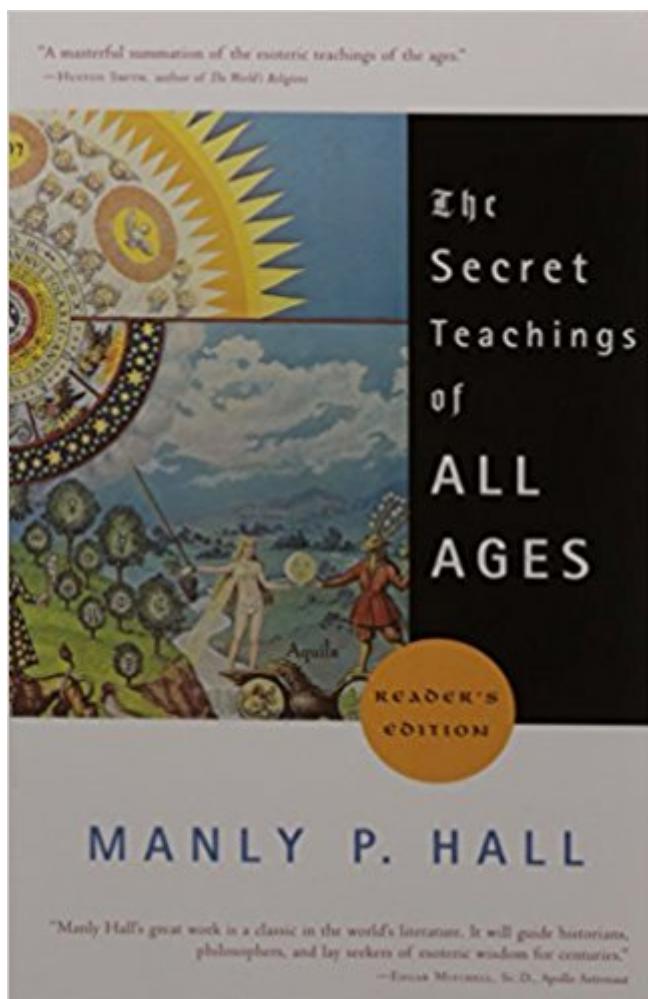


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# The Secret Teachings Of All Ages (Reader's Edition)



## **Synopsis**

A classic since 1928, this masterly encyclopedia of ancient mythology, ritual, symbolism, and the arcane mysteries of the ages is available for the first time in a compact "reader's edition." Like no other book of the twentieth century, Manly P. Hall's legendary *The Secret Teachings of All Ages* is a codex to the ancient occult and esoteric traditions of the world. Students of hidden wisdom, ancient symbols, and arcane practices treasure Hall's magnum opus above all other works. While many thousands of copies have sold since its initial publication in 1928, *The Secret Teachings of All Ages* has previously been available only in oversized, expensive editions. For the first time, Hall's celebrated classic is now published in an affordable trade paperback volume. Literally hundreds of entries shine a rare light on some of the most fascinating and closely held aspects of myth, religion, and philosophy from throughout the centuries. More than one hundred line drawings and a sixteen-page color insert reproduce some of the finest illustrations of the original book, while reset and reformatted text makes this edition of *The Secret Teachings of All Ages* newly accessible to readers everywhere.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

In 1928, a 20-something Renaissance man named Manly Hall self-published a vast encyclopedia of the occult, believing that "modern" ideas of progress and materialism were displacing more important and ancient modes of knowledge. Hall's text has become a classic reference, dizzying in its breadth: various chapters explore Rosicrucianism, Kabbalah, alchemy, cryptology, Tarot,

pyramids, the Zodiac, Pythagorean philosophy, Masonry and gemology, among other topics. This affordably priced edition would be vastly improved by a new foreword, placing the work in some kind of historical and critical context and introducing readers to the basic contours of Hall's sweeping corpus. Instead, we have a disciple's adulatory 1975 foreword, which merely parrots the same themes of mystery and esoterica that are espoused in the book. Readers who are unfamiliar with Hall's work will be at a loss in ferreting out which chapters have stood the test of time and which have been vigorously debunked (like the one on Islam, which actually uses novelist Washington Irving as a primary source on the prophet Muhammad). However, they will also marvel at the sheer scope of Hall's research and imagination, and at J. Augustus Knapp's famous illustrations, including a 16-page color insert. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"A masterful summation of the esoteric teachings of the ages."

