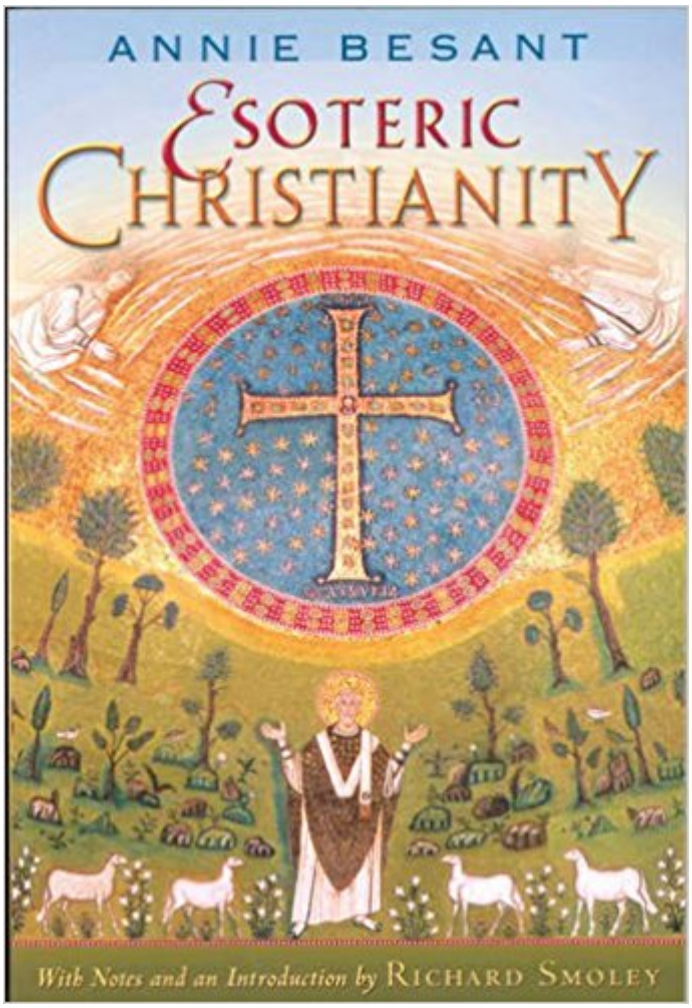
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Esoteric Christianity



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Synopsis

Early Christianity held secrets equal to those of other great religions, says Annie Besant. Its first followers guarded them as priceless treasures. After an increasingly rigid hierarchy began to bury these truths in the early centuries A.D., they were known only to a few initiates, who communicated them privately, often in obscure language. In Esoteric Christianity, Besant's aim is to restore the secret truths underlying Christian doctrine. As public interest grows in the Gnostic Gospels and the mystical side of Christianity, Besant's remarkable book, first published in 1901, is attracting new attention.

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Customer Reviews

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Annie Besant is a children's author, poet and editor based in Chennai. An avid reader, she discovered that she too could shape words to create new and exciting worlds. Since then, she has been creating ink and paper portals for children to discover. Her picture books for young children include Mala's Silver Anklets, When I Grow Up, Sam's Christmas Present and Sammy Cricket Gets Into Trouble. Her short story 'Magic' appeared in The Puffin Book of Magic for 8-year-olds. Emma Bigton and the Sphinx, her first full-length book for older children, will be published by Scholastic. --This text refers to the Kindle Edition edition.

