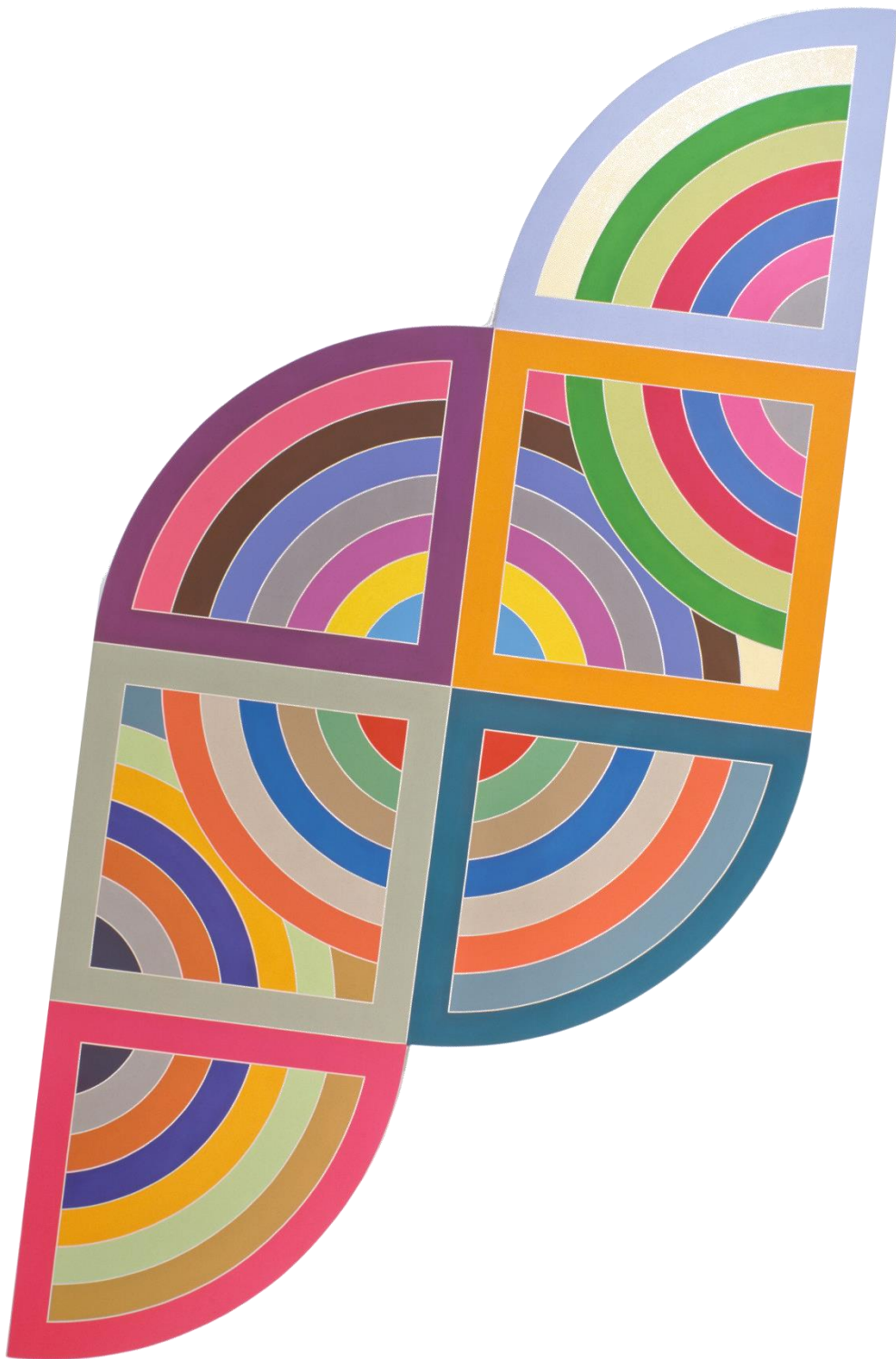


*Madame Blavatsky's last words*  
*Keep the link unbroken!*



**T**HE “KEEP THE LINK UNBROKEN” PLEA first appeared in a short biography of Isabel Cooper-Oakley by WQ Judge published in *The Path*, July, 1894. In fact, these were not Blavatsky’s “last words” for she is quoted of pronouncing them two days (nights, to be more precise) before her death. Her plea has been cited as follows:

### Primary citation

Continued bad health has prevented Mrs. Cooper-Oakley from doing the work she would like to have done. In 1890 the Headquarters was moved to 19 Avenue Road; the following year H.P.B. left us and her last message for the Society was given to Mrs. Oakley the night but one before she died. At three a.m. she suddenly looked up and said “Isabel, Isabel, keep the link unbroken; do not let my last incarnation be a failure.” At the moment of H.P.B.’s death Mrs. Cooper-Oakley was out, but received a telegram recalling her and arrived just ten minutes late.<sup>1</sup>

### Secondary citation

The following words were minuted at an “Eastern School of Theosophy” council meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> May, 1891, at 19 Avenue Road, London, “in reference to the [Eastern] School [of Theosophy]”:

. . . it was recorded that there was ample proof by witnesses, members of this School, that her last words in reference to the School and its work were “KEEP THE LINK UNBROKEN! DO NOT LET MY LAST INCARNATION BE A FAILURE.”<sup>2</sup>

H.P. Blavatsky died 8<sup>th</sup> May 1891 at, or soon after, 11.30 A.M. at 19 Avenue Road, London. Her body was cremated in Woking, England, two days later.<sup>3</sup>

CARL ONION  
Series Editor



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<sup>1</sup> *The Path* [Isabel Cooper-Oakley 1854-1914], Vol. IX, July 1894, pp. 122-24

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<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*, Vol. III, p. 340

<sup>3</sup> Cf. Cranston S. *HPB: The Extraordinary Life and Influence of Helena Blavatsky, Founder of the Modern Theosophical Movement*. New York: G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 1994; p. 409