If you're reading this review, then you already know about Manly P. Hall, so I won't get into that. The best edition to get is the hardcover University Edition printed in 2008. BUT if you want a cheaper paperback, make sure you get the authorized 2000 reduced facsimile of the 1988 Diamond Jubilee edition from the Philosophical Research Society (PRS). It's the only edition in print that is a true reprint of the original typography and illustrations in their correct places. All other editions are re-typeset, and some cluster all the color illustrations together rather than at the beginning of each chapter where they belong. The Reduced Facsimile is also the only edition that was authorized by Hall when he was still alive, and the only edition that contains ALL the original illustrations. The 2000 edition from PRS is very good quality with a sewn signature binding printed on heavy photo paper. DON'T get the Dover edition or the "Readers" edition!! Much of the value in this text is the beautiful typography and illustrations. It's not worth owning it otherwise. A cheap used copy of the facsimile edition can be easily found for under \$10. I got mine for \$2.99 and it's beautiful.

If you're a student of the Western Mystery tradition, you'll want to own this encyclopediac tome by the iconic Manly P. Hall. This book is not a perennial-philosophy type text along the lines of Aldous Huxley's "The Perennial Philosophy"; rather, it is an encyclopedia that best serves as a reference guide to the Western Mystery tradition. Because I plan to eventually write texts on Hermeticism, I decided I needed to revisit this tome, which I remember perusing at my chiropractor's office forty years ago. At that time, the material didn't particularly interest me because my orientation was exclusively toward Eastern spirituality, so I

never purchased a copy. Now that it is available for .99 at Kindle and for free on the web, getting a copy is a no-brainer. Positively, the book contains lots of information on arcane subjects that I have not encountered elsewhere. Negatively, when I read the material on subjects that I'm knowledgeable about, I was less than satisfied with some of the information. The quality of this .99-cent Kindle edition is atrocious -- typos and spacing errors abound. If you want a copacetic copy of this book for your digital library, be advised that this particular edition won't provide it.

Having been disappointed with the first version I ordered (the other new, blue-covered edition from Wilder Publications) as the illustrations are so bad, I'm writing this review to save others wasting their money in a similar way. One can always return a book, but when it's shipped from another continent, it costs a fortune in postage. Both texts are identical of course, but this version also has an index at the back which the Wilder Publications version sadly lacks, which is very frustrating when trying to look up information. The pictures in this book are well-copied and every detail can be seen, which is important when the illustrations are under discussion in the text. Having said that, the paper used is not of a particularly high quality. In this single aspect, the version with the poor pictures wins with better paper, but it costs near \$10 extra at the moment second-hand. As they say, you can't win 'em all.

Manly P. Hall's writings are, in my opinion, stupendous. I highly recommend reading the majority of his works and a great place to start is with *The Secret Teachings of All Ages*. This book serves as a wonderful encyclopedia and introduction in to all sorts of topics ranging from symbolism to ancient ways of thought. I highly recommend this book. In fact...buy two. Once you read it you may find that you want to give one to a close friend. It is an eye opener.

This book is filled with nuggets of knowledge. It is a long read, but well worth the time and effort. It has some archaic spellings and words, so patience is required if you seek further information on topics via the internet. Overall a very satisfying read which answers many questions. Highly recommend.

This is a book that is referenced time and time again in other metaphysical books. I have a hard copy, but it is HUGE! The topics are so diverse and Manly P. Hall provides a plethora of info on many secret teachings from the mystery schools. Well worth the purchase and i would definitely recommend this to other seekers of the Light. The reason i got the kindle version is so i would have

access to it anywhere, at anytime.

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