

*Mysteries are Sacred Truths,  
hidden from the sight  
of the profane.*



## ***Contents and Abstract***

### **Mysteries are Sacred Truths, hidden from the sight of the profane.**

Owing to the rapid spread of vanity and selfishness, the twin causes of sin and suffering hindering Nature's ultimate possibilities, Truth was concealed in symbols — an imperative necessity to protect Her from desecration, and to forestall brutality in men. 3

A thin veil used at first, had to be gradually thickened to stem the tides of "personality" and immorality, and this led to the establishment of Mysteries to safeguard Sacred Truth against profanation by the multitude. 3

### **Divine Magic makes of man a God; human magic creates a new fiend.**

When the veil of Isis is finally lifted, the Spirit of Truth (Christos) will inspire audibly the pure in heart (Theopneusty), paving the Royal Road to Divine Magic (Theurgy). 4

### **Mysteries are the heirloom of Archaic Wisdom.**

As every heavenly and human body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, so Mysteries are the temple of the Earth. And the temple of Devotional Love (Bhakti) is the Secret Heart in every man — sanctuary of his innermost divine intuitions. 5

The sublime mysteries, of what is called today so unphilosophically "creation," were divulged to the elect of our Fifth Root-Race (Aryan), progeny of the preceding Fourth (Atlantean). 5

### **Suggested reading for students.**

From our Theosophy and Theosophists Series. 7



## Mysteries are Sacred Truths, hidden from the sight of the profane.

**Owing to the rapid spread of vanity and selfishness, the twin causes of sin and suffering hindering Nature's ultimate possibilities, Truth was concealed in symbols<sup>1</sup> — an imperative necessity to protect Her from desecration, and to forestall brutality in men.**

*From Blavatsky Collected Writings, (THE ORIGIN OF THE MYSTERIES) XIV pp. 248-49.*

There were no Mysteries in the beginning, we are taught. Knowledge (Vidyā) was common property, and it reigned universally throughout the Golden Age (Satya-Yuga). As says the Commentary:

*Men had not created evil yet in those days of bliss and purity, for they were of God-like more than of human nature.*

But when mankind, rapidly increasing in numbers, increased also in variety of idiosyncrasies of body and mind, then incarnated Spirit showed its weakness. Natural exaggerations, and along with these superstitions, arose in the less cultured and healthy minds. Selfishness was born out of desires and passions hitherto unknown, and but too often knowledge and power were abused, until finally it became necessary to limit the number of those *who knew*. Thus arose Initiation.

Every separate nation now arranged for itself a religious system, according to its enlightenment and spiritual wants. Worship of mere form being discarded by the wise men, these confined true knowledge to the very few.

**A thin veil used at first, had to be gradually thickened to stem the tides of “personality” and immorality, and this led to the establishment of Mysteries to safeguard Sacred Truth against profanation by the multitude.**

The need of veiling truth to protect it from desecration becoming more apparent with every generation, a thin veil was used at first, which had to be gradually thickened according to the spread of personality and selfishness, and this led to the Mysteries. They came to be established in every country and among every people while, to avoid strife and misunderstanding, exoteric beliefs were allowed to grow up in the minds of the profane masses. Inoffensive and innocent in their incipient stage — like a historical event arranged in the form of a fairy tale, adapted for and comprehensible to the child's mind — in those distant ages such beliefs could be allowed to grow and make the popular faith without any danger to the more philosophical and abstruse truths taught in the sanctuaries. Logical and scientific observation of the phenomena in Nature, which alone leads man to the knowledge of eternal truths — provided he approaches the threshold of observation unbiased by preconception and sees with his spiritual eye before he looks at things from their physical aspect — does not lie with-

<sup>1</sup> [Consult “Keys to the Mystery Language,” in our Theosophy and Theosophists Series. — ED. PHIL.]

in the province of the masses. The marvels of the One Spirit of Truth, the ever-concealed and inaccessible Deity, can be unravelled and assimilated only through Its manifestations by the secondary “Gods,” Its acting powers. While the One and Universal Cause has to remain forever *in abscondito*, Its manifold action may be traced through the effects in Nature.<sup>1</sup>

## Divine Magic makes of man a God; human magic creates a new fiend.<sup>2</sup>

**When the veil of Isis is finally lifted, the Spirit of Truth (Christos) will inspire audibly the pure in heart (Theopneusty), paving the Royal Road to Divine Magic (Theurgy).**

From *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (SOME REASONS FOR SECRECY) XIV pp. 51-52.

