

Dark Half Year Paper

GQ – 1

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This paper is focussed on the soul and personality of Helena Blavatsky

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INTRODUCTION

Helena Blavatsky (HPB) is a famous name in the esoteric worlds and was a famous name throughout the world during her lifetime. I have known little but this about her until now.

This study report covers many aspects of her life, personality and spiritual make up as well as the contribution she made to the world and the effort it cost her. This paper briefly outlines her outer and inner life, her place on the path, the rays, chakras, and astrological signs that played a part in who she was and what she was able to achieve. The paper concludes with my own experiences of researching and writing about HPB.



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Biography of Helena Blavatsky (HPB)

Prematurely, on the 12 August 1831, HPB was born in Ekaterinoslav, Russia (now Ukraine) to a young (17 years old), frail mother. She was not expected to live. She was the eldest of 3 children, a sister followed her and then later a brother. The date of her birth in Russia's old calendar was considered a very superstitious date, making those born on that day psychic and able to control nature spirits. (2, pg 5-7) This turned out to be very true indeed for HPB, though it took her a while to learn to control them with her will.

HPB was a precocious child, unwilling to stick to governess's schedules or lessons. She spent many hours playing with the soldiers of her father's regiment, the common children (much to her upper class families' concern) and later in the haunted cellars of her grandparent's huge house. There she played with and chattered to a variety of unseen people (2, pgs 18 and 20). This wild behaviour resulted in her being exorcised a number of times when she was a child (11) to no avail. She also read a huge amount of occult literature that was in her Grandfather's vast library. She had read it all by the age of 15 and was hungry for more knowledge.

Her mother died young, at 28, and her father being away with the army, she and her siblings were raised by her maternal grandparents. They were aristocrats and her

Grandmother a very intelligent and learned person with a great reputation in the natural sciences.

The expectations and restrictions on upper class, Victorian, Russian young ladies were rarely tolerated by HPB and her wild behaviour as she got older was of great concern to her family. They hoped to marry her respectably and that a marriage would remove their responsibility and calm HPB. When HPB was 17, there was a suitor, Mr Blavatsky, who was 40 but interested in some occult matters. It seems that the desire to escape the confines of her family and her impetuous will made her accept him. She imagined that being married equalled freedom. However this was not what Mr Blavatsky expected and the marriage was immediately unhappy and became just a different prison for HPB. (2, pg 22 – 26). The pressure to conform increased and at 18 years old HPB decided all she could do was escape. She tricked her guardians and left Russia alone, appearing to her family to disappear (4).

The next years were filled with travel. She seems to have covered every area of the globe more than once. Beginning in Turkey at Constantinople she travelled through Greece, Egypt, India, Tibet, France, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, England, Japan, the USA and South America (4). Travelling was a regular if not constant part of her life from then on. Sometimes it was for her own sake, directed by her occult curiosity. At other times it was directed by the Masters. (2 pg 56-57 and 73, 4). Master Morya (M) being her own Guru. Both M and Master Koot Hoomi (KH) were in regular communication with a number of the people working with HPB often by letter. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAg0ZQFQhNc>

Her character was clearly very strong and determined. She was blunt and outspoken and this part of her character may have antagonised many who then later became dangerous critics (2, 4). She was noted to be a great linguist (5) have a brilliant mind and also was a brilliant pianist (4, 6). She was physically big and for a lot of her later life was of massive build (6). She smoked, it seems constantly, and was full of passion often losing her temper and control. But by those who knew her well she was also known to be genuine, honest, wise, (5) generous to those in need, and lived a very simple life in her own personal tastes.

She did return to Russia occasionally to visit her family, but for the first time only after 9 years had passed and she had received an assurance from Mr Blavatsky that he would not pursue her as his wife or in any way at all. It is not clear whether she bore a child (Yuri) in 1862 by her possible lover Agardi Metrovich, or adopted him. However she did love the deformed child who only lived 5 years (11). There are myriad versions of her romantic (or lack of romantic) life from both HPB and others.

On 7 September 1875 with Colonel Olcott, the person who she had been directed to work with by M, HPB started the Theosophical Society in New York, USA. It was an inauspicious beginning and soon lost all its members. HPB also started writing her first book, Isis Unveiled. There are accounts of this book being written by a variety of

Masters and Adepts through her (2, pg100). Later in 1879 HPB and the Colonel travelled to India to restart the Theosophical society on the more fertile, spiritually aware soil of Indian culture. Its main headquarters later being established in Adyar Madras, (now Chennai) in 1882. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcbM1WZU3wI> (first 2 minutes).

