

A M O R C

The Rosicrucian Order

MASTER MONOGRAPH

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162



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12
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162

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THE CONCURRENCE

This Week's Consideration of a Famous Opinion



¶ With the unfoldment of the spiritual nature there results a condition of attunement, balance, and harmony with all universal forces. These same forces may react detrimentally upon the materialistic unevolved individual, but the mystic recognizes and utilizes only their positive beneficial aspects. The effects of spiritual thought are spoken of in the lines that follow.



We see that true spiritual thought starts out healing waves toward the body, and brings a vital force into all departments of man's being. . . . When the soul through the will of man gets control over mind, body and speech, and wishes and desires no evil, then finer senses are born, and he will find his thought becomes indescribably effective.

A deeper strength and satisfaction is gained when we view nature for her lessons, for there is found the principle of continuous growth. We see life to be a continuous orderly growth, bringing into manifestation higher and still higher expressions of the spirit, all harmoniously related.

—COULSON TURNBULL, 1864—

To the Members of the Esoteric Hierarchy, Greetings!

This week I want to take up with you a question raised by several of our members: "Are we to ignore astral or planetary influences such as are described by astrologers? Is not our psychic development affected by favorable planetary conditions?"

Rosicrucian teachings do not ignore the influences on our lives that come from the Cosmic and the universe and the heavens above. Many monographs and magazine articles speak of the influence of the moon and of tides, or those influences that affect the tides and human beings also. There are Cosmic cycles in regard to disease, health and happiness. There are other cycles like those described in our book entitled Self Mastery and Fate with the Cycles of Life favorable to various trends of thought and action. The very vitality in our bodies comes from the air we breathe, and the vitalizing energy is something that radiates from the Cosmic and is affected daily and hourly by vibrations emanating from the various planets as well as from the sun. The more we attune ourselves with Cosmic and psychic conditions, the more we are affected by these vibrations from the various planets.

Vibrations from the planets, however, cannot force or induce us to do things we do not want to do; and certainly these vibrations cannot overcome the great fundamental vibrations of the Cosmic Consciousness and the Consciousness of God. We are not slaves, automatons or pieces of machinery controlled by planetary vibrations. We have a brain and a mind. We have divine wisdom, energy, and consciousness within us, all superior, stronger, and more influential than any external influence from the distant planets. The most important power that man has to affect his material welfare and his health, is his own will, his own mind, his own determination to do what he believes is right and to do it against all other influences or all obstacles. He has the power to think and reason, and his decision or belief has far more influence upon what he does and what he thinks thereafter than anything else.

Present-day forms of Rosicrucian philosophy in Europe and the rest of the world do not include astrology in the form popularly set forth in the Western world, and particularly in America. It is true that older and advanced Rosicrucian mystics of the past had a knowledge of astrology. Many of the very oldest present-day mystic philosophers of the Rosicrucian Order of Europe are quite expert in the study.

I occasionally study the heavens astrologically as well as astronomically, and I refer to my own personal horoscope, and study the indications that astrology points out, but the nature of astrology and the fact that its many fields of study are not especially adaptable to the more inclusive Rosicrucian view preclude a general endorsement of it.



Astrology as a study has many aspects widely differing and by no means of equal value. Often those concerned with one aspect are relatively little informed of the others and unable therefore to develop an over-all view that would make the subject wholly acceptable to the mystic and Rosicrucian.

Some astrologers have concerned themselves with Biblical interpretation and have thrown light on matters otherwise obscure. Some have devoted themselves to character analysis which has proved practical in determining the suitability of individuals for certain positions. Still others have studied the predictive aspects of the matter attempting to chart the future. A few have lent themselves to the rather questionable use of the study in matters of gambling, racing, and of stock-market investment. In each of these branches the character of the individual alone determines its worth, and this mitigates any enthusiastic endorsement.

Let me illustrate: In astrology, everything depends upon the horoscope which is a picture of planetary positions at the moment of birth calculated for the given longitude and latitude. With an ephemeris, a table of houses and a logarithmic table, this is a relatively simple process of calculation. Reading or interpreting it, however, is far from simple—everything depending upon the experience, thoroughness, and viewpoint of the astrologer. Whatever the shortcomings of the astrologer, they are bound to show in the picture of the individual he draws from the horoscope. His biases and prejudices influence his judgment as do his habits of evaluating the relative importance of the differing aspects.

