

**STUDIES IN OCCULTISM: A SERIES
OF REPRINTS FROM THE WRITINGS
OF H. P. BLAVATSKY, NO. II:
HYPNOTISM - BLACK MAGIC IN
SCIENCE - SIGNS OF THE TIMES**

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Studies in Occultism: A Series of Reprints from the Writings of H. P. Blavatsky, No. II:
Hypnotism - Black Magic in Science - Signs of the Times by Helena Petrovna Blavatsky

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HELENA PETROVNA BLAVATSKY

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H. P. BLAVATSKY

NO. 11

HYPNOTISM

BLACK MAGIC IN SCIENCE

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
HYPNOTISM	1
<i>From Lucifer, Dec., 1890.</i>	
BLACK MAGIC IN SCIENCE	20
<i>From Lucifer, June, 1890.</i>	
SIGNS OF THE TIMES	50
<i>From Lucifer, Oct., 1887.</i>	

HYPNOTISM

AND ITS RELATIONS TO OTHER MODES OF FASCINATION

WE are asked by "H. C." and other Fellows, to answer the several queries hereafter propounded. We do so, but with a reservation: our replies must be made from the standpoint of Occultism alone, no consideration being given to such hypotheses of modern (another name for "materialistic") Science, as may clash with esoteric teachings.

Q. What is Hypnotism; how does it differ from Animal Magnetism (or Mesmerism)?

ANS. Hypnotism is the new scientific name for the old ignorant "superstition" variously called "fascination" and "enchantment." It is an antiquated *lie* transformed into a modern

truth. The fact is there, but the scientific explanation of it is still wanting. By some it is believed that *Hypnotism* is the result of an irritation artificially produced on the periphery of the nerves; that this irritation reacting upon, passes into the cells of the brain-substance, causing by exhaustion a condition which is but another mode of sleep (*hypnosis*, or *hupnos*); by others that it is simply a self-induced stupor, produced chiefly by imagination, etc., etc. It differs from animal magnetism where the hypnotic condition is produced by the Braid method, which is a purely mechanical one, i. e., the fixing of the eyes on some bright spot, a metal or a crystal. It becomes "animal magnetism" (or mesmerism), when it is achieved by "mesmeric" passes on the patient, and for these reasons. When the first method is used, no electro-psychic, or even electro-physical currents are at work, but simply the mechanical, molecular vibrations of the metal or crystal gazed at by the subject. It is the *eye* — the most occult organ of all, on the superficies of our body — which, by

-serving as a medium between that bit of metal or crystal and the brain, *attunes* the molecular vibrations of the nervous centers of the latter into *unison* (i. e., equality of the number of their respective oscillations) with the vibrations of the bright object held. And it is this unison which produces the hypnotic state. But in the second case, the right name for hypnotism would certainly be "animal magnetism" or that so much derided term "mesmerism." For in the hypnotization by preliminary passes, it is the human will—whether conscious or otherwise—of the operator himself, that acts upon the nervous system of the patient. And it is again through the vibrations—only *atomic*, not *molecular*—produced by that act of energy called WILL in the ether of space (therefore, on quite a different plane) that the *super-hypnotic* state (i. e., "suggestion," etc.) is induced. For those which we call "will-vibrations" and their aura, are absolutely distinct from the vibrations produced by the simply mechanical molecular motion, the two acting on two separate degrees of the cosmo-