

PREFACE

The story of the evolution of humanity has long been shrouded in speculations, myths, and theories; but since the late nineteenth century, a new light of truth called the Ageless Wisdom Teachings has penetrated veiling fogs to reveal answers that have eluded humanity for ages. This body of inspired writings, spearheaded by Helena P. Blavatsky and followed by an intermediate outpouring of information from Helena Roerich and Alice A. Bailey, awakened humanity to little-known information underlying its evolutionary journey on planet Earth. It presents a provocative and compelling view of a divine plan or blueprint for the evolution of humanity, leading to perfection or mini-god status that is our birthright and destiny. It postulates that all life expressions are interconnected and interdependent and reveals man's responsibilities in the linking kingdom between the divine and subhuman kingdoms.

Man, unaware of his latent divinity and blind to his fate, has arrived at a critical crossroad in his journey, where he must decide whether to create a brilliant new civilization based on sharing, justice, economic, social, and gender equality or continue along the pathway of division, greed, and competition that would surely lead to a nuclear and/or environmental disaster. We are rapidly approaching the destined hour in which humanity must choose.

Fortunately, we have never been without oversight and guidance; and, in what has to be the most spectacular news imaginable, the head of this planet's spiritual hierarchy—the World Teacher—along with fourteen of his masters (eventually forty) have taken their posts and are ready to start working alongside humanity in the everyday world for the first time in ninety-eight thousand years! They have emerged from their ancient retreats to help humanity navigate this difficult stage in the journey, providing incorruptible guidance in identifying the pitfalls along the way, a better view of the evolutionary plan and purpose of life, and how to implement that plan. The names of some of these masters are familiar—Jesus (formerly Joshua, Jeshua), Koot Hoomi (formerly St. John, Pythagoras), Count of St. Germain (formerly Francis Bacon, Roger Bacon), and Morya (formerly St. Peter)—and others less familiar—such as Serapis (Egyptian master) and Jupiter (Indian master)—plus Lord Maitreya, spokesman and head of the group of sixty-three masters.

Benjamin Creme was selected to make the initial approach to the public and prepare a climate of hope and expectancy so essential for their success since the masters will never infringe on our free will, which they see as sacrosanct. As you might expect, the flow of information from this group of perfected masters is disturbing to some people but joyous to most.

I will lead you on an abbreviated tour to some elements of this fascinating story to help prepare you for the coming Day of Declaration—unique in history—which heralds a new way of life for humanity in which we will be inspired to share the abundant resources of the planet to create justice and lasting peace and launch the building of a golden civilization beyond our wildest imaginings. To avoid falling foul of copyright restraints, I can only share a few examples of what is openly available on the Share International (SI) website, as well as archived abridged editions of *Share International* magazine, also available on the Internet; so I will help you navigate that trove of the most compelling evidence that the masters are now among us and will, at

the most auspicious moment, announce before the world—telepathically, inwardly, and in our own language—our current crisis and awaken us to a new era of light and esoteric science. These spiritual mentors with perfect sight say they already know our answer and are glad.

STATEMENT

In respect for historical accuracy, I have chosen to use the terms “man,” “brothers,” and “brotherhood” in most instances to denote both the male as well as the female vehicles we temporarily inhabit during the long evolutionary journey on planet Earth. That journey entails countless lifetimes in male and female bodies, incorporating aspects and attributes of God into our threefold personalities, which leads to relative perfection and mastery. The master has combined this existing duality into an androgynous whole, so although masters currently appear exclusively as males because they wish to “anchor their energy in a powerful way,” they are androgynous. They embody male and female aspects. This practice will change over time as the synthesized illusory duality, or pairs of opposites, shifts into an androgynous complete, perfect expression of the latent divinity resident within each of us called the soul.

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INTRODUCTION

Like many of you, I am a somewhat typical American with more than a casual interest in and curiosity about our world—both the outer objective world as well as the inner subjective world. At an early age, I was not only fascinated by the world we primarily experience through our senses—the tangible world of forms—but also keenly intrigued by the invisible, latent, and somewhat mysterious world within.

We commonly perceive reality as images shaped by the narrow ruts of our experiences of sight, hearing, taste, and smell, plus the life force organ of touch or feeling, which is different, not a sense organ, but it reacts to electrical impulses registered by the four organs through the nerves to the brain and interpreted. It is related to consciousness and therefore vital for the four independent senses to work. Feeling is thus independent from the senses, yet it is indestructible, eternal, part of the soul. Ancient Chinese sages have said man actually has only four senses plus the receiver/interpreter (feeling) of sensation from the four senses. This extension of the concept “know thyself” will become clearer as we proceed.

It is not so unusual today to witness vivid demonstrations of clairvoyance, clairaudience, mental telepathy, etheric vision, or extrasensory perception. We are mystified by these faculties but reluctant to dismiss them as fake or fiction; in fact, we are told that these skills are latent within all of humanity. Evolution, in my thinking, has brought me to agree with Master Morya through Helena Roerich that the world as we experience it is largely an illusion—that everything we see is a shadow of what we don't see.

As a child growing up in North Carolina, my fascination with the inner world was nourished by my mother, who had an uncanny psychic gift (or curse at times) to predict, oftentimes with alarming accuracy, events unfolding in our lives, as well as premonitions of death. How, I remember thinking, are mothers worldwide able to sense when their child is in danger—even across thousands of miles—and cannot rest until their fears are allayed? And why is it that when a loved one is near “death,” hospice workers often find that the patient can see deceased relatives? Both my parents and my grandfather saw deceased loved ones prior to their own transition.

My grandfather—a proud thirty-third-degree Mason—became so elated at seeing his nine deceased brothers in his room the night before he passed that he started to sing. My mother sitting nearby, her eyes straining hard to see each of her uncles pointed out to her, solemnly looked back at his smooth wrinkleless face, astonished at the beauty of his deep voice.

Some twenty-five years later, Mom, bedridden and unable to care for even her most basic needs, was facing her own transition with fear and dread. I tried to address her fears by asking her to recall that moment in Grandfather's gentle and fearless passing and sought to explain that we don't die but merely change from one level of awareness to another. But she was having none of this talk about death, asking me, “How do you know all this?” She sternly rebuked me for a discussion she deemed inappropriate, adding that she didn't see anything or anybody and would rather I not bring up the subject again.

Ultimately, however, despite her mental clarity and former protestations, she admitted that Curtis (my deceased brother) was back! Then reflecting upon the

“senselessness” of her statement, she derailed her train of thought and remained silent, reflective. After the resolution or “burning off” some negative karma, she was able to peacefully depart from her worn-out body. When the truth is known about what we call death, the fear and dread will fade as we rightly see it as yet another graduation in the long journey from stage to stage upon the evolutionary path unfolding the divinity within the soul.

Many people throughout the world believe that the answers to all of man's deep, penetrating questions regarding his origin, his purpose and place in the universe, his relationship with God, and his evolutionary journey and destiny are to be found in the world's various religious texts. In our community, religion and the church were inexorably linked. The church was not only the wellspring of religious teachings and services but also the focal point for community outreach, recreational activities, health awareness, a voting precinct, and other services. It was viewed as laying the foundation for a moral and fulfilling life by teaching the values of faith and the love of God and salvation through the blood of Christ. But it also reflected the deep divisions within society, often espousing one pathway or school of theological thought over another, thereby inspiring a good deal of fear of the wrath of God and the doctrine of retribution in some mythical hell.

At any rate, as a young boy, I accepted the scriptures in the Bible quite literally, only to later realize that they were largely symbolic and allegorical. The “snake talking to Eve” in the “garden of Eden” represented sex, the “forty days and forty nights” meant a long time, and even Adam and Eve were symbolic representations of man's early beginnings on planet Earth. Certainly, that journey began far earlier than the approximate five thousand to seven thousand years given in the Bible.

