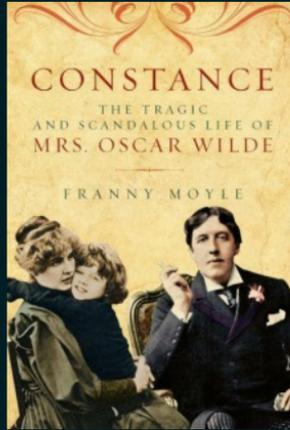


Theosophy in *Constance*:

The Tragic and Scandalous Life of Mrs Oscar Wilde.



Moyle, Franny. *Constance: The Tragic and Scandalous Life of Mrs Oscar Wilde*. New York: Pegasus Books, 2012. © 2011.

“They found themselves seated next to the exotic Russian émigré Madame Blavatsky and her disciple Annie Besant. ... Smoking ... heavily ... she held court talking about the position of women in Russia. ... Blavatsky had acquired huge fame at the time as one of the founders of the Theosophical Society. This society, which was created in New York in the mid-1870s ... had become a phenomenon across the Western world” (p. 165).

“The Theosophical Society represented an intellectual response to spiritualism. It sought to provide credibility to spiritualism by grounding it in a system of belief. At the very core of Theosophy was the concept that the material world cannot be separated from its spiritual counterpart . . . based on the idea of a constant flow and relationship between the material and spiritual dimensions” (p. 166).

“Constance, growing disenchanted with the conventional church, explored Theosophy ... as a genuine alternative to conventional religious practice” (p. 174).