



The Rosicrucian Order

# MASTER MONOGRAPH

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# THE CONCURRENCE

## This Week's Consideration of a Famous Opinion



¶ The words of mystics of the past serve to substantiate the validity of our present experiments. It is, indeed, not our purpose to reconstruct the pattern of our previous lives merely to satisfy an idle curiosity, but rather that we may by knowing something of the past relate it to the present and profit by the understanding gained thereby.



*Man should know the source of the misfortunes which he is obliged to endure, and far from blaming this same Providence, which dispenses happiness and sorrows according to his merits and of his past deeds, he should blame himself alone if he suffers as the inevitable result of his past sins. Pythagoras admitted that there were several successive lives, and maintained that the present which overwhelms us, and the future which threatens us, are but the expressions of the past, which was our handiwork in remote times.*

—HIEROCLES, 5th century A.D.

## TWELFTH DEGREE

NUMBER 146

PAGE ONE

To the Members of the Esoteric Hierarchy, Greetings!

We are now about to take our second step in the procedure for testing the doctrines of reincarnation.

You were promised when you had completed the Ninth Degree that henceforth your guidance, instruction and weekly helps in your process of unfolding and developing your understanding and comprehension of the higher principles of life would come to you more or less Cosmically, psychically, and through mental attunement, inspiration, revelation and analytical reasoning.

Ever since that time it has been our method, and particularly my personal method in working with you, to give you such fundamental principles or guides to the various esoteric laws that pertain to psychic development and psychic unfoldment as would enable you to attune yourself with the Cosmic and receive your personal guidance, personal instruction, personal Cosmic wisdom, from Cosmic sources or from Cosmic Intelligences, independent of instruction from your Class Master. Although I have stood in the relationship of Class Master to the members of this Degree, it has been my pleasure and duty to guide you to greater instruction than can be given in printed or verbal form, by the medium of your own attunement with the Cosmic.

It is encouraging to note from continuing reports from members in these higher Degrees that throughout the day and night in meditation, and in their sanctums, they have received wisdom and knowledge, guidance and instruction, which have enabled them to unfold and develop, and to attain the heights of mystical and esoteric understanding.

Hints and suggestions regarding certain laws and principles have been given that would help you regenerate your body in vitality, and act as a tonic and a stimulation of your activities. Various mystical processes have been suggested and methods outlined whereby you might receive the most mystical and truly esoteric help Cosmically. This is a form of instruction that could not be given in the temples. Neither could it be accompanied by any earthly initiation rituals or any ceremonies.

The process we are now working on is similar to others you have had. All that can now be done is to give you the first steps in the procedure and process that will enable you to bring out of the Cosmic and out of your psychic consciousness hidden wisdom and knowledge that has been there for ages, and which will now serve you. This could not be done through any temple ceremonies, temple lectures, temple instruction or group instruction. It is something that has to be done alone and in the privacy of your own sanctum at home.



STEP NUMBER TWO IN THE PROCEDURE: If you have followed Step Number One sincerely and carefully, you will have received

some fleeting glimpses, some passing thoughts and impressions in your objective mind that undoubtedly interest you although at the present moment they may not seem important and you may not want to put any reliance upon them. No doubt you feel like writing and outlining the impressions you have had and asking whether this or that or the other thing could possibly be a picture or an idea, a thought or an incident from your past incarnation. You might just as well stop anyone on the street and ask that question, for you alone are the only one who can determine that. Another could only guess at an answer to your question and his guessing might hinder your progress more than it would further it. It is better, therefore, to rely completely and confidently on yourself.

Your notebook is to become your confidante and your ally in this part of the process. It should be your constant companion so that it will be at hand to record ideas, impressions, pictures as they come. You may be reading, sewing, in your office or waiting on a customer at your place of business. You may be poring over figures in an account book, talking casually with a friend during lunch, in a theater or at home enjoying yourself. Without regard to any of these things and with no seeming relevancy whatever, a thought-picture or idea may present itself to your consciousness. The fact that it may seem strange or out of place is unimportant nor should its seeming insignificance concern you. Even though it has come unbidden and in untimely fashion, it must be accepted and recorded. It is a piece of evidence, a clue that cannot be overlooked.

