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THE CONCURRENCE

This Week's Consideration of a Famous Opinion



¶ Of preeminent importance was the role of the Priest-Astrologer in the lives and affairs of people of ancient civilizations, for the influences of the sun, moon and planets upon the life of man has been recognized from earliest times. Only relatively recently have these influences been minimized, but gradually with the advance



of science they are again receiving recognition. It should not be too many years before medical science will concur with Hippocrates, renowned Greek physician, who wrote:

For knowing the changes of the seasons; and the risings and settings of the stars, with the circumstances of each of these phenomena, he will know beforehand the nature of the year that is coming. Through these considerations and by learning the times beforehand, he will have full knowledge of each particular case, will succeed best in securing health, and will achieve the greatest triumphs in the practice of his art. If it be thought that all this belongs to meteorology, he will find out, on second thoughts, that the contribution of astronomy to medicine is not a very small one but a very great one indeed.

—HIPPOCRATES, 460-377 B.C.

(From *Hippocrates*, Vol. 1, The Loeb Classical Library. Translated by W. H. S. Jones.
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To the Members of the Esoteric Hierarchy, Greetings!

Up to the present, I have touched upon the influence of the sun and attuning ourselves with the sun by finding, first of all, the right musical note or pitch to hum in order to attune the aura around us with the proper vibrations that unite us physically with the Cosmic. By picking the right day of the week as our sun-day (as explained in the last lesson) we pick a day when the vitality of the universe makes our bodies physically and mentally harmonious with the Cosmic, but especially physically. We still must take into consideration the influences of the moon and the other planets.

The moon's emanations affect our minds in a rational and psychic sense. The planets Neptune and Uranus, however, have the greatest effect upon the mental side of our psychic natures. The moon has its greatest effect upon the brain and the spinal nervous system while Neptune and Uranus have a greater effect upon the sympathetic nervous system and the psychic centers and plexuses of the psychic body within us. Mercury, on the other hand, seems to have an effect upon the clearness of our brain activities in regard to thinking and the necessary nerve impulse and energy for doing purely mental, nervous work. The effect of Mars is upon the vitality of the constitutional health, assisting the sun's radiations in certain ways and modifying the sun's radiations in others. Venus' effects are emotional causing a longing for music, a desire for paintings, art, sculpture. Jupiter's vibrations affect the emotions also and the brain activities, causing us to sense Cosmic impressions that urge us to noble and good things and to happy strong characters.

Saturn's vibrations tend to make us serious-minded, to weigh all evidence and judge things carefully; to be mindful of our obligations and duties and to overcome evil. Often Saturn is looked upon as a planet of evil influences, some persons attributing all their misfortune and evil deeds to its influence. It is true that Saturn's influences often tempt us to something wrong, or at least offer an opportunity to act dishonestly, unkindly, or insincerely. The real purpose of this, however, is to give us an opportunity to decide between the right and wrong and to choose our way "between light and darkness," as our Temple ritual of the First Degree initiation ceremony states. It is as though Saturn, like a serious judge, stood before us, pointing to opposite doorways: one leading to the pleasures of the flesh, to sin and evil and temptations of all kinds; the other leading up the mountainside—a long, tedious, narrow pathway not lined with scintillating, glimmering frivolities of life. We stand before Saturn and are commanded to choose our way. We know how many quickly and willingly choose the way of evil simply because it offers immediate, transient, changing excitement and rewards of the flesh without effort. But each time we face Saturn's influence and choose the right way, we gain in character, and lift ourselves



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another evolutionary step. This is very different to the retrogression made by those who choose the opposite way.

Neptune gives marvelous visions at times while we are asleep or awake. It leads us to dwell on the magnificent, invisible things of worlds beyond. It fills us with a strange feeling that we are not what we seem to be, that we are better and greater and that there is something in and around us that we have not discovered. All of us feel Neptune's influences and either listen to them or make ourselves hard and cold against them. Uranus, on the other hand, causes us to seek something different. Uranus has urged man to dig deeply into the earth to discover what is beneath the surface, to go to the bottom of oceans, open caves and tunnels, blast away mountains, dig deep mines, or fly in the air, or to look through telescopes at hidden worlds.

Uranus is practical, while Neptune cares nothing for practical ends. Neptune creates imaginary worlds, gilded and beautiful, that cause us to give no thought at all to such a world's actuality so long as we can enjoy it spiritually and mentally. Uranus, on the other hand, wants to be practical. The person influenced by Uranus does not want to tunnel into the earth or lift himself to the sky unless scientific knowledge is to be gained or something really discovered that is of material and worldly benefit. He is not selfish and mercenary, but practical. In mysticism, or through training, the influences of both Uranus and Neptune are sensed and acted upon in unison so that while the mystic is sailing through the great heights of dreamland with the influence and help of Neptune, he allows himself to be guided somewhat by the practical side of Uranus.

