

*The Unknown Life of Jesus Christ*

Written in 1894, *The Unknown Life of Jesus Christ* contains the memoirs of a Russian traveller, Nicolas Notovitch, who traveled the Orient after the Turkish War 1877-1878. His purpose was to “study and know...the peoples who inhabit India and their customs” and his inquiries ultimately led to the remarkable claims made in this little book.

Notovitch begins the book by describing his difficult travels in India and Tibet, where he eventually learns about the existence of ancient scrolls contained in the lamasery of Lhasa. Some of these scrolls, he is told, describe the life and teachings of a Jewish monk named Issa who visited and studied with the Tibetan lamas nearly two millennia earlier. One of the extraordinary claims made by Notovitch is the assertion that Moses (Mossa) had been the Pharaoh's own son, who championed the Israelite cause. The book proceeds to chronicle Issa's life as he left Israel at thirteen years of age and traveled to India to study with the sages there, where he learned to read and interpret the Vedas, to cure physical illnesses, to expound sacred scriptures, and “to drive out evil desires from man and make him again in the likeness of God.”

Notovitch, reading from the scrolls, asserts that Issa studied for six years in Djagguernat, Radjagriha, Benares, and other holy cities and was a great friend to the lower castes, Vaisyas and the Sudras while he preached against the Brahmins and Kshatriyas. Issa's message included the oneness of God and the equality between all people. As happened later in Israel, the ruling classes took offense to his teachings which contradicted their own and he was eventually run out of India and Tibet altogether. Notovitch states that Jesus/Issa was twenty-nine years old when he returned to Israel. In another major departure from the traditional story related in the Gospels, Jesus is not judged and condemned by the sanhedrin but by the Roman governor Pontius Pilate,

and it was the Jews who, unable to turn Pilate away from his designs to end the threat Jesus posed to Rome, ceremoniously “washed their hands” of the entire incident.

1. Notovitch, Nicolas. *The Unknown Life of Jesus Christ*. 1894.

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/1604593660>.