HPB had already been earning some of her living by writing for the press, spiritualist magazines and translating for the Russian press and had developed her own style. She spent a significant part of her day for the rest of her life writing either for articles, as above, in correspondence to a wide variety of people and in writing *The Secret Doctrine*, her major work.

Isis Unveiled was received well (4). To Victorian Society, stuck between strong social conventions, the dogma of the Church and the new force of science and materialism, it was a revelation. HPB was breaking very new ground and was loved and hated for it. She was regularly attacked by critics and sceptics from here on. Some of them went to great length to discredit her personally as well as her work.

The rest of HPB's life was spent in a mixture of events. There was the daily writing. There were the struggles and emotional impact of a wide variety of scandals (5, 7) many of which threatened the existence of the Theosophical Society as well as HPB's own reputation in the world. These often left her physically ill (5) and at times at death's door. There was also continued international travel which was always in order to support the Theosophical Society (5) (either by her presence or by her absence when scandal was a risk) or support and teach new students.

The last years of her life she was very physically ill. At the end of 1886, in Ostend, she was expected to die. The doctors, once again, said that no one usually lives this long with kidneys so poorly functioning (2 pg209). But *The Secret Doctrine* was not finished nor were the enthusiastic students in London supported. However in the morning HPB was significantly better. She said "Master has been here. He gave me my choice to die and be free, or to live and finish *The Secret Doctrine*", (2 pg 211). She could not bear to leave students wanting to be taught or leave society with no text to help it find its way. *The Secret Doctrine* was finished and first printed in October 1888.

HPB died in London on 8th May 1891 with three of her close disciples around her. "There was hardly a country in which the death of H.P. Blavatsky did not produce a most profound impression." (4). She was cremated and her ashes divided into three and taken to the three main head quarters of the Theosophical Society in Madras India, Europe and the USA.

The Theosophical Society and the *Secret Doctrine* are still contributing to the occult learning of people even today.

A variety of biographies can be found on You Tube. Here are two that are good.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzlowBYc3Eo>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLN7poqjeDQ> *

Proposed Level of Consciousness – the place on the Path

I propose that HPB was a 3rd degree initiate and probably close to or even taking the 4th initiation (10 pg 21). This is confirmed by her own understanding of what the name “HPB” meant. “it was a name that to her signified the cooperative group of Great Ones who had, they said, waited a long time for such a fine instrument as H.P.B. They were able to use her, ‘an initiated chela,’ as....a receiving and transmitting ariel”. (2 pg102). There is also a quote (11) “I work for others, not for myself”, which indicates someone far along the spiritual path.

Further her well documented and very frequent contact with a variety of Masters including M and KH and other Adepts (2- pg 31etc, 5) indicates that she is a very advanced soul. It was through the contact and work with these Masters that her books Isis Unveiled and The Secret Doctrine were written.

There is also the fact that the work she did was international. Despite the difficulties of travel and communication in the 1800’s, these did not stand in her way at all. She founded an international organisation and magazine (with her partner Colonel Olcott) which are still in existence today.

HPB had a lot of psychic power and had mastery over the physical plane being able to manifest objects out of thin air and being able to read quotes for her books from the “astral light” (2). As the fourth initiation is approached it becomes possible for the initiate to “read and comprehend the records” (12 pg 88), meaning the occult literature and akashic records of all time. After the third initiation the person has psychic faculties such as clairaudience and is able to vivify thoughtforms accurately (12 pg 87). HPB could clearly do this not only in her material manifestations but more importantly in the creation of the Theosophical Society.

She worked for the Plan to provide the occult teachings to the Western world, being willing to continue to suffer physically and emotionally until that work was done. Some evidence that she may have been at or approaching the 4th initiation is a sentence said towards the very end (1.00 hr) of the You Tube clip marked * which makes me think she may have been taking the 4th initiation. The actress says that HPB said “do not let my last incarnation be a failure” (also 11). Not much was made of this in the documentary but it may be that she was indicating that she will not incarnate again and this is part of what happens at the 4th initiation (unless of course the individuality chooses to return to a physical body as the Masters do).

