

# Remembering the True and the Real

By Samuel Bendeck Sotillos

“O Thou whose Name is a medicine and whose remembrance is a cure.”

*Ya man ismu-bu dawā wa dbikru-bu shifā.*

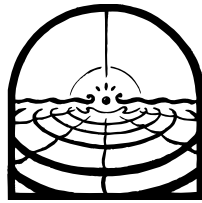
The quote above is hung within the eyes glance of the entrance to the guest quarters of William Stoddart’s abode in Windsor, Canada, where friends from all parts of the world are put up when they come to spend a few days with him. This quote from an unknown Islamic source lies at the heart of William Stoddart’s continual recognition of the centrality of the Divine Name in the practice of spirituality. We might add that this very act of *remembering* is the antidote to contemporary spiritual malaise. In this connection, Stoddart has said: [U]nswerving obedience to the *Total Truth* is the most charitable thing we can possibly perform at the present time both for ourselves and for the world at large.”<sup>1</sup>

William Stoddart (b. 1925) spent his professional career in London, England, working chiefly in the realm of medical research, until his retirement in 1982. Upon his retirement, he moved to North America in order to live near his spiritual mentor, Frithjof Schuon (1907-1998), who had moved from Switzerland to Bloomington, Indiana, in 1980. It proved to be difficult for Stoddart to immigrate to the United States, so he decided to move to Windsor, Windsor being the geographical point in Canada that is closest to Bloomington, Indiana. This enabled him to achieve his purpose, which was to render possible the continuation of

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<sup>1</sup> William Stoddart, “Appendix I: Excerpts from Letters,” in *Remembering in a World of Forgetting: Thoughts on Tradition and Postmodernism*, eds. Mateus Soares de Azevedo and Alberto Vasconcellos Queiroz (Bloomington, IN: World Wisdom, 2008), p. 128.

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