Just as a plant faithfully seeks and finds light for warmth and photosynthesis; just as a flock of birds faithfully seeks and finds safety in flight from each unexpected sound; so does the baby marsupial find comfort, sustenance and protection in the mother's pouch; even thus does humankind faithfully trust and turn to the intelligence which belongs to it; not one of us can sanely do otherwise.



Prior to our awareness of a mind as our seat of consciousness, it might be said that consciousness is aware in us, without our being distinctly aware of it. And mind thinks in us; without our distinctly thinking of it, they are both taken for granted... consciousness is prior to mind; and this is why it may be rightly called our *primary certainty*. For we intuitively believe in its findings without yet having apprehended it as it is. This unique experience never leaves us in our waking lives, and it appears to us to be a quite underived objective mode when it is not simply recognised as the opposite of unconsciousness, in which case the mind and the objective intelligence will be the knowing subject. It is this polarisation which occurs when one apprehends oneself to be a conscious being.



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