Initiation Human and Solar (IHS) also says that the life of someone taking the fourth initiation is a life of great sacrifice and suffering on all levels. “All is renounced,

friends, money, reputation, character, standing in the world...” (12 pg 89). This could be seen to apply to HPB’s life. The suffering involved here is not to be underestimated and hard to comprehend the severity of the experience for such a purified being as an initiate to have their character defamed in the world.

Proposed Ray Make Up

Summary

Physical-etheric ray	3 or 6
Emotional ray	6
Mental ray	1
Personality ray the path	3 but personality will be dominated by soul at this point on the path
Soul ray	1

Physical-etheric ray 3 or 6

A ray 3 physical body is common. They are stocky and strong, like activity and have a high pain threshold. HPB clearly had all of these. But at her point on the path she will not necessarily have one of the common ray types in any of her bodies. It is possible that her body was a ray 6 body. She was fat and had a broad face and these are typical of ray 6 bodies. (GWP images at back of book, 8). I don’t have enough information about ray 6 etheric bodies to make a clear distinction about which HPB had.



(9)

Emotional ray 6

HPB was clearly a very passionate, vibrant, emotionally lively person. This was to the extent that the attacks on her often made her physically ill, (though there are probably occult and perhaps karmic reasons here). The common rays for the astral bodies are 2 and 6. Ray 2 is a much calmer, steady emotional body. This is not a description that fits HPB at all. Ray 6 has very fiery feelings, tends towards fighting back and finds it hard to rise above their emotions. This devotion in more advanced souls shows as devotion to duty and HPB clearly shows this by time and again choosing to continue her work despite significant physical suffering.

Mental ray 1

The ray 1 mind is an occult mind. Do we need to say more. It can be outspoken and critical as well as an impressive intellect. All this is true of HPB. The ray 1 mind also has great mental endurance and concentration. HPB must have needed this when receiving from the Masters and copying from psychic mental images or her memory vast tracts of both her main works. It also has the capacity to react to the Plan. She did that. I do not see the focus on minutiae or on aesthetics that would indicate a ray 5 or ray 4 mind here.

Personality Ray 3

Any personality will be dominated by soul at this point on the path. However it seems to me that HPB had a very strong personality and was ambitious (for her work <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hhebQAz-zk8&index=11&list=PLpCxCw3833LV10vWiEWJy1JZFWqc7aO8W>) and that at times it did shine through, especially through her brilliant intelligence, her bringing in of a new philosophy to the Western world uses ray 3's great contribution; to stimulate the intellect of others and create a plan which benefits humanity. This is what the Theosophical Society was and is about. Being so far along the path she also always had the good of the whole underlying this. The basis of the Theosophical society (the equality of all religions and "*to form a nucleus of the Universal Brotherhood of Humanity, without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste or color.*" (9)) and her philanthropic work in India and Russia (4) all show this dedication to the good of the whole.

I also propose a ray 3 personality because of the amount of travel that she did. I have not read anywhere that this vast amount of travel was troubling to her (except when she was physically seriously ill). She seemed to take it in her stride if not enjoy it. She appears to me to be creating a vast web around the globe. This could be seen to be very ray 3.

However it may be that she had a ray 1 personality as well as a ray 1 soul and the evidence below could be used to support that. The delineation of the rays of bodies

discussed below (13) would support a ray 1 personality. However there is then very little ray 3 in her make-up and I do think HPB shows some ray 3 traits.

Soul Ray 1

It has taken me some time to decide on the ray for HPB's soul. I was thinking of ray 2 or 3 because she was a teacher, was sensitive to the whole, sought to bring wisdom and a new philosophy to many and travelled almost incessantly. But I would say she has a ray 1 soul partly because her Master was M, head of the Ray 1 Ashram and also the amazing amount of power she demonstrated constantly. She needed this to cope with the great task given to her. She had a great need for freedom from society's expectations too, for example she never seemed to expect to consummate either of her marriages or be willing to conform to her families' wishes and social position.

This strong influence of ray 1 shows in her early years as a head strong, law unto herself, impossible to control girl. There were not many 18 year old aristocratic girls in the 1800's that would have had the courage or determination to leave their family, their country and all that was familiar for 9 years. There is a lot of destruction here; of her own current life. Ray 1 people are angry and do things their way. Throughout her life there are reports of furious outbursts from HPB to family, friends and her disciples.

