

TWO GREEK WRITERS

— P. N. VANEZIS

— V. I. KAPERNAROS

AND TWO NEW BOOKS

Both the above authors are English manqué — ^{i.e. they are} in the stream of English culture but not of it. ~~Thus~~ They combine the seemingly contradictory (~~thing~~ ^{fact} intellectually, harmonious) qualities of passion and detachment. Involved but not uncritical.

Both ~~have~~ ^{have} studied ~~in England~~ ^{in England} and ~~have~~ ^{have} made their homes in England. Both ~~have~~ ^{have} married to British girls — Dr. Vanezis ~~to~~ a Londoner of Greek parentage, Mr. Kapernaros ^{to} a Scottish girl. Both authors are bilingual, equally fluent in Greek and English.

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Dr. Vanezis was born in Cyprus. For the last eight years he has been the Cultural Attaché of the Cyprus High Commission in London. "Makarios - Faith and Power" published by Abernold-Schuman Ltd, and retailing at £2.00, is his first book. Two others are on the stocks, one ready for launching.

"Makarios - Faith and Power" is a brilliant first. It is warmly introduced ^{to the British public} by that literary good-causes-adopter, James Cameron. Mr. Cameron is a sincere believer in Anglo-Greek friendship — it would be surprising for a man of his humanity, if, indeed, this were not so — which he feels ~~it~~ will endure whatever the temporary or continuing follies of the politicians. Dr. Vanezis's book by examining ^{issues} ~~facts~~ dispassionately, by revealing ^{fact and historical} ~~the reality of~~ ^{conceptions and misconceptions} reality from underneath the temple of contentious casuistry, makes its own contribution to ^{this} ~~that~~ ^{central theme is} Makarian guiding the destinies of his people.

Dr. Vanezis's ~~does not~~ ^{does not delve into} ~~theme is~~ ^{does not} go beyond the areas of his brief. He ~~does not delve into~~ ^{does not} get no insights into the workings of the ^{Archbishop's} ~~mind~~, into the psychological mechanics of his driving daemon, into his loyalties, beliefs and

Important as these may ~~be~~ they are not touched upon in this book which is ~~basically~~ a study, ~~and not a~~ biography. ~~political faith~~ ~~What we get~~ instead Makarios, ~~as the expression and~~ not compartmentalised but whole, embodiment of ~~contemporary~~ Cypriot history. ~~And~~ here we see both the ~~from~~ and ~~the~~ forces which fashioned him. ~~and~~ ~~what~~ ~~compel~~ ~~him~~

With bold brush-strokes Dr. Vanezis gives a clear picture of the historical background of ~~present day~~ Cyprus, ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~structure~~ and religious content of its ancient Church. The Church of Cyprus is one of the oldest in Christendom. Its ~~functionaries~~ ~~alone~~, ~~and~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~whole~~, ~~and~~ ~~always~~ ~~been~~ part of the people. The priests are appointed by the communities (parishes) and in the villages they usually are chosen from among the members of the village community. Church funds are administered by the parish parishioners. Church structure is not something alien or imposed from above or ~~(from)~~ ~~outside~~ on the people - its ~~part~~ of the ~~people's~~ ~~society~~. The Bishops, including the Archbishop, are elective. ~~They are~~ ~~voted~~ ~~to~~ ~~office~~. The Church of Cyprus ~~rests~~ ~~on~~ ~~grass-roots~~ ~~democracy~~. In addition, ~~it~~ ~~has~~ ~~been~~ ~~a~~ ~~"fighting"~~ ~~church~~ ~~throughout~~ ~~the~~ ~~centuries~~, of alien oppression it ~~had~~ provided a national shield and became the national defender of and spokesman for the people. Hence its present national role which the Archbishop, as head of the Church - Synod, whether ~~he is~~ ~~not~~ ~~as~~ ~~a~~ ~~politician~~ or not, ~~is~~ ~~unquestionably~~ ~~personified~~.

Dr. Vanezis examines these developments. He traces ~~the~~ ~~history~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~role~~ of the Church down to our times, ~~and~~ then through the EOKA ~~armed~~ ~~struggle~~ ~~for~~ ~~ENOSIS~~ the leadership of Gen. Averas ~~but~~ within the overall national leadership of Makarios to ~~the~~ independence of ~~the~~ island. ~~the~~ subsequent revolt of the Turkish minority which has made ~~the~~ Cyprus ~~group~~ for the last seven years or ~~change~~ of the island ~~is~~ ~~not~~ ~~a~~ ~~new~~ ~~issue~~ United Nations. ~~change~~ All these ~~issues~~ are faced squarely and ~~examined~~ ~~coolly~~ examined. Dr. Vanezis does not plead lack of historical perspective, ~~to~~ ~~avoid~~ ~~examining~~ ~~current~~ ~~problems~~. Neither does he ~~take~~ ~~cover~~ ~~behind~~ ~~his~~ ~~official~~ ~~identity~~ to stifle criticism where he feels that criticism is ~~needed~~. The result is a book - a veritable ~~tour~~ ~~de~~ ~~force~~ - which represents a significant addition to the bibliography of Cyprus, ~~and~~ ~~which~~ ~~argues~~ ~~cogently~~ ~~and~~ ~~fairly~~ ~~argues~~ the Cypriot case before the bar of public opinion ~~with~~ ~~a~~ ~~central~~ ~~exhibit~~ the impressive bearded dignified figure of the ~~Cypriot~~ ~~President~~ of Cyprus.

Undoubtedly the Cyprus problem is entering once again ^{upon an} ~~an~~ acute phase. Anxieties are surfacing with insistent clamour. The Turkish position is becoming more ~~undisputed~~ ^{intransigent} and party divisions among the Greeks are ~~widening~~ ^{dangerously} ~~what next?~~ That is ~~about~~ ^{the} instinctive question on everybody's lips. Dr. Vanezis does not (cannot) supply any ~~answer~~ ^{answer} though tentatively he suggests one. Admirers ~~and~~ ^{But all} ~~opponents~~ of Makarios as well-wishers of Cyprus and everybody who is interested in the Cypriot question, will find this book stimulating, informative and immensely useful.

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From VANEZIS and Cyprus to Kapernaros and Mani!

Mr. Vrasidas Kapernaros is a scientist who has progressed through art (films and the B.B.C) to the City of London!

He was born in Alexandria (during the first half of this century Alexandria was a polyglott city with ~~many~~ ^{large number of} thriving, foreign communities, of which the Greek was the most numerous and not the ~~least~~ ^{most} important) of Greek parents, who come from Mani. Predictably, Mr. Kapernaros makes his ^{writing} debut as ~~writer~~ with a book about the people of Mani - title "Di Maniates".

Thirteen years ago, Mr. Patrick Leigh Fermor published a book on Mani. It was an instant success. Author, people, the morphology of the land ~~plus~~ ^{and} its ~~second~~ ^{rich} history combined to paint a picture of this mountainous peninsula of Southern Peloponnese - the centre finger of land ~~beginning~~ ^{stretching south of} ~~near~~ ^{ancient Sparta and} ^{LACONIA} ~~issuing~~ to the jagged promontory of Cape Matapan where the Homeric "Entrance to Hades" is situated - which has remained memorable. Since then many people have discovered Mani and the mirologia of its women.

Few, however, have dealt with the Maniates as such - i.e. the people of Mani, their history, their habits, their fierce code of honour, their unstainable pride (or else!) their geiger-like ^{sensitivity} to anything smacking of danger, personal affront, ~~annoyance~~ ^{outrage} or ~~attack on~~ ^{of} one's self-respect, their courage, their elemental love of freedom.

