



The Rosicrucian Order

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THE CONCURRENCE

This Week's Consideration of a Famous Opinion



¶ The six steps outlined in the Procedure for Recalling the Events of Past Lives were designed to aid the student in proving for himself the Law of Reincarnation that he might understandingly apply lessons learned in the past to experience encountered in the present. The following lines may be of particular interest for the relationship they bear to these experiments.



Many of these recollections of the past come as if they were memories of something experienced in dreams, but sometimes after the loose end of the thought is firmly grasped and mentally drawn out, other bits of recollection will follow. . .

. . . The experience of other people, while of scientific interest and value as affording a basis for a theory or doctrine, will never supply the experience that the close and rigid investigator demands. Only his own experiences will satisfy him— . . . These experiences of others have their principal value as corroborative proof of one's own experiences, . . . To those who have not had these glimpses of recollection, the only proof that can be offered is the usual arguments in favor of the doctrine, and the account of the experiences of others—this may satisfy, and may not. But to those who have had these glimpses—particularly in a marked degree—there will come a feeling of certainty and conviction that in some cases is as real as the certainty and conviction of the present existence, and which will be proof against all argument to the contrary.

—WILLIAM WALKER ATKINSON, 1862-1932

To the Members of the Esoteric Hierarchy, Greetings!

The Sixth Step in our Procedure for Recalling the Events of Past Lives will be the last in this series of steps covering the most important events. You may think of a seventh step later, or you may devise and invent a number of such steps in the near future in an elaboration of the process.

In my talk describing the fifth step, I covered the period of your life just preceding your transition, and intimated that many important things which registered in the mind and consciousness in those last hours just before transition could be easily recalled. There was one point that I did not touch upon, and that point constitutes the sixth step.

SIXTH AND LAST STEP OF THE PROCEDURE:

Every normal human being, who has lived twenty-five or more years on earth before transition, has had plans for the future—hopes, aspirations, desires, and ambitions. Illness, a sudden accident or an untimely end of earthly life always means disappointment regarding those hopes, ambitions, and aspirations. Therefore the average person lying upon his so-called deathbed, while still young or in middle age, feels sad because he has not accomplished all, or perhaps some one big thing that has been hoped for. This one thing, then, constitutes a great regret, and a great problem to the person about to pass out of this earthly life.

Very often the thoughts of such persons at this time not only include regret that they were not able to carry out the big plan or dream they had in mind, but also include the concern over who will carry it out for them after they are gone. Often they hope secretly that they may still recover and have an opportunity to carry out their plans. Such persons often say to themselves, over and over, while lying on a sickbed, "If I get over this illness and get on my feet again, I am going to work hard and do everything I can to carry out the plan I had in mind for the future because this illness has taught me that my future may not be very long. I cannot push too far away the completion of the thing I want to carry out."

In other words, these persons have their hopes and ambitions aroused again despite the fact that they are ill. They review mentally what they have accomplished in the past, and what there is still remaining to be accomplished. In a great many cases, as the records of physicians and nurses show, the unfulfilled or unrealized desire of a sick person is a great incentive toward his recovery. When a person has lived to a ripe old age, and has accomplished practically all the things a human being can be expected to accomplish, with nearly all desires and hopes realized, even



if only meagerly, he not only has no regret at the coming of death, but also has no incentive to live longer.

The records of transitions throughout the world in all ages show that only a small percentage of persons live to such an age that they have had all of their desires fulfilled, even if they were only humble people living in the country with no greater desire than to keep a roof over their heads and have something to eat. The average person dies or passes out of this earthly life at what is considered an "untimely age" with a great many dominant and important desires and ambitions unfulfilled or unrealized. Among these there is always the desire to have a home, debt-free, in which the wife, husband, or children may live and not be in want.

The average human looks forward to providing a home for his helpmate and children, and some sort of business or income that will help care for them in the future. Nowadays such things as life insurance, endowments, and trust funds help to solve these problems, but a hundred years ago and longer, unless a man owned a home and had a firm or business or something that produced some income, he had no way of assuring those whom he left behind a place in which, as well as something upon which, to live.

In addition to this fundamental desire to create a home and an income, every individual has personal desires and ambitions. Inventors dream of finishing and completing a great scheme, perhaps a piece of machinery that will revolutionize many activities of life. Scientists, physicians, artists and musicians dream of contributing lasting benefits to the health or culture of the race. Others dream of building cities, buildings, railroads, steamships, or of founding new forms of government and revolutionizing methods of civilization.

