



A M O R C

The Rosicrucian Order

MASTER MONOGRAPH

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THE CONCURRENCE

This Week's Consideration of a Famous Opinion



¶ To the Rosicrucian student is given a new viewpoint. No longer does he believe in circumstance or coincidence, but along with his recognition of responsibility to himself and to others, he experiences a new element of freedom. Unlike the ordinary man, of whom Emerson speaks in the quotation that follows, the Rosicrucian student believes implicitly in the law of cause and effect.



A man does not see, that, as he eats, so he thinks: as he deals, so he is, and so he appears; he does not see, that his son is the son of his thoughts and of his actions; that fortunes are not exceptions but fruits; that relation and connection are not somewhere and sometimes, but everywhere and always; no miscellany, no exemption, no anomaly,—but method, and an even web; and what comes out, that was put in. As we are, so we do; and as we do, so is it done to us; we are the builders of our fortunes, cant and lying and the attempt to secure a good which does not belong to us, are, once for all, balked and vain.

—RALPH WALDO EMERSON, 1803-1882

To the Members of the Esoteric Hierarchy, Greetings!

The questions that I feel coming most often to the minds of members of this Degree are the following: "Where are we going, and what is the end and purpose of our present esoteric studies?" "Is there to be no end to these monographs or to the taking up of new principles, ideas, and exercises?" "What will be the ultimate result in our personal lives from all of these studies and exercises?"

Such questions are prompted, no doubt, by the thought that if persons all over the world can be prosperous, progressive, and cheerful without our studies and without any esoteric knowledge, what particular benefit is there, then, in belonging to such an organization as AMORC and in giving so much time and thought to seemingly strange principles and laws?

The first answer is one which you yourself would most likely give if anyone put such questions to you. Every happy, contented, healthy man and woman has some form of relaxation or entertainment and does a certain amount of reading and studying. If we were to analyze the hobbies, pastimes, and forms of study of these happy and contented persons, we would find them covering a wide range of subjects. If for no other reason, then, every man and woman desiring to be happy and contented wants some form of relaxation, entertainment, or personal instruction. A large majority prefers reading and study that give some knowledge, some practical instruction, and some personal improvement, power, or advantage.

Millions of successful, happy, prosperous, and contented people travel every year, preferring that to any other form of entertainment and instruction. Most of them read books on travel, history, drama, or other cultural subjects. They would say that they preferred this kind of reading to any other because it gave them more satisfaction. I doubt if there is a large number of men and women in any part of the world who are happy, contented, peaceful, kindly, constructive, and progressive, who do not have some form of entertainment, relaxation, or instruction to occupy their spare time. Whether we find ourselves among the travelers, the stay-at-homes, or those who find pleasure and relaxation in books, it is certain that we would frown on those individuals who just twiddle their thumbs, caring nothing about books, study, or hobbies of mental or cultural benefit. Such persons we would feel to be in danger of slipping backward and deteriorating both mentally and physically.

Religion and the activities of the church have afforded guidance and contentment to millions in past centuries. Schools and colleges have likewise given satisfaction of a personal and constructive nature. Where there are no free schools, people are poor, unhealthy, miserable in their surroundings, unpro-



gressive, discontented, suspicious and fearful, and with no hope or expectation of anything better in the future.

It is just as true that a nation, or a group of people on any island or in any section of the continents of Asia, Africa, or elsewhere, where there are no churches, religion, or spiritual instruction, is equally miserable. A large percentage of our members make the Rosicrucian studies their system of schooling and religious instruction. That is probably why so many of our members in the higher Degrees are so contented, optimistic—healthier and more successful than the average individual.

This is not to say that success in life, that prosperity and happiness, are always measured by money or material things. While AMORC membership does include many who have sufficient to take care of their wants and the wants of their family for the rest of their lives, still there is a large percentage of our members who have just the necessities and a bank account that is negligible.

Many have told us frankly that before joining the Order their ambition was to build up a savings account; but since their studies have given them more worth-while goals in life they have stopped sacrificing necessities to save money and are living from day to day. Still they are happier, more contented and hopeful, and more optimistic about the future than if they had laid thousands of dollars away for anticipated emergency or stormy weather. Hundreds of happy, contented members of our Order are working in menial positions, living on small incomes; yet they have found contentment, a new viewpoint, a new understanding and a new hope that means more to them than a lucrative position, a better social position, and more money and material things.