My mother was adamant about the need for us to attend church. It was, for the most part, an enjoyable experience. People seemed to behave better in church—lots of smiling faces, warm embraces, everyone well-groomed and neatly dressed, the music inspiring, and the sermons uplifting and instructive (if a little heavy-handed). Mom was less persuasive with my dad, who refused to attend, saying merely that people should attend only if they want to and that the biggest sinners were sitting right there in church. The “church effect” was not lasting, he said. But even he noted Mom's good mood following church services though she was prone to taking issue anew with his failure to attend. I frankly think he valued the free time to be alone. When we returned home, he was usually sitting in the swing under the hickory tree, admiring his attractive, bountiful garden with the dog or cats nearby. I would sit next to him in the swing sometimes and ask him about going with us to Philadelphia. He responded that he was more content and happy sitting in the swing after a day of work in the garden than he would be anywhere in the world. His pleasures were simple and accessible.

As I grew older and read many other books—spiritual, metaphysical, scientific, and historical, among others—I harbored questions about the Bible's authenticity and facticity. As I ventured off to college and grad school, I encountered many people from different cultures, ethnic groups, and religious convictions, befriending them, trying to understand how and why their beliefs differed from my own since we were told there is only one God, one source. Initially suspicious of their foreign spiritual beliefs, I ultimately realized we had much more in common than I could have imagined, as I easily found some of the tenets of their beliefs more persuasive than my own.

The Buddhist and Hindu belief in the law of rebirth or reincarnation was among the first to catch my attention. I found mixed evidence for reincarnation in the Bible (discussed later in this book), but I had already read many previous books from Edgar Cayce, Jeane Dixon, Sylvia Browne, and others, which convinced me of the truth of this belief. As college students, we had many lively discussions of our religious beliefs, setting ground rules to avoid being defensive or judgmental in exchanging our views. Acutely aware of humanity's long history of wars and violence fueled by religious intolerance, ignorance, and fanaticism, we knew we were treading upon dangerous subjects that could trigger violent responses.

It seemed that almost all my college friends held some variations on belief in the law of karma, also known as the law of cause and effect. I could easily point to corroborating passages in the Old Testament as well as the teachings of Jesus, who said, "As ye sow, so shall ye reap." But Christians clearly did not believe that we returned to the earthly realm to experience the "effects" of the "causes" we had set in motion from a former life despite the telling example of the beheading of John the Baptist for his actions as Elijah (Elias), but that's getting ahead of this introduction. After all, wasn't retribution taken up in hell? As we delved deeper into each religion, we found instances of what might be called distortions and man-made doctrine and dogma, and we didn't have to look far to see the long arm of man twisting the meaning of religious interpretations to further political ambitions, increase material gain, suppress women's rights, command power, encourage separation, incite rebellion, and more or less promulgate what select men thought was in the mind of God through the lenses and filters of their own conditioned minds.

Another pivotal experience from college that left an indelible memory was a presentation given by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. He was very popular at the time and drew a large audience of students and people from the community. Many were curious about Eastern thought and culture, and from the moment he walked barefoot onto the stage, the audience was captivated. He looked sort of old to me at the time, with a long salt-and-pepper beard, his face smiling broadly with black eyes that seemed to almost twinkle when he laughed—and he laughed a lot. He seemed to exude joy and was impressive in his down-to-earth sort of way. My dim memory recalls him doing several difficult yoga poses he made look easy and talking about Indian philosophy, Transcendental Meditation, and life. I made a mental note to someday find out more about this "meditation." It would be about eight years later when I acted on that mental note and took instruction in Transcendental Meditation. I continued to use TM on and off for the next twenty-five plus years and found it to be a valuable discipline and spiritual practice. This study evolved later in life to an even more potent form of meditation and service to the world called Transmission Meditation, discussed later in this book.

I think it was in the early 1980s when I was preparing to build a home that I decided to enroll in a woodworking class at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College. Since childhood, I had a keen interest in carpentry, and I wanted to build a fancy mantel and vanity using solid walnut from the North Carolina mountains to add visual interest to the simple two-story Cape Cod I planned to build. The registrar sadly informed me that the highly popular class was full, but seeing my crushed expression, she added that I might be able to convince the instructor to let me in. I quickly went home and got pictures of a plank-on-plank, museum-quality model of the USS

Constitution I had built some years earlier. I was fully prepared to beg if necessary to get into the class.

The instructor, Larry Melton, was a medium-sized fellow with powerful forearms and a penetrating look framed by a scruffy black beard. I explained to him how important it was for me to get into his class. He asked if I had any skills. I gently laid down a folder with pictures of “Old Ironsides—the USS *Constitution*.” His eyes opened wide as he studied the pictures intently for almost a minute. Then he looked up at me and, with half a smile, asked how long it took to build her. I said a year and many hundreds of hours. We chatted casually for a good while as I realized I was *in*! Larry was from the mountains of North Carolina and had worked previously at Goodman Lumber, a high-end woodworking company in Salisbury. He had classical music playing in the background that contrasted oddly with the woodworking persona I was observing. He was very articulate and possessed an air of quiet self-assurance; the skills I later witnessed were superb even when he was cutting perfect dovetail joints by hand. I also learned that he had dropped out of Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina.

One day, he invited me to his home to see photos of some of the impressive work he'd done in multimillion-dollar homes. It was during this visit that I asked him why he had left Duke Divinity School. A mix of emotions, some painful, crossed his face as he described his reading of a book written by Helena P. Blavatsky that gave such a compelling and plausible explanation of the nature of man—his origin, purpose, and place in the universe, including the other kingdoms in nature and the laws governing these manifestations of God—that it caused him to reassess many of his previous assumptions, even the religious path he had chosen. Pondering what to do, he approached the staff at the school for guidance and answers to his questions, but instead he was “stonewalled” in a high-handed, dismissive fashion. So convinced was he of the truth of what he had read that he could no longer consider finishing what he had started; the foundation of his thoughts and ideas had been shaken to the core—and so he left. He offered me the books, and I said I would rather borrow them. I'll share something of that amazing, epic book called *The Secret Doctrine* later in this primer.

It was not much later that I had another equally memorable encounter. I was employed at the time as director of a state regional agency serving children at risk for or demonstrating developmental problems. I had hired a rather diverse array of professional staff from all over the country to provide a wide range of services to children and their families, but there were divisions among the staff, and its members were not functioning as a team. The staff I hired from northern cities were afraid that schools in Concord and Charlotte, North Carolina, might not be as rigorous as northern schools and that their kids would develop a Southern drawl—*God forbid!*—while the Southerners wondered why I was hiring so many “Yanks.” I innocently replied that I hired the best professionals available to serve our families.

Describing my dilemma to colleagues, I was told that Dr. Leo Croghan, director of the Fayetteville DEC Program, was very adept at giving workshops on team building. Hopeful, I invited him to come over and do an in-service training. I'd heard beforehand that he was a former priest who had worked at the Vatican in Rome—*All the better*, I thought; he was indeed a rare and superb individual. He was tall, slender, and scholarly-looking with a melodious resonance in his voice and a pious, considerate calm in his manner. He described and acted out all the annoying

characters that make up a great team, also depicting their personalities as vital to team function. He mostly had the ladies on staff howling with laughter as they caught glimpses of themselves in the characters of his skit. They loved it, loved Leo, and loved me for bringing him.

Afterward, we went out to lunch and talked casually about staff issues and world issues—even reincarnation. After all, how many opportunities would I get to share my ideas with someone who had worked at the Vatican? He did not believe in reincarnation and said so emphatically, but he was not unpleasant when I offered passages from the Bible that seemed to refute this major church position. We were soon at an impasse in our discussion but had enjoyed the exchange of ideas. Ultimately, I referenced a not so commonly recognized belief that the Bible had been changed at the Second Ecumenical Council of Constantinople (AD 553) to remove references of reincarnation. He was surprised by this statement and said, “Indeed, Ira, the council used to be held there centuries ago, but now it’s held in Rome.” He finally said before leaving that he would check on the accuracy of this statement during his yearly sabbatical to Rome.

Months later at a directors’ meeting in Raleigh, I caught sight of him talking to two colleagues, so I moved close, awaiting a turn to speak with him. At a pause in the conversation, he looked over at me and said, “Ira, there’s something to that—” just as we were being called back to our meeting. I knew it! And while I was anxious for the details of his research, my curiosity would have to wait because I had to leave the meeting early to make a board meeting in Charlotte. I never did get a chance to talk to him again because some weeks later, he died of a heart attack. In honor of his many contributions to the field of developmental disabilities, we named an annual conference on developmental disabilities, the Leo M. Croghan Conference. Ironically, what he saw in his research is now part of the public record, discussed later in this book.

