

## CONTENTS

<i>List of Illustrations and Tables</i>	ix
<i>Foreword by Robert W. Balch</i>	xi
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xv
Introduction	1
1. The Cultural and Religious Origins of Heaven's Gate	17
2. The Spiritual Quest and Self-Transformation: Why People Joined Heaven's Gate	43
3. The Religious Worldview of Heaven's Gate	64
4. Understanding Heaven's Gate's Theology	90
5. Religious Practices in Heaven's Gate	126
6. Why Suicide?: Closing Heaven's Gate	171
Afterword: Heaven's Gate as an American Religion	219
<i>Notes</i>	227
<i>Bibliography</i>	257
<i>Index</i>	275
<i>About the Author</i>	287