We find men and women of the Salvation Army cheerfully telling the world that they are happy and contented, that they fear nothing of the future, and that they can look anyone in the face and smile because of something that has come into their inner selves. These men and women live in modest homes, have a meager income and cannot afford any of the luxuries of life; yet they would not exchange their positions with anyone who has more material things but less spiritual understanding.

Members in this Degree constantly tell us of their peace, happiness, and improvement in life. Just to see what they meant I wrote to several of them to find out what improvement really had taken place. I found that many lived in the same homes in which they had lived for many years, and in which they lived before they joined the Order. I learned that the only improvement was that most of them had made a sanctum in the corner of some room and found enjoyment and pleasure in going there. They looked upon this sanctum as the most important improvement they could make in their homes.



I discovered, too, that a number of the men had improved their incomes, yet many more were earning the same but saving more. Women said they were having more success in the training of their children than before, and that their children were happier, more truthful, obedient, considerate, and kindly.

The important improvements noted by those who join the Order and pursue its studies faithfully are of three different kinds: First, contentment and optimism. Life becomes more enjoyable and more worthwhile. Fear and worry disappear and assurance and confidence take their place. Second, health. Rosicrucian study brings a new meaning and purpose into living. This, together with the various exercises, strengthens and renews bodily health. Third, influence and contact with others in their community, in business or in social life.

Friends and relatives speak about the improvement. They constantly ask, "What are you studying or doing that has made so many changes in your life?" New members join through such personal recommendations, writing, "One of my friends—or one of my relatives—has been a member of AMORC for a good many years, and I have noticed so much improvement in that person that I want to join also."

Here in our own community we constantly find individuals saying: "The people who come to your Conventions and visit Rosicrucian Park seem throughout the year to be so happy, healthy, cheerful, intelligent, and contented when they come into our stores that we believe you have something in AMORC that we should have. We want to join, too." Even plasterers, carpenters, bricklayers, plumbers, electricians, decorators, roofers, and other men who work on our buildings here in Rosicrucian Park say they enjoy working around our buildings and our people more than they do for any other class of people or any other place in the State. Many of them have gone to our officers and asked to join the organization.

Newspaper editors who come from other cities to interview us, and to study our activities, go home to write letters saying they were so pleased and happy with what they learned that they want to join the Order. You would be surprised to know how many such editors, investigators, and interviewers are members of AMORC. Some are connected with the Government. Officers from ships come to tell us that some of their underofficers were studying our work and were so happy and contented that they now want to join, too. Physicians and nurses join because of what they have learned from their patients.

The Rosicrucian teachings are contagious because nothing is so much desired and so much needed as contentment, peace of mind, and mental understanding. These are the things you are getting out of the lessons week by week even though you are not yet able to perform many of the astonishing things you think you



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should be able to do. You have been getting out of your contact with the Order certain things that are adding to your happiness, your health, and your contentment. Some day you will value them more highly than anything else.

The Order is not just a school of instruction, not just a college or academy of special knowledge, and not just a brotherhood or a fraternity. It is a circle of intimate companionship and kindly guidance, whereby all are on an equal basis, trying to make each other happy and contented, cooperating to solve those problems of life that disturb peace and happiness.

Think of these facts while you are repeating this week the esoteric exercises outlined in past monographs. Keep up these exercises, and if there are any you have skipped in the past month or two, go back and repeat them once or twice. Try to get not an outer manifestation of the benefits but the spiritual benefit that comes from understanding them.

Next week I will take up another esoteric principle that I laid aside this week in order to consider these very real questions which come to mind so often.

May Peace Profound abide with each of you.