Occultism, or Theurgy, teaches the means of producing such union. But it is the actions of man — his personal merit alone that can produce it on earth, or determine its duration. This lasts from a few seconds — a flash — to several hours, during which time the Theurgist or Theophanist is that overshadowing “God” [52] himself; hence he becomes endowed for the time being with relative omniscience and omnipotence. With such perfect (divine) Adepts as Buddha<sup>3</sup> and others such a hypostatical state of Avatāric condition may last during the whole life; whereas in the case of full Initiates, who have not yet reached the perfect state of Jīvanmukta,<sup>4</sup> Theopneusty, when in full sway, results for the high Adept in a full recollection of everything seen, heard, or sensed.

Tajjasa . . . has fruition of the supersensible.<sup>5</sup>

For one less perfect it will end only in a partial, indistinct remembrance; while the beginner has to face in the first period of his psychic experiences a mere confusion, followed by a rapid and finally complete oblivion of the mysteries seen during this super-hypnotic condition. The degree of recollection, when one returns to his waking state and physical senses, depends on his spiritual and psychic purification, the greatest enemy of spiritual memory being man’s physical brain, the organ of his sensuous nature.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Consult “Does your mind elate with self-adoration and self-aggrandizement?” in our Black versus White Magic Series. — ED. PHIL.]

<sup>2</sup> [Cf. *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (POST-CHRISTIAN SUCCESSORS TO THE MYSTERIES) XIV p. 311. Full text under the title “Blavatsky on the Trials and Triumph of Initiation,” in our Buddhas and Initiates Series. — ED. PHIL.]

<sup>3</sup> Esoteric, <Budhism>\* as exoteric, Buddhism rejects the theory that Gautama was an incarnation or Avatāra of Vishnu, but teaches the doctrine as herein explained. Every man has in him the materials, if not the conditions, for theophanic intercourse and Theopneusty, the inspiring “God” being, however, in every case, his own Higher Self, or divine prototype.

\* [Consult “Buddhism is Inner Wisdom,” in our Confusing Words Series. — ED. PHIL.]

<sup>4</sup> One entirely and absolutely purified, and having nothing in common with earth except his body.

<sup>5</sup> *Māndūkyopanishad*, 4.

<sup>6</sup> [Consult “Theophania and options open to the Adept,” in our Buddhas and Imitates Series. — ED. PHIL.]

## Mysteries are the heirloom of Archaic Wisdom.

**As every heavenly and human body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, so Mysteries are the temple of the Earth. And the temple of Devotional Love (Bhakti)<sup>1</sup> is the Secret Heart in every man — sanctuary of his innermost divine intuitions.**

From *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (THE ROOTS OF RITUALISM IN CHURCH AND MASONRY – VII) XI pp. 84-85. Full text under the title “Ancient Masonry is Archaic Gnosticism,” in our Blavatsky Speaks Series.

The ritualism of primitive Christianity — as now sufficiently shown — sprang from ancient Masonry. The latter was, in its turn, the offspring of the, then, almost dead Mysteries. Of these we have now a few words to say.