I was somewhat wary of opening this little book by Anne Besant -- as I was quite aware of her fierce radical and Theosophical background -- which could interfere with a truly beneficial presentation of Esoteric Christianity. But I did open this slim work and read from it at various spots at once -- as Anne Besant continued to surprise me with both her deep insight AND sympathy for Esoteric Christianity -- as NOT opposed to Exoteric Christianity. Indeed she makes spot-on usage of World Religion, Western History and Exoteric Christianity -- with strong support of and to Exoteric Christianity. Her background even is seen to give her determination and special angles on this special topic -- even if such extra angles may be uncomfortable for narrow-minded or close-hearted folks.Her general approach has a fluid, clear and sharp rationale -- effectively seeing aspects as they are via certain critical angles. Such as her looking at The Christ from three views -- historical, mythical and mystical -- with a coherent chapter for each. Each and every chapter has such a coherent theme -- and they match very well what a seeker would want to know about Esoteric Christianity in harmony with Exoteric Christianity. A great example of this is chapter five "The Mythic Christ". From the start of this chapter, Anne Besant gives a surprisingly strong defense of Jesus -- versus attackers using Comparative Mythology against Religion. Indeed she uses such rationale to defend and extend the Legacy of Jesus. Her special point-of-view does stand out here with wide and deep connections to other Traditions and Ideas -- but focused on supporting the Legacy of Jesus. She supports Prayer, Trinity and other traditional Christian aspects likewise. These Thematic Chapters are done so well-and-good that I feel it wise to quote in full her Afterword to sum up "Esoteric Christianity" +++"We have reached the end of a small work on a great subject, and have only lifted a corner of the Veil that hides the Virgin of Eternal Truth from the careless eyes of men. The hem of her garment only has been seen, heavy with gold, richly light with pearls. Yet even this, as it waves slowly, breathes out celestial fragrances -- the sandal and rose-attar of fairer worlds than our own. What should be the unimaginable glory, if the Veil were lifted, and we saw the face of the divine Mother, and in Her arms the Child who is the very Truth? Before that Child the Seraphim ever veil their faces, who then of mortal birth may look on Him and live?Yet since man abides His very Self, who shall forbid him to pass within the Veil and to see with ’open face the glory of the Lord’? From the Cave to highest Heaven, such was the pathway of the Word made Flesh, and known as the Way of the Cross. Those who share the manhood also share the Divinity, and may tread where He has trodden. "What Thou art, That am I." "

The writings here in, offers nothing to enhancea further knowledge of true esoteric teaching that is

undoubtedly a great part of the faith. Of modern times, Inner Christianity by Richard Smoley; I feel, is the definitive work on this subject.

Knowing what we know now how miss Besant would have seen Christianity ?the new forward written by by smoley starts out asking a good question . we here in the early 21 century are facign a new crisis with Christianity on the one hand more people are turning away form religion and taking up a very materialist point of view I.E. atheiston the other hand religion (and probably a reaction to this) is turning more violent more fundamentalist and more insane from militant islam to fundamentalist Christianityhow can this be happening ?And i think besant gives a good example of how it can be stopped and turned around . but you have to read it to find out .besant always drawing form buddhist christian hindu and rosicrucian neo platonic vedanta sources paints a fun ride i must say as always insightful and a delight .One interesting academic part of this book i liked was besants connecting labilicus to neo platonic thought i don’t think any one has seen this very obvious connection its quite amazing how could people miss this?Although I like Besants writings this i felt is not her strongest, it’s lacking, although its powerful and insightful like all her writings, this one feels it misses something. I Think if she would have had more information like texts found in the 40s some years after her death than this book could have been much better. Anyway by far my favorite besant book isÃ Â Thought-Forms

Pretty good, perhaps not her best, but interesting and informative. One has to be open. Definitely not for the legalist, or arch fundamentalist

Interesting

An outstanding book on the subject of Esoteric Christianity by a very knowledgeable and qualified author. A must for any serious library.

Excellent product and service!! Thank you!!

Based on the reputation of Annie Besant, and the fact that I am a fan of writings about esoteric Christianity, I was anxiously looking forward to getting this book, and then to reading it. However, my enthusiasm waned rather quickly upon opening the book and beginning to read the text -- the presentation is quite confusing and disjointed, really a jumble. I worked my way through the book

and found gems of Christian mysteries buried in the text, but it was quite a challenge, and I would find it difficult to recommend Esoteric Christianity to others. As an option, I would highly recommendÃ Â Inner Christianity: A Guide to the Esoteric TraditionÃ Â by Richard Smoley.

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