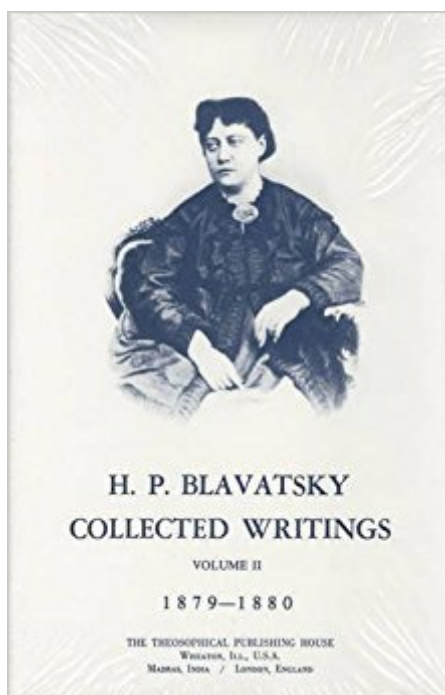


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Collected Writings Of H. P. Blavatsky, Vol. 2 (1879-1880)



Synopsis

The definitive edition of HPB's writings in 15 volumes. Volume 2 is from 1879 to 1880, and includes articles such as: 'Erroneous Ideas concerning the Doctrines of the Theosophists'; 'Antiquity of the Vedas'; 'The Number Seven'; 'The Theory of Cycles'.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Helena Petrovna Blavatsky was born on August 12, 1831, at Dnepropetrovsk (Ekaterinoslav), Ukraine, daughter of Colonel Peter Alexeyevich von Hahn and novelist Helena Andreyevna (née de Fadeyev). In 1849 she married N. V. Blavatsky, and shortly thereafter began more than 20 years of extensive travel, which brought her into contact with mystic traditions the world over. She was the principal founder of the Theosophical Society in New York City in 1875, and devoted her extraordinary literary talents to its humanitarian and educational purposes until her death in London, England, on May 8, 1891. Along with writing her several books, H. P. Blavatsky kept up a voluminous correspondence and also contributed a steady stream of essays and articles to periodicals in English, French, and Russian.

This book is one of a set of 15. It contains the work of H.P. Blavatsky. Very interesting. I received this item in a timely manner and it was in excellent shape.

In this second volume of Blavatsky's "Collected Writings" we see H.P.B. and Olcott arrive in

Bombay via London. Blavatsky is now 47 years old and feels led to India after what she senses is their failure in the New York Lodge. She immediately starts writing in the context of criticisms from both Hindus and Christian missionaries. She tours India and Olcott starts his life-long mission in Sri Lanka to revive Buddhism. By September of 1879 the first volume of her important journal "The Theosophist" appears (and is still being published to this day). Many of the selections in this second volume come from "The Theosophist" and give the flavor of the struggles to make theosophy understood in this complex and politically charged environment. In her opening article in "The Theosophist" H.P.B. states that the movement has no political interests, "Unconcerned about politics; hostile to the insane dreams of Socialism and Communism, which it abhors--as both are but disguised conspiracies of brutal force and sluggishness against honest labour; the Society cares but little about the outward human management of the material world. The whole of its aspirations are directed toward the occult truths of the visible and invisible worlds" (pg. 105). She also gives positive definitions of the nature of theosophical beliefs concerning the Essence that permeates everything. This volume also contains some of her short works of fiction and travel reports from her earlier visit to South America. Of most import are her two articles on the number seven and her article on cycles. This volume brings us to the end of a visit with the Sinnetts in Northern India. A.P. Sinnett, editor of the powerful Anglo-Indian paper "The Pioneer" became a disciple of H.P.B. and published the first full-length book on the movement in 1883 with the title "Esoteric Buddhism." Throughout this difficult period we see Blavatsky come down with several serious illnesses, only to rebound in record time. In these various essays we see the movement establish itself in rather hostile territory and produce some of its classic papers. Even if you are not a theosophist or student of Blavatsky, this volume gives an accurate portrayal of life in India as both Hinduism and the home rule movement become stronger, often with sympathetic Western help.

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