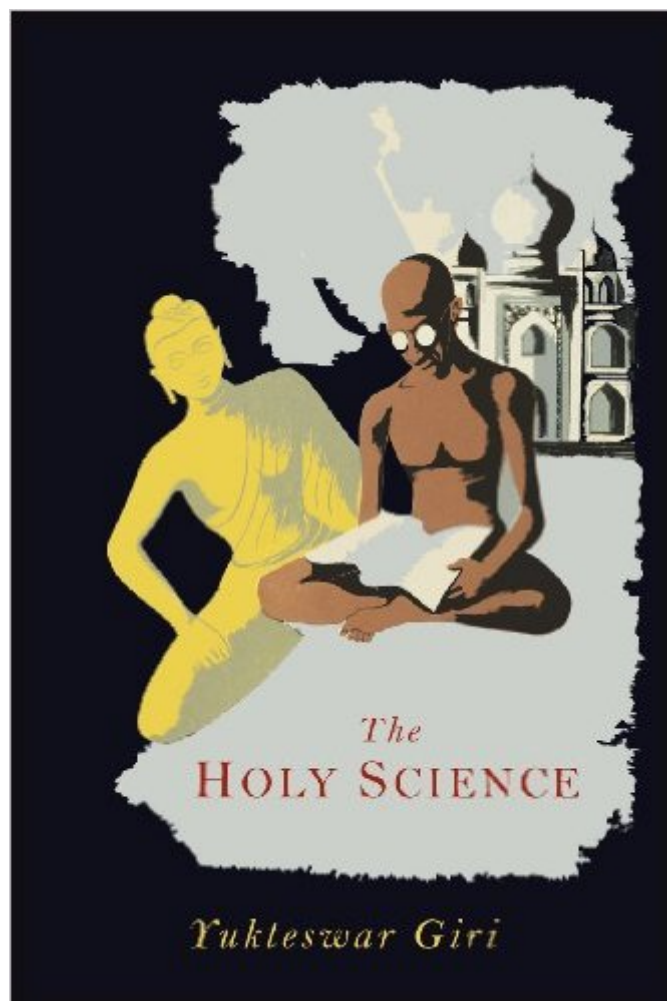


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The Holy Science



Synopsis

2013 Reprint of 1949 Edition. Full facsimile of the original edition, not reproduced with Optical Recognition Software. Yukteshwar was an educator, astronomer, a Jyotisha (Vedic astrologer), a yogi, and a believer in the Bhagavad Gita and the Bible. He was a disciple of Lahiri Mahasaya of Varanasi and a member of the Giri branch of the swami order. Yogananda considered Yukteswar as Jnanavatar, or "Incarnation of Wisdom". Yukteswar wrote "The Holy Science" in 1894. In the introduction, he wrote: "The purpose of this book is to show as clearly as possible that there is an essential unity in all religions; that there is no difference in the truths inculcated by the various faiths; that there is but one method by which the world, both external and internal, has evolved; and that there is but one Goal admitted by all scriptures." The work introduced many ideas that were revolutionary for the time - for instance Yukteswar broke from Hindu tradition in stating that the earth is not in the age of Kali Yuga, but has advanced to Dwapara Yuga. His proof was based on a new perspective of the precession of the equinoxes. He also introduced the idea that the sun takes a 'star for its dual', and revolves around it in a period of 24,000 years, which accounts for the precession of the equinox.

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Customer Reviews

Swami Sri Yukteswar (1855-1936), whose westernly-known disciple was Paramahansa Yogananda, was a quiet, demanding Bengali teacher of Kriya Yoga, the advanced form of raja (meditative) yoga that Yogananda has made so popular in the west. Sri Yukteswarji, however, did not have the effusive, entertaining style of his popular disciple, nor did he write in as easily accessible manner.