Practically everyone after the twentieth or thirtieth year has ambitions to accomplish something. As he reaches the fortieth year, he begins to plan for even greater accomplishments in the future. There is always one outstanding thing that he would like to see finished during his lifetime. When it suddenly dawns upon him that he is lying upon what is likely to be his deathbed, and that his life is about to end, he not only regrets the hopes that will not be realized but also prays for a return of health that he may accomplish them. Often, too, he wonders whether in a life to come—spiritual or otherwise—he will have the opportunity to create things he was not able to create in this existence.

Usually each individual, then—if he is conscious at all during the last days or hours—passes out of life with an unrealized dream or ambition. Accompanied as it usually is with regret and sorrow, this frustration makes a permanent impression on the consciousness. Many of a mystical nature often feel that



if they ever live again, they want to take up the unfulfilled plans, hopes, and aspirations and bring them to fulfillment.

The sixth step, then, is to concentrate upon this thought: What one desire or regret, ambition or hope, was registered last in my mind? We must remember, of course, that another hope as well is more than likely in the mind of every human being in his last conscious hours, and that hope is for spiritual life or eternal existence in the spiritual kingdom—hope that sins committed will be forgiven; that in the new life to come they will be purged, their souls cleansed, and that the grace of God, the salvation of their Saviour, and an eternal spiritual existence of joy and peace may be theirs. We must separate this idea from the other one; therefore, we must concentrate on the one great earthly ambition, hope or desire that was unfulfilled.

By concentrating in this manner, keeping in mind that it is the earthly thing or plan not carried out that you desire to recall, you will reach some chamber in your memory that harbors thoughts and hopes unfulfilled. This will give you another good memorandum for your notebook. You may find that that one last hope, desire, or ambition had some relationship with the place you occupy in life today. It has been found in the cases of both men and women that when they passed out of existence with regret over not being able to accomplish some great architectural or engineering scheme, the Cosmic arranged their affairs so that early in life they seemed naturally to fall into engineering and architectural lines of work. In this life, they are easily accomplishing the things that in the last incarnation they felt or found to be impossible.

Suppose that in the last incarnation a man had been born a farmer and had always lived in a small village far from any great city or school of engineering or achitecture, far from any buildings or any great structures, and with limited capital and limited opportunities to carry out his ideas and dreams about some engineering or architectural problems. In this incarnation he was born in a large city with fine public schools, libraries, and other things that enable him to have a different education. He might even have as a father an engineer or architect, who early taught him the fundamental principles of engineering and architecture. Suppose that through his father's activities he has an opportunity to visit buildings being erected and watch the process so that he logically and easily grows into being an engineer or an architect, and is soon taken into a firm as an assistant to his father. Thus he has the opportunity now to realize his unfulfilled dream of the last incarnation.



Suppose a woman in the previous life had no opportunities for social contacts, educational or cultural advantages desirable for raising a family, developing a talent, or furthering a

musical career. In this incarnation something occurred that gave her every opportunity to fulfill those last thoughts in the previous incarnation. We often say that such persons are born in this life with a background of a profession or with a natural desire, talent, and ability for certain things, and that nature and fate have been kind to them. We seldom realize that they may have suffered long and bitterly in a previous incarnation to get even a foothold in such a profession, and passed away without having had the least part of the dream realized or fulfilled. They come into this incarnation with a deep longing that unconsciously directs their footsteps and tempts them to take advantage of conditions that will enable them to fulfill the old and lingering desire and ambition. More than that, the Cosmic seems to direct them into families where they will have advantages and opportunity to develop them.

On the other hand, we can realize that many persons passed out of a previous life quite satisfied with everything they accomplished because they desired to accomplish nothing of any importance and were satisfied to have enough to eat and to live in humble circumstances, with perhaps even a distaste for music, the fine arts, a skepticism about science, a distrust of wealth and culture, and a hatred for anyone highly successful in life. Such a person would probably be born in this incarnation in circumstances that would be void of all the great opportunities.

In this sixth step you will find not only an opportunity for bringing out of your memory's storehouse some more facts about your past life, but you may find also a key to some of the circumstances in which you presently find yourself.

Throughout this week you will daily note any thoughts in connection with great desires and unfulfilled hopes of your last incarnation. Put these as well as any other impressions you receive in your notebook. Next week I am going to tell you how to begin to analyze and summarize these things and attract more impressions throughout the coming months while we are dealing with other subjects.

May Peace Profound abide with each of you.

