



## A Search In Secret India: The classic work on seeking a guru

*Paul Brunton , Ciprian ?iulea (trad.)*

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**A Search In Secret India: The classic work on seeking a guru** Paul Brunton , Ciprian ?iulea (trad.)

*A Search in Secret India* is the story of Paul Brunton's journey around India, living among yogis, mystics, and gurus, some of whom he found convincing, others not. He finally finds the peace and tranquility which come with self-knowledge when he meets and studies with the great sage Sri Ramana Maharishi.

### A Search In Secret India: The classic work on seeking a guru Details

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## From Reader Review A Search In Secret India: The classic work on seeking a guru for online ebook

### Justin says

An enjoyable travelogue. Though it may have wisdom it wasn't obvious/densely enough packed for me to search for it.

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### J.J. Michael says

#### Hidden wisdom

This book was poorly written and sometimes hard to follow because the author didn't separate dialogue and often jumped from one topic to another all in the same paragraph. Nevertheless, there is a great deal of fascinating spiritual knowledge. Some of the information jumps out at you and other you have to be astute enough to see what is right in front of you.

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### Peter Upton says

In 1992 or thereabouts when I first read it. The quiet honesty with which it is written and the older, slower, gentler style of writing from the 1930s sat in my heart and set my spiritual journey towards India. It was a directional light in my life when I was searching and ultimately it is responsible for my own 'Candles on The Ganges'. Yet reading it again in 2016 it didn't seem quite so special as I am now a different person-probably as a result of the journey to India that this book inspired me to take. If you are lost this is one of the books I would recommend.

P.S. In May 2018 I read 'My Father's Guru' by Jeffrey Masson who grew up with Dr. Paul Brunton as his personal spiritual adviser. This book is a warts and all expose of Paul Brunton and I recommend it as a warning that all of us, including Gurus, Godmen and Maharishes are human and have human faults. Take knowledge from wherever you may find it but don't make the mistake of worshipping another person. There is only one God and if you look hard enough you will find him/her within yourself.

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### Neelesh Marik says

The last chapter called 'Tablets of forgotten truth' is the crowning glory of this tale of exploration, standing out like a beacon of light in an otherwise pedestrian narrative. Just read that and get the full import.

'Men make formal and pretentious enquiry into the mystery and meaning of life, when all the while each bird perched upon a green bough, each child holding its fond mother's hand, has solved the riddle and carries the answer to its face. That life which brought you to birth, O Man ! is nobler and greater than your farthest thought; believe in its beneficent intention towards you and obey its subtle injunctions whispered to your heart in half-felt intuitions'.

In case you are ever 'searching' for a guru, this book will offer a thoroughly refreshing perspective that goes beyond words.

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### **Suba says**

I like the writer's style of writing. It is more like a diary and the writer's experience is recorded vividly through his own words.

Paul Brunton wrote about his journey to india to explore the secrets of the spiritual world. My prior knowledge in Hinduism and my own experience in India helped me to digest his words easily. Its worth reading if you are interested in yoga, spiritual and mystic.

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### **Sumangali Morhall says**

For anyone seeking a spiritual teacher, or even anyone having found the right one, this story is incredibly moving. Brunton's erudite use of language, coupled with his ruthless inner and outer search, makes this a gripping read from start to finish. Following an inner call, he spends months travelling around India, interrogating yogis, pundits and fakirs – some genuine and some not so. His descriptions of the journey alone would make a beautiful travel journal. But his descriptions of inner experiences are breath-taking, especially those in the company of the great Ramana Maharshi. I can't believe I had not come across this book before now – it's amongst the very finest examples of this genre.

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### **Mary-lou says**

This book had been recommended to me about thirty years ago by the father of a close friend, Mr Goss, and I had never sought it out until now. I am glad I didn't read this book until I was 'ready' for it. It is, in short, a classic on the search for spiritual meaning. It is set in India but this search is ultimately a search for Self which can occur in very many situations. At times Brunton's lack of understanding of the ways of another culture made me cringe especially when it is things that I think even in 1934 were unforgivable. Eg: taking a photo of a yogi in meditation. It is also a good insight into just how much control, respect and power the English had in India at that time. He was very much writing from the perspective of a far superior being in his eyes any way BUT that doesn't change the fact that he got it in the end. It was a marvellous journey!

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### **Joli says**

I loved that this author explored India the way I might. Wanting to find inspiration/insight but always having a skeptical eye. He went quite slowly, as far as explaining the spirituality of gurus. Then, at the end, he LEAPT to some high spirituality. I wish there had been a medium step to bridge the gap. Brunton has many books and I have just requested about 5 of them. I'll write about them as I read them.

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## Krystn says

Here is a very readable tour of India during the early 1900s. Paul Brunton Ph.D. went on a quest to find real Yogis, holy men, in India and try to ascertain their legitimacy. Being a British intellectual with a scientific and philosophical education, he approached Yogis with skepticism and an open mind (quite unusual for the scientific minded). He describes in detail the Yogis dedicated to spiritual growth and gives brief reviews of those focused on magic and egotism. He spends the last quarter of the book describing his time with Ramana Maharishee at his small ashram in Tamil India. He was changed forever by the months spent with the Maharishee. During the period of his travel, Gandhi was gaining a huge following but Brunton avoided asides on the political movements except when revolutionary fervor produced violence in his vicinity. Altogether, this is a well written and honest account of travel in India.

