

## The Duality of Genius



*In cooperation with:*

Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation  
Athens

BASIL MARKESINIS

# The Duality of Genius

*Shades, blemishes and vices in the lives of great achievers*

To Eugenie, Julietta, Spyros, and Andreas

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## From a lecture to a book

This book was born of a lecture given at the Megaron Plus, the most prestigious Greek Music and Arts Centre, as a result of the kind invitation of its Chairman, Mr. Christos Lambrakis, who has been its main founder and constant inspiration. The lecture was generously sponsored by the Onassis Public Benefit Foundation. Approximately one thousand people attended the event, which resulted in the production of a 160-page book in Greek entitled *Flawed Grandeur*.

Both lecture and book were, I was repeatedly told, deemed a success; and they provoked much discussion in the Greek Press. My good friend Andonis Papadimitriou, Chairman of the Onassis Foundation, thus thought the main thesis deserved to appear in a more elaborate and detailed form. With characteristic generosity, he

and the Board of the Onassis Foundation decided to sponsor it; and in *Jan Sramek Verlag* we found a publisher who could rise successfully to the challenge of producing a beautiful book and do so while memories of the lecture were still fresh. This book is the result.

Like most creations of the human mind, it owes much to the friendship and support of many friends but none more so than Andonis Papadimitriou. I am doubly grateful to him for the sponsorship as well as his insistence that I dedicate it to my family and not, as perhaps I should have done, to my business associates who made it possible.

Athens, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008

B. M.