



Georges Akl
1973-2025

Georges J. Akl, clinical psychologist and psychoanalytic psychotherapist, passed away suddenly following a heart attack on 16th December, at the age of 52, in his parents' apartment in Beirut.

Georges was a member of the Lebanese Order of Psychologists and held a double Master's degree in Psychology and Philosophy. His philosophical thesis, entitled *La barbarie du monde moderne et son dépassement dans la philosophie de Robert Misrahi*, reflected his deep commitment to understanding the human condition while using philosophy in the service of psychology.

He graduated with distinction with both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Psychology from the University of Saint Joseph in Beirut (USJ). Seeking to deepen his psychological practice through philosophy, he pursued further studies at the same university and obtained a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Philosophy, also with distinction.

For decades, Georges was an active participant in a philosophy circle led by Professor Jad Hatem, the highly respected Lebanese poet and philosopher, former Head of the Department of Philosophy (1981–1996; 2005–2014), and Director of the *Centre Michel Henry d'Études de Phénoménologie*. Within this circle, Georges regularly prepared papers examined from a psychological perspective, contributing thoughtfully and discreetly to intellectual discussions.

Before his death, the University of Saint Joseph had taken the decision to appoint him as a professor, a decision that, tragically, was yet to be communicated to him. He was also preparing to begin a doctorate in philosophy and psychology during the current academic year, once again with the aim of placing philosophy at the service of psychology.

Following the Beirut port explosion in August 2020, Georges offered his professional services free of charge to support those affected, through an organisation called Brave Beirut. Such altruism was characteristic of a man known by friends and colleagues for his sincerity, humility, and absence of pretension. He lived far from materialism, guided instead by inner values and compassion.

Throughout his life, Georges helped many who were struggling and suffering. He was deeply respected for both his learning and his empathy, his ability to truly feel and understand the pain of others. His journey was one of quiet inner enrichment, discreet, yet profound.

Georges perpetuated a family legacy of service and justice. His grandfather, Georges Akl, a public servant, was elected three times as Member of Parliament and played a significant role in legislations aimed at protecting vulnerable individuals, including proposing a moratorium law. He founded countless numbers of labour syndicates in Lebanon and worked tirelessly for the welfare and defence of the country following its independence. He later served as Minister of Education and Minister of Information, and passed away at the age of 57.

His father, Jihad Akl, a lawyer and member of the Beirut Bar Association, often defended disadvantaged individuals free of charge, refusing to tolerate injustice. He was an executive member of the National Liberal Party, founded by his own father, and carried forward this legacy of national commitment during periods of turmoil under the Syrian occupation.

Georges himself sought inner peace, true values, and the pursuit of happiness, above all with the aim of alleviating the suffering of others. His life was guided by empathy, integrity, and a deep moral awareness.

The funeral was held on 18th December at the Maronite Cathedral of Saint George in Beirut. His body was then transferred to his native village of Damour, where a service was held at the Church of Saint Elias, followed by burial in the family cemetery.

Georges's memoirs and writings will be preserved and shared, so they may continue to benefit those in need; just as he would have wished.