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The Rosicrucian Order

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THE CONCURRENCE

This Week's Consideration of a Famous Opinion



¶ Man as a microscopic copy of the Macrocosm is recognized by the mystic to be endowed with infinite and divine potentialities. The inner self and soul consciousness are, he knows, a part of the Universal Self or Cosmic Consciousness. We quote from *The Art of Creation* by Edward Carpenter, English mystic and writer.



The fact is conceivable that the Self may become countless selves. The great Self is omnipresent in Space and Time; but if it appear or express itself at any one point of space and time (say as the ego of a single cell), then at once and in that moment it has determined an aspect of itself; and the ego in that cell is already an individual having within itself the potentiality of the whole, yet different from every other possible individual of the universe. The fact of such multiplex appearance in Space and Time is conceivable; the reason for it may be that of self-knowledge; but the how of the operation must necessarily remain inscrutable to our ordinary thought.

—EDWARD CARPENTER, 1844-1929

To the Members of the Esoteric Hierarchy, Greetings!

One of the most eminent of European mystics who was well versed in Rosicrucian lore and who expressed Rosicrucian ideas beautifully and in a very spiritual way wrote specifically of this matter of inner attunement. In speaking of the development and evolution of the self within, he called attention to the fact that the inner self feeds upon spiritual thought and esoteric principles as the outer self grows from food and material things. He then reminds us that we should never forget that this inner psychic self, being a part of or closely related to the soul, is immortal and continues to exist throughout eternity.

The physical self, we know, is destined to live only a short span of time here on the Earth plane. It is made of mortal elements--as the Bible states, made of corruption, to corruption it must return. Every material thing on the face of the Earth must eventually pass away in form and shape and change its nature. We look at the ancient temples and structures in Egypt, built thousands of years ago; and in California we see forests of redwood trees that were a thousand years old when Jesus lived here on Earth. They both seem to be things that will continue forever; yet everyone knows that in time even they will disappear.

Scientists have often discussed the problem of what we now have in our modern civilization that will still be hundreds or thousands of years from now. Books, newspapers, our furniture and floor coverings and much of our metal things will decay. People living in the year 5000, for instance, will have no printed records of what was occurring here during these days unless from century to century our principal historical books are reprinted. Only one thing in existence at the present time will probably last for several thousand years, and that is bakelite used for radio dials, panels, beads, and bracelets. Even bakelite will eventually disappear.

Our physical bodies are made of all of these earthly elements that must pass away and change form and change nature. It is true that the elements of matter are never completely lost. Wood may rot and change into something else, but it still remains. Iron will rust away, but broken up into little crystals that may have no semblance to the original piece of metal, it will still remain. Our own bodies will be reduced to ashes and the elements of earthly matter will be distributed in the soil and will have no semblance to our present physical bodies. Only the soul of man and the psychic part of him will remain immortal.



The mystical writer I mentioned insists, therefore, that we should "regard the interior of man as one and indivisible." In other words, the psychic and spiritual

part of ourselves is something that will never break down like the physical body and be disseminated and scattered to the four winds. It will never cease to exist continuously as an entity. Jesus tried to explain this very thing in his secret teachings when he said in an allegorical way that the Kingdom of Heaven is within. He meant to imply that all the spiritual world, all that represents the real Kingdom of Heaven and God's Consciousness dwells in man. If this inner man, this inner self, and this soul consciousness are all related and are immortal and indivisible, then they are also a part of the Universal Consciousness or Cosmic Consciousness and the Consciousness of God. Whenever we turn our thoughts inward, therefore, we enliven, quicken and give strength to the inner self.

A few years ago a teacher of a physical culture method announced an improvement in the way of exercising the muscles of the arms and body and legs. He said it was useless to exercise for the development of the muscles unless the individual concentrated on the muscles that he wanted to develop, and thereby helped them mentally as well as physically. We know from experience that the more we think about one faculty or ability, habit or tendency, the more we strengthen and develop it. We keep it alive mentally as well as physically by thinking about it and by giving it the benefit of our thought. The more we think of the inner or real self within us, and of its attunement in connection with Cosmic Consciousness and the God Consciousness, the more we strengthen and develop it until finally we become conscious of its existence in us and feel it as definitely as we feel the outer self. The results are like the results and benefits we get from expanding our mental and our worldly consciousness.

Our concentration on the inner self by turning our thoughts inward causes the inner consciousness to expand. It has often been said that traveling broadens one's knowledge and concept of life, and that likewise the study of music and languages broadens one's understanding and appreciation. We know as a matter of fact that in our youth when we began to study history and began to learn what other peoples had done in past ages to improve themselves politically and culturally, we began to enlarge our own consciousness and thereby improve ourselves.

In ancient times, the average person living in Egypt, for instance, must have believed that the world was the lands that surrounded the Mediterranean. Beyond the Mediterranean, the Earth had an edge and then one dropped off into space. Such people necessarily had a very narrow concept of the Earth and its people.



They naturally believed that their own country along the banks of the Nile was the largest and best. They naturally believed that anything they did was greater than anything done anywhere else because their country was the

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the heavens. So great is the space which separates man from God that the two may never meet. Mystical teachings, on the other hand, inform us that God is close to us and we are close to Him; so close, in fact, that we are like God in the sense that God is within us, and we are in God. Since God is everywhere, the consciousness of man must be everywhere, and the consciousness of man is not limited just to his physical body and his immediate environment.

