A TEXTBOOK OF THEOSOPHY

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A Textbook of Theosophy by C. W. Leadbeater

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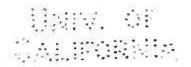
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C. W. LEADBEATER

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A Textbook of Theosophy

BY

C. W. LEADBEATER

Author of "The Inner Life," "Dreams," "Clairvoyance," etc.

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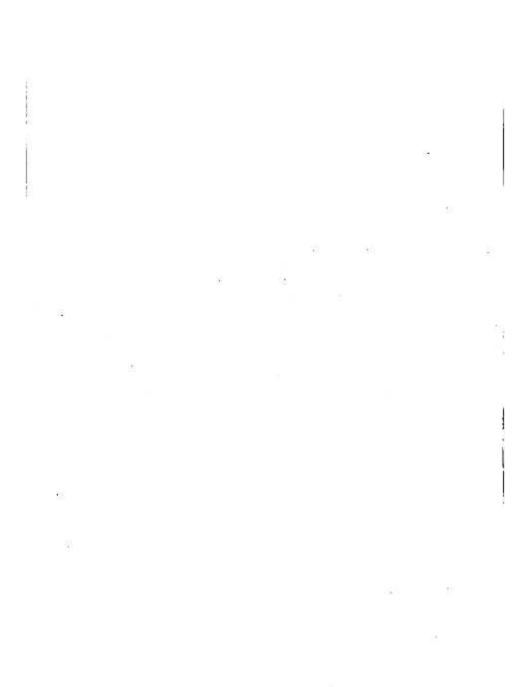
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CONTENTS

| | | | | | | PAGE | | |
|---------------------|-------|--------------|------|-----|-------------|-----------------|-----|--|
| | CHA | PTER | 1 | | | | | |
| What Theosophy Is | 1383 | | 8. | 28 | * | * | 1 | |
| | CHA | PTER | II | | | | | |
| From the Absolute t | o Ma | ni. | 8. | | \circ | 7.8 | 9 | |
| | Снаг | TER | Ш | | | | | |
| The Formation of a | Solar | Вун | em | | | (\cdot,\cdot) | 18 | |
| | Сна | TEB | IV | | | | | |
| The Evolution of L | ife | (*) | | • | * | * | 28 | |
| | CEA | PTER | ٧ | | | | | |
| The Constitution of | Man | (*) | | 8 | | × | 41 | |
| | Сва | TER | VI | | | | | |
| After Death . | | (*) | 3 | | | 3. | 63 | |
| , | Снар | TER | VII | | | | | |
| Keincarnation . | | | (*) |)(¥ | 116 | | 97 | |
| C | HAP | rer ' | VIII | | | | | |
| The Purpose of Life | • | 100 | 9.0 | (¥ | }: • | 3.0 | 108 | |
| | CHAI | PTER | IX | | | | | |
| The Planetary Chai | ns | • | | 9 | * | ::• | 121 | |
| | Сна | PTER | x | | | | | |
| The Result of Theos | onhic | al St | vbu | | 174 | 112 | 134 | |

I.





A TEXTBOOK OF THEOSOPHY

CHAPTER I

WHAT THEOSOPHY IS

"There is a school of philosophy still in existence of which modern culture has lost sight." In these words Mr. A. P. Sinnett began his book, The Occult World, the first popular exposition of Theosophy, published thirty years ago. During the years that have passed since then, many thousands have learned wisdom in that school, yet to the majority its teachings are still unknown, and they can give only the vaguest of replies to the query, "What is Theosophy!"

Two books already exist which answer that question: Mr. Sinnett's Esoteric Buddhism and Mrs. Besant's The Ancient Wisdom. I have no thought of entering into competition with those standard works; what I desire is to present a statement, as clear and simple as I can make it, which may be regarded as introductory to them.

We often speak of Theosophy as not in itself a religion, but the truth which lies behind all religions alike. That is so; yet, from another point of view, we may surely say that it is at once a philosophy, a religion and a science. It is a philosophy, because it puts plainly before us an explanation of the scheme of evolution of both the souls and the bodies

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