



A M O R C

The Rosicrucian Order

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THE CONCURRENCE

This Week's Consideration of a Famous Opinion



¶ The Teachings of Paul reveal much to the mystic that is not apparent to and could not be understood by the materialist or even by one who is purely a religionist. His familiarity with the esoteric principles and teachings of the Mystery Schools is quite obvious to the initiate in the following allusion to the Cosmic planes and concurs with the teachings of this monograph:



. . . I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.

I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)

How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

—The Bible, II Corinthians 12:1-4
King James Version

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To the Members of the Esoteric Hierarchy, Greetings!

Let us take one more step now in our understanding of the various Cosmic planes or Cosmic divisions of the Universal and Divine Consciousness with which our highest esoteric principles have to deal.

I wonder how many of you realized while reading the last monograph that there is a very definite similarity between the divisions of the Cosmic Consciousness and the Degrees of our Order? I remember the first time that this relationship dawned upon me. I was studying these principles while on a boat far out from land on the high seas with a vast expanse of sea and sky in front of me just before sunset, and as I read and interpreted each brief paragraph of the old manuscript that I had with me, I would concentrate upon each thought and look out at the great expanse of the sky and try to visualize the esoteric principles involved. I used to like to think at such times that the clouds moving in the sky and forming themselves into different shapes sometimes tried to build up a picture or form that represented the thought I was meditating upon. Of course, that was merely my imagination at work but it helped me to keep my mind attuned with the great Cosmic space and I seemed to be drawn toward it and lifted up into it. Then the idea came to me that whoever it was, as an individual or group of individuals, that outlined the various Degrees and forms of progress through our teachings in the ancient days must have tried to symbolize the various divisions of the Cosmic Consciousness by the divisions and Degrees of our grades of study.

You know now, being in the Twelfth Degree, that there are twelve divisions of our studies, but only nine of these are publicly and popularly known, and the three highest ones beginning with the Tenth are separated from the other nine as being entirely esoteric and above and beyond the material Degree of the Order. The same is true in regard to these divisions of the Cosmic Consciousness. In the last monograph I told you that there are twelve such planes or divisions and that nine of them we can contact from our material position here on earth and with our material mind and ways of living by reaching up to them. And I also said that there are three other planes or divisions that we know little about and that seem to be veiled or concealed from us and that we can only learn about them after we reach them. I trust now that you see the similarity between these divisions of the Cosmic Consciousness and the Degrees of our Order. I also said to you last week that of the nine divisions or planes which we can reach, seven of them are the most familiar and the most easily contacted. That is also true of the first seven Degrees of our Order.

From your previous study of the Celestial Hierarchy, you will recall that this Hierarchy or section of the Cosmic government is divided into nine divisions having triads of three divisions each. If you have forgotten these details it would



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be well for you to go back eight or ten of the monographs of the Degree and review these points. You will recall that when this Celestial Hierarchy was being described to you, I asked you particularly to take a paragraph at a time as you read it in your sanctum and read it a second time, and then close your eyes and meditate upon it until you could form a picture of it and thereby register it visibly in your mind. If you did that, you will have no trouble in recalling what the details were of the Celestial Hierarchy and its groups of Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, etc., and ending with Archangels and Angels. But here again there is a similarity with the Degrees of our Order. Each three Degrees of the Order represents one journey around the sacred triangle, constituting a triad and a definite division of the study of the teachings. The first three Degrees of the Postulant Temple monographs constitute the first temple journey around the triangle. From the fourth to the sixth Degree constitutes a second journey around the triangle, a little higher than the first journey but constituting a separate division and group of studies. Beginning with the Seventh and continuing through the Ninth you go around the triangle a third time, this time higher and above the other two journeys for you deal with the higher metaphysical principles. So your journey in the studies takes you three times around the triangle or three times around the three points, making nine points in all.

Thus you see your progress through the teachings is an earthly representation of your psychic progress through the Cosmic. While you are physically, and especially mentally and intellectually, journeying around the triangle and through the first Nine Degrees of the Order, you are psychically and inwardly going through the first nine divisions or planes of Cosmic Consciousness. After you enter the Tenth Degree, you begin to attune yourself psychically and spiritually with the three highest divisions of the Cosmic Consciousness for which there are no earthly or temple initiation rituals and no earthly forms. Your real realization of the journey through the three highest divisions will be only after you have completed the Twelfth Degree that you are now in, and after you have attuned yourself with the highest principles of the Cosmic. Your greatest benefit, however, in these three highest divisions of the Cosmic Consciousness will be after your transition.

