

Helena Petrovna Blavatsky

(an introduction)

by John Algeo - USA

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She was the woman with the magic eyes. Piercingly blue, those eyes looked, not just at, but completely through, anyone she fixed upon. She seemed to see through the surface persona right to the innermost secrets of heart and soul.

Those magic eyes were set in a puffy face crowned with frizzy hair, atop the corpulent body of Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, perhaps the most remarkable and influential woman of the last century. Descended on her maternal side from Russian nobility, she had a grandmother who was famous as a natural scientist and a novel-writing mother who was called the George Sand of Russia.

When she was a little girl, the family serfs believed she had power to command nature spirits and household hobgoblins. Throughout her life, she was surrounded by amazing phenomena: bell sounds from the empty air, materialized objects, the ability to read sealed messages, astral projections, and more. She impatiently dismissed the belief that spiritualistic communications came from the dead, and claimed that they were the result of natural forces that anyone could learn to control.

Imperiously self-willed, when she was eighteen on a dare she married a man of her father's generation — but refused to consummate the wedding. Instead, she left home and homeland to wander over the world — Europe, the Near East, India, the Far East, North Africa, and America. In the course of those travels, she met remarkable teachers and learned the rationale behind the marvelous-seeming phenomena that followed her everywhere.

In 1873 she was sent to the United States to found an organization to carry on the mission of spreading the ideas she had learned. Two years later in New York city she started such a group in cooperation with several other persons, notably Henry Steel Olcott, a former Colonel in the Union Army who