It is well known that throughout antiquity, besides the popular worship composed of the dead-letter forms and empty exoteric ceremonies, every nation had its *secret* cult known to the world as the MYSTERIES. Strabo, one among many others, warrants for this assertion.<sup>2</sup> No one received admittance into them save those prepared for it by special training. The neophytes instructed in the upper temples were initiated into the final Mysteries in the crypts. These instructions were the last surviving heirloom of archaic wisdom, and it is under the guidance of high Initiates that they were *enacted*. We use the word “enacted” purposely; for the *oral* instructions *at low breath* were given only in the crypts, in solemn silence and secrecy. During the public classes and general teachings, the lessons in Cosmogony and Theogony were delivered in allegorical representation, the *modus operandi* of the gradual evolution of Kosmos, worlds, and finally of our earth, of gods and men, all was imparted in a symbolical way. The great public performances during the festivals of the Mysteries, were witnessed by the masses and the *personified* truths worshipped by the multitudes — *blindly*. Alone the high Initiates, the *Epoptai*, understood their language and real meaning. All this, and so far, is well known to the world of scholars.

**The sublime mysteries, of what is called today so unphilosophically “creation,”<sup>3</sup> were divulged to the elect of our Fifth Root-Race (Aryan), progeny of the preceding Fourth (Atlantean).<sup>4</sup>**

It was a common claim of all the ancient nations that the real mysteries of what is called so unphilosophically, *creation*, were divulged to the elect of our (fifth) race by its first dynasties of *divine* Rulers — gods in flesh, “divine incarnations,” or *Avatars*, so called. The last Stanzas, given from the *Book of Dzyan* in *The Secret Doctrine*,<sup>5</sup> speak of those who ruled over the descendants,

. . . produced from the Holy stock [and] . . . Who redescended, who made peace with the fifth [race], who taught and instructed it . . .

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<sup>1</sup> [Consult “Narada Bhakti Sutra,” in our Higher Ethics and Devotion Series. — ED. PHIL.]

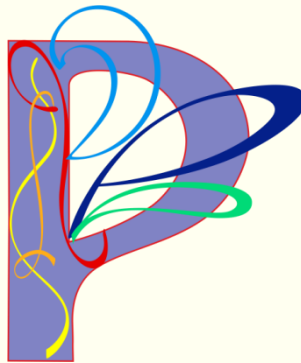
<sup>2</sup> See *Geographica*, lib. X, ch. iii, § 9.

<sup>3</sup> [Readers may consult with profit the metaphysical concepts, study notes, and learning aids set out in our Secret Doctrine’s First Proposition Series. Also, C.A. Bartzokas (*Comp. & Ed.*). *Compassion: The Spirit of Truth*, Gwernymynydd: Philaletheians UK, 2005; v. 100-2023; 398pp. This is our first Major Work. — ED. PHIL.]

<sup>4</sup> [Look up *Rise and Demise of Atlantis*, Gwernymynydd: Philaletheians UK, 2009; v. 06.65-2019; 52pp. This is our third Major Work. — ED. PHIL.]

<sup>5</sup> Vol. II, p. 21.

The phrase “made peace” shows that there had been a previous *quarrel*. The fate of the Atlanteans in our philosophy, and that of the *prediluvians* in the Bible, corroborates the idea. Once more — many centuries before the Ptolemies — the same abuse of the sacred knowledge crept in amongst the initiates of the Sanctuary in Egypt. Preserved for countless ages in all their purity, the sacred teachings of the gods, owing to personal ambition and selfishness, became corrupted again. The meaning of the symbols found itself but too often desecrated by unseemly interpretations, and very soon the Eleusinian Mysteries remained the only ones pure from adulteration and sacrilegious innovations. These were in honour of (Ceres) Demeter, or Nature, and were celebrated in Athens, the flowers of the intellect of Asia Minor and Greece being initiated thereinto. In his 4<sup>th</sup> Book, Zosimus states that these Initiates embraced *the whole of mankind*;<sup>1</sup> while Aristides calls the Mysteries the *common temple of the earth*.<sup>2</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> Says Cicero in *De Natura Deorum*, Lib. I, xlii (or 119): “omitto Eleusinem sanctam illam et augustam, ubi initiatur gentes orarum ultimæ.”