The last and biggest turning point in my journey came during a visit to Winston-Salem in the year 2001 and a conversation with my youngest brother, Al. Al is a kindhearted brother and former marine with talents as a singer, composer, and producer. He provided empathetic essential care to our dad and mother during their transitions. As I learned firsthand while helping Mom during the last six months of her life, it was demanding but rewarding service. Ironically, both of us observed that our blood pressure dipped to childhood lows following care episodes, even after very stressful moments with Mom, whose transition was difficult and bumpy following a fall at home. Al had a psychic gift similar to Mom’s (sadly, I was informed that only later in life would I develop that faculty) that allowed him to receive flashes of messages from his spiritual guides, the “masters,” or perhaps from the soul, which more often than not proved accurate. Years of introspection heightened his sensitivity to that inner guidance, and later, the practice of Transmission Meditation lifted the veil even more.

Al attributed his ability to hear this inner voice to his discovery of an amazing new website called Share International (SI). He was careful in his choice of words as he spoke about the emergence onto the world stage of a great teacher, who is here to offer wise and loving counsel to humanity as we approach a critical and perilous crossroads in our evolutionary journey. His name is Maitreya, Al said, head of this planet’s spiritual hierarchy—the kingdom above the human kingdom—and he is here to fulfill the expectations of all the religions for the return to the world of a great teacher. This teacher comes to offer a new dispensation, showing humanity the way

forward during these turbulent times and inspiring us to create the most brilliant civilization ever seen in the long history of the planet. This teacher is here, Al said, along with several of his masters, including the famous Master Jesus, whom he said he overshadowed two thousand years ago from the baptism in the River Jordan to the Transfiguration and the Crucifixion, a period of three years. I suggested that he might be a charlatan or maybe even the Antichrist.

He said, "I don't think so, Sonny, because among other things, he talked about a more just sharing of resources on the planet, leading to trust and eventually peace."

That's the right answer I allowed, but how do you get the selfish, greedy people on this planet to cooperate in such a plan? "And you said he overshadowed Jesus?" *Really*, I thought. This was alarming, meriting deep and penetrating investigation!

I was skeptical but intrigued and frankly anxious to get back to my computer, fully expecting to uncover a fraud. Instead, I found myself keenly absorbed in reading for about three to four hours before being overcome by sleep. It was definitely an awesome website, weaving together the threads of my thoughts from earlier readings, including the works of Helena Blavatsky, Alice A. Bailey, Helena Roerich, and Benjamin Creme into a new and wonderful tapestry that was beautiful and elegant. It showed pictures of Maitreya in Nairobi, Kenya (in disguise). His appearance was covered by CNN News. There were hundreds of miracles from around the world, awakening the public to his presence. A question-and-answer section revealed "unknowable" information that only a master could access (archival examples are given in chapter 6). A section of links to topical discussion of the broader Ageless Wisdom Teachings and their role was provided, along with information on Master Jesus that is at odds with church teachings yet consistent with history and the Dead Sea Scrolls. I also found more detailed information on the role and function of the soul, our solar system and how planet Earth fits into the larger cosmic picture, our space brothers (their UFOs) and their critical role, guidance to avoid a headlong plunge into nuclear disaster, and much more. The next day was a Saturday, and I continued where I left off. One could read for months and not cover the totality of the site with its many links, including the archives.

If you feel a little anxiety building regarding this last part, my advice to you is to wait, relax, and proceed with deliberation and careful scrutiny. Remember that all the scriptures of the world have prophesized that at the end of the age (Piscean), we shall see the revelation of that which had previously been hidden, veiled. Could this be the fulfillment of that prophecy? By all means, don't let someone else decide the merits of the website or the credibility of Maitreya for you, as many fanatics and other interest groups will attempt to do on the Web. You are perfectly able to consider, evaluate, and decide for yourself what all this means.

Bear in mind that many forces at work in the developed world will find this information unwelcome and a threat to their control of American (and world) thought and behavior. In its relentless march toward the commercialization of every aspect of human life—what Benjamin Creme's master calls the "gigantic game of hunt the dollar at any cost"—there is little appetite for corrective teachings. Remember also that you are a product of your environment that has conditioned you to think a certain way. From birth, these influences include our parenting, our education, our culture and religion, our political views, and our sense of nationalism and patriotism. All have inculcated an unconscious bias and way of viewing the world that often prevents us from considering other points of view or even noticing emerging truths. Recognition of

these truths hinges on our growing awareness and readiness for previously esoteric (hidden) information about our evolution and how we can become an active participant in shaping and advancing our evolution rather than a passive participant.

This brings me to the purpose in writing this small introductory book. It is targeted at those people in America and elsewhere who are capable of casting aside the conditioning influences of their backgrounds and thinking independently. It is not important that they are as yet unfamiliar with the names of the highly evolved writers referenced in this book—people like Benjamin Creme, Alice A. Bailey / Master Djwhal Khul, Helena P. Blavatsky / Master Morya and Master KH, Helena Roerich, M. MacDonald-Bayne, CW Leadbeater, Vera Stanley Alder, and others listed at the back of this book. To all objective inquirers, I am merely offering for your consideration and scrutiny a body of information that I think is worthy of your time and attention. Intuitively, you might sense deep in your heart that all humanity is one and that we are at a critical crossroads that will determine whether we continue in the divisive, selfish, and greedy practices of the past, leading to certain disaster, or awaken to our sense of sanity, brotherhood, and justice to create the most spectacular civilization in the history of this planet. Where do you stand, and where is your voice? That is the choice soon to be soberly brought before us.

I believe our great spiritual guides, called the spiritual hierarchy or the kingdom of God in the Bible, are not reposing in some distant heaven, gazing down upon a suffering, crumbling Earth, but are now poised and unobtrusively working among us for the first time in ninety-eight thousand years while awaiting the exact right moment to declare themselves. They say our birthright and destiny is to become perfected men, like they are. They have merely completed the journey we're still engaged in, working behind the scenes as custodians of energies that transform our lives while the soul silently works from within. Since the masters work always within the "laws of life," avoiding infringement upon our free will, we are free to decide if we are ready for them to share their wise, incorruptible guidance during this darkest hour before the dawning of the light. Will we choose a brilliant new life or the death of humanity? That is the far-reaching question before us, to which Maitreya already knows our answer and says he is "glad."

CHAPTER 1

THE AGELESS WISDOM TEACHINGS

The scriptures of the world we know have prophesized that at the end of the age we shall see the revelation of that which is secret, the emergence into the light of day of that which has hitherto been concealed, veiled.

—Master DK¹

It is hard to imagine a more tumultuous time than the period we are currently passing through. We see nearly 1.3 billion people starving (living on \$1.25/day) in a world of plenty. Half of the world's population is poor (living on \$2.50/day) and experiencing widespread desperation, leading many to resort to violence and crime. Economic, social, and gender inequality still prevail in most of the world, as an increasingly obscene share of the world's wealth is owned and controlled by a small number of individuals, families, and groups. World economies are increasingly turning away from global initiatives benefiting developing nations to a more populist nationalism, as fears of economic insecurity escalate, triggering rising ultraright sentiment, anti-immigrant measures, restrictions on social media access, racism, and other shortsighted reactions while Wall Street and banks report record profits.

And all the while, environmental concerns about global warming and severe pollution and degradation of air, soil, water, and forests go largely unaddressed, especially here in the USA; nuclear pollution, in particular, is invisibly poisoning Mother Earth and, by extension and karma, humanity itself. North Korea is rapidly developing a formidable nuclear arsenal, desperate to join the nine other nations known to have these weapons of mass destruction, able to kill millions of people almost instantaneously. Russian aggression in Ukraine and Syria, coupled with its alleged election interference in several European nations as well as its more consequential injection into the 2016 US Presidential election, has been verified. The Middle East is still in disarray with anemic economic growth and high youth unemployment but still emboldened by the Arab Spring to demonstrate for justice and fairness; civil war has nearly destroyed Syria and Yemen. Other countries in the region are unstable war zones awaiting a better day that doesn't come. Amid rising tensions, distrust, and mounting fears, even a small misunderstanding and miscalculation could spark a nuclear Armageddon, which would destroy all life on this planet, rendering it uninhabitable for millions of years. Clouds of doubt and uncertainty have eroded confidence, even here in America, leading many to question our pathway forward. We search desperately for a beacon of light to show us the way forward, even blindly looking backward to the failed, outmoded, divisive methods of the past. But if we look hard, we also see harbingers of optimism, hope, and rebirth.

