

Gathering of French Intellectuals

It is 18th Century France at a rare gathering of intellectuals that I am aware is a distinct privilege to be attending. The meeting is held in a large circular, mahogany paneled room, the center of which is a labyrinth of glass cases filled with wines & liquors. I am invited to taste a rare *Muscat**. It has a pervasive herbal flavor to the tip of the tongue that spreads gradually to the entire mouth and leaves a strong smell and aftertaste as its swallowed.

I have attended these meetings 3 times, this, being the third. At first as a student, then a young intellectual and now a prominent thinker. I feel a deep sense of this experience as an honor.

** Internet Research Note: The esoteric meaning of Muscat, often linked to the capital of Oman, represents a "hidden" or "safe anchorage" (from Arabic Masqat), symbolically functioning as a meeting point between the sea and land, or consciousness and the physical world. It is conceptually interpreted as the "crown" or third-eye chakra (ajna) of the Arabian Peninsula, signifying a center of insight, spiritual, and intellectual energy. It is considered an Initiation Point. The ancient, sheltered and somewhat secluded nature of the harbor implies a place of transition, initiation and hidden knowledge. Muscat is associated with themes of a hidden, aromatic and secure sanctuary.*