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A REFLECTION ON *THE SECRET DOCTRINE*, No. 3

A secret may be defined as something known only to a few. But who doesn't enjoy being privy to one, only to turn around and share that "secret" with another? There's a clever line from a seventeenth-century play: "I know that's a secret for it's whispered everywhere." Another definition of the word *secret* is "an unexplained or inscrutable process or fact." Still another refers to the knowledge of an esoteric society, which is concealed or veiled from the gaze of the uninitiated.

The reader of *The Secret Doctrine* is told that "this book is not the Secret Doctrine in its entirety, but a select number of fragments of its fundamental tenets." This is due to the fact that "not even the greatest living adept" was allowed to "give out promiscuously, to a mocking, unbelieving world, that which has been so effectually concealed from it for long aeons and ages." But in the late nineteenth century, a few custodians of the wisdom tradition felt the time was ripe to raise "a small corner of the dark veil" for the benefit of mankind. With permission from their superiors, they collaborated with Helena Petrovna Blavatsky to do exactly that.

Blavatsky states in the Preface of *The Secret Doctrine* that "what is contained in this work is to be found scattered throughout thousands of volumes embodying the scriptures of the great Asiatic and early European religions, hidden under glyph and symbol, and hitherto left unnoticed because of this veil." So, in one sense, this information was already available to those who had the will to seek and the eyes to see.

The Secret Doctrine also hints at sublime realities beyond the limited scope of words or rational thought. "Only those who realize how far Intuition soars above the tardy processes of ratiocinative thought," says HPB, "can form the faintest conception of the absolute Wisdom which transcends the ideas of Time and Space."

And this is why *The Secret Doctrine* continues to intrigue, enchant, and inspire, more than 100 years after its initial publication. No matter how often one studies or discusses the concepts put forth in this monumental exposition of occult doctrines, an elusive but beckoning element remains, the essence of which is not only beyond speech, but beyond even the merest shadow of a whisper.

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