By turning your thoughts inward in meditation, you are encouraging and helping your inner self expand and reach out in attunement with the Cosmic Consciousness where you will feel and sense the spiritual power of the universe of which you are a part. This will benefit your health, your mind, your body, and your intuition--all your mental faculties, in fact. It will bring you peace, happiness, and a sense of power and protection that you never could have otherwise. It will bring you spiritual joy and ecstasy not to be found in any other way.

That is why all mystics have always held such reverence and respect for God as the Creator of the Universe. They have learned to know, love, understand, feel, and sense the presence of God, and their attunement with Him. This made their studies a religion, and it has made the religion of the churches more understandable and more helpful. Throughout this week, take occasion to give yourself at least six or seven periods of real inner meditation and expansion so that you will be ready for the next esoteric principles.

May Peace Profound abide with each of you.

Fraternally,

YOUR CLASS MASTER

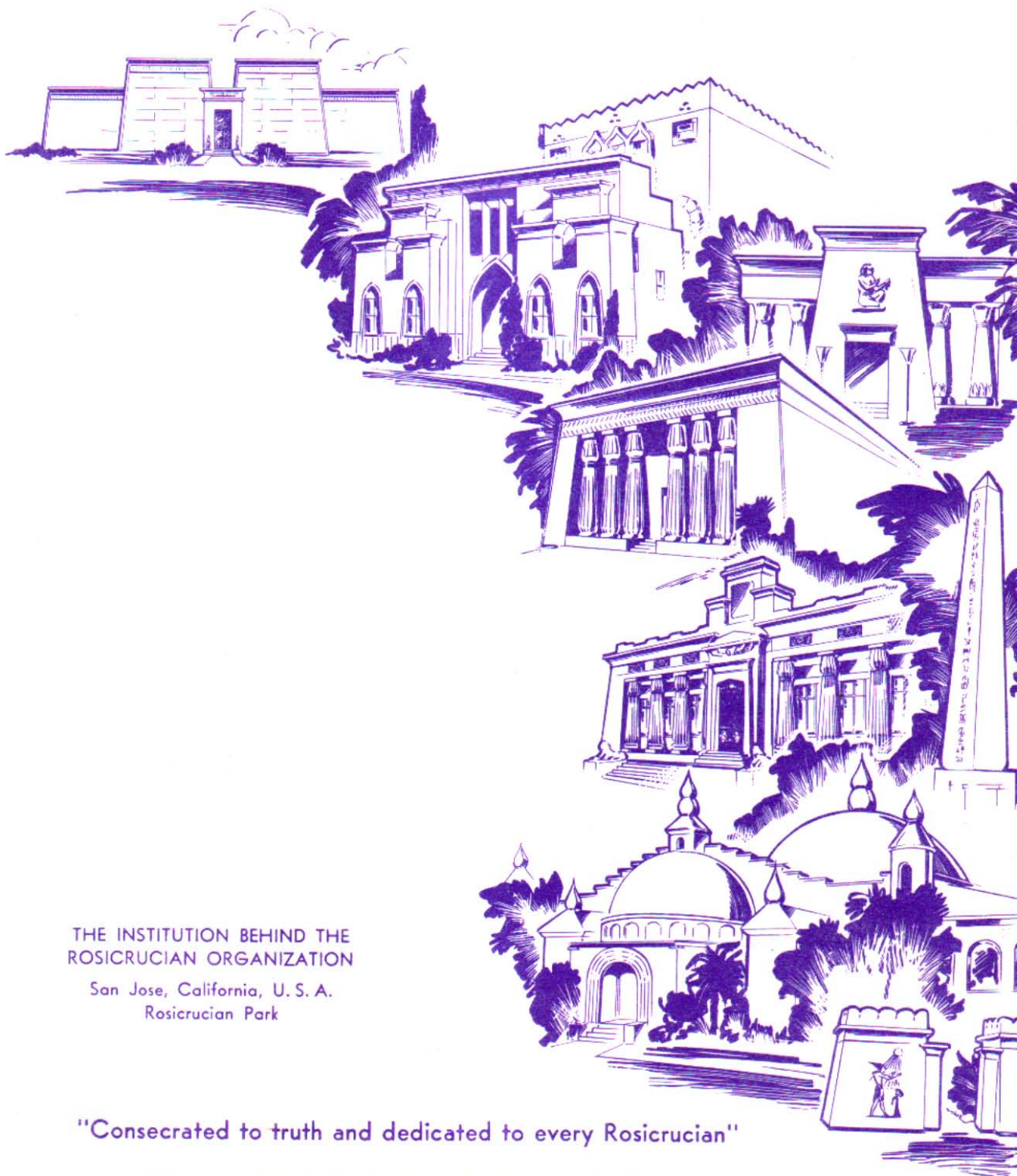


Summary of This Monograph



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.

- ¶ While it is true that the elements of matter are never completely lost, since they merely change their form, all matter including our physical bodies will disintegrate.
- ¶ Only the soul of man and the psychic part of him will remain immortal.
- ¶ The inner self and soul consciousness are a part of the Universal or Cosmic Consciousness.
- ¶ By turning the thought inward we enliven, quicken, and give strength to the inner self, and cause the inner consciousness to expand.
- ¶ The studies have tended to educate, instruct, and develop the inner consciousness so that it would expand and reach outside the physical body, at the same time conveying to the outer consciousness the knowledge and wisdom the inner self receives from the Cosmic Consciousness.
- ¶ The same idea is conveyed in the mystic philosophers' teaching that man was a microscopic copy of the Macrocosm. It explains their reverence for God as the Creator of the Universe.



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