Charles Malik the Philosopher: Reflections on Process and Impact

An International Symposium of NDU’s Institute of Lebanese Thought (ILT)
in association with
AUB’s Anis Makdisi Program in Literature
and NDU’s Benedict XVI Endowed Chair of Religious, Cultural, and Philosophical Studies
Charles Malik the Philosopher: Reflections on Process and Impact
Day 1: Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU)
Wednesday March 30th 2016

Venue: Issam Fares Hall

9:00-9:30 Registration

9:30-10:00 OPENING SESSION:
- Reverend Walid Moussa, President of NDU
  Welcoming Address
- Professor Ameen Rihani, Director of the Institute of Lebanese Thought, NDU
  Introductory Address
- Professor Nader El-Bizri, Director of the Anis Makdisi Program in Literature, AUB
  Opening Remarks
- Inauguration of the Charles Malik Publication Project
  Announcing the Publication of Charles Malik’s First Philosophy Book from 1937
- Movie-clip on Charles Malik
  (Moderator: Professor Edward J. Alam)

10:00-11:00 FIRST SESSION: The Philosophy of Charles Malik: Christian Critique of the University
- Keynote Speaker: Professor John North, University of Waterloo
  Charles Habib Malik, 1906-1987: Elegant Jeremiah, Man for All Seasons
- Q&A/Discussion with keynote speaker
  (Q&A/Discussion – Moderators: Professor Edward J. Alam / Ms. Honorée Claris Eid)

11:00-11:15 Coffee Break

11:15-12:45 SECOND SESSION: Charles Malik the Philosopher?
- Professor William Sweet, St Francis Xavier University
  Charles Malik: From Process to Reality
- Professor Jeffrey Bloechl, Boston College
  The Christian Critique of the University and the Metaphysics of Love
- Q&A/Discussion with both speakers
  (Q&A/Discussion – Moderators: Professor Edward J. Alam / Ms. Honorée Claris Eid)

13:00-15:00 Lunch Break

15:00-16:15 THIRD SESSION: The Impact of Charles Malik, the Philosopher, on His Students
- Dr. Beverly Questad, Skyview High School
  Dr. Charles Malik: A Surprise Request
- Rev. Habib Badr, Near East School of Theology
  The Nietzsche Experience
- Dr. Layla Azem, Lebanese American University
  Impressions from a Former Student
- Professor Ameen Rihani, Director of the Institute of Lebanese Thought, NDU
  The Philosophy of Ethics: My Experience as a student of Charles Malik
  (Moderator: Mr. Tony Nasrallah)

16:15-16:30 Break/Group Picture

16:30-17:30 FOURTH SESSION:
- Keynote Speaker: Emeritus Professor Majid Fakhry, Georgetown University
  (delivered by Ms. Rima M. Fakhry)
  Charles H. Malik -- Philosopher and Statesman: His Life and Legacy
Charles Malik the Philosopher: Reflections on Process and Impact
Day 2: American University of Beirut (AUB)
Thursday March 31st 2016

Venue: College Hall B1

8:30-9:30 OPENING SESSION:
• Professor Fadlo Khuri, President of AUB
  Welcoming Address
• Professor Nader El Bizri, Director of the Anis Makdisi Program in Literature, AUB
  Introductory Address
• Professor Ameen Rihani, Director of the Institute of Lebanese Thought, NDU
  Opening Remarks
• Dr Hayat El-Eid Bualuan, AUB
  Summary of Day 1

9:30-11:00 FIRST SESSION: Colleagues’ Reflections on Charles Malik the Academic
• Mr. Peter Shebaya, AUB
  Professor Malik: An Acquired Taste
• Professor Adib Saab, University of Balamand
  Charles Malik an Arab Philosopher: the Complete Works (in Arabic)
• Mr. Nadim Shehadi, Tufts University
  Off the Beaten Track: Charles Malik’s Intellectual Influence on Ghassan Tueni and Others.
  (Moderator: Professor Nader El Bizri)

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-12:30 SECOND SESSION:
• Keynote Speaker: Professor George Sabra, President of Near East School of Theology
  The Philosophy of Charles Malik: Fundamental Principles and Themes
• Q&A/Discussion with keynote speaker
  (Q&A/Discussion – Moderator: Professor Nader El-Bizri)

12:30-12:40 Group Picture at the College Hall arcades

12:40-14:00 Lunch Break

14:00-15:30 CLOSING SESSION
• Mr. Tony Nasrallah, NDU/AUB
  The Future of Charles Malik’s Archives
• Documentary Film on Charles Malik
  “Charles Malik: A Universal Man”
• Professor Habib C. Malik, Lebanese American University
  Closing Remarks
RATIONALE

That Charles Malik (1906–1987) was a successful statesman, diplomat, and public intellectual is indisputable and well-known, that he was a genuine philosopher who may have added insights to the vast store of philosophical speculation is another question. By analyzing some of his major philosophical writings, and listening to the testimony of people whose lives he impacted, this symposium seeks to begin answering this inquiry. As a student of men who will go down as giants in the venerable history of philosophy, men no less than Martin Heidegger and Alfred North Whitehead, there can be no doubt concerning Malik’s direct exposure to some of the most significant philosophical discourse of the 20th century. Whether his personal appropriation of this cutting edge thought will turn out to be an original contribution to philosophy, again, remains to be seen. The present symposium shall begin this process by providing an opportunity to experts in philosophy from all around the world to examine Malik’s major work on Whitehead, as well as his prolific Christian Critique of the University; this process shall also provide a space for colleagues and students of Malik, from various walks of life, to indicate how Malik’s philosophical insights, embodied in the way he lived, impacted the complex processes in their own growth, maturation, and possession of wisdom.