

### **Books by H.P. Blavatsky**

*The Secret Doctrine*—Three Volumes  
*An Abridgement of the Secret Doctrine*, edited by Elizabeth Preston and Christmas Humphreys  
*Isis Unveiled*  
*Practical Occultism*  
*The Voice of the Silence*  
*Two Books of the Stanzas of Dzyan*  
*The Key to Theosophy*  
*The Original Programme of the Theosophical Society*  
*A Blavatsky Quotation Book* compiled by Winifred A. Parley  
*H.P.B. Teaches—An Anthology*, compiled by Michael Gomes  
*Dynamics of the Psychic World*  
*Compiled from writings of H.P. Blavatsky* by Lina Psaltis  
*Collected Writings of H.P. Blavatsky*, volumes 1 to XV compiled by Boris de Zirkoff

### **Books on H.P. Blavatsky**

*H.P.B., The Extraordinary Life & Influence of Helena Blavatsky* by Sylvia Cranston  
*H.P., Blavatsky and the Secret Doctrine: Commentaries on her Contribution to World Thought* by Virginia Hanson  
*The Real H.P. Blavatsky* by William Kingsland  
*Reminiscences of H.P. Blavatsky and the Secret Doctrine* by Countess Wachtmeister  
*When Daylight Comes*  
*A Biography of H.P. Blavatsky* by Howard Murphet

### **The Theosophical Society**

The Theosophical society is an international organization dedicated to the promotion of universal brotherhood and the encouragement of the study of religion, philosophy and science, to the end that man may better understand himself and his place in the universe. The Society stands for complete freedom of individual search and belief.

The Theosophical Society has no dogma and stands for complete freedom of individual search and belief. Therefore, the ideas expressed in its publications are not in the nature of official statements. They are offered to stimulate thought and encourage study and enquiry.

Free leaflets on Theosophy and information about the Theosophical Society, as well as how to join, will gladly be supplied on request.

---

For further information visit our website:

<http://www.theosophical.ca>

or write to:

Canadian Theosophical Association  
10 Laurelcrest Street, Unit 902,  
Brampton, On. Canada L6S 5Y3  
email: [info@theosophical.ca](mailto:info@theosophical.ca)  
Tel.: 905-455-7325 Fax.: 905-455-7652  
Canada Toll-free line: 1-866-277-0074



**Helena Petrovna Blavatsky  
1831-1891**

Madame Blavatsky 'that extraordinary woman', was co-founder, with Colonel H.S. Olcott, of the Theosophical Society. She was born in Ekaterinoslav in Russia at midnight between 30 and 31 July, 1831. Her father, Colonel Peter Hahn, came of a noble family originally of Mecklenburg, Germany, but which had settled in Russia for some 300 years. Her mother's family, also of noble lineage, traced its origins to a ninth century ancestor.

H.P.B.'s clairvoyant faculty was such that, even as a child, she was consulted by the nobility about their private affairs and by the police regarding crimes committed. She was a talented pianist, and as a young girl, played in London with Clara Schumann and Arabelle Goddard.

In 1848 when she was seventeen, she married General Blavatsky, a very elderly man, from whom she soon separated. During 1848 and 1849, she studied magic in Egypt with an aged Copt and joined 'The Druses of Lebanon', a secret society. She was present with Garibaldi at the battle of Mentana in 1849 and 'was picked out of a ditch for dead with the left arm broken in two places, musket balls embedded in right shoulder and leg, and a stiletto wound in the heart'.

When walking with her father in London in 1851, she saw a tall and stately Rajput whom she recognized as a Protector known in her visions from childhood. He spoke to her of a future work she was to do under His direction after preparation in the East. In 1852-54 she attempted to enter Tibet, however she was not successful until 1867 - 70. During the intervening period, she made contact with spiritualism, learned to 'bring under her control her marvelous power to produce phenomena at will', and engaged in 'several commercial enterprises' (a trade in high class woods, head of an artificial flower factory, etc.). In Tibet, she learned, we are told, to manipulate occult forces. In Cairo in 1871 she made an unsuccessful attempt to found a spiritual society upon the basis of phenomena. Then as 'Madame Laura', she did concert tours in Italy and Russia. In 1873 she lived with her brother in Paris, painting and writing (in addition to her other accomplishments she was a fine artist and a very clever caricaturist).

