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The Rosicrucian Order

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THE CONCURRENCE

This Week's Consideration of a Famous Opinion



¶ Within the Universal Consciousness exists our divine counterpart—immortal, inseparable, and complete. The soul consciousness with its soul-personality, enriched by the experiences of its many sojourns on the physical plane, is ever one with the Universal Consciousness, seeking always to express itself in our material world through its vehicle, the physical body. The following excerpt concurs with this idea.



Just as all things are in God in essence, and he himself is not that very essence, and yet that essence rules in each essence according to its property; so too is the inner spiritual man an image of the formed word of divine power, and the outer is an image of the inner as an instrument of the inner. Just as the Master must have an instrument with which he does his work, so too is the outer man, consisting of the matter of the earth and the four elements with the outer stars, only an instrument of the inner, with which the inner carves and makes what the immaterial spirit desires.

—JACOB BOEHME, 1575-1624

(From *Mysterium Magnum* or *An Exposition of the First Book of Moses, called Genesis*. Trans. John Sparrow. John M. Watkins, London. Copyright 1924.)

To the Members of the Esoteric Hierarchy, Greetings!

At this time I want to return to our study of the esoteric laws and principles governing man's relation to the higher powers and principles. Some few weeks ago, reference was made to the fact that man's consciousness is ever a part of the universal Cosmic Consciousness, and that when an individual part of it is born into a human being, it is never completely separated from the Universal Consciousness.

A very simple and commonplace analogy will serve to give you my personal understanding of this matter of universal Cosmic Consciousness and man's connection with it: I presume that each of you has seen your mother or grandmother making cookies called gingerbread men. After mixing, the dough was rolled out on a board, and cut out with a tin form into the shape of a man, a star, or a crescent. As each one was cut and lifted out, there was left in the dough a vacant space exactly the same size and form as the cooky. If the cooky were held in the hand for a moment you would notice that there were really two gingerbread men, or two stars or two crescents; one was the actual cooky in the hand, and the other was the empty space of the same shape left in the dough. The hollow space left in the dough was the "counterpart" of the form that had been made; that is, each was the counterpart of the other.

Now my understanding is that the Cosmic Consciousness is like the dough on the board, except that it spreads out everywhere throughout the universe. When a baby is born, and a part of the Cosmic Consciousness enters its little body, it is as though a part of the Cosmic Consciousness had been stamped out and lifted from its universal position, and put into a physical body. It has left in the Cosmic Consciousness a counterpart of itself. According to this idea there is in the universal Divine Consciousness a counterpart of the consciousness of each person living on earth. At transition, when this soul-consciousness is freed from the body, it again returns to its counterpart place in the Cosmic Consciousness and is absorbed or united with the rest of the Cosmic Consciousness so that it cannot be distinguished except by a faint outline around it—this outline being formed by the experiences, memories, and personality of the consciousness. In other words, it is as if the little cooky, after being stamped out of the dough, were fitted again into its place in the dough so perfectly that you could distinguish where it was only by the outline around it.

The mystical literature dealing with this idea in the past states that the consciousness, while in the human body, remains connected to the Universal Consciousness by a natural, esoteric, or divine beam or ray that keeps carrying into the soul in the body some of the wisdom, power, and divinity of the Universal Consciousness. Another simple analogy may help you to understand this: A large magnifying glass held above a sheet of paper in the sunlight



can cause the sunrays passing through the lens to cast a picture of the sun onto the paper. It can make that sunspot so clear and definite that it will gradually begin to burn the paper because of the heat rays focused there.

That sunspot is a counterpart of the sun, and the two suns, the one on the paper and the one in the heavens, are separated by a great distance and are two separate things in a physical, material sense. Yet the rays passing from the greater sun to the smaller one carry some of the power and energy of the universal Cosmic forces. The same is true of the soul of man with its consciousness in the body. Every soul-personality receives rays of the Divine Consciousness, thereby keeping it and the consciousness in man vitalized and charged with the divine, infinite, living vitality, wisdom, and power of the Divine Mind and Consciousness. According to the ancient esoteric teachings—and according to every principle and law that we can test in our experiments—at transition, the soul in man, freed from the body, rises upward through the rays and again is gradually absorbed into its counterpart place in the Consciousness, just as the little sunspot on the paper would rise and travel along the sunrays to the sun and to the power from which it came.

Now think of the magnifying glass as being the Cosmic or esoteric planes of the Cosmic through which the soul and divine energy must pass in order to reach human forms on earth.