Now the reason for this is that while you are still living here on the earth plane and with a soul and divine consciousness in your body attuned with the Cosmic Consciousness and with the Celestial Hierarchy and the visible and invisible Masters, you can unfold inwardly and psychically only in accordance with the first nine Degrees. Then during the last three degrees of the Tenth, Eleventh, and Twelfth your soul and psychic centers become attuned with the three highest divisions of the Cosmic Consciousness, but complete attunement with them is possible only after transition. When transition comes, your soul experiences and unfoldment begin in



these last three divisions of the Cosmic Consciousness and before you reincarnate again you will dwell in these three divisions and learn the marvelous wisdom contained in them and be purified and unfolded according to the power of those three last divisions. A person who may have incarnated several times nevertheless cannot have full attunement with the three highest divisions of the Cosmic Consciousness until he passes through transition. However, because of his several incarnations and consequent development of the soul-personality, his attunement with the three highest divisions of the Cosmic Consciousness will come about more rapidly.

Persons who do not attempt any psychic unfoldment or development here on earth by proper study, proper concentration, meditation, and experimentation, practice, and test, have all of this to go through after transition. Such persons—usually the ones who lead coarse, vulgar, illiterate, uncouth, immoral, or unmoral lives here on earth, but who at the time of transition, or just before it comes, seek for upliftment and unfoldment—pass from transition into the first division of the Cosmic Consciousness which is equal to the first Degree of our Order's teachings. Then they must spend years of time in each one of those nine divisions of the Cosmic Consciousness before they can become qualified and purified and intellectually prepared to go into the last three divisions.

Sometimes between incarnations some persons get only as far as the first or second division of the Cosmic—equal to the first and second Degrees of our work—and then after living on earth a long time and passing through transition again, they go into the third or fourth division, or maybe only through the third. After spending many years in just that division, they would reincarnate again and come back to earth. If during that time, they turn their backs upon the little advancement they have made and live immoral, sinful, destructive lives, they do not undo all of the progress they have made, but they check any further development for the time being. They remain in status quo, and, in a sense, one may say that their life during that entire incarnation is wasted as far as the evolution of their soul-personality or development is concerned.

It is seldom that anyone goes through more than two or three divisions of the Cosmic between transition and the next incarnation. With the average person, it takes many incarnations to pass through the first nine divisions of the Cosmic Consciousness. The only exception is when one takes up some of the studies and practices here during one's earthly life. Think of it! It is possible for a person to enter our Order and in one incarnation master the first nine divisions of the Cosmic in ten, twelve, or less years by living rightly, and adhering to the Rosicrucian or Cosmic principles. Through his own efforts in several incarnations, but perhaps not through consistent study, he might gradually acquire consider-



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able inner development, but, perhaps, not sufficient to master the nine divisions of the Cosmic. If, however, he contacts the Rosicrucian principles and teachings, his efforts are put in a direct channel for the full use of the inner faculties and powers, and consequently in one incarnation, he can go much further than he would on his own in many incarnations. One who gives no thought to study and self-unfoldment and upliftment while here on earth, and depends solely upon the spiritual unfoldment after transition, takes many incarnations and many cycles of years to attain and finish the full first nine divisions of the Cosmic Consciousness. That is one reason why the Masters and all who know these principles urge the seeker for unfoldment to associate himself with other mystics here on earth in the study and application of these principles.

I do not want to imply that the Rosicrucian Order and its teachings constitute the only royal road to attainment of Cosmic Consciousness. I hope no Rosicrucian will ever express such an intolerant and unfair attitude. No matter how greatly we praise the Rosicrucian work as the most ideal or the most simple and satisfying, we should never forget that there are other ways. Some of them may take longer, may not be so complete; and some may have developed a way that is even better. We do know that in the past hundreds of years Rosicrucianism has constantly added to its system and methods the good features of scientists, mystics, and advanced leaders of various ages and countries.

The method pointed out by Jesus as "The Way" is another process for spiritual unfoldment and attunement. This method was for the mass of people and for those not given to definite study and systematic practice. Devout Christians, following the simple teachings of Jesus, undoubtedly obtain a high degree of this Cosmic Consciousness, unfoldment, and advancement during their lives here on earth; yet the Rosicrucian teachings would help them to make even greater progress. One having the proper inner development, being a simple, devout Christian, might through the Rosicrucian teachings attain the whole nine divisions of Cosmic Consciousness in one incarnation. When the Christian religion instituted the various brotherhoods where devout individuals could spend their lives in solitude, prayer, and meditation, it was with the intention of making the simple Christian way more intensive so that those who wanted to do so could advance faster and to a higher degree than those simply living the Christian life in a moral sense. The Rosicrucian method, nevertheless, is faster even than all of these —although that does not make it the only way.

This will give you much to think about, analyze, and to develop in your practices during your periods of concentration. Next week I shall outline further this scheme of unfoldment.



May Peace Profound abide with each of you.