[The above quotation is somewhat misleading in the manner in which it is given. The complete text is as follows:

“Omitto Eleusinem sanctam illam et augustam,  
ubi initiantur gentes orarum ultimæ,  
prætereo Samothraciam eaque quæ Lemni  
nocturno aditu occulta coluntur  
silvestribus sæpibus densa,  
quibus explicatis ad rationemque revocatis rerum magis natura  
cognoscitur quam deorum.”

The English rendering of which would be:

“I say nothing of the holy and awe-inspiring sanctuary of Eleusis,  
where tribes from earth’s remotest confines seek Initiation  
and I pass over Samothrace and those occult mysteries  
Which throngs of worshippers at dead of night  
In forest covert deep to celebrate,  
at Lemnos, since such mysteries when interpreted and rationalized  
prove to have more to do with natural magic than with the gods.”

The source of the first verse, quoted by Cicero, is unknown; the second quote is probably from the *Philoctetes* of Attius, a Roman tragic poet (born B.C. 170) with whom Cicero, when a young man, frequently conversed. — *Boris de Zirkoff*.]

<sup>2</sup> [This expression occurs in one of the *Fragments* from the writings of Ælius Aristides of Smyrna, namely in his *Discourse on the Eleusinian Mysteries*, ¶ 2 thereof. See Bruno Kiel’s edition. Berlin: Weidmann, 1898; Vol. II, Discourse XVII. — *Boris de Zirkoff*.]

## Suggested reading for students.



- BLAVATSKY ABOUT TO UNVEIL ISIS
- BLAVATSKY DEFENDS ISIS UNVEILED
- PAGES FROM ISIS UNVEILED

— *in our Blavatsky Speaks Series.*

- ISIS UNVEILED IS A TREASURE OF LIGHT.
- ISIS UNVEILED IS THE MAJESTY OF TRUTH UNVEILED

— *in our Theosophy and Theosophists Series.*



### **From our Theosophy and Theosophists Series.**

- A DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO LORD LYTTON
- A LAY CHELA ON OCCULT STUDY
- A LAY CHELA ON THE SECRET DOCTRINE
- A THEOSOPHICAL LOVE FEAST IN FRANCE
- A THIRSTY HORSE-LEECH PLEADING ADMISSION TO THE T.S.
- ALETHEIA IS OUR GOD AND DOGMA
- ANCIENT ETHICAL WORSHIPS
- ARCHAIC THEOSOPHY IS PRE-BUDDHIST WISDOM-RELIGION
- BLAVATSKY DEFENDS BLAVATSKY
- BLAVATSKY DEFENDS THE KEY TO THEOSOPHY