Fraternally,

YOUR CLASS MASTER

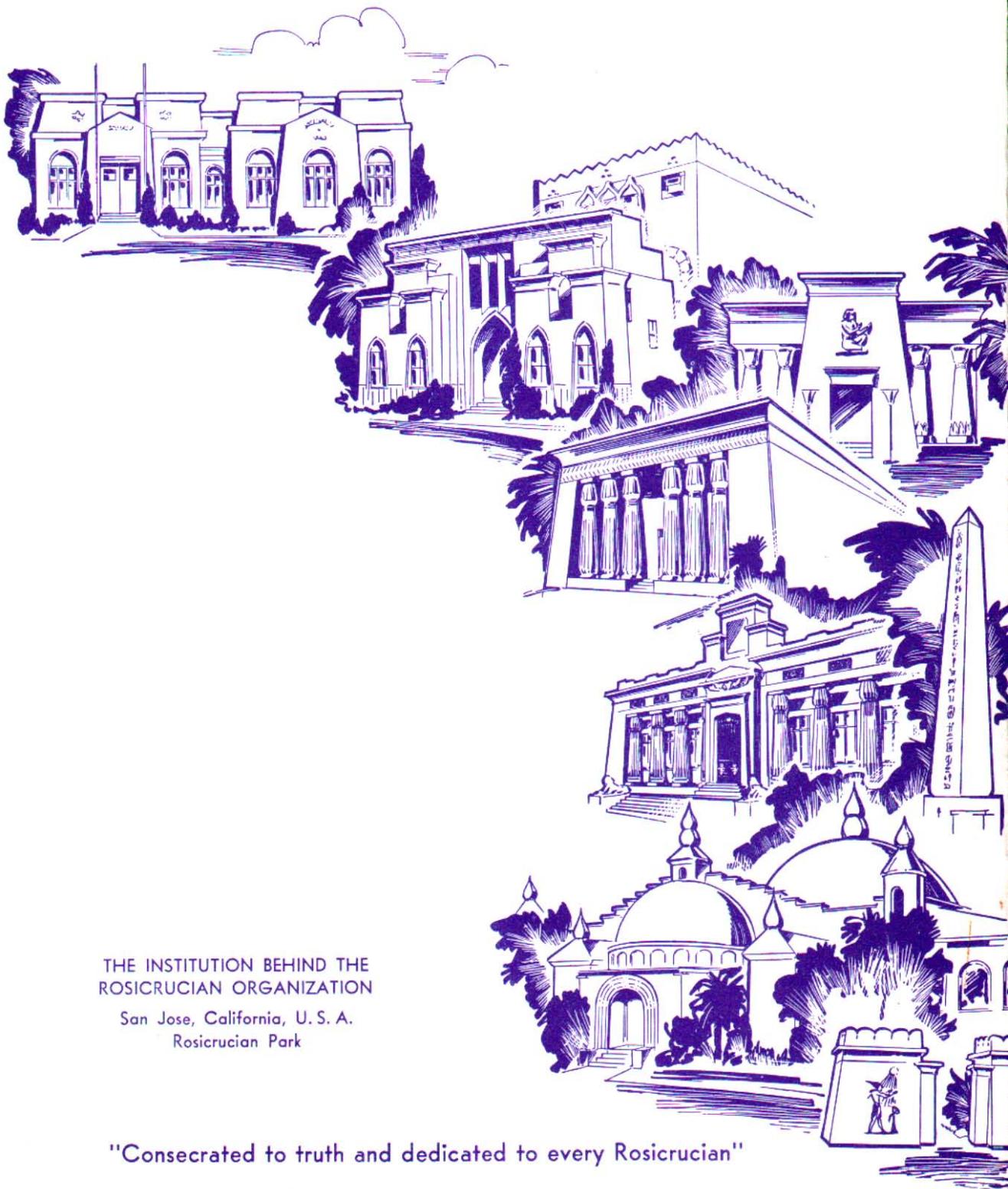


Summary of This Monograph



Below is a summary of the important principles of this monograph. It contains the essential statements which you should not forget. After you have carefully read the complete monograph, try to recall as many as you can of the important points you read. Then read this summary and see if you have forgotten any. Also refer to this summary during the ensuing week to refresh your memory.

- ¶ Questions most often in the minds of members of this Degree are: "Where are we going and what is the end and purpose of our present esoteric studies?" "Is there to be no end to these monographs or to the taking up of new principles, ideas, and exercises?" "What will be the ultimate result in our personal lives from all of these studies and exercises?"
- ¶ Every happy, contented, healthy person has some form of relaxation and does a certain amount of reading and studying.
- ¶ A large percentage of our members make the Rosicrucian studies their system of schooling and religious instruction.
- ¶ The studies have given members more worth-while goals in life, a new viewpoint, contentment, and an understanding that means more to them than wealth or social position.
- ¶ Improvement noted by members is of three kinds: 1) in contentment and optimism; 2) in health; 3) in influence and contact with others.
- ¶ The improvement experienced by members serves to attract others to the Order.
- ¶ The Order is not so much a school of instruction as it is a circle of intimate companionship and kindly guidance with all on an equal basis.



THE INSTITUTION BEHIND THE
ROSIKRUCIAN ORGANIZATION

San Jose, California, U. S. A.
Rosicrucian Park

"Consecrated to truth and dedicated to every Rosicrucian"

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