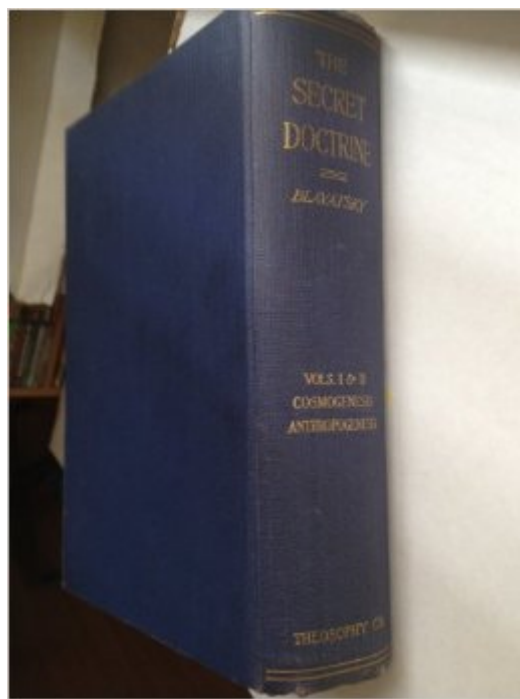


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The Secret Doctrine



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. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Let me begin by making it clear that this is a review of the abridged and annotated version of the Secret Doctrine produced by Michael Gomes and NOT the Secret Doctrine as written by H. P. Blavatsky and published in 2 volumes in 1888. The publisher's advertorial for this abridged and annotated version is filled with inaccuracies and misstatements that simply cannot be allowed to pass unnoticed and unremarked. The claim that the book has previously only been available "in

expensive, two-volume editions of some 1,400 pages" is factually untrue. A verbatim facsimile of the original edition of 1888 has been continuously in print for more than 30 years, as my own, personal, tattered copy from 1978 testifies. This is the edition produced by the Theosophical University Press of Pasadena, California (ISBN 978-1557000026) and currently costs just \$27 from .com. Moreover, the same publisher also provide an online electronic edition (ISBN 1-55700-124-3) and PDF download, both of which are free of charge. So far from placing Blavatsky's master-work "within reach of all who are curious" -- to use the publisher's own phrase -- they are charging the sum of £11.99 when the "curious" can read the original edition for nothing! The publisher's claim that: "(the book) has long eluded the grasp of modern readers until now" is disingenuous sophistry of the worst possible kind. The only readers whose grasp it has eluded are those who are unwilling or incapable of opening their minds to the possibility that modern science and our modern 'experts' do not have all the answers.

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