This slender volume is nevertheless to be highly recommended to the serious student of yoga philosophy or raja practice, and especially to students of Kriya Yoga, for whom Sri Yukteswar's penetrating insights will fit together important puzzle-pieces of the yoga spiritual path. (Beginners to yoga philosophy and practice would be well advised first to read Yogananda's "Autobiography of a Yogi" -- perhaps a few times and taking in even the technical footnotes -- before tackling "The Holy Science.") The swami defines his volume's purpose to be: showing the essential unity of *all* religions. It is, but the emphasis definitely centers on parallels between John's gospel and Revelation and the yoga principles of India's Sankhya philosophy "Sanatan Dharma." Some of the most arresting parallels presented concern the way both teachings present concepts of "The Word", "Holy Baptism", and "Messiah/Satguru". Sri Yukteswarji does not expend extra words attempting to make unity persuasive to those who have a dogmatic conviction that their religion (Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, or whatever) has the "true" hold on "truth," so those who are so persuaded can safely skip this work. If, however, you have always had a nagging intuitive sense that there ought to be One Truth behind all versions of religious truth, time spent to assimilate the swami's realizations will be well repaid. As a bonus there is a fascinating introductory chapter which explains India's macro-astrology and the astronomical progression of the equinoxes (the phenomenon which leads western astrologers to speak of the coming "age of Aquarius"). This introduction to the Indian astrological system reveals it to be remarkably sophisticated -- offering reason to pause and reflect on the implications of a possible cyclical nature of *spiritual* ages ("yugas" to India) -- and new hope that humanity's spirituality will start to catch up with its technology... providing we attend to our dharmas! Not an *easy* read -- but if you think you're ready for it, it can be an extremely rewarding one. PS: Although as of this writing the photo of the jacket makes this appear to be the Spanish translation of the work, this ISBN (0876120516) is actually correct for the English language edition.

At first reading this short book may seem too deep to cognize. But after study and reflection the Truths encased in this obscure treatise begin to roll around in your mind like a sacred vibration awakening the consciousness long after the words have been read. For example, one point in the introduction regarding the yuga cycle has led me to a complete new understanding of history: it is a cycle not a linear progression, see [...] and another comment on the length and cause of precession (opposed to the lunisolar precession theory) has opened my eyes to the correct celestial mechanics of our local system, see [...] I just can't say enough about this book and the profound wisdom of its author. Commissioned by Babaji at one of the most sacred spots on the planet, The Holy Science is a book ahead of its time. It is not for all, however, if you already meditate and you are seeking a

deeper understanding of world ages, knowledge of cosmic order and the keys to a mystic life, get this book. The kinetic wisdom of its pages will kindle the love of Christ within you - into a bonfire of joy!WC

Swami Sri Yukteswar's only book stands alone in that it was commissioned by the great Babaji for a specific purpose.(see Autobiography of a Yogi by Paramahansa Yogananda). It is difficult to grasp in many places but his wisdom and clarity are unmatched. His message rings out across the ages. It needs to be read in the context of Yogananda's Autobiography because it then becomes evident what a great being he was in that incarnation.

The Holy Science is a deep and powerful book that, in a quiet and almost casual way, presents some revolutionary teachings--such as Sri Yukteswar's precedence-shattering treatment of the yuga cycle (ages of man).This book is not long, but it takes a while to finish. Each sentence is a condensed mental mouthful that needs chewing and digestion. It's all extremely nourishing, but you want to take your time. When you read the words of Swami Sri Yukteswar you really get the feeling that here is someone who knows the answers to the most difficult questions, the thorniest problems. And that, behind his crystal clear mind lies the heart of a friend.Sri Yukteswar was the guru of Paramhansa Yogananda, author of the spiritual classic Autobiography of a Yogi. If, after reading this book, you want to know more about the author, Yogananda has written in the early pages of his book one of the most beautiful and glowing tributes to a spiritual mentor in the history of literature.Richard Salva--author of Soul Journey from Lincoln to Lindbergh [UNABRIDGED]

This book has so much spiritual information that it can not be absorbed in one, two or many readings. When I was contacted by my spirit guides many years ago enlightening information was passed on to me, but I did not understand one very definite "word" which could have several meanings until I was guided to this book which explained exactly the meaning and to my knowledge does not exist in any other book I have read or researched. This is one of the reasons I hold this book in such high esteem. I would recommend that people wanting to understand information in it to first try ready "Autobiography of a Yogi" by Paramahansa Yogananda, who was taught by Sri Yuktswar.

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