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THE SECRET DOCTRINE :

THE SYNTHESIS OF SCIENCE, RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY.

BY

H. P. BLAVATSKY,

AUTHOR OF "ISIS UNVEILED."

With a copious Index and a Glossary of Terms.

IN all ages, and in all lands, the belief has existed that a Divine degree of knowledge is possible to human beings under certain conditions; and, as a corollary to this, the conviction has dwelt in the hearts of the people that living men exist who possess this knowledge—whether they be called sages, philosophers, adepts, or by any other name.

In ancient times this knowledge was taught and communicated in the "Mysteries," of which traces have been found among all the nations of the earth, from Japan through China and India to America, and from the frozen north to the islands of the South Pacific.

In modern times the existence of this knowledge has been divined by different scholars and students, who have called it by various names, of which "The Secret Wisdom" is one.

The purpose of the present work, then, is to lay before the thinking world so

much of this "Hidden Wisdom" as it is thought expedient to make known at present to men in general.

In her earlier work, "Isis Unveiled," the author dealt with Science and Theology from a critical standpoint. But little of the positive Esoteric teaching of the Secret Wisdom was there brought forward, though many hints and suggestions were thrown out. These will find a fuller explanation in the present volumes, though no claim whatever is made to even approximate completeness of statement.

The publication of Mr. Sinnett's "Esoteric Buddhism" was a first attempt to supplement the negative and purely critical attitude of "Isis Unveiled" by a positive and systematic scheme. The way has thus been prepared for this work; and the reader of the books just referred to will find those outlines, which were only sketched in the earlier presentations of the subject, filled in and elaborated in the first two volumes now offered for his consideration.

Book I. of the "Secret Doctrine" (the 1st Volume) is concerned mainly with the evolution of Kosmos. It is divided into three parts.

Part I. commences with an introduction explaining the philosophical basis of the system. The skeleton of this book is formed by seven stanzas, translated from the Secret Book of Dzyan, with commentary and explanations by the translator. This work is among the oldest MSS. in the world; it is written in the Sacred Language of the Initiates, and constitutes the text-book, which was the basis of the oral instruction imparted during the Mysteries.

Part II. is devoted to the elucidation of the fundamental symbols contained in the great religions of the world, particularly the Christian, the Hebrew, and the Brahmanical.

Part III. is devoted to the consideration of the bearings of some of the views advanced upon modern science. Some probable objections from this point of view are met by anticipation, and the scientific doctrines at present in vogue on these questions are considered and compared with those put forward in this work.

The arrangement of Vol. 2 is similar to that of Vol. 1.

The following table of contents gives merely a rough, approximate sketch of the work, and is subject to rearrangement and extensive additions, full details of which will be given before the date of publication in October.

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