

HELENA PETROVNA

BLAVATSKY

The greatest Occultist in the history of Western civilization, a direct agent of the Trans-Himâlayan Brotherhood of Adepts.

Born August 12 (July 31, old Russian style), 1831, at Ekaterinoslav, Ukraine, Russia. Daughter of Col. Peter Alexeyevich von Hahn, and Helena Andreyevna, *née* de Fadeyev, renowned novelist who died young. Granddaughter on maternal side of Privy Councillor Andrey Mihailovich de Fadeyev, and Princess Helena Pavlovna Dolgorukov, who supervised her education at Saratov and Tiflis, Caucasus. At an early age, traveled with her father in Western Europe. Endowed from childhood with remarkable psychic sensitivity. Married, 1849, Nikifor Vassilyevich Blavatsky, a State Official, very much her senior. Left him and traveled in Turkey, Greece, Egypt, France, 1849-50. Met her Master in London, 1851. Embarked for Canada later in the year; went to New Orleans, Mexico, South America, West Indies; thence via the Cape and Ceylon to India, 1852. Attempted but failed to enter Tibet. Returned to England via Java, 1853. Came to America again, Summer 1854, crossing the Rockies with caravan of emigrants. May have visited South America again. Left for India, late 1855, via Japan and the Straits. Traveled throughout India, Kashmir, Ladakh, parts of Tibet, Burma, 1856-57. Returned to Europe, via Java, 1858, staying in France and Germany. Then returned to Russia, reaching Pskov on Christmas Night, 1858. Left for the Caucasus, early 1860, where she traveled among the native tribes, remaining there until 1864 or 1865. Experienced severe physical and psychic crisis, acquiring complete control over her occult powers. Left Russia again, and traveled extensively in Balkans, Egypt, Syria, Italy, 1866-67. Returned to Italy, 1867, and paid a short visit to Southern Russia. Was present at the battle of Mentana, November 3, 1867, and was wounded. Went to India and Tibet with her Master, late 1868. Returned to Greece, 1870. Embarked for Egypt and was shipwrecked near the Island of

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Spetsai, July 4, 1871. Settled in Cairo, 1871-72, where she tried to form a Société Spirite which soon failed. Traveled in Syria, Palestine, the Lebanon, 1872, returning for a short time to Odessa. After brief travels in Eastern Europe, went to Paris, Spring 1873. On her Master's orders left for New York, landing July 7. Met Col. Henry Steel Olcott at the Eddy farmhouse, Chittenden, Vt., October 14, 1874. Started her literary career late 1874, by writing in defense of genuine spiritualistic manifestations.

September 8, 1875, founded The Theosophical Society, together with Col. Olcott, William Q. Judge, and others (Inaugural Address of Col. Olcott delivered Nov. 17, 1875). Published her first great work, *Isis Unveiled*, Fall of 1877. Became American citizen, July 8, 1878. Left for India, with Col. Olcott, December 17, 1878, settling at Bombay. Launched her first magazine, *The Theosophist*, October, 1879, which resulted in rapid growth of Theosophical work in India during 1879-83. Transferred Headquarters to Adyar, Madras, January, 1883. Left for Europe, February 20, 1884, accompanied by Olcott, Mohini, and others. After visiting Nice, settled for a while in Paris, to work on *The Secret Doctrine*. Briefly visited London. Moved to Elberfeld, Germany, fall of 1884, at which time the Coulomb conspiracy broke out at Adyar. Went to London, October, 1884, and soon after sailed for India, reaching Adyar December 21, 1884. Gravely ill, February, 1885, but restored by her Master. Sailed for Naples, March 31, 1885, leaving India for good. After a brief stay at Torre del Greco, settled at Würzburg, Germany, where she wrote large portion of *The Secret Doctrine*. Moved to Ostende, July, 1886, visiting Elberfeld on her way. Continued her literary task. Transferred her residence to London, May, 1887, where the Blavatsky Lodge was established, and her second magazine, *Lucifer*, was launched, September, 1887. Published *The Secret Doctrine* late Fall, 1888. Founded the Esoteric School the same year, and wrote her *Instructions*. Published *The Key to Theosophy* and *The Voice of the Silence*, 1889. Established, 1890, European Headquarters of the Theosophical Society, at 19 Avenue Road, London, where she died in the midst of arduous labors, May 8, 1891. Cremated at Woking Crematorium, Surrey.