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Peter Bien: Kazantzakis: Politics of the Spirit, Volume 1:

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Preface to the paperback edition

This paperback edition of *Kazantzakis: Politics of the Spirit*, Volume 1, is meant to accompany the newly published second volume, enabling a reader to survey the entire extent of Kazantzakis's creative life. I have not made any substantive changes to the text even though certain sections, if I had written them now, would have been different. In discussing *Askitiki*, for example, I would have recognized the important advance in Kazantzakis studies pioneered by Professor Darren Middleton, who first indicated the extent of Kazantzakis's contribution to process theology. I trust that Volume 2 will partially remedy this deficiency. In addition, I might have done more to present Kazantzakis's inner life as a succession of traumas. These are all too evident in his letters, which frequently seem composed as if from a psychiatrist's couch. Since my current project is to prepare an edition of his selected letters in English translation, however, I will let them speak for themselves. They will add a new dimension to the portrait of the man and his work presented in this book and its sequel. In sum, I have chosen to let this first volume keep saying what I meant it to say when I originally wrote it—namely, that Kazantzakis cannot be understood without politics, and that politics, for him, ultimately relates not to the flesh but to the spirit.

“Terpni,” Riparius, New York
28 June 2006

Peter Bien