Here I speak from personal experience. I sent my birth data to several practicing astrologers, requesting a reading. Naturally, I withheld everything in the way of personal information beyond the essential matters of date, place, and hour of birth. In nearly every case, there was agreement as to general characteristics; but there was practically no agreement as to events in the past or in the future. One might have imagined that quite different persons were being written about. Yet the horoscope which each had made was the same in essentials.

When such variation occurs among those who are scrupulously sincere in their attempt to be accurate and exact, it is safe to say so much greater a variation occurs among the careless pretenders as to make their efforts worthless, even dangerous. The best being none too good, one should personally fit himself carefully to make his own astrological predictions or should be content to concern himself wholly with other methods more acceptable to the mystic.



I must say that my comments should not be interpreted to mean that astrology is misleading or false in itself or that there is absolutely nothing to the fundamental claims of

planetary influences. Astrology calls for more personal and individual interpretation than any other so-called science or art.

Therefore, personally, I claim that astrology is not an exact science. I always refer to it as an art, and, like an art, it is susceptible to personal and individualistic interpretation. No two artists would paint an identical picture of the same scene. No two musicians would compose exactly the same descriptive musical composition if given the same theme or incident. Art cannot be mechanical, cannot be mathematical; and astrology is too much of an art to be a precise science. Therefore, we have not introduced astrology in our teachings.

Nevertheless, members who proceed to the higher Degrees do become more and more influenced by the vibrations of the Cosmic and not just by individual planets. You will remember that in one of the other Degrees I explained that your soul was an extract from the Universal Soul or Universal Consciousness of God, and that the counterpart of your soul was like a vacancy in that great Cosmic Consciousness from which you were extracted.

It is as though you took a sheet of white paper, drew on it an outlined figure of a man or a woman, and then took a pair of shears and cut out that figure. You could lift the figure up and hold it in one hand. In the other hand you could hold the sheet of paper that had the vacancy in it, from which the figure was cut. If you look upon the sheet of paper as the Cosmic Consciousness, and the figure you cut out as the soul, you will know what I mean when I say that your soul has its counterpart or place in the Universal Cosmic Consciousness which is your place in the scheme of things. The closer you bring the cut-out figure in your hand to the vacant place in the piece of paper the more you will feel the vibrations of the Cosmic Consciousness. If you laid the sheet of paper on the table and put back into place the figure you held in your other hand, you could make it fit in so nicely that it would look as though the figure you had cut out was attached, and of the same essence. That would be perfect attunement, or a perfect blending of the two parts.

The more you approach a high degree of Cosmic Consciousness and Cosmic attunement, the more your soul and spirit blend in with the Cosmic Consciousness, and receive its strength, wisdom and guidance. From day to day and hour to hour, each one of you in this Esoteric Hierarchy is becoming more and more blended, as your life becomes more and more rhythmic, more peaceful, more harmonious. That is the purpose of the recent exercises. I am going to give you some more in the next few weeks so that by turning your thoughts inward as you have been doing, and centering your concentration upon the so-called third eye, and upon the psychic centers, you will cause the inner self, the psychic and spiritual self, to become more constantly attuned, balanced, and harmonized. This is what is called living the



"inner self." It makes persons more contented, happier, healthier, gives them better advice, wisdom, and guidance; and it fortifies them against many troubles, much despondency, sorrow, and grief.

As long as we live on the earth's surface and are trying to fulfill our earthly mission, we must expect to have some of the experiences of this life. We cannot live on this earth, and in daily contact with earthly obligations and duties, like spirits living in the spiritual kingdom. We must expect some of the man-made laws to become twisted and go wrong occasionally since they are not divine laws and perfect. We must expect the social and economic scheme of things to be upset occasionally, because man made those laws and he can upset them. We must expect the body to have its aches and ills of a slight nature from month to month, because it is made of the chemistry of the earth. We must expect to have business problems, inasmuch as commerce and business are something invented by man, and far from perfect. We must expect our houses gradually to leak some day and to be shaken and become old and weak in parts because houses, whether built of stone, brick, concrete or steel, are built by man, designed by man, and made of earthly elements.

The inner self can live free from all of these things in a world that is beautiful, peaceful, and happy because it understands the earthly material problems, is not frightened by them, not made panicky by their temporary disturbances; and all the while the soul, mind, and spirit of the individual are dominating with their will power and wisdom the true course of the individual's life.

May Peace Profound abide with each of you.