Whilst in Paris she received peremptory orders from 'the Brothers' to go to New York to await instructions.

She landed on 7 July 1873, without personal funds, having exchanged her first class passage to steerage class (the cheapest) in order to buy steerage class tickets for a poor woman and children who had been swindled. Although she had in her trunk 23,000 francs entrusted to her by her Master, she earned her living by working for a maker of cravats. Still acting under orders she finally took the money to the town of Buffalo and gave it to an unknown man just in time to prevent him from committing suicide! An unsuccessful business venture in a Long Island Farm, used up the 1,000 rouble legacy she had received on the death of her father.

In 1874 she was ordered to go to the Eddy homestead in Chittenden. This was the scene of various occult phenomena being investigated by Colonel H.S. Olcott. With him in 1875, in New York, she founded the Theosophical Society. *Isis Unveiled*, her magnificent attack upon the materialism of religion and science, was published in 1877. She sent the first proceeds together with money received for her various articles published by Russian newspapers and journals, to the Red Cross in Russia to help her compatriots wounded in the Russo-Turkish war.

On 8 July 1878, she became an American citizen. Later that year, acting 'under orders', she and Olcott sailed for India; they landed in Bombay in February 1879. In 1880 the two Founders toured Sri Lanka on behalf of Buddhism, themselves becoming Buddhists on 19 May 1881. In 1882, the headquarters of the Society was moved to its present site in Adyar, Madras. She made various tours of India between her arrival in 1879 and her visit to Europe in 1884. In the absence of the Founders, came the one sided report of the Society for Psychical Research, in an attempt to show her up as an imposter. Since then, the S.P.R. has retracted the allegations against her. Despite the intervention of her Guru to restore her health, it deteriorated and she was unable to remain at Adyar for more than a short visit paid later that year.

In Wurzburg she worked at *The Secret Doctrine*, whose real authors, according to Countess Wachtmeister, were the Adept Brothers. As with *Isis*, the Brothers collected the material and passed it before the inner gaze of H.P.B. In 1887 at Ostend, H.P.B. fell very ill but made another strange recovery explaining that she had 'elected' to work for a few

more years in her suffering body. By invitation, she moved to London which then became the centre of the Theosophical work in Europe. In this she was assisted by occasional visits of the President-Founder (Colonel Olcott). In 1888 the first two volumes of *The Secret Doctrine* were published. She died on 8 May 1891 in London. Her ashes were divided between New York, India and London, and part of it is interred under her statue in Adyar. In her will she requested that each year, on the anniversary of her death, her friends should assemble and read from *The Light of Asia* and the *Bhagavad Gita*. By Colonel Olcott's wish, this anniversary is known as 'White Lotus Day.'

The secret of H.P.B.'s remarkable power in producing swift changes in the lives of those about her was summed up by Colonel Olcott as due to:

Her amazing occult knowledge and phenomena-working powers, together and her relation to the hidden Masters. Her sparkling talents, especially as a conversationist with her social accomplishments, wide travels, and extraordinary adventures. Her insight into problems of philology, racial origins, fundamental bases of religions, and keys to old mysteries and symbols.

Unflinching self-consecration to the Great Ones irradiated the life of H.P.B. and she will ever be known as the 'Light-Bringer' of the nineteenth Century.

### **The Golden Stairs**

*A clean life, an open mind, a pure heart, an eager intellect, an unveiled spiritual perception, a brotherliness for all, a readiness to give and receive advice and instruction, a loyal sense of duty to the Teacher, a willing obedience to the behests of TRUTH, once we have placed our confidence in, and believe that Teacher to be in possession of it; a courageous endurance of personal injustice, a brave declaration of principles, a valiant defense of those who are unjustly attacked, and a constant eye to the ideal of human progression and perfection which the Sacred Science depicts — these are the Golden Stairs up the steps of which the learner may climb to the Temple of Divine Wisdom.*

—H.P. Blavatsky