Whether, therefore, it is a stray bit of conversation; a momentary glimpse of a foreign yet somehow familiar figure; a river with strange boats upon it; a group of unusual appearing buildings, a battle scene, a courtyard or a library, you should set it down as a possibly meaningful piece of the picture of the past you are attempting to reconstruct.

Not too long ago a frater wrote that, in a film he was seeing, one brief scene of an ancient structure awakened a feeling within him wholly unrelated to the theme of the story. He was convinced that he knew the building and that in some way it belonged to his past. He recorded the incident and later was able to identify the building completely and recall the circumstances which connected him with it.

Another frater wrote that during the World War II his mother was evacuated from her home in Portsmouth, England, because of heavy bombing to a remote country village. It was a part of England which was totally unfamiliar to any of his family. None to his knowledge had ever previously visited it. He himself had only been there occasionally to visit his mother.



The night before one of his visits he dreamed that he was walking along a narrow winding lane bordered by a flowering hedge. With him was a young woman dressed in the fashion of

an earlier day. As they neared a turn in the lane the young woman said, "The place you are seeking is just ahead behind this jutting hedge." As they came around the hedge there stood an ivy-covered mansion, brightly painted. An iron footscraper was by the door. He put out his hand to pull the brass bell and as he did so awoke.

During his visit the next day, he and his sister took a long walk. Suddenly the frater realized that they were walking in the lane of his dream. As they neared a sharp turn in the lane hidden by the hedge, he told his sister of his dream and described what they would find beyond the hedge. They then rounded the hedge and there stood the mansion as in the dream except that it was in a state of disrepair bordering on ruin. The iron footscraper was there, however, and the brass bell pull! Here was excellent material for his notebook—an incident evidently from his past quite unexpectedly pushing itself into his consciousness.

It is out of such elusive fragments that the past is slowly and painstakingly recovered. Individually they appear to be amusing, intriguing, fantastic, or wholly unimportant and meaningless; yet, together with similar fragments, they constitute the key to the storehouse of some past life experiences. Any one of a thousand incidents, impressions, or glimpses happening while the attention is being given to everyday affairs may furnish the elements out of which a whole past life may be reconstructed.

A strain of music, an impression of being in church, a feeling of being reprimanded by parents or of wearing uncomfortable and confining clothing of strange pattern and cut are all worthy of being confided to your ever-ready notebook.

Once you have started this procedure of opening your storehouse of memory, you may expect additional information to continue for days after each sitting. You may sit in your sanctum for ten or fifteen minutes and receive no impression. Then as you lie in bed ready for sleep, ideas may begin to take form in your thought. In the morning others may be in your mind as though you had dreamed them; and during the day they may continue as you are doing various other things.

Step Number One concerned your attempt to recall a vision or a picture of a market place, and to write what impressions you had of it. Now, for Step Number Two, you are to concentrate upon an interior, say of a church or some similar place used for worship or religious instruction. Nearly everyone in a past incarnation had a connection one way or another with a church, a cathedral, or some similar holy place of worship. Your impression may not be of attendance there as a child or an adult for the purpose of worship; it may be an impression of a wedding, a funeral or something else that took place in such a holy structure. Nearly everyone has attended a funeral, a wedding, or some other function sometime in a past incarnation,



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for the place of worship was also a center of community activity, and the things which occurred there were always of importance and made deep impressions. Such impressions can be brought again out of the storehouse of memory.

Concentrate your mind this week upon church connections. Do not think of any particular type of church. Do not try to decide whether you may have been a Roman Catholic, a Jew, or of some other denomination in your past incarnation. That is unimportant at the present moment. Think of a church interior and try to bring into your consciousness an impression of what church experiences you had in the past. Something of the kind—there may be a number of such impressions—will come to you during the coming week. Maybe not of the same church in every case. Put them all down in your notebook because they will help in mapping out the incidents of your past life. So through the coming week, follow the instructions in Step Number One except change the thought to a desire for a church incident. Next week we shall be ready to proceed to the third step.

May Peace Profound abide with each of you.