Generations in the developing world, long silent and accepting of squalid and inhuman conditions, are being stirred to action along with other groups, demanding fairness and justice, provoked by new energies streaming into our planet, leading to protests and demonstrations by young and old alike. On the line are our basic freedoms and justice, economic fairness, and opportunity—a new direction. People

worldwide are sensing the need to take matters into their own hands and demand fundamental human rights. The Arab Spring, the 2017 Women's March, the "Me Too" movement, and Black Lives Matter protests are just a small sample of the groups galvanized by Aquarian energies of change sweeping across Tunisia, Egypt, Hong Kong, India, Libya, Russia, UK, Syria, Greece, and even here in the USA, where protests fanned public discontent and outrage. While ill-defined and fragmented initially, the common themes of social and economic justice, fairness and gender equality, and provision of fundamental rights such as proper food and sanitation, safety, health care, education, solidarity, peace, and hope do emerge from these protests. Even in the United States, people are using terms like oligarchy, plutocracy, and corporatocracy to describe the sad state of affairs. People—especially the jobless but educated young—are taking to the streets, ready to sacrifice everything for a new system and a new direction.

We have learned from our most evolved and most gifted spiritual leaders from earliest times that humanity is one, yet we watch nonchalantly as our brothers die before our eyes, lacking the basic necessities of life—proper food and clean water, adequate sanitation and shelter, health care, and education. Edmund Burke, among others, said: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." Should we be surprised that so many at the margins of society, witnessing senseless brutal deaths of family members and entire communities, should willingly forfeit their empty lives to strike a blow against the oppressors, the "keepers" who take an obscene share of the resources of the planet while the vast majority are hungry, starving, or barely living? One might rightly conclude that distribution of the world's resources and respect for humanity's unity are one and the same dynamic. How long can this sad state of affairs continue?

It is at times like these that we look to the heavens or elsewhere for guidance and succor. Where are our great spiritual leaders when we need them most? Do they hear our prayers? Depending upon your religion or faith, your pleas, prayers, or cries for help are directed to Christ, the Messiah, the Imam Mahdi, Allah, Krishna, Maitreya Buddha, or other spiritual giants. Can they already be here, working tirelessly behind the scenes but always within the laws of life, avoiding infringement of our free will? Where are they anyway? Up in heaven, seated at the right hand of God, or in some other mysterious, inaccessible location? Perhaps some clues or answers to our questions might be found in the Ageless Wisdom Teachings. Let's take a look.

The Ageless Wisdom Teachings is the fountainhead from which all our religions and spiritual guidance originated, including the inspiration for social, scientific, and cultural achievements throughout the ages. Over time, these teachings have been somewhat altered, distorted by man, but reaffirmed, expanded, and purified periodically of some discolorations. The most recent updating was promulgated in the late 1800s by Helena Petrovna Blavatsky and more recently by Alice A. Bailey, Helena Roerich, and Benjamin Creme. These teachings, representing the accumulated wisdom of the ages, have been passed down over many generations by highly evolved individuals, seers, disciples, and spiritual teachers; and when correctly disseminated, interpreted, and implemented, it can advance human evolution tremendously.

Originally, the torchbearers of the ancient past used a kind of coded language consisting of symbols, allegory, numbers, sounds, and colors that veiled their full meaning. These secret teachings were highly valued and protected to prevent them

from falling into the hands of unscrupulous people, including members of the general public. Fearing exploitation of the Ageless Wisdom Teachings for personal gain, black magic, or other selfish and dangerous ends, protective measures to ensure their survival and preservation were taken by burying them in hidden locations above and below the ground. Edgar Cayce wrote in the late 1940s about such a chamber below the left paw of the Sphinx, which contains records of the history of man's early beginnings on planet Earth. Helena Blavatsky and later Benjamin Creme, through his unnamed master, confirmed elements of this story, adding that several such sites above and below ground exist in Egypt, Mexico, Peru, Chaldea, and Babylon. These hiding places will be discovered and excavated in due course, giving testimony to the events from man's early life on this planet. Meanwhile, let's take a look at these teachings and see if they shine an illuminating light by which we may better understand ourselves and life as we navigate through the fogs and illusions of our world.

Helena Petrovna Blavatsky / HPB

We will start with the woman credited with giving the introductory phase of the Ageless Wisdom Teachings through her greatest work, *The Secret Doctrine*. Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, or HPB as she preferred to be called, was one of the most significant figures to grace this planet during the heyday of spiritualism. Born prematurely on August 12, 1831, in Ekaterinoslav, Russia (today's Ukraine), she was uniquely equipped to blaze a pathway of enlightened understanding, demonstration, and ultimate control of the hidden, invisible, and spiritual underpinnings of life, humanity, nature, and the phenomenal world. The daughter of Colonel Peter von Hahn and acclaimed novelist Helena Andreyevna, who died young, HPB was gifted from childhood with an incredibly developed mind—able to understand and assimilate difficult subject matter—and also displayed an extraordinary array of unusual powerful psychic faculties. Her mother described her as “inexhaustible, merry, cheerful, sparking with witty talk...who likes jokes, teasing, and causing commotion.”² She was straightforward and honest but caused much embarrassment to her parents when confronting visiting guests with what they were least prepared to hear, as well as her scorn for social graces and expected decorum from an aristocratic, famous, and wealthy Russian family. Blavatsky had access to all the privileges conferred by her social position, but she rejected playing with children in her social circle, preferring instead the companionship of children of the servants and, if not watched, coarse boys from the streets.

Her mother used great care in choosing governesses for her amazing daughter, but she quickly outgrew each of them, eventually drawing taunts from an unamused mistress who said Helena would have difficulty finding a suitable husband because of her temperament. She even suggested that Helena could not even attract a proposal from Nikifor Blavatsky, a state official who Helena belittled, very much her senior and hardly a suitable match for the young prodigy. But Helena took the bait and got the proposal of marriage from Blavatsky. Realizing her error, she tried unsuccessfully to extricate herself from the marriage, reasoning with him that he was making a mistake and that he was old enough to be her grandfather. The parents, however, thought it was time for Helena to settle down and that she should go through with the marriage. So Helena, seeing an opportunity for freedom from family constraints, conceded to

the marriage without consummation but soon fled to her devoted maternal grandmother and then to Turkey, Greece, Egypt, and France.

Her father, owing to his duties in the military, moved the family from garrison to garrison, causing stress to the sensitive delicate health of his wife. Her emotional turmoil, reflected in her novels, were largely about women trapped in unhappy marriages; however, her books drew unexpected acclaim. She was encouraged to write more. Helena's sister, Vera, like her mother, was an accomplished writer of several novels, short stories, and plays. She deeply loved her older sister but acknowledged Helena's good points and bad points while citing their differences in age and personalities as the basis for their occasional disagreements. Before her death, Helena's mother consulted with an occultist who told her that her daughter's destiny "will not be womanly—she will suffer greatly."³ That foresight was unfortunately accurate.

Among HPB's positive attributes were her fluency in five languages, including Sencar, a secret sacerdotal language; her well-recognized virtuosity as a pianist, poet, and scientist; and her superb skills as an artist and painter. But what drew the most widespread attention, adulation, and controversy was her extraordinary psychic faculties. From an early age, she took a keen interest in her grandmother's books on medieval occultism, perhaps seeking answers to her unusual gifts. She could sense the thoughts of others and later read verbatim unopened letters, cause furniture and other household items to move or levitate, cause roses to fall from the ceiling, or cause a mysterious ghostly figure to appear out of an act of her will or that of her Master Morya. These are phenomena the masters themselves have perfected but demonstrated in the nineteenth century by a brilliant, resolute, fearless woman from a noble, respected family and created quite a sensation.

