



A M O R C

The Rosicrucian Order



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THE CONCURRENCE

This Week's Consideration of a Famous Opinion



¶ The word *hierarchy* is often met with. Although it originally designated a body of church governors as a whole arranged according to their rank, it has also come to apply in all fields where administrative or executive power is thought of as a whole made up of graded parts. The following brief instances may suffice to clarify the term.



We may regard . . . the clergy or clerical estate as a body completely organized, with a minutely constituted and regulated hierarchy.

—*Constitutional History*, by WILLIAM STUBBS

In science, a series of successive terms of different rank. The terms kingdom, order, sub-order, family, genus, and species constitute a hierarchy in zoology.

—*Century Dictionary*

As we ascend in the hierarchy of the organisms, we meet with . . . an increasing differentiation of parts.

—*Principles of Biology*, by HERBERT SPENCER

To the Members of the Esoteric Hierarchy, Greetings!

Continuing my discourse of last week on the advantages you have as students of mysticism because of your special knowledge, I am going to give you now the first of a number of interesting points concerning certain Cosmic principles and laws that relate to you very definitely.

Since all of us in this Twelfth Degree represent the Hierarchy of AMORC of this jurisdiction, it is fitting that we begin to function in a manner befitting our close relationship and our advanced position. A certain number of days and months have passed since the exercises for the activity of regeneration were started in a preceding Degree. Most of you reported very soon regarding evidences of a regeneration taking place, but I knew that a certain number of months would have to pass before the real effects of those exercises would be noticeable, and before anything more in this direction could be revealed to you and applied in your individual circumstances.

It has been said many times in connection with our work that the lessons, monographs, exercises, and experiments are arranged in progressive manner so as to come to the average student at a time agreeable to the changes taking place in his consciousness and body. In other words, no time would be saved, and no benefit gained if the monographs were all read in two months, or even two years. Reading a monograph a day instead of one a week would not make the student progress more rapidly, because he would soon be intellectually ahead of the Cosmic psychic development within him. The awakening and quickening of the psychic centers within our bodies require time, not in a material sense but in a Cosmic sense. A new exercise or a new lesson is of no value until the effects of the previous lessons have taken place. Students in the early Degrees often complain of this factor in the work, stating that they seem to be progressing too slowly. They would like to have lessons and exercises more frequently because they would like to attain their goal in a few months, or a year or two. They measure the length of this study and development in terms of their present earthly life, and by such a standard a few years seems like a long time. Judged by the eternal existence of the soul, and the many past and future incarnations, a few years is indeed but a fraction of the cycle of life.

I made it a special point in my contact with the masters and mystics of Europe at various conventions, and at very intimate and personal gatherings, to question them carefully regarding the things that I am now going to give you in the next few monographs. They have verified these points and have demonstrated to me by their magnificent application of the laws in my presence that these points are representative of the great, secret, esoteric truths of Cosmic law as contained in the highest and most sacred teachings of our Order.



The first point for us to keep in mind is this: Each of us in this Twelfth Degree represents the Hierarchy of the Order. This term hierarchy has several meanings generally, and two specific meanings for us as Rosicrucians.

The word hierarchy is a combination of two Greek words: hieros which means sacred, and archos which means a leader or ruler. From these two words, we have a combined word, or several of them, based upon these roots, meaning a sacred power that leads and directs or governs and controls the sacred things of the world. Turning to Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, we find that the word hierarchy is defined as "a rank or order of holy beings, especially one of the nine orders of the heavenly host." This is one of the definitions, and is the mystical and original meaning of the word. You will see that this clearly indicates that the word hierarchy originally pertained only to the highly mystical and invisible powers of the Cosmic. However, the word hierarchy has come to have a second meaning pertaining to a physical form of power, divided among many sacred or developed and trained beings. Therefore, the dictionary gives also the following meaning: "A body of officials disposed organically in ranks and orders." According to this second definition, a hierarchy can be a group of officials or persons in a more or less official or directive and controlling power, arranged in a body or form of organization, each having some rank or definite position.

