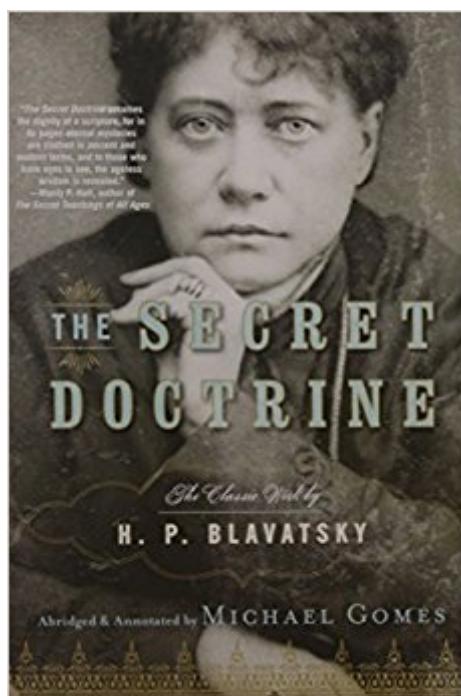


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# The Secret Doctrine: The Classic Work, Abridged And Annotated



## Synopsis

Madame Blavatsky's Victorian-era masterpiece is now scaled down to its essentials, providing the most readable, accessible experience ever of one of history's seminal occult works. The Secret Doctrine, Helena Petrovna Blavatsky's masterwork on the origin and evolution of the universe and humanity itself, is arguably the most famous, and perhaps the most influential, occult book ever written. Published since 1888 only in expensive, two-volume editions of some 1,400 pages, it has long eluded the grasp of modern readers- until now. This single-volume edition, abridged and annotated by historian and Theosophical scholar Michael Gomes, places the ideas of The Secret Doctrine within reach of all who are curious. In particular, Gomes provides a critical sounding of the book's famous stanzas on the genesis of life and the cosmos- mysterious passages that Blavatsky said originated from a primeval source and which form the heart of The Secret Doctrine. Gomes scrupulously scales down the book's key writings on symbolism to their essentials, and offers notes and a glossary to illuminate arcane references. His historical and literary introduction casts new light on some of the book's sources and on the career of its brilliant and elusive author, one of the most intriguing personages of the nineteenth century. At once compact and representative of the work as a whole, this new edition of The Secret Doctrine brings unprecedented accessibility to the key esoteric classic of the modern era.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The Secret Doctrine assumes the dignity of a scripture, for in its pages eternal mysteries are clothed in ancient and modern terms, and to those who have eyes to see, the ageless wisdom is

revealed." --Manly P. Hall, author of The Secret Teachings of All Ages

Helena Petrovna Blavatsky (1831-1891) was the cofounder of the Theosophical Society. A world-famous figure of mystery and controversy and a leading intellect behind the occult revival in the West, Blavatsky published The Secret Doctrine in 1888 as her magnum opus. Michael Gomes is a historian, author, and the librarian at the New York Lodge of the Theosophical Society. He is one of today's most respected writers on esoteric movements, as well known to readers of occult and esoteric literature as to students and scholars of modern religion.

I found two of her books in a rare book shop, love to read them! When I saw this bought it too

Very deep, very enlightening, and a must read for those who are searching for their true identity.

Still rereading this book years after getting it. It is so dense with ideas some take a while to digest. Some of the mystical stuff is not my interest, but I always keep an open mind.

Difficult read but a must have for library reference

love it

The good: This is the book that started it all. "All" being the West's awakening to the heretofore hidden secrets of the cosmos and of mankind. HPB was not a "seer," she was a mouthpiece. She wrote what was given to her in communication with certain Eastern masters, which she received in, for lack of a better term, a trance, or psychic link to these other personalities. Even her enemies gloss over the fact that she wrote the book alone in her room with none of the books that she cites in her thousands of footnotes and references. Not a single one to this day has proved erroneous. She cites manuscripts in the Vatican Library where she has never been allowed entrance; she cites unpublished manuscripts throughout the ages. For many, the most important book published in many centuries. The bad: It's horribly written. It always reminds me of a beautiful stained glass creation that has been smashed to pieces and thrown back together willy-nilly. It makes Ulysses look like a comic strip. She is also angry, sarcastic, and bitter. And incredibly defensive. The ugly: Believe nothing from these Eastern masters when they speak of Christianity. They know little about it, for starters, but more annoying -- they hate it, and spare no opportunity to tear it to pieces,

deliberately conflating the deeds and thoughts of self-proclaimed "Christians" at their worst, while propping up the Eastern view as the best and one-and-only. But with these caveats, the book is indispensable and a must-read for anyone with any pretense of serious study of the mysteries of the universe. After this, read Steiner.

Don't buy this edition - besides very poor formatting and a lousy table of contents, it doesn't match with the real one (check the authentic one on Theosophical University Press site).

Good work

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