Finally, ray 1 has the power to destroy and in her articles and outspokenness she could be seen as attempting to destroy the status quo in order to awaken people and society to the new philosophy that she was working to bring to the world. She said "nothing can make me falter on the path once I have started" (11).

EPII lays out four lifetimes of a highly evolved first ray soul and delineates some of the rays of the other bodies (13 pg 354) in each lifetime. I feel in no position to suggest which of these may apply to HPB but it seems to be one of the later, more advanced lives.

Proposed Use of Chakras

I would propose that the crown (7th) chakra is dominant because of her great advancement on the path. The last transition of energy in a person's evolution is from the root (1st) chakra to the 7th. This involves the raising of the kundalini energy and can result in supernormal powers (or the siddhis) which HPB had in abundance.

HPB had many serious physical illnesses through her later life. The worst of these was with her kidneys. The kidneys are controlled by the root chakra and are therefore related to physical manifestation. I suggest that the drain on her energy system of creating so many psychic phenomena (materialising many many objects)

will have had an effect on her first chakra and her physical energy and may well have resulted in a lack of energy available to keep the kidneys functioning well.

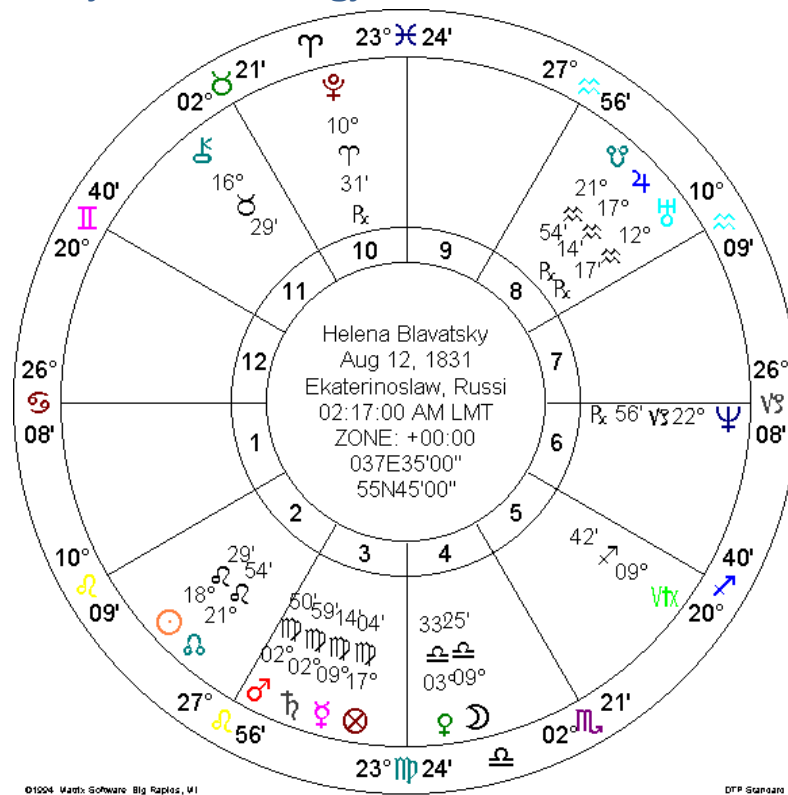
Her illnesses often were life threatening and the intervention of M was needed a number of times to keep her alive (2). This is also an indication of a lack of energy in her root chakra. There was not enough energy there to support her in her physical manifestation.

The crown centre relates to the will aspect (ray 1) and particularly to spiritual will. This is what drove, inspired and was the life work for HPB to follow. Her very strong will allowed her to do the work required of her by the Masters which was physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually demanding. Her soul and spiritual task were what informed all of her life. She used her whole life and her whole energy system to carry it out. It was her service to humanity.

HPB was a Leo and this sign brings in ray 1 (as well as ray 5). Being a Leo with the additional ray 1 impetus will have added to her will, power, authority and intensity of purpose and reaction. I think this gave HPB the strength she needed for her work.

The crown chakra has definitely won out here.

Analysis of Astrology – Sun, Ascendant and Moon Signs



(3)

Note: her time of birth is not definitively known. There are a number of times suggested via various rectified charts. (11)

All I have written here is with the assumption that HPB was at least a 3rd degree initiate and it is this high level of influence that I am describing in her astrological chart. The same would not be said of another person born at the same time who is at a less advanced evolutionary stage.

