

# **THE IMMORTALS' GREAT QUEST**

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The immortals' great quest by James Williams Barlow

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**JAMES WILLIAMS BARLOW**

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GREAT QUEST**



# THE IMMORTALS' GREAT QUEST

TRANSLATED FROM

AN UNPUBLISHED MANUSCRIPT IN THE LIBRARY  
OF A CONTINENTAL UNIVERSITY

BY

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## PREFACE

THIS is not a sensational novel, but a History. How the manuscript, of which a translation is now offered to the public, came into a University Library, is wholly unknown. It is likely that the writer, evidently a medical graduate, sent his diary for publication to some friend who was at the time connected with the Library; owing to this friend's unfriendly carelessness it became mixed up with some ancient and mediæval manuscripts, and thus lay forgotten for more than a century and a half.

Of the substantial truth of the narrative there can be no good reason to doubt; nor will any student of what is now called

Occultism find much difficulty in believing even those parts of Van Varken's diary which to most of us seem quite incredible. Had Bishop Butler, who maintains that the doctrine of a Future Life is not necessarily connected with any System of Theism, been aware of these extraordinary adventures, he would have found a singular corroboration of his views in the history of the race endowed with Life Immortal, and groping after an Unknown God.

The diary is contained in a small black-leather pocket-book, and is written in an exceedingly minute and clear hand, but, unfortunately, a few pages are missing both at the beginning and end. The loss of the concluding portion is especially to be deplored, for we are left to mere conjecture as to the mode of the doctor's return to earth. The Theosophical Society might possibly throw some light on the mystery.



As for the earlier pages, the translator has endeavoured, by diligent inquiries in Rotterdam, Leyden, and other parts of Holland, to supply their place; but he has been careful to distinguish any information derived from such sources by enclosing the paragraphs in brackets.

J. W. BARLOW.



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