

New Age Retailer Review (Holiday Issue, 2006)

***The Secret Gateway* *Modern Theosophy and the Ancient Wisdom Tradition* By Edward Abdill**

Edward Abdill, author of this down-to-earth, reader-friendly book, is a former director of the Theosophical Society in America and past president of the Theosophical Society in New York City. He teaches and lectures internationally on the society's behalf. One expects him to be knowledgeable about the history and philosophy of theosophy, but what comes as a pleasant surprise is the clarity and ease with which he puts those teachings on paper. Throughout the book, he guides us through a complicated set of principles and ideas with a very gentle hand.

The Secret Gateway will be invaluable to anyone who has read, or intends to read, any of the writings of H.P. Blavatsky. It is also perfect for those who are interested in finding out what theosophy is. By setting the stage with a history of the Theosophical Society, and then explaining, in modern language, the ideas that Blavatsky and her followers tried to communicate, Abdill makes those ideas accessible to a much larger audience. Examples and metaphor are incorporated into the explanations to make them relevant to the reader's life. The use of references to Jesus and Christian ideology provides a safety net for those who have concerns about a spirituality drawn from ancient traditions and founded in natural law. It also demonstrates an important component of theosophy, comparative religion. Chapter 15 contains an excellent, concise explanation of the benefits, objectives, and techniques of meditation, which in itself makes the book worth reading.

Reviewed by Anna Jedrziwski, Spirit Connection New York, New York, N.Y.
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