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## Lohit Namboodiri says

It is a biography of author's travel in India searching for sages/Yogis. The author beautifully describes his journey with a critical mindset. In this book, you will get introduced to Ramana Maharshi. The book has a lot of old English words which makes it a bit difficult to read. In technical terms, I can call this as a survey paper on different Yogis of India in early 20th Century. :P

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## Bernie Gourley says

*A Search in Secret India* is a travelogue by Paul Brunton as he wandered through India in search of sages. In the process, he found a number of masters of body, mind, and both. However, he finds these individuals as rare nuggets in a sea of frauds.

Brunton states up front that he won't waste time with any of the blatant frauds or suspected frauds, but he does devote space to a number of the more impressive ones. Impressive either by way of a large following or artfulness of technique. He also finds individuals he doesn't know what to make of. These individuals appear to have impressive otherworldly skills, but skills that he can neither reconcile with known scientific understanding nor uncover as hoaxes despite his best skeptical inquiry. Given Occam's Razor, he seems to be left suspecting that these are masters of illusion, but he maintains skepticism of his skepticism. A prime example of this is a Yogi who seems to be able to conjure any scent upon request.

Brunton also runs across individuals who are able to do amazing things that are inconsistent with his knowledge of the world, but which his exhaustive investigations leave little room to dispute. For example, there is one yogi who can completely cease his respiration for a seemingly impossible length of time, and who resumed breathing not with a gasp but with a slow, calm series of breaths.

As suggested above, this book is really an attempt to analyze India's spirituality through the lens of Western logical and scientific approaches. The author is a Brit and the book was first published in the 1930's. His worldview is consistent with that status. While Brunton would like to master his own mind, he is unwilling to let himself be duped.

There is another side to this juxtaposition of East and West. The yogis and gurus with which Brunton comes into contact often have trouble grasping the Western mindset (there is one notable exception.) What these wise-men have difficulty understanding is why a people, like the British, devote so much time to mastering

the external world (and with a great measure of success it must be added), but put so little effort into mastering or understanding the self. Most of the gurus appreciate that a Brit is taking an interest in the spiritual and yogic ways of India, but with their own skepticism. They find Westerners materially rich, but bankrupt of the mind. They find the Brits strong, but lacking the supple power that yoga introduces.

After completing his travels, it seems the book is set to draw to an end. However, Brunton realizes that while there were a number of skilled individuals that he came across in his travels, there is one that stands out as someone he should not miss an opportunity to learn more from. Therefore, instead of getting on a steamer back to England, he returns to South India to a man called the Maharishee in order to find out if the guru will take him as a student. The last couple chapters describe his time under the Maharishee's tutelage as well as under one of the guru's most advanced students. The Maharishee is a sage the likes of which Brunton has not seen in all his travels. The guru has the humility to say that he cannot teach Brunton anything, but instead can only show him some things that he learned on his own journey.

If there is a lesson for those who would like to follow in Brunton's footsteps, it seems to be that there is an inverse relationship between how easy a guru is to find (/how eager a guru is to talk to one) and the level of skill of that teacher. In almost all cases, Brunton had to take great initiative and steer off the beaten path to find the true masters. On the other hand, most of the individuals who were easily found, and eager to talk, were just con men.

I recommend this book for those interested in development of the mind and body.

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### **Maria Carmo says**

A marvellous book, taking us by the hand through an India which had all sorts of contradictions, but also the best and more excellent Human Beings expressing the Wisdom of Perennial Philosophy. The search for truth and for a suitable, credible Teacher takes Paul Brunton, a Western skeptic, to a journey of Self discovery in which he learns to distinguish between simple fakirs and really Holy Men, culminating with his realisation that Ramana Maharishi is the One who deserves to be recognised as a Holy, Wise and transforming Guru - exactly because he respects his disciple's free will and discrimination. He often teaches through silence, but can also use sparse words in order to get to Brunton's Soul and leave an indelible mark of LOVE and Faith in him. A wonderful, almost pictorial book. Absolutely a GOOD READ!

Maria Carmo,

Lisbon 18th. August 2012.

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### **Alina Lazarescu - Abboud says**

I absolutely loved his encounter with Maharishi and the days spent with him. These pages emanate such a special energy. The rest of the book is interesting describing the author's quest for true knowledge, for a true spiritual master in India.

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### **Sampath says**

Unputdownable!!

A must read and must own book.

I know I will read this book again.

The author has shared his invaluable and spellbinding dialogues with Maharishis and Yogi's. Its a great service to a man kind that the author has shared his experience.

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## David says

Wonderful. Tells about British authors strange experiences exploring India. Really makes you think...particularly for ethnocentric Americans/Brits!

I learned that the US/Western way of thinking is not exclusive(or necessarily best)

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