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## A REFLECTION ON *THE SECRET DOCTRINE*, No. 6

H. P. Blavatsky firmly maintained that the doctrines presented in *The Secret Doctrine* were not new fabrications from her prolific pen, but an integral part of an esoteric tradition with a pedigree extending thousands of years back in time. To support this controversial claim, she sprinkled *The Secret Doctrine* with a bevy of historical figures from antiquity who were associated with theosophical ideas. One example is Anaxagoras of Clazomenae, an obscure name from ancient Greek history. He was the tutor of Pericles, the famed and respected Athenian statesman and general who lived during the time of Socrates. HPB mentions Anaxagoras several times in *The Secret Doctrine* and once in *The Key to Theosophy*. In volume one of his *Lives*, the Roman historian Plutarch says that Anaxagoras

was the first of the philosophers who did not refer the first ordering of the world to fortune or chance, nor to necessity or compulsion, but to a pure, unadulterated intelligence, which in all other existing mixed and compound things acts as a principle of discrimination, and of combination of like with like.

Plutarch says that Pericles held his tutor in the highest regard, and that the influence of Anaxagoras and his teachings upon Pericles resulted not only in an

elevation of purpose and dignity of language, raised far above the base and dishonest buffooneries of mob-eloquence; but besides this a composure of countenance and a serenity and a calmness in all his movements, which no occurrence whilst he was speaking could disturb; a sustained and even tone of voice, and various other advantages of a similar kind, which produced the greatest effect on his hearers.

Theosophical doctrines may be part of an ageless wisdom tradition, but they also speak to our times, just as they will continue to speak to future generations. Whereas some ideas from the past are nothing more than dust in the corridors of time, the timeless principles espoused in *The Secret Doctrine* have the power to radically transform the manner in which we react and interact with the world about us.

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