From a riveting book by Sylvia Cranston, *HPB: The Extraordinary Life and Influence of Helena Blavatsky, Founder of the Modern Theosophical Movement*, I will share a couple of the demonstrations from that book of Blavatsky's amazing powers. In 1859, two business friends of Colonel von Hahn, intrigued by the reported psychic powers of his daughter, paid a visit to the family to satisfy their curiosity about Helena's reported powers. According to Vera's account of the evening, "the men were delighted, amazed, and quite at a loss of what to make of Helena's powers" but equally puzzled by her father's apparent indifference. Reproached, the no-nonsense father coolly said, "It was all bosh—that he'd hath to admit to the existence of the devil, undines, sorcerers, and witches; and you may prepare to offer me as an inmate of a lunatic asylum."⁴

After much prodding, he reluctantly agreed to leave his cards and participate in an experiment testing his daughter's powers. He would go into an adjoining room and write down a question and put it in his pocket without sharing it with anyone. Through a series of raps and alphabet, Helena was given one word that was so strange and grotesque that she doubted the accuracy of the message. Finally, she said she only got one word, "Zaitchik." Vera said the expression on her father's face was a sight to see when the name was given. Taking out of his pocket was the question: "What was the name of my favorite war horse which I rode during my first Turkish campaign?" and lowering down was in parentheses, (Zaitchik).⁵

Another fine example of HPB's skills involved her brother, Leonid. In a room filled with guests, he listened at her description of mediums who could make light objects so heavy as to be unmovable and heavy items light as a feather. He, like his father,

did not believe such claims and challenged his sister to give a demonstration if she could. She offered no promises. A young man volunteered, and a chess table was chosen, which was very light to the strong muscular youth. Helena then asked him to stand back from the table whereupon she “fixed it.” She merely stared at it with a fixed gaze and asked him to try to lift the card table. He grabbed the table by its legs, but *the table could not be moved!* He grew red with exertion, but the table would not budge—it was as if it had been screwed down.

The young man, confused and bewildered, said, “Well, this is a good trick.”

Her brother agreed, “That was a good one.” Leonid, suspecting a conspiracy, asked if he could try. Her brother, smiling, approached the table, but the “smile instantly vanished, to give place to an expression of mute amazement.”

“How strange!” he said “with a wild expression of astonishment.” Addressing him with a laugh, HPB said to try it again. Leonid nearly dislocated his arm with the misplaced effort.⁶ Dozens of other examples can be found in the excellent book by Cranston, now back in print and available at Amazon.

HPB attracted audiences wherever she traveled, from curious pedestrians to famous statesmen, scientists, religious leaders, academicians, and others. Her remarkable skills amazed, enchanted, and confounded her audiences, who always thirsted for more. In explaining her powers, she merely said what she did, others could do—that what she demonstrated was not magic but an understanding of the hidden laws at work in the universe, later referred to as the “laws of life.” But while some were skeptical, others brushed aside her explanations and suspected a more hidden sinister justification. As her popularity rose, exciting international interest and curiosity, a small number of determined detractors, overwhelmingly men, tried mostly in vain to cast a shadow of suspicion over Blavatsky.

At a time when physicists and chemists believed the atom to be the fundamental building block of the universe, she suggested that the atom is infinitely divisible. When archeologists and anthropologists reluctantly offered that humanity might be hundreds of thousands of years old, she said it was millions. She said that matter and energy are convertible or interchangeable (today widely accepted). In short, her intelligence coming from the masters—from that kingdom above the human kingdom—was far ahead of late nineteenth-century science. You can well imagine the mighty egos shaken to their core by such pronouncements.

Noteworthy among those whose charge it was to discredit HPB was Richard Hodgson, whose 1885 report in the London Society for Psychical Research (SPR) called her “one of the most accomplished, ingenious, and interesting imposters in history.” Hodgson’s report was widely accepted for nearly a century as the definitive objective finding concerning the authenticity of HPB and her supernormal powers, yet few people bothered to even read the report. One person who thankfully did examine it was Dr. Vernon Harrison—a longtime SPR member and, coincidentally, a leading researcher of disputed documents—who issued a scathing indictment of the report, pointing out its serious flaws—lack of basic research vigor, quoting unnamed sources, advancing conjectures as facts, all the way to “downright falsities.”⁷ I strongly suggest you visit Theosophy.org and read Dr. Harrison’s compelling defense of this amazing woman.

When HPB was accused of plagiarism because of a practice from the period of listing primary but not secondary sources, she simply quoted Montaigne, saying, “I have here made only a nosegay of culled flowers and have nothing of my own but the

string that ties them.”⁸ There were others I will not name who were equally motivated by ignorance, conditioned beliefs, fanaticism, inflated egos, or naked envy to take her down, even as great personalities worldwide sought to join the Theosophical Society or gain an audience with her. She did not allow these distractions to alter the trajectory of her goals on behalf of the ones who sent her. The smear left her temporarily distraught, but she said in her book that in the pursuit of her educational mission, one must be driven by a resolution unshaken by any dangers. What was that mission? Why was she chosen, and why was her pathway filled with so many roadblocks? That is what we intend to briefly explore.

There is substantial evidence from HPB herself that the mission she was entrusted to spearhead came from the spiritual hierarchy of this planet. That hierarchy consists of a group of perfected beings whose task it is to bring about the evolution of humanity—to help humanity to achieve the status they already exemplify so perfectly. These graduates from “schoolyard Earth” work mainly with energies streaming into our planet to bring about subtle changes in the ways we relate to each other to the other kingdoms in nature—those three kingdoms below the human kingdom as well as those three kingdoms above. The kingdom of souls is the kingdom that the masters belong to—the kingdom we will all eventually “graduate” into.

Helena coined the word *theosophy* (*theo* means “god” and *sophia* means “wisdom”) to define the godlike wisdom and driving force of her mission—the harmonizing of the divine with the human in man. So the degree to which the divine aspects of the higher self/soul (such as goodwill, unconditional love, charity, harmlessness, and hold sway or govern our personality reactions or lower self, such as the animal instincts, appetites, passions, emotions, sense of separation, etc.) determines the speed/success of our journey to become godlike men or masters, eventually gods.

HPB enlisted the help of Colonel Henry Steel Olcott, William Q. Judge, and others to establish the first Theosophical Society (TS) in the United States in 1875 and later in other countries around the world, sowing seeds of truth and enlightenment that might flourish in the minds of seekers and open-minded investigators. The TS adopted the saying of “Satyat Nasti Paro Dharmah,” meaning that “there is no religion higher than truth.”

Colonel Olcott, a renowned and highly respected officer in the Civil War who served with distinction in the US government and later as a practicing lawyer in New York, along with Judge, an occultist and noteworthy Irish lawyer, were officers together with HPB as recording secretary. They launched that first group, which found fertile ground in which to grow and prosper, as other sites were contemplated in India, Europe, and elsewhere. The TS is founded on the principles of (1) the universal brotherhood of man, without distinction to race, color, creed, sex, or caste; (2) the study of ancient and modern religions, philosophy, and science and their importance; and (3) the investigation of the unexplained laws of nature and the psychical powers latent in man. These principles have been enshrined and promulgated before by nations and groups but rarely realized or implemented in a meaningful way.

The world appeared to be ready to absorb the lessons of the past and move to a more enlightened understanding of humanity, its origin, purpose, and destiny; the role of the soul; the law of rebirth/reincarnation; and karma/cause and effect, among other laws and principles in explaining our common ancestry. HPB maintained that there

are no inferior races, that all humanity is one, and that we have had incarnations in all the races over time—thus, the absurdity of racism and bigotry.