Most authorities upon the ancient teachings indicate that there are twelve planes of a psychic nature between the earth and the Cosmic. As said in previous monographs, the ancients were not in agreement on the exact number. Such is not important anyway. However, in my opinion, twelve, for numerous reasons, is most probable. Each of these planes has a very definite function. It is also generally agreed that at least seven of them can be contacted by us from this earth while we are in our physical bodies.

Let me repeat this differently: We shall begin with the premise that there are twelve planes or stages of Soul Cosmic Consciousness. Of these twelve planes, nine have a definite functioning of which we understand a great deal. The remaining ones are of such a high spiritual, infinite nature that we know very little about them and can only sense their true nature after transition. We bring back through each incarnation only a slight remembrance of them. The other nine we know something about, and seven of them we can contact from time to time through the highest esoteric experiments which we may conduct while still living on the earth plane.



A very definite distinction must be made between these planes of consciousness and the other "planes" of which some esoteric schools tell us. They create the impression of a number of "planes" between the earth and spiritual kingdom on

which persons can dwell consciously from time to time and carry on many forms of psychic experience. This confusion and misinformation is due to the fact that in some way individuals have heard that certain so-called psychic planes do exist, but not having been initiated nor properly instructed in esoteric teachings, they have had to guess what the planes really are and what part they play in our lives.

Of over twelve large mystical or fraternal organizations throughout the world, no two agree in their literature in regard to the number of planes, the nature of them, or their purposes. Surely if any of them had derived their knowledge from the proper source, there would be some agreement in their statements. We have told our members in the earlier Degrees to forget what they have heard or read about the planes and to remember that it is only necessary for our students in the lower Degrees, and even up to the Ninth and Tenth Degrees, to think about two planes: the Cosmic plane and the earth plane. In the Cosmic plane we include these other so-called psychic planes to which I have been referring. They are not planes upon which the soul of man can live while in the body, or to which the soul of man journeys after transition and carries on a long period of existence, but are simply divisions of spiritual unfoldment, and therefore entirely different from the planes these other organizations talk about.

The subject is too long to be explained or comprehended in one discourse. Words are difficult things when trying to explain the conditions in the Cosmic world. We have to resort to analogies and similes and comparisons in order to try to create the picture we have in mind. The word planes for these Cosmic divisions is not as good a word as we would like to use. The word sections is better in some respects to describe the divisions of the Cosmic Consciousness that exist between us and the ultimate and highest division, known as the Divine Consciousness of the spiritual kingdom. If you will draw on a piece of paper the size of one of these lesson sheets a horizontal line near the bottom and call that the earth plane, or the surface and atmospheric space of this earth, then draw eleven more lines about three-quarters of an inch apart above this earth plane, you will have the twelve sections of space between the earth and the Divine Consciousness represented by the line at the top.

Each line as a dividing place you would call a "plane," but the space between the lines you would call a division or section. I would rather that you kept in mind the spaces, not the lines. In truth there is no such thing as a definite line between these psychic divisions, for one gradually blends into the other like the colors of the rainbow. In fact, the colors of the rainbow do have a relationship to these twelve divisions, as you will discover sometime from your experiments; and the violet color of the rainbow is at the top and at the bottom of these divisions. In other words, the first division above the earth plane is a dark ultraviolet, and



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then it blends into the next division which is a light reddish-violet; then into red and orange, and yellow, and a yellow-green; then a bright green, and then a blue-green, and then into a brilliant blue. The last divisions blend from the bright blue into a purple-blue, and then into the division again of a violet that is a very brilliant ultraviolet. That is the highest of the divisions.

Now the soul and consciousness of man in coming to earth for each incarnation must pass through these divisions. How long this takes, or how long the soul journeys downward through these divisions in reaching a body at birth is not definitely known. But the return from earth to the Divine Consciousness again is known fairly well. During the first nine divisions above the earth, contacts can be made with the soul, and through these contacts we can learn of the experiences the soul is having in returning to the original Divine Source.

We have not learned so much about the three highest divisions, for then the soul seems to be difficult to contact from this earth; and its experiences are so sublime that they cannot be translated into our earthly understanding.

Visualize all of this, if you will, or draw it out on paper and use it for meditation during the coming week. It will help in your contacts with the Cathedral of the Soul, projection work, or contact with the Masters or contacts they make with you. You will then be able to understand why certain colors appear in connection with the visions or the presence of Masters. All of this I will deal with further in our next talk, but you have an excellent opportunity now to learn of some of these facts through the esoteric methods in a far better way than words can describe them to you. So do not fail to spend a number of evenings the coming week in short periods of meditation upon this subject.

May Peace Profound abide with each of you.