Fraternally,

YOUR CLASS MASTER

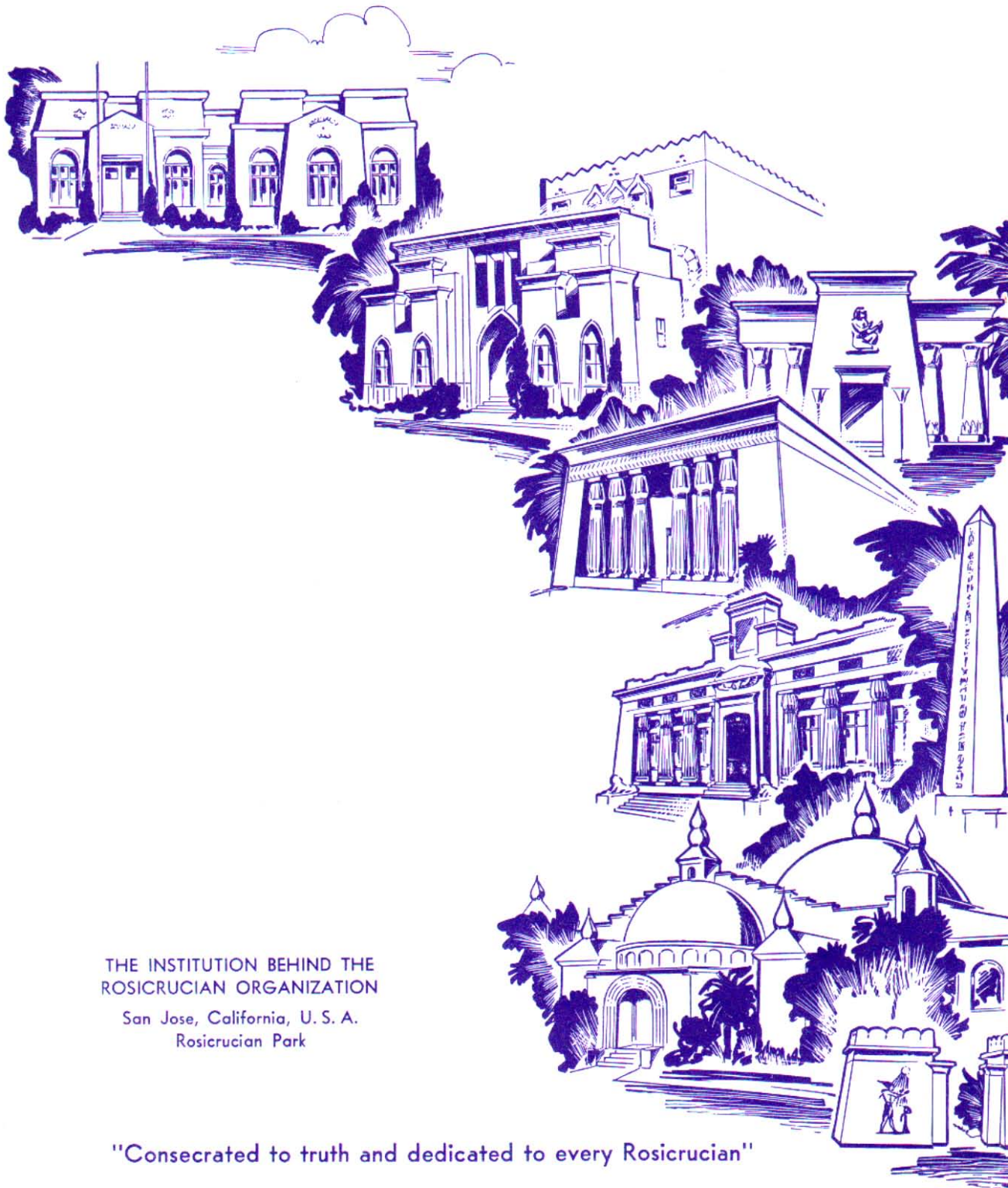


Summary of This Monograph



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.

- ¶ The Sixth Step in the Procedure for Recalling the Events of Past Lives will be the last in this series. You may, however, invent a number of such steps in an elaboration of the process.
- ¶ The Sixth Step is to concentrate upon the one great earthly ambition, desire, or hope that was unfulfilled in a past life.
- ¶ One's last hope, desire, or ambition may have some relationship with the place occupied today.
- ¶ Therefore, this Sixth Step provides not only an opportunity for bringing out of the memory's storehouse facts pertaining to a past life, but it may provide a key to understanding present circumstances.



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