In considering you of the Twelfth Degree as representing the Hierarchy of the Order for this jurisdiction, I am referring to your power and association together in the physical sense, as indicated by the second definition given above. You represent a body of especially trained, qualified, and prepared officials arranged in a special organization according to your rank and degree of development. Your purpose is to direct and oversee the sacred activities of the Rosicrucian Order. Through your thoughts and concentrated power of mind, you form a unit or circle of the most advanced members in the Order directing the spiritual, esoteric, and psychic progress of the present and future work of the organization. You will become the visible and invisible governing body of the spiritual side of the organization, while at the same time making recommendations and giving advice regarding doctrines and teachings so that the Imperator and the Supreme Grand Lodge who have control of the doctrines of the Order can look to you for advice and help in keeping our spiritual and doctrinal teachings constantly evolving and advancing in harmony with the evolution of man's consciousness.

You realize, undoubtedly, that the great power possessed by the Rosicrucian Order in past ages was its ability to keep pace with the evolution of human consciousness, and to be a few steps ahead of man's aspirations and desires, so as to point out the path ahead. In so many other schools or movements of



philosophy this evolutionary phase of the program is entirely lacking. Without any degree of disrespect or irreverence, I should like to say that this is one of the unfortunate features of the Christian religion. The teachings expounded by Jesus the Christ were in his day far in advance of man, and therefore pointed out a new path which man could tread in his aspiration to advance. In fact, the path Jesus pointed out, and the system he revealed was like a long, continuous road that reached from the early part of the first century to centuries still to come.

However, the early Christian church attempted to dogmatize these teachings in such a manner as to crystallize them, and in doing so it paralyzed them and made them fit almost exclusively the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth centuries, with no provision for extension into the future. The consequences were that by the middle of the twelfth or thirteenth century the consciousness of man had unfolded to such an extent that his understanding of his relationship to God and spiritual things had progressed beyond the limited, crystallized teachings of Christianity; and the church with its divided and limited theological program found itself in the embarrassing position of either modifying its dictates—which it claimed to be divinely revealed and divinely fixed—or suffering the attacks of those who wanted to expand the teachings to a degree more progressive and more far-reaching. We all know what occurred in this regard: The so-called Reformation was an attempt to bring certain reforms and changes into Christian dogmas and creeds, not into the original teachings of Jesus. The result was the formation of a new church or Christian sect called Protestants. These Protestants have continually extended and expanded their program in attempting to meet man's growing evolution, but they have kept behind man's evolution rather than ahead of it, only making their expansions and modifications after the majority of their followers had forced them to do so, and had reached the limits of the narrow confines of their dogmas. The mother church, the Roman Catholic Church, on the other hand, also modified its teachings constantly in an attempt to keep abreast of man's advanced thinking and unfoldment, but it, too, only succeeded in being behind instead of ahead of man's broader vision.

This is shown by the manner in which these two great branches of Christianity hold congresses and conventions from time to time to modify their dogmas, doctrines, rules, and regulations, and their interpretations of the teachings of Jesus. Many years ago they condemned dancing and many forms of popular enjoyment which they have in recent years permitted. They have changed their viewpoint in regard to marriage and divorce, the spiritual nature of woman, and her political and civic freedom. Some of their ways revealed their desire to save the Christian religion from becoming antiquated by its adherence to interpretations that fitted the consciousness of man centuries ago but do not fit it today. The enormous and startling advancement that has been made in the thinking and



understanding of the youth of the present generation throughout the world has become a serious problem, for it means taking another step forward greater than any taken in the past. This new and rising generation is almost like a new race of human beings with a more universal viewpoint than any generation of men and women in the past. Their greater education means they have a greater personal power. Misdirected, it can menace the security of future society.

Some of the ancient religions, especially the Jewish, Islamic, and Buddhist, have remained so fixed in their early traditions, dogmas, creeds, and interpretations that they hardly met the evolving consciousness of man of the tenth century, much less that of the twentieth century, and among the Jewish people there has developed a progressive branch that has greatly modified the ancient Jewish teachings in order to meet modern conditions.