**THEOSOPHY AND THEOSOPHISTS SERIES**  
**SUGGESTED READING FOR STUDENTS**

- BLAVATSKY ON ANNA KINGSFORD
- BLAVATSKY ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SOUL AND SPIRIT
- BLAVATSKY ON THE ORIGIN AND SOURCE OF THE SECRET DOCTRINE
- BLAVATSKY ON THE THEOSOPHY OF DR. N.I. PIROGOV
- BLAVATSKY ON THE TRAVELLING TRUTHSEEKER
- BLAVATSKY ON THE VEILED PHRASEOLOGY OF THE PURANAS
- BLAVATSKY REFUTES ARGUMENTS AGAINST THEOSOPHY
- BLAVATSKY REFUTES THE ASSERTIONS OF A FRENCH THEOSOPHIST
- BLAVATSKY'S OPEN LETTER TO FELLOW THEOSOPHISTS
- BUCK ON THE NATURE AND AIM OF THEOSOPHY
- COLD METAPHYSICS VERSUS DIVINE WISDOM
- CONDUCT AND DUTIES OF A TRUE THEOSOPHIST
- CORY'S ANCIENT FRAGMENTS (1832)
- COSMOPOLITANISM IS FAR HOLIER AND NOBLER THAN GRASPING GREEDINESS CLOAKED IN PATRIOTISM
- DE ZIRKOFF ON CHARLES JOHNSTON
- DE ZIRKOFF ON EDWARD DOUGLAS FAWCETT
- DE ZIRKOFF ON FRANZ HARTMANN
- DE ZIRKOFF ON GERALD MASSEY
- DE ZIRKOFF ON HP BLAVATSKY COLLECTED WRITINGS
- DE ZIRKOFF ON SUBBA ROW
- DE ZIRKOFF ON THE COUNTESS OF CAITHNESS
- DE ZIRKOFF ON THE DREAM THAT NEVER DIES
- DE ZIRKOFF ON THE SECRET DOCTRINE
- DE ZIRKOFF ON THE SIBYLLINE ORACLES
- DE ZIRKOFF ON THE THIRD VOLUME OF THE SECRET DOCTRINE
- DE ZIRKOFF ON THREE EMINENT THEOSOPHISTS
- DE ZIRKOFF ON WILHELM HÜBBE-SCHLEIDEN
- DE ZIRKOFF RECALLS HIS FORMATIVE YEARS IN RUSSIA
- EARLY THEOSOPHICAL DOCTRINES EXPOUNDED BY H.P. BLAVATSKY
- EASTERN LIGHT SHINES ON WESTERN MINDS
- EASTERN THEOSOPHY IS NEITHER A CREED, NOR A RELIGIOUS BODY
- ESOTERIC BUDDHISM HAS RENDERED PRECIOUS SERVICE BY POPULARIZING, IN ESOTERIC FORM, ESOTERIC TRUTHS.



**THEOSOPHY AND THEOSOPHISTS SERIES**  
**SUGGESTED READING FOR STUDENTS**

- ESSENTIAL THEOSOPHICAL DOCTRINES
- GLIMPSES OF THE FATHOMLESS MYSTERIES OF ZOROASTER
- HARTMANN ON HOW TO ENTER THE PATH TO INFINITE LIFE
- HARTMANN ON THE HARMONICAL SOCIETY
- HOW THEOSOPHY REKINDLED TRUE BROTHERHOOD IN INDIA
- HUMANITY SEEMS TO PROGRESS BY INVENTING ONE DISCOVERY AFTER THE OTHER
- IMPORT AND POTENCY OF NUMBERS AS SYMBOLS
- IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE THEOSOPHICAL MOVEMENT
- ISIS UNVEILED IS A TREASURE OF LIGHT
- ISIS UNVEILED IS THE MAJESTY OF TRUTH UNVEILED
- JUDGE AND DE ZIRKOFF ON GEORGE MEAD
- JUDGE ON THE HEART DOCTRINE
- JUDGE ON THE THEOSOPHICAL MOVEMENT
- JUDGE ON THE TRUE THEOSOPHIST'S PATH
- JUDGE ON THEOSOPHICAL STUDY AND WORK
- KEYS TO THE MYSTERY LANGUAGE
- LET THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY PERISH, THAN FORSAKE THE CAUSE OF TRUTH
- MEDITATION ALONE WILL NOT LEAD TO THEOSOPHIC DEVELOPMENT
- MYSTERY IS NOT UNREVEALED KNOWLEDGE
- NO THEOSOPHICAL JOURNAL CAN SATISFY ALL CREEDS AND BELIEFS
- OCCULT TRUTH IS NATURE WITHOUT THE ILLUSORY VEIL OF THE SENSES
- OUR GOD IS HUMANITY AND OUR CULT THE LOVE OF OUR FELLOW-MAN
- OUR ONLY DELIVERER AND SAVIOUR
- PLEDGED STUDENTS' PRESCRIBED GUIDE FOR CONDUCT
- PREREQUISITES TO MEMBERSHIP OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
- PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITARIANISM IS AN AFFRONT TO BROTHERHOOD
- SPURNED THE SUBSTANCE AND CLUTCHED THE SHADOW
- STUDENTS HAVE A CHOICE OF TWO PATHS
- SUBBA ROW DEFENDS ESOTERIC BUDDHISM
- SUBBA ROW'S ESOTERIC WRITINGS (1895)
- THAT WHICH IS FALSE CAN ONLY BE KNOWN BY TRUTH
- THE ADYAR THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY BELITTLED THE MASTERS
- THE AIMS AND MISSION OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY FULFILLED