Bear in mind that the United States, a little more than a decade earlier (1861–1865), had erupted in the bloody Civil War (620,000+ killed), in which the controversy over slavery and state rights ended in preservation of the union and the abolition of slavery. So many were still coming to grips with the raw emotions of its aftermath, as well a shift in thinking about fundamental questions regarding human rights, justice, freedom, and fairness. Even today, that issue is not settled on the world stage, but in 1875, the staggering cost of the war—the lingering pain and social toll—was fresh in the minds of many as the world sought to rise to a more perfect understanding of its fundamental oneness. So as has happened throughout history, the mahatmas or masters of this planet's spiritual hierarchy seized the moment and enlisted the gigantic mind and other faculties of HPB through her master to affirm yet again the essential unity of humanity, providing light and direction as humanity was groping for guidance following a major crisis and spiritual awakening. The masters, as we will learn, are powerless to directly interfere, even in a beneficent way, with humanity's sacrosanct free will. That free will is governed by cosmic law, so an initiate, a disciple, or an undergraduate is usually chosen for the master to work through.

Why HPB? Well, she was certainly no ordinary woman. She was ideally suited to go into several countries, particularly Tibet, given her oval Mongolian-shaped face and ability to learn a difficult language quickly without much fanfare. She possessed enormous energy, laser-like willpower and focus, a driven temperament when needed to get her way and outwit her detractors, and the grit to push aside all seeming obstacles to achieve her goal. That goal was communicated to her by a tall Indian man she immediately recognized from her childhood dreams as her master, Master Morya (Master M) of Eastern origin and a Rajput by birth. Even Helena's sister was shocked to learn that her strong-willed sister, who typically followed her own will and intuition in all matters, should so freely acquiesce to guidance from this suspicious man whom she called her master. It was her master who guided her itinerary; who instructed her on the mission she was to undertake, sometimes dictating her writings; and who overshadowed her (temporary occupation of her physical body) at times and even intervened when her life was hanging by a slender thread.

When she found herself in the middle of a war in Mentana, Italy, where she was wounded five times, causing extraordinary pain and intermittent agony, and when the wound reopened years later, it was her master who came to her rescue. When she fell from a horse and got caught in the stirrups, it was her master who invisibly held her up from being dragged to death. When she fell in the street, injuring her leg that eventually led to paralysis, followed ultimately by planned amputation of the limb, it was her master who completely restored her to health on the eve of the surgery! All the while, she continued to work, ignoring the pain to her physical vehicle.

HPB was invited privately to stay at the home of Dr. Hiram Corson, an English literature professor at Cornell University, to get her insights into his daughter's death at age sixteen (which she refused). He still acknowledged that she possessed a profound knowledge of everything, with an ability to quote from hundreds of books—working from 9:00 a.m. until late for months on end, smoking innumerable cigarettes she rolled, and eating oatmeal for nourishment. Corson was baffled at how she could quote from hundreds of books in various languages not in print in US libraries and with no access to a working library of her own. Corson's granddaughter helped him

solve that riddle when she saw a thin brown hand emerging from beneath HPB's desk, supplying the references HPB needed. Was this supplier her master? Did she access what she called the astral light, or had she attained her soul faculties? It's not clear, but her voluminous manuscript work in the production of *Isis Unveiled* was certainly beyond normal human faculties, according to the celebrated professor. He saw in her no customary observation of niceties or grace and lovingly called her a Russian bear. The first printing of one thousand copies of *Isis* sold out in ten days and subsequent printings sold out briskly as well. She was asked to do a sequel, which she declined.

As we will learn, the masters always work in groups and possess group consciousness. So it was not surprising to learn that she had interactions with Master Koot Humi / Hoomi (KH), Gulab Singh, and other adepts, including Master Djwhal Khul, whom we will discuss next.

According to HPB, it was Master KH who taught her English, but it was Master M who informed her of the role she was to play if she accepted it. Interestingly, she also mentioned a probationary period of seventeen years of evaluation in which to demonstrate complete devotion to that mission and willingness to shoulder the inevitable sacrifices, whatever those might be. Was this seventeen-year hiatus period in Benjamin Creme's preparatory work a similar test?

HPB was, in the view of the masters, the person best suited to fulfill the mission they had in mind. The kind-faced Indian man whom HPB first saw in her childhood dreams appeared in front of her excited twenty-year-old eyes in London in 1851, entrusting her with a mission fraught with obstacles real and overwhelming that could potentially lay the foundation for a major change in the thinking and eventually lead to the liberation of humanity. This was the hidden potential of the Ageless Wisdom Teachings to the world. HPB must have realized early on that her peculiar skill set—the inexhaustible energy that poured through her; the forceful will and ability to push through all obstacles, even those imposed by her sex; and enlisting the supportive help of great men like Olcott, Judge, and others—made her the best available instrument for the herculean task the masters envisioned.

Another factor which played its part in her selection was her status as a fourth-degree initiate, like Jesus two thousand years earlier—the fourth of five initiations leading to mastery called the crucifixion or renunciation. HPB was among that rare group of initiates poised to make huge sacrifices, including death itself, in order to follow the course of the soul—the mini-god within who comes into incarnation to serve the plan of God for planet Earth. We will discuss this occult process toward graduation from planet Earth in a more detailed way in chapter 3.

Her passion for knowledge led to extensive travels to Egypt, Greece, Europe, Persia, India, Syria, France, Germany, the USA, Canada, Mexico, Cyprus, and many other countries. She tried several times, unsuccessfully, to make her way into Tibet before finally gaining entry through the help of her master. It was on a visit with Master M that she first met Master KH at his home in the Himalayas. She also met other masters, including Master Jesus and Master Rákóczi (Count of St. Germain), giving a vivid description of these illustrious mahatmas in an area outside Shigatse, the main Tibetan spiritual center nestled in one of the most inhospitable places on Earth. This location was changed following its occupation by the Chinese, prompting some masters to find other inaccessible retreats. Incidentally, this is the same master (KH) who formerly lived as St. John or John the Beloved (from the Bible) and still

earlier as Pythagoras (yes, I am talking about reincarnation, the case for which will be made later in this book).

Anyway, much of the content of Blavatsky's magnum opus, *The Secret Doctrine*, was given to her by Master Morya, with help from Master KH (Koot Hoomi) and Master DK (Djwhal Khul, who became a master in 1875). We will talk more about the illustrious group of masters in chapter 5. I will give only a brief and unworthy review of the major driving principles found in her seminal work and then move on to intermediate-level books and concepts through the Alice A. Bailey teachings from Master DK, a rather more deep plunge into the Wisdom Teachings, and finally Benjamin Creme's books for their clarity, ease of comprehension, and contemporaneous additions and context for the neophyte reader.

You might reasonably assume that because *The Secret Doctrine* represents the introductory phase of the Ageless Wisdom Teachings, it is therefore best-suited to orient the new student to this body of teachings from our elder brothers, the masters; but in my opinion, it is not. The rare and uniquely favorable skill set of HPB allowed her to access and retain massive amounts of intelligence that present hurdles for the fledgling student unaccustomed to such a vast and varied sampling of information sources from all over the world—some in foreign languages where the English translation is not equivalent or nonexistent. She often visited cities using astral light (inspiration and deep knowledge and mental clairaudience [hearing without using the ears] or mental clairvoyance [seeing without using the eyes]) sources to view ancient books, such as the *Zohar*, *Chaldean Book of Numbers*, *Hermes Tabula Smaragdina*, *Upanishads*, books of Vedanta, *the Veda*, and many others, as well as some rare books found only in the British Museum or the Vatican or in secret hidden places away from profane hands, like those of Western materialistic exploiters. This sounds magical, and the method to access these records is called “white magic” and accessible to rare individuals under inspiration from a master to avoid illusion and confusion. It's like trying to describe a smartphone to someone from the nineteenth century. The masters feel you are ready for a fuller explanation, but we will do so in stages; so I will give an inadequate and poor sampling of novice-level principles, laws, and concepts to lay the foundations.

The Secret Doctrine

Blavatsky's crowning achievement was the publication of *The Secret Doctrine* in two volumes, published in October 1888 and January 1889. The subtitle reads *The Synthesis of Science, Religion, and Philosophy*. At the time of the release, these three very separate fields of inquiry were seen as incompatible, divergent, even antagonistic. But HPB realized that each is an essential, interactive, and interdependent part of the whole, just as the body, emotions, and spirit are parts of our whole self. We do a great disservice to our understanding by refusing to recognize the inherent truths and limitations within isolated religious, scientific, and philosophical views of nature; but we are gradually moving past this artificial separation toward that ideal elusive synthesis so essential for expansion of our consciousness/awareness and the pathway forward.