The Rosicrucians, although neither a church nor a religion, have constantly evolved their doctrinal and other teachings from year to year, period to period, and cycle to cycle, always maintaining an advanced position, rather than a contemporary one. Through constant additions of the newest scientific discoveries in Rosicrucian laboratories, or the newest Cosmic revelations coming from the experiences of thousands of advanced mystics and members of other Hierarchies in past years, and through the study of charts and diagrams of the trends and tendencies of human evolution, the Rosicrucian Order has been able to foresee and anticipate the needs of evolving man, and prepare him to step out of the rank and file of mankind and move ahead of the mass, as a pioneer and leader, especially in matters of psychic, spiritual, mental, and inner unfoldment.

This is what you of the Hierarchy are to assist in doing in the future work of the Order, not only in America but in all parts of the world, for the recommendations, suggestions, and helps that you will give to the organization will be reported and transmitted to the other Hierarchies in other parts of the world, just as the Western world receives the benefits of considerations and recommendations of other Hierarchies.

In addition to all of this work that will rest upon you as a group, you will be in attunement with another great Hierarchy that is the counterpart of yourself. This is the Cosmic Hierarchy, or that which is described by the first definition contained in Webster's Dictionary as "a rank or order of holy beings, especially one of the nine orders of the heavenly host."

Many times in our monographs and rituals, sometimes in our prayers and adorations for concentrating, reference has been made to the "Heavenly Hosts," or to the "Cosmic Hosts." This great spiritual Hierarchy is composed of the Great Invisible Masters. In one of my talks with one of the Great Masters of



the Order in the East, I took occasion to ask why these Masters were often referred to as Invisible Masters, Invisible Host, or Invisible Hierarchy. He said it was because they functioned primarily on the psychic or Cosmic plane, and that they were called great because their field of activity was greater in extent, so great, in fact, that it encircled the earth, rather than being limited to any section or jurisdiction in the world. He said it was not meant to imply that the Masters were "great" in a personal sense but merely that their influence was great as compared to the masters associated with earthly branches of the Order where activities were limited to the districts or parts of the world in which they function. He also said this Invisible Hierarchy was called invisible because it had no physical organization that might be sensed with the physical senses, but that it could be sensed in a psychic, or spiritual manner. He said, further, that the word invisible did not refer to individual members of the Hierarchy, but to the Hierarchy as an organization, for it did not have a physical body like that to which you and I belong in this jurisdiction of the Order.

In regard to the Heavenly Hosts, and the nine orders of the spiritual section of the Hierarchy, I want to give you some very interesting and surprising facts. If you have not sensed any of these facts before, they may be surprising to you; but if you have sensed them, they will still be interesting, because they will be presented in a new light and in a new way. This will be the subject of my next talk with you, but during the coming week I want you to realize the significance of your association with the physical Hierarchy, and your attunement with the Invisible Hierarchy to which you will be introduced. This should give you much to meditate upon and to feel in a spiritual sense as a revelation, and as a holy endowment that is coming to you like a divine heritage.

Therefore, I bring my present talk with you to a close at this critical point so that you may reread this lesson. Take one paragraph of it at a time and concentrate upon it so that you will be prepared to grasp the great mystical truths that will begin to unfold to you in the next monograph. In fact, the next talk will not be clear to you and you will miss some of its most important points for many weeks to come, if you do not carefully reread this present monograph several times this week. Do it right now while you have the lesson in your hands and, if you can do so, after reading one or two paragraphs put out the lights in your room and sit in silence and darkness, meditating upon the paragraphs you have just read, visualizing them and the picture they present before reading the next two paragraphs. In some parts one paragraph alone will be worthy of five or ten minutes' meditation in the darkness and silence.



May Peace Profound abide with each of you.