**THEOSOPHY AND THEOSOPHISTS SERIES**  
**SUGGESTED READING FOR STUDENTS**

- THE BROTHERS OF THE ROSY CROSS NO LONGER EXIST
- THE CROWN JEWELS OF THEOSOPHY (PHOTO ALBUM)
- THE EMPYREAN PHILOSOPHICAL EXHORTATIONS OF ZOROASTER
- THE POWER OF THE TRINITY OF KOSMOS MANIFESTS THROUGH THE FOUR PRINCIPLES OF MAN
- THE REVIVAL OF EASTERN OCCULT PHILOSOPHY
- THE SUN OF TRUTH FEARS NO LIGHT AND NEEDS NO LIES
- THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IS NOT A NURSERY FOR BUDDING ADEPTS
- THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL ARCANES TERMS
- THEOSOPHIA - FOUNTAIN, PERSPECTIVES, PRACTICE (DRAWING)
- THEOSOPHIA: INNER WISDOM
- THEOSOPHICAL MOVEMENT, THE GREAT MORAL BUT SILENT FORCE
- THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY - ESOTERIC SECTION (LETTERHEAD)
- THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY - MISSION AND FUTURE
- THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY - MONOGRAM 1 (LOGOTYPE)
- THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY - MONOGRAM 2 (LOGOTYPE)
- THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY - OBJECTS AND EARLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY - SEAL 1 (LOGOTYPE)
- THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY - SEAL 2 (LOGOTYPE)
- THEOSOPHICAL SYMBOLS (TRUE TYPE FONT)
- THEOSOPHIST IS WHO THEOSOPHY DOES
- THEOSOPHISTS DEFINED ATTITUDINALLY, ETHICALLY, PHILOSOPHICALLY (DRAWING)
- THEOSOPHY AND THEOSOPHISTS
- THEOSOPHY BRINGS THE WISDOM OF LOVE BEFORE THE EYE OF THE SOUL
- THEOSOPHY IS DEEPER MONISM THAN SECULARISM, AND MORE PHILOSOPHICAL
- THEOSOPHY IS RELIGION ITSELF AND SUBLIME CODE OF ETHICS
- THEOSOPHY IS THE PRECIOUS PEARL WITHIN THE SHELL OF EVERY RELIGION
- THEOSOPHY IS THE SCIENCE OF TRUTH AND THE RELIGION OF JUSTICE
- TRIBUTES TO CHARLES SOTHERAN
- TRIBUTES TO DE ROBIGNE MORTIMER BENNETT
- TRIBUTES TO SIR HENRY MORE
- TRIBUTES TO WILLIAM QUAN JUDGE
- TRUE THEOSOPHISTS ARE ALWAYS UNDER THE MASTER'S EYE

**THEOSOPHY AND THEOSOPHISTS SERIES**  
**SUGGESTED READING FOR STUDENTS**

- TRUTH IS ALWAYS MIXED WITH ERROR AND HINDERED BY TECHNOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE
- TWO JOURNALS DEVOTED TO THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN
- VERNAL BLOOMS BY WILLIAM QUAN JUDGE
- VISTAS OF VIRTUE AND TRUTH
- WADIA'S RESIGNATION FROM THE TS
- WHAT SORT OF MAN THE REAL PHILOSOPHER SHOULD BE?
- WHEN PURE LOVE IS PERVERTED, HUMANITY QUIVERS
- WHO CAN MEND THE BROKEN SOCIETY?
- WHO CAN READ THE RIDDLE OF THE SERPENT?
- WHO SHOULD BE INVITED TO THEOSOPHICAL MEETINGS?
- WHY A BRAHMIN ABANDONED HIS CASTE
- WHY PAGAN SYMBOLISM IS INDESTRUCTIBLE?

