

Spirit of Change Review (Fall, 2006)

The Secret Gateway

By Edward Abdill

For those interested in philosophy and spirituality who have not yet ventured into Theosophy, this text puts all the pieces together in such a beautifully precise way that what was once disjointed or uncertain about life becomes clear and flowing. Edward Abdill, using contemporary and engaging language, boils the gigantic and intellectual writings of Helena Blavatsky down to their essence: a worldview that appeals to both reason and the heart. As “a synthesis of principles from the wisdom tradition that has run through all the great cultures of humanity,”

Theosophy’s writings quote equally from Christian, Jewish, Buddhist and Hindu traditions to directly address the nature of consciousness and its interplay with physical reality. The teachings reveal how the system works as a whole, moving from raw consciousness (atma) through spiritual intuition, the mind, emotions, etheric double, prana, and finally to the physical body. Along the way Abdill explains what happens after physical death, why we choose to reincarnate, the evolution of consciousness, and the true nature of evil (the result of “reasoning man who dissociates himself from nature”).

Helena Blavatsky, the primary figure in the founding of Theosophy, traveled the globe in the 1800s (no small feat) in search of understanding her own psychic powers thus receiving teachings in all the great spiritual traditions. As an independent and outspoken woman, she was quite controversial, but maintained many well known followers including: L Frank Baum (author of *The Wizard of Oz*), Thomas Edison, and Henry Wallace (Vice President under Franklin Roosevelt). Although very serious, her writings are full of passion and love. When asked, “What is the most important aspect of a spiritual life?” Blavatsky replied, “common sense,” followed by “a sense of humor.” Abdill’s summary of modern Theosophy breathes accessibility into the principles, generating a great number of “a-ha” moments along the path to enlightenment.

Reviewed by Alec Franklor

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