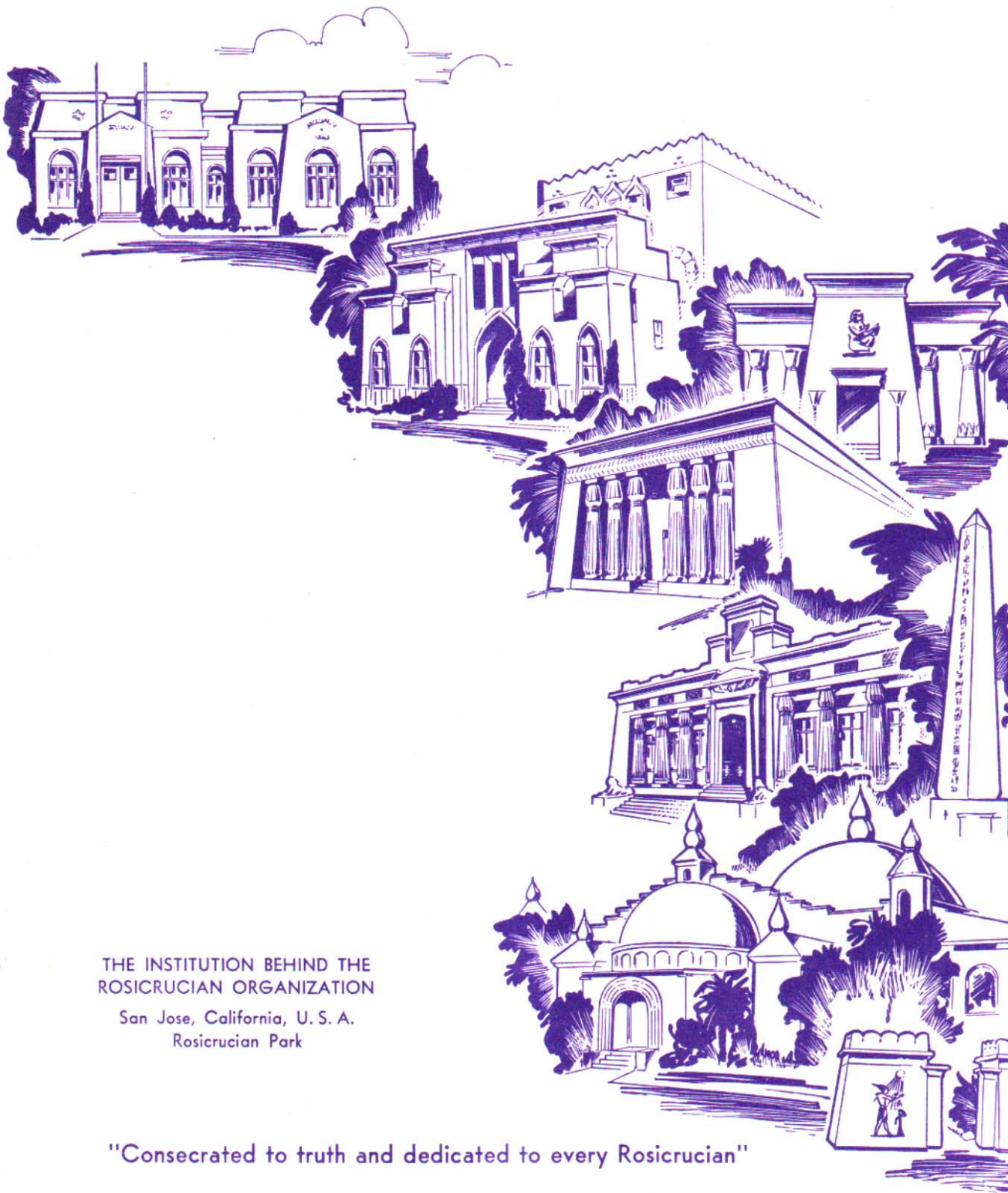
Fraternally, YOUR CLASS MASTER

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 word *hierarchy*—derived from two Greek words, *hieros* (sacred) and *archos* (ruler)—has two specific meanings so far as Rosicrucians are concerned.
- ¶ The first meaning is that of “a rank or order of holy beings, especially one of the nine orders of the heavenly host.” Of this we shall learn later.
- ¶ The second meaning is “a body of officials disposed organically in ranks and orders.” Thus a group of persons constituting a body of directive or controlling power is considered a hierarchy.
- ¶ The members of the Twelfth Degree constitute such a body, being specially trained, and forming a circle of advanced members from whom the Emperor and the Supreme Grand Lodge may expect certain help and advice.
- ¶ It is important that this monograph be thoroughly studied and meditated upon in preparation for those to follow.



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