Fraternally,

YOUR CLASS MASTER

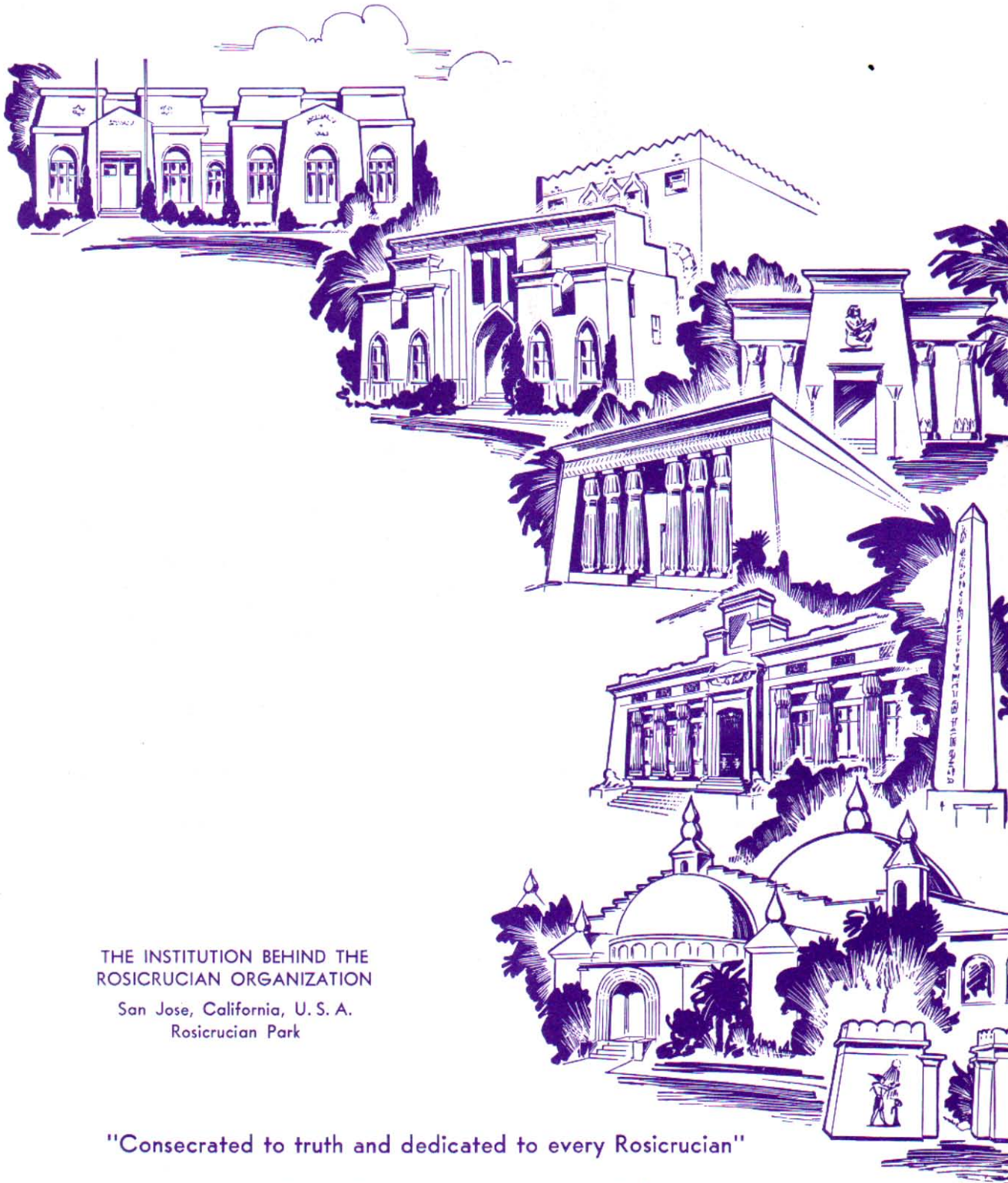


## Summary of This Monograph



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.

- ¶ Since completion of the Ninth Degree, students have been given such fundamental principles to esoteric laws leading to inner unfoldment and Cosmic attunement as would enable them to receive personal guidance and instruction from Cosmic sources.
- ¶ In Step Number Two you are to concentrate upon an interior of a church or some similar place of worship.
- ¶ Your notebook always should be at hand, for impressions released as a result of this process may present themselves to the consciousness at any time. Once the procedure is begun, additional information may continue for days after periods of concentration.
- ¶ It is out of elusive fragments that the past is slowly and painstakingly recovered.



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