

ex-Anglican priest and Theosophist, C. W. Leadbeater. In *The Christian Creed* (1899) he continued, with much greater fullness, his colleague Annie Besant's Theosophical exposition of the traditional credenda. *The Hidden Side of Things* (1913) contained a celebrated passage, reprinted in *The Science of the Sacraments* (1920) where it well articulates the sacramental theology of the Liberal Catholic Church, relating the author's experiences at mass in a simple Sicilian Roman Catholic Church. Leadbeater describes the radiant lines of spiritual forces from the inner planes that he clairvoyantly saw streaming from the altar and consecrated Host in that humble place, irradiating the peasant congregation and the village with benign energies.

In 1916 the Theosophist James Ingall Wedgwood was consecrated a bishop in an English Old Catholic Church which already was largely Theosophical. He shortly afterwards traveled to Australia to consecrate Leadbeater as a fellow bishop. Both prelates were by then enthusiasts for the ceremonial expression of Theosophical concepts, whether in Co-Masonry or Christian worship or other venues like the Order of the Star. Together they prepared liturgies for a Catholic style of worship consistent with Theosophy. Their church soon became the Liberal Catholic Church. The meaning of its rites were expounded in Leadbeater's *The Science of the Sacraments* and *The Hidden Side of Christian Festivals* (both 1920). Wedgwood wrote more, including *The Presence of Christ in the Holy Communion* (1928), *The Place of Ceremonies in the Spiritual Life* (1928), and *The Larger Meaning of Religion* (1929). In these distinctly Liberal Catholic works the basic esoteric Christian premise that the religion's myths, creeds, and festivals are allegories of fundamental Theosophical teachings about the outpourings of the Logos and the initiatory path of return to the One is accepted implicitly. The task now is to relate it to the details of traditional liturgical worship — the offering and consecration of the bread and wine, the cut of vestments and the swing of incense — and beyond that, to show how those features of Catholic Christian worship channel spiritual energies, as in the Sicilian church, to the congregation. Much emphasis was placed on the presence of ministering angels assisting in Eucharistic worship.

Another prolific Theosophical writer of similar interests, and one reportedly clairvoyant like Leadbeater, was Geoffrey Hodson. In his Liberal Catholic writings like *The Inner Side of Church Worship* (1930) and *The*