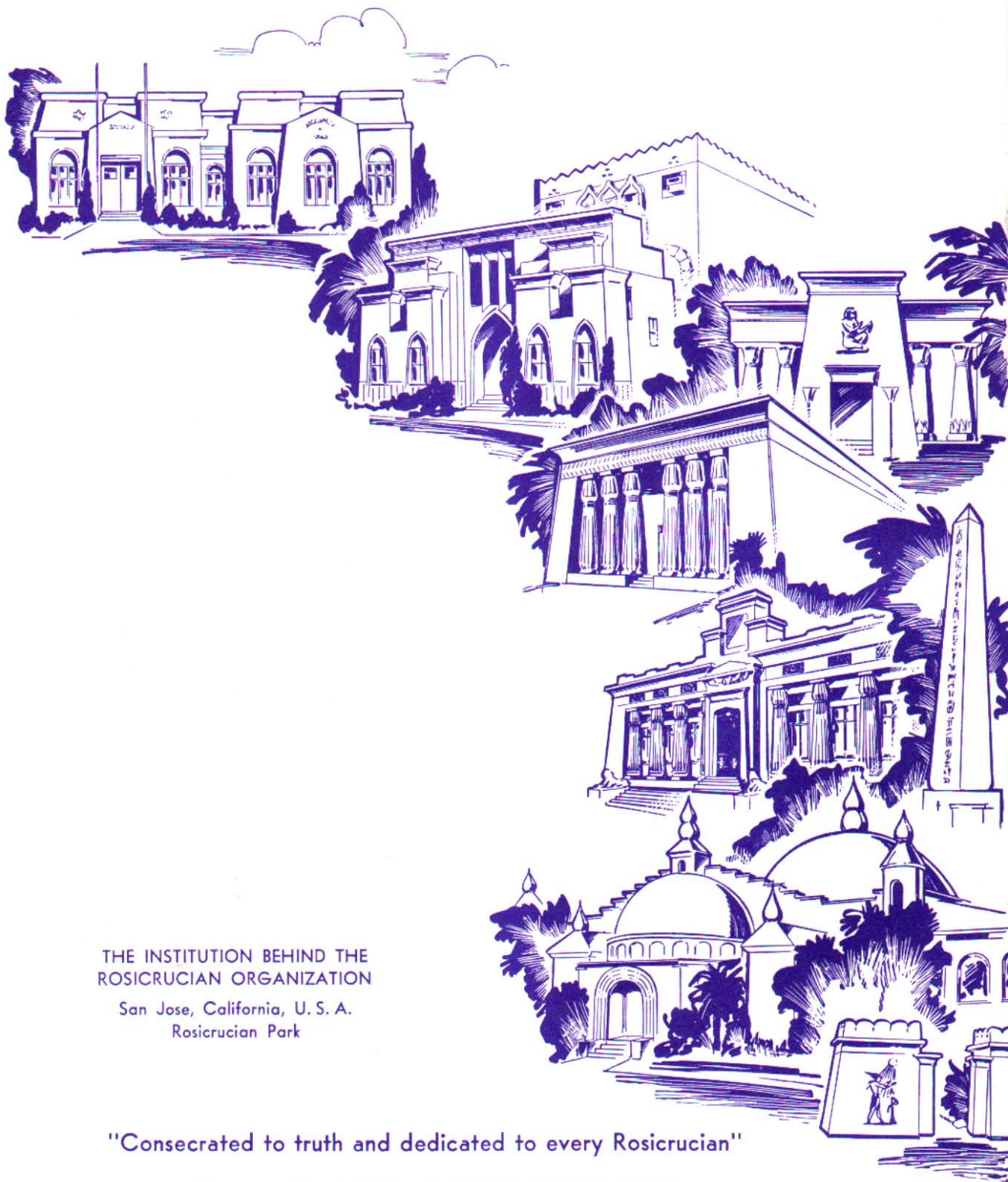
Fraternally, YOUR CLASS MASTER

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.

- ¶ Progress through the Degrees of the teachings is an earthly representation of psychic progress through the Cosmic.
- ¶ Of the twelve divisions in our studies, only nine are publicly known, three of them being separate and entirely esoteric. Likewise, of the twelve divisions of the Cosmic Consciousness, the three highest remain concealed from us, while nine of them may be reached from the earth plane; although, as in the Degrees of our Order, the first seven are the most familiar and easily contacted.
- ¶ In the last three Degrees of the studies, attunement is begun with the three highest planes of Cosmic Consciousness, but complete attunement is possible only after transition.
- ¶ Psychic progress through the nine divisions of the Cosmic Consciousness is made faster by the Rosicrucian method, but it is not the only process for spiritual unfoldment and attunement.



THE INSTITUTION BEHIND THE
ROSIKRUCIAN ORGANIZATION

San Jose, California, U. S. A.
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