A central guiding principle in *The Secret Doctrine* is that all matter is in a sense alive, organic, and evolving into something higher (sometimes called hylozoistic theory). In other words, there is no such thing as dead matter; instead, at invisible

etheric levels (the four levels of matter above the solid, liquid, and gaseous physical levels), growth into a higher kingdom is gradually taking place. We will have more to say about this phenomenon later when a greater outpouring of the Wisdom Teachings from other giants are examined.

The first book deals with *cosmogenesis* or the origin, evolution, and eventually, death of worlds—planets and solar systems. It looks at how these globes (planetary and solar) interact, how the globes develop in preparation for emerging lower kingdoms (mineral, plant, and animal kingdoms), and how these kingdoms evolve and prepare for the entry of human forms (human kingdom).

The second volume called *anthropogenesis* deals with the further development of the form side of man (body and lower mind or brain) and its origin and evolution—the lighting and heightening of mind faculties by the incarnation of soul forces from prior worlds, invigorating the push upward toward accelerated growth and animation over millions of years through seven root races diffused among seven subcategories of races over seven continents—all according to the grand plan and design for this globe (planet Earth) in conjunction with other planets within the grander scheme for the solar system. Lower kingdoms (minerals, plants, animals) are moving toward the middle or fourth kingdom (human kingdom) in their slow march of consciousness/awareness, leading to perfection or man-god status—masters and beyond on seven pathways of higher schools, higher service in the universe. It is the realization of this inevitable advance to divinity by all kingdoms that gives hope to humanity despite the temporary signs to the contrary.

HPB puts forth three major principles in her description of the creation of the universe, the evolution of humanity, and the primordial tradition underlying the various religions, mythologies, and philosophies of the world:

1. An omnipresent, eternal, boundless, and immutable principle that lies beyond the realm of thought, beyond words, and beyond comprehension. It is a reality that we can only speculate about with words that cannot do it justice and perhaps even confuse it. She uses descriptions like “rootless root” (root unknown), “all that was, is, or ever shall be” (timeless reality), and the “One Absolute” God (the sum total of all states of consciousness within the solar system or the one life animating all forms on the outer objective plane) to describe the essence or nature of God or Logos. Don’t be put off by these transcendent, supreme, absolute words used to convey the God or Logos of a planet, solar system, galaxy, or universe. We will explore the usefulness of this terminology in the light of small examples at microscopic levels that might offer clues as to why the masters choose the approximate wording they do in conveying an understanding of our world and the world beyond ours, so be patient. Your destiny and evolution is greater than you ever imagined. Our most familiar idea of what and who God is comes to us from something found in all the ancient religious texts called the theological Trinity. When we think of the Trinity, the following comes to mind: Father, Son, Holy Ghost. Or we may think of it in another updated way as spirit/energy, soul/consciousness, mind/matter. And think of it in yet another way as aspects of God: will, purpose, power, love, wisdom, and adaptive intelligence.

From these different expressions of divinity, you might surmise that our attempts to represent divinity have changed or evolved according to our growing awareness or consciousness. Thousands of years ago, when most of mankind was uneducated, terms like Father, Son, and Holy Ghost (mother/matter/intelligence/brain) were suitable and understandable because we could recognize those relationships in our own families, in humanity. It made sense and still reflects a correct representation of the threefold nature of divinity. But as students today are more familiar with terms such as energy, matter, visible, and invisible, the masters can update the descriptive language to come closer to our emerging sense of truth. Blavatsky also talks about the duality in man—spirit and matter, male and female, subjective and objective reality, life and form, positive and negative, soul and personality, etc. We will examine these concepts in a more thorough and realistic way shortly.

2. The law of periodicity is the flux and reflux, ebb and flow, day and night, active and inactive, life and death, seasons of the year, cycles of the zodiac, sleeping and waking that are reflected in the regular cycles and rhythms of life over infinite periods of time.
3. All souls are part of the universal oversoul, an aspect of unknown root (origin) in accord with cyclic and karmic law (or the law of cause and effect). Each and every man has been outfitted with this mini-god or “lodger within” called the soul. The realization of this occult truth is veiled to most men, but over time, the soul prepares its vehicle (man/personality) for acceptance of this reality. Through nonattachment to lower animal impulses, emotional illusions, and the psychic nature, stilling of the mind impressions through meditation, right perception, service to humanity, and an active engaged will, union with the soul can be achieved earlier. So in a strange way, we realize we are two beings in one: the lower self or personality vehicle incarnating countless times through all the races and the higher self or soul watching within and cultivating the lower self that Charles Darwin chronicles, which grew out of the animal kingdom. Clear as mud? Don't despair. It will become clearer as we proceed. Let's pause for a little story you might find enlightening.

A middle-aged man comes home from work and settles into his recliner chair and impulsively turns on the television, with the evening news reporting a booming stock market, lower unemployment figures, and good economic growth. But during a commercial break, he sees appalling images of impoverished emaciated children from Africa, Bangladesh, war-ravaged Syria, and other countries, accompanied by a moving voice asking for viewers' support to save the lives of these starving children. Moved by the images, the man feels tears welling up in his eyes followed by a sharp pain in his heart! But alas, he realizes the pain is not coming from his heart but from the right side of his chest, so it was not the heart attack he feared though he is concerned nonetheless. He jots down the telephone number of Save the Children

vast misunderstanding and, frankly, ignorance regarding the race issue, perhaps this information will enlighten those with eyes to see and objectivity to consider new intelligence.

Humanity is currently working through the fifth of seven root races—the Aryan root race with seven subraces consisting currently of Asiatic, European, Hindu, Greek, and American. Please do not confuse this Aryan race with the distorted notions of the term given by Adolf Hitler. The pathway to truth is littered with half-truths, distortions, and outright lies, so beware! The two preceding root races, the third and fourth root races, occurred in Lemuria and Atlantis. Each root race is tasked with the development of a component of the fourfold or lower attributes of man—the physical (both dense and invisible etheric), emotional/astral (HPB calls this aspect the psychical vehicle), and mental vehicles. So the third root race developed the physical vehicle of early animal man—the first fully human race with the latent potential to become what we are today. The fourth root race or Mongolian root developed the astral/emotional vehicle, and the fifth or Aryan root race is working toward the development of the mental vehicle. This development or growth process involves an awakening of the hidden consciousness/awareness within the vehicles.

Think of vehicle in the same way a ballet dancer or actress refers to her “instrument.” You train your body, emotions, and mind to defy gravity and move like a swan (ballet dancer) or convey vicariously emotions as an act of illusion (actor), and the degree to which you creatively “pull it off” is a measure of the hard work you put into development or refinement of your instrument or vehicle. These vehicles house the physical, emotional, and mental equipment and forces. Master DK, through Alice A. Bailey, calls these three vehicles the “three worlds”—sort of like a world within a world, but again, be patient! That evolutionary journey for humanity, according to the masters, began 18.5 million years ago, starting in Lemuria (over a period of 6 million years), followed by 12.5 million years in Atlantis; and currently, we are engaged in construction of the mental vehicle to its potential. So millions of years ago, you lived in Lemuria and then Atlantis with some overlay. You have, as HPB suggests, lived and inhabited all the racial types during your long journey, so be a little kinder to your brothers who are in different vehicles from the one you currently occupy. Don't incur negative karma by being a racist or bigot. You will pay the cost at some point with interest. There are some rare exceptions to the above general guidance, which will be discussed later.

But what about the first two root races? Where did these even earlier ancestors come from? Drumroll...the moon! That's right, according to HPB and Master DK, this episode is so far back in the dawn of time and the descriptions so arcane that it is said to be incomprehensible to even accomplished scientific minds. We will peep through a small crack in the curtain that veils these vague very ancient images.

HPB sheds a dim light on the first two root races produced on the moon by an arcane process that is almost incomprehensible to our current concepts of human procreation and the evolutionary process we have come to recognize. She says these early root races were androgynous or “double sexed”—that the first human stock was projected by higher and semidivine beings out of their own essences and that those higher beings were perplexed about how to create a thinking man, a perfect man. She mentions scant information about two possible staging grounds on the planet called “The Imperishable Sacred Land” and “The Hyperborean” or second continent. Nothing meaningful can be said of the first continent, but the second continent

and promises to himself to contribute a donation before he falls off to sleep and forgets the whole incident.

