

Henry S. Olcott and the Mahatmas

Compiled by Daniel H. Caldwell

Helena Petrovna Blavatsky (1831-1891) was the first person in modern times to claim contact with the Theosophical Adepts, especially the Masters Morya and Koot Hoomi. However, there has been a great deal of controversy concerning the existence or non-existence of these Adepts. Madame Blavatsky's critics have usually doubted the reality of her Masters. Probably the most important witness who testified to personal meetings and encounters with H.P.B.'s Adept Teachers was Henry Steel Olcott (1831-1907). Colonel Olcott was an American Theosophist, journalist, editor, attorney, and co-founder/first president of The Theosophical Society (founded 1875). He served in the American Civil War and was appointed Special Commissioner (1862-66) in the U.S. War and Navy Departments to investigate corruption and fraud in military arsenals and navy yards. Colonel Olcott also practiced law in New York City from 1868 to 1878. While investigating Spiritualistic phenomena at Chittenden, Vermont in October, 1874, he met Madame Blavatsky. They became close friends and associates and were two of the principal founders of the Theosophical Society. As first President of The Theosophical Society (an office he held for the rest of his life), Colonel Olcott worked tirelessly on behalf of the Society, traveling throughout India, southern Asia, Australia, Europe and elsewhere. In the pages of this book the reader will find Colonel Olcott's first hand accounts and testimonies describing his many encounters with some of the Theosophical Mahatmas.

