

This part opens in Chapter 8 with a discussion of Annie Besant's early Theosophical thought, with special attention being paid to her ideas concerning the "Quickening of Evolution." This concept, and the idea of human progress through initiation that is foundational for it, runs through the book as a *fil rouge*. It will be taken up in Chapter 9, where I argue that the stages of initiation were already important for Blavatsky's writings. In *The Voice of The Silence*, Blavatsky published a book of initiation which aimed, at its core, at the "Quickening of Evolution." This is indicative of the importance of that conception for not only Annie Besant but Theosophy as a whole.