Fraternally,

YOUR CLASS MASTER

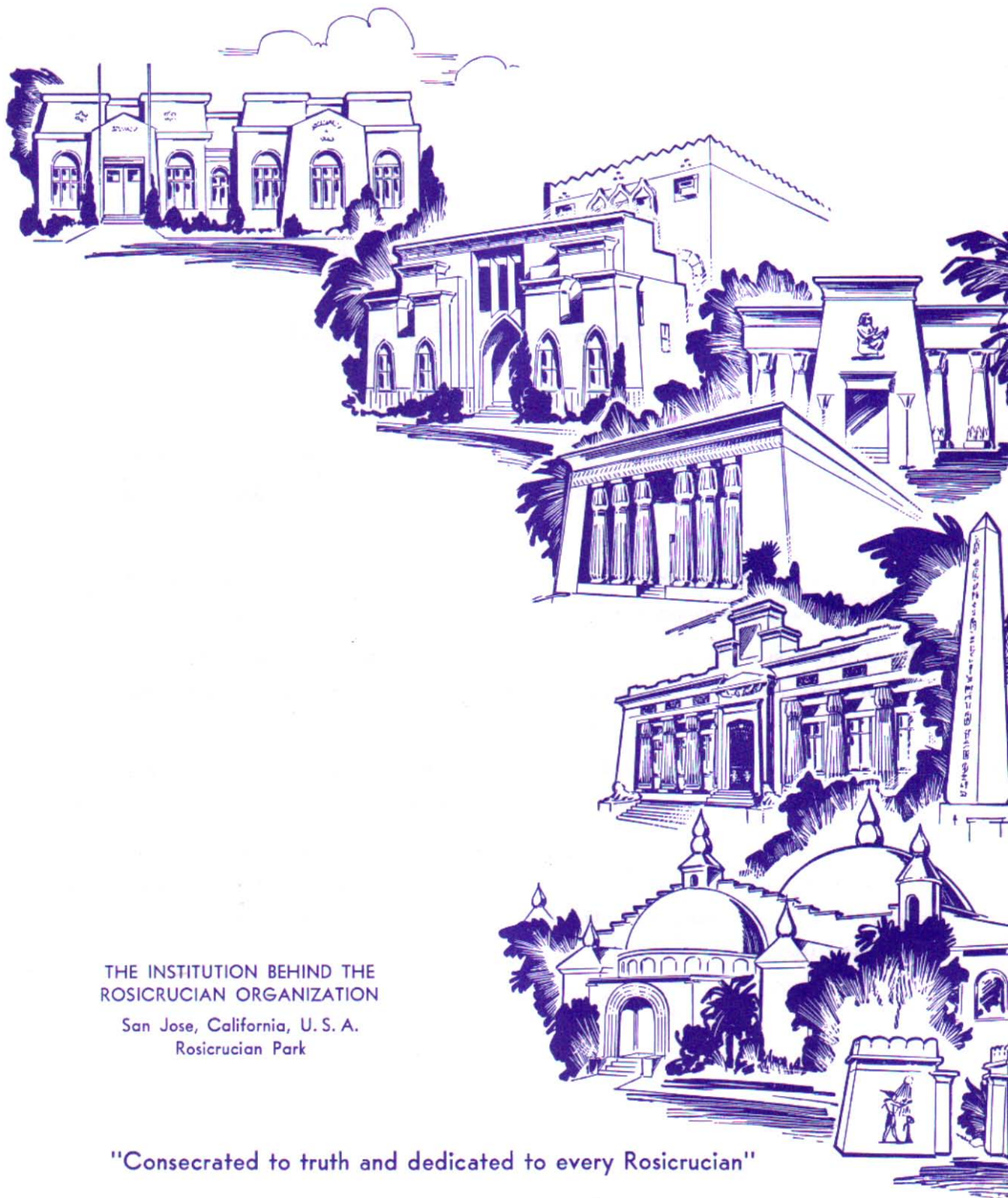


Summary of This Monograph



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.

- ¶ A counterpart of the consciousness of every person living on earth exists in the universal Cosmic Consciousness, of which man is always an inseparable part.
- ¶ At transition man's soul-consciousness, distinguishable only by its personality which has been formed by experience, returns to its place to be reabsorbed and united with the Cosmic Consciousness.
- ¶ There are twelve planes of a psychic nature between the earth and the Cosmic, seven at least of which can be contacted from the earth plane.
- ¶ Little is known concerning the passage of the soul-consciousness through these psychic planes to earth, but a great deal has been learned about the return from earth to the Divine Consciousness. The three highest divisions, however, are difficult to contact from the earth plane.



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