Her sun sign is Leo. The negatives she needed to overcome are almost certainly under the control of her soul though she did often demonstrate the fire and power of a Leo personality. She demonstrated these traits when she made demands on her students and supporters and lost her control and wanting revenge against all the slander put out about her. Positives to develop are more equanimity. But it is said that she did not hold grudges and was generous to those in need, even when they had previously been her slanderers (2). She demonstrated the highest traits of Leo when she was demonstrating the Power and Love of God in teaching and initiating her disciples into the ancient mysteries. She needed the authoritative strength that Leo brings to complete her work in the world (11).

She also demonstrated it and the courage of Leo in her completely unselfish work for the world in choosing to complete The Secret Doctrine rather than have her own significant suffering end. Leo brings in rays 1 and 5. I have already laid out how much ray 1 was part of her and this will have been increased by the Leo sun sign bringing in power, leadership and also self-rule which can be seen to have increase through her life. Ray 5 can be seen in her remarkable intelligence.

Her rising sign is cancer. The positives of such a high expression of cancer rising are the using of her power to stimulate the hidden light in the masses of humanity and give them the tools to build a lighted house for all of humanity. Cancer also has a mother element and she used that to birth the Theosophical Society. She demonstrated these traits when writing both Isis Unveiled and The Secret Doctrine. The books, both still in print, give anyone who wishes to, the information they need to be inspired to live a good life and move away from selfish concerns to higher ideals and concern for others. (They do of course give a lot more than that too.) She also certainly stimulated the intelligencia in many countries to reconsider their views on the world and adopt a new Theosophical way of understanding life and its purposes. No one else was doing this at the time.

Cancer brings in rays 3 and 7. Ray 3 we have already discussed and is a major part of HPB's make up giving her her strong, philosophical and wide ranging intellect and also allowing her to communicate her knowledge well and in many languages. Ray 7 is less present in her make-up and the influence of it here may have helped her sustain herself in the physical body. There is little of its organising influence seen in her life.

With both Leo and Cancer strongly in her chart she was able to be what she needed to be; both an example of the Ageless Wisdom (Leo) and a protector of it (Cancer) often against defamation. (11)

Her moon is in Libra. Her fiery, outspoken passion is part of this past that is not quite yet overcome. Other negative traits of Libra such as promiscuity, avarice, vanity, vacillation and lax morals have very clearly been moved beyond in a previous life. There is no indication of them in HPB at all. Positives to develop are the equanimity and balance of Libra which she often struggled with her Leo personality.

Libra also brings in ray 3. So it can be seen that there is a very considerable ray 3 influence on HPB through many forces and many lifetimes.

Conclusion

Having studied a number of books and documentaries about HPB:-

I propose that HPB was a 3rd degree initiate, probably close to the fourth initiation.

I propose that HPB had a	Physical-etheric ray	3 or 6
	Emotional ray	6
	Mental ray	1
	Personality ray	3
	Soul ray	1

I propose that the crown (7th) chakra is dominant.

Her sun sign is Leo.

Her rising sign is cancer.

Her moon is in Libra.

This strong and powerful make up supported and enabled the remarkable work she did in and for the world to be carried out to its completion.

Summary

This has been a fascinating study and I am very glad I chose HPB as a subject. I chose to write about HPB as I understand her and Theosophy to be the first set of esoteric knowledge being given out in “modern” times to the western world. AAB being the second set and a third (and final) set due after 2025. I started my studies with Alice Bailey and was beginning to feel the lack of background and history from HPB. Now I have it (to some extent) and feel more complete in my history of esoterics and esotericism’s great figures. I have not had the time yet to dip into the

Secret Doctrine (which I have at home) but am now more inclined and excited to do so despite the constant call of the long list of Blue Books.

The part of this year's (GQ1) teaching that writing this paper has most consolidated for me is the rayological make up. I needed to think hard and refer to my notes and EP1 and II to figure out particularly the soul and personality rays. I probably need to read more books on the rays at some point!! It was not so hard to consider her astrology as I am also a Leo and some of her personality nature is familiar in my own personality. I have also gained great inspiration as I do from any remarkable person's biography. It has been a pleasure to do this.

I now have a respect and affection for HPB that I did not know enough to have before.

Unfortunately HPB lived before our electronic media so there is little on the internet including You Tube to add colour and information to this report. I have added what I can mainly without interrupting the flow of the words.

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