Fraternally,

YOUR CLASS MASTER

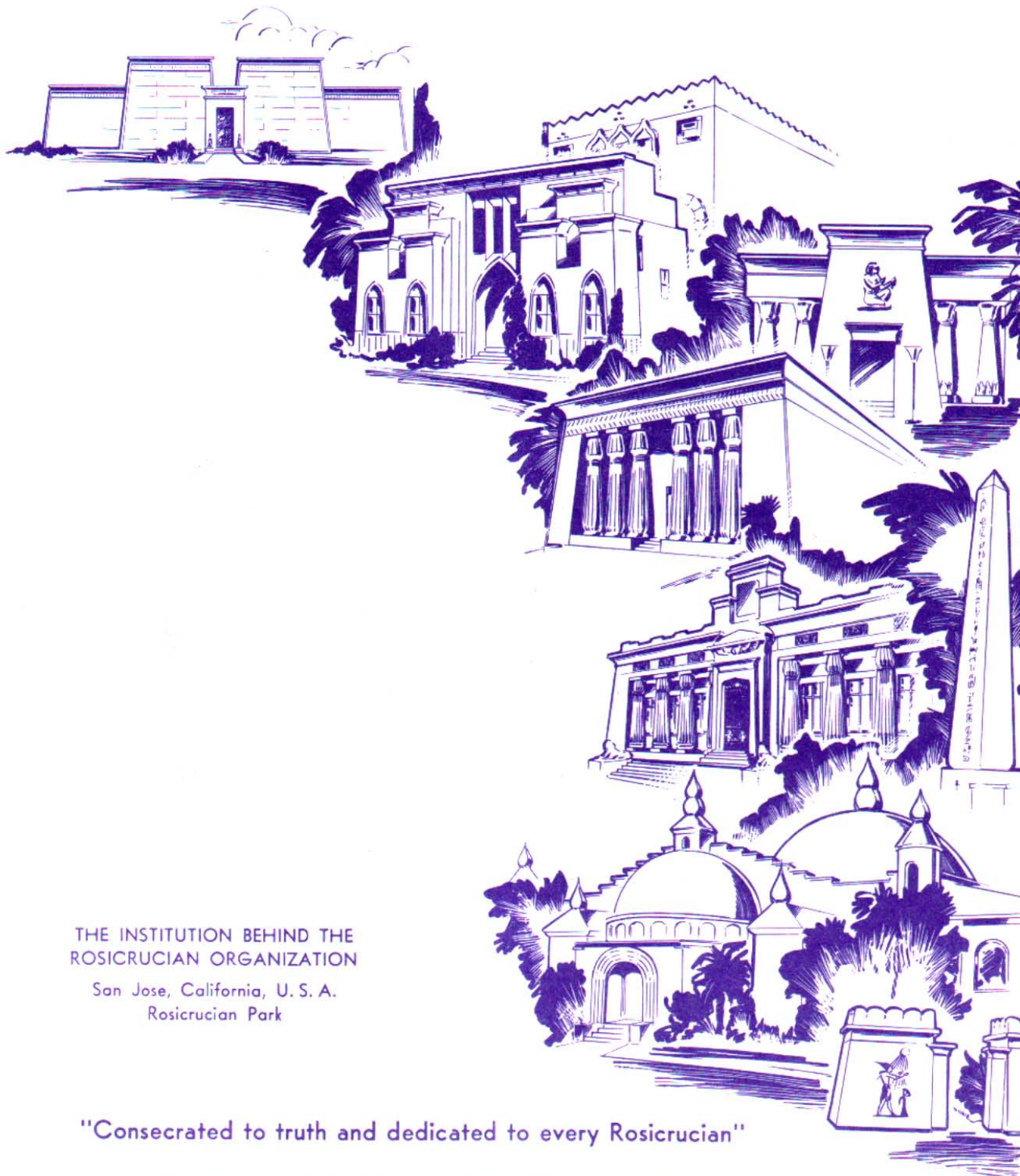


Summary of This Monograph



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 more we attune ourselves with Cosmic and psychic conditions, the more we are affected by planetary and Cosmic vibrations.
- ¶ However, man's power to think and reason, and the divine wisdom, energy, and consciousness within him have more influence upon him than any external power.
- ¶ Astrology while fundamentally sound is an art and not an exact science. It is therefore not acceptable as a part of the Rosicrucian teachings.
- ¶ The purpose of the recent exercises of concentration upon the so-called third eye is to assist you in living the "inner self," that condition of attunement, balance and harmony resulting from a high degree of Cosmic Consciousness.
- ¶ The inner self can live free from earthly material problems because it understands them and is not frightened by them.



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ROSICRUCIAN ORGANIZATION

San Jose, California, U. S. A.
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