That night, in a dream, he sees a vivid figure of a man smiling back at him with a look of familiarity and kindness. *Where have I seen that face before?* he thinks. The face looks very serene, peaceful, handsome, and alert.

Then comes the answer from the familiar face. "I am you, your concealed higher self or soul—the real you!"

Confused, he asks, "Then what am I?"

"You, my friend, are a reflection of me—a vehicle I arranged for you to learn through, an illusory form we will discard like a worn-out 'suit of clothes' in about thirty-six years, after which you will have a surprisingly joyful reunion with family and friends you thought dead, a sort of vacation, followed by more schoolwork and preparation for your next incarnation. When the time is right, you will be fitted for another suit with carryover features from the last one, perhaps even a woman's suit in order to play the role we've selected for you. Relax, I am with you always. As you become more concerned with less fortunate people and less concerned with yourself, you will gradually become more like me, making our communication easier. You made a good breakthrough earlier today, and I gave you that sharp poke in your heart chakra to get your attention. Follow through on that call you decided upon."

This dream reveals a little about occult truths. After more insights into our journey, we will return to the above story. Let's resume our tour.

The Secret Doctrine embraces the ageless Kabbalist axiom that "a stone becomes a plant, a plant a beast, a beast a man, a man a god"—that all life is advancing toward a higher expression of divinity or god. Although this truth has been expressed in a more nuanced, realistic way by Alice A. Bailey and Benjamin Creme, there is little divergence from the essential accuracy of the old saying.

HPB also explores evidence of the sevenfold nature of the cosmos/universe at macroscopic and microscopic levels. These manifestations include the seven planes of our solar system: divine plane of the Logos, monadic plane, spiritual/Atmic plane, intuitional/Buddhic plane, mental/Manasic plane, emotional/astral plane, and physical plane with seven subplanes (solids, liquids, gases, fourth etheric, third etheric, second etheric, and first etheric). The etheric levels of matter are, to most people, invisible but represent higher vibrations of the sevenfold physical plane. These invisible levels of etheric matter give clues to what happens at "death" and reveal why our science wrongly assumes that life does not exist on other planets in our solar system. The seven chakras or nerve plexuses along our spine correspond to the seven sacred planets in the "body of manifestation" of the solar system or Solar Logos (solar god). The seven major vessels in the heart cavities (three above and four below) and seven layers of skin are just some of the other examples of the septenary nature of the universe above and the little universe below. We will offer more clarification on this truism later. Meanwhile, study figure 1.

Blavatsky offers many other illustrations of the sevenfold manifestations within the universe, but we will mention only one more before we take up the Alice A. Bailey teachings from Master Djwhal Khul, which throw a brighter light upon the septenary nature of the universe. HPB's use of many cross-references and symbolism from ancient texts will perhaps prove too baffling and confusing for the new student to this information, so we will restrict our last inquiry to the seven root races and seven subraces we inhabit during our long journey toward perfection and mastery. Given our

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Ira L. Palmer calls the mountains of Asheville his home. Prior to his retirement, he served as director of a regional Children's Developmental Services Agency of the state of North Carolina. The CDSA provides multidisciplinary evaluation, treatment, early intervention, and other discipline specific services to children suspected of having developmental disabilities and their families.

Along the way, Ira worked at other state jobs at Vocational Rehabilitation Services and later at John Umstead State Mental Hospital. Throughout his career, he always found time to volunteer time and support to a host of agencies on local, regional, and state levels. He served as chairman of the State Advisory Council, Office for Disabilities Prevention; president of the state DEC/CDSA Directors Association; board chair of Cabarrus Association for Retarded Citizens; president of Cabarrus Chapter of NAACP; vice president of the Annual Leo M. Croghan Conference on developmental disabilities; chairman of board for Community Link (homeless to housing); and numerous other agencies.

Now he introduces and hosts a potent new form of group meditation and service to humanity called Transmission Meditation. He also volunteers his time and energies on behalf of Share International, bringing audiences the exciting news about the externalization of this planet's spiritual hierarchy and the hope and expectation that news offers to our troubled world.

Ira is a graduate of Carver High School where he was class salutatorian. After graduation, he spent a year in studies at Yale University in the Transitional Year Program before ultimately getting a master's degree in educational guidance and counseling from the University of Hartford in Connecticut.

1 A. A. Bailey/Master DK, Esoteric Psychology volume 1, 96.

2 Blavatsky Study Center.

3 Blavatsky Study Center.

4 Sylvia Cranston, HPB, 71.

5 Ibid.

6 Ibid., 68–69.

7 Ibid., 277.

8 Ibid., 286.

9 Ibid., 24.

10 Secondary reference: Keller, Biography of A. A. Bailey, 65; primary reference: A. A. Bailey, The Unfinished Autobiography.

11 Secondary reference: School of Esoteric Studies, Bibliography of A. A. Bailey; primary reference: A. A. Bailey, The Unfinished Autobiography.

12 Compiled from writings of A. A. Bailey (compiled by student), The Seven Rays of Life, 327.

13 Ruth A. Dryer, Nicholas and Helena Roerich: The Spiritual Journey of Two Great Artists and Peacemakers, 255.

14 Ibid., 125.

appears to embrace portions of the North Pole and Northern Asia. Master Djwhal Khul, through Alice A. Bailey, gives a rather more interesting take on the period in which the sons of man fell from other planets to the moon chain—long before animal man made his first appearance in Lemuria, the third continent. Let's not forget that the moon is much older than our Earth, which is the only planet in our solar system in which man currently resides in dense-physical bodies.

There's simply too much to cover of the brilliant, high-drama life and teachings of HPB, but we must move on. Perhaps it is fitting in sharing the sacrifices inherent in the journey of the fourth-degree initiate (the crucifixion or renunciation) to share the consoling thoughts of Helena's mother as she lay dying: "At least I shall be spared seeing what befalls Helena... Of one thing I am certain, her life will not be as that of other women and that she will have much to suffer."⁹ But she bequeathed a seismic blessing to the world. Many prominent minds from the nineteenth century up to the present have been inspired and influenced by *The Secret Doctrine*, including Albert Einstein, who kept a copy on his desk, as well as another high initiate chosen by the masters to carry forward the torchlight of new occult intelligence, Alice A. Bailey, who we will visit next.

Alice A. Bailey

Ultimately, Alice Ann Latrobe-Bateman was decided upon and emerged onto the world stage on June 16, 1880, in Manchester, England, to an upper-middle-class family. She lost both parents by the time she was eight, but accompanied by her sister, she found nurturing love abundantly supplied by her grandparents in Surrey. Her upbringing was described as deeply religious and service oriented, amplified by an excellent education through governesses and finishing school in London. At the age of fifteen, she was visited by "a tall man dressed in European clothes and wearing a turban,"¹⁰ who told her she needed to develop self-control to prepare for certain work he planned for her to do. She would later identify this mysterious man as Master Koot Hoomi. She followed family tradition by working as an evangelist with the YMCA and British Army in Ireland and India, where she gained valuable experience that prepared her for the work ahead.

It was in the course of her work in India that she met her first husband, an ordained Episcopal minister who prompted a move to the USA. The marriage gave her three daughters but was otherwise unsuccessful because of his violent temper and physical abuse. She eventually obtained a divorce, which led to a period of hardship in which she took whatever work she could find, including work in a California sardine cannery, in order to support herself and her children.

She would spend the next several years sacrificing for her family while studying, not coincidentally, theosophy through friendships she formed with two English women. Interestingly, it was on a visit to the shrine room of the Theosophical Lodge in Krotona, California, that she was surprised and excited to see on the wall a picture of the mysterious man named Koot Hoomi, who twice approached her about work she would be asked to do. Overjoyed at the sight, she shared her association with the illustrious master, which some interpreted as an attempt to claim special recognition for herself. Despite suspicions, she plunged herself deeply into study, including *The Secret Doctrine*, and found satisfaction in her work. She took on expanding roles of