So much for an introduction to the story of the planets and their influence. Contacting these influences more definitely and attuning yourself with them, you can begin to play the chords of life. Before I outline the ways in which these various astral influences may be of individual benefit, I think it well to call attention to the points covered thus far in this interesting branch of our studies.

Going back a little in our monographs, you were advised to experiment to determine in which position a bed should be placed for the most restful sleep. Many find that they sleep more restfully and with greater tonic effect when their beds are in one position instead of another. This brought to our attention the fact that there are certain earth or magnetic currents of great importance flowing through and slightly above the earth. The mystics, and especially the Rosicrucians, knew about these magnetic currents for centuries even though science had given no recognition to such magnetism. Before the close of 1934, however, science did note that certain magnetic currents and crosscurrents passing through the earth or just above the surface affect all living matter. The study of Cosmic rays and the atmosphere above our regular atmosphere



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brought to light the fact that the earth and these radiations set up certain magnetic conditions in the earth itself. These magnetic currents in the earth are continually affected by Cosmic emanations; therefore man is affected by two magnetic fields—the one under him, and the other above him, charging the atmosphere which he breathes with certain energies and powers that affect him each minute of the day.

In the past few months we have been dealing with various astral magnetic influences that affect man's life, health, and general nature in various ways. You will recall from your Fourth Degree studies the importance of Nous and the vitality that emanates from the sun toward the earth. Since then, you have had the sun presented in connection with other effects, such as the periods of the week and in regard to sun-bathing and the magnetic conditions of the sun. You have also had the moon's influences outlined, the Cosmic ray emanations and the earth's magnetic cross-rays. Looking at man from the point of view of all these subjects, we see that he is much like a target surrounded by and affected by the shafts of power, energy, and other influences directed toward him. It really puts each individual being in the center of a strange universe. Little wonder, then, that man has to struggle and fight for the maintenance of his individual nature and the development of his character, as well as the realization of his ambitions and desires because he is not left alone in the pure state in any moment after being born. Before birth, he is influenced greatly in his physical, chemical nature by the health and mental attitude of the mother. But the moment he is born and breathes the first breath of life, he becomes much like a cork floating on a rippling surface of water. Every little wind that blows, every wave or ripple, affects him and causes him to move this way and that way.

Without the creative power of divinity placed in living creatures, man would certainly be moved aimlessly by all the capricious winds that blow. Throughout the world today millions of human beings are like helpless boats upon the water—without rudder or captain; in fact, even worse, with no realization of being rudderless and captainless. But the creative, divine mind in man is paramount to everything else. It is man's one saving grace that distinguishes him from all other living things and makes him in his high evolution a living image of God. Think what man would be if he had to obey and follow all of the eternal impulses that came to him. Suppose he did not have the ability to study and analyze the magnetic effects upon him of the earth or Cosmic radiations, and could not willfully go out in the sun or could not determine which are his best days and do things accordingly. Suppose, too, that man could not in any way attempt to overcome or modify the influences that affect his life! Man would then be an automaton. Nowadays much is heard about robots—mechanical "beings" that work wholly by electricity—having no will power, mind power, or anything. There are millions of humans much like robots. The one outstanding thing that differen-



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tiates the mystic, the philosopher, and the successful person in life is this ability to use mind power and will power.

Man cannot neutralize or negate the esoteric, arcane, mystical, Cosmic influences that affect his life. You may as well get that point into your consciousness definitely and completely now. Some schools of mystical thought teach that man can use affirmations or will power and do with his life exactly what he wants. This is absurd. It leads to difficulties and inconsistencies. Even the very teachers who advance such ideas about man's omnipotent powers also say that each of us has a definite mission to perform in life. If man could use his will and mental powers so perfectly and completely that every influence and tendency could be mastered, there are few who could adhere to all of the right influences and a great many who would never fulfill their real missions in life. It is absolutely absurd to contend that a man without any love for music or any ability for music, and who has never received any Cosmic inspiration or tendency toward music through birth or through astral influences, can suddenly make up his mind that he is going to be a musician and through the use of will power and affirmations change himself from a good mechanic to a good musician. There may be men who are good mechanics even though they have certain abilities for music, but the person absolutely devoid of music appreciation cannot make himself a musician merely by exercising his will power. We cannot make something out of nothing entirely through our will power.

On the other hand, a large portion of the strange influences that affect our lives are such that they can be modified and their influence upon us redirected. Long experience with the problems of our members, has indicated that the average person wrongly interprets the influences that are affecting him; therefore he does not direct these influences into right channels. What will make the student of these higher Degrees more successful in life than anything else will be not an attempt to shield himself against the earthly and Cosmic influences that affect him nor to negate any of them, but rather to use and apply them constructively. Even those tendencies in human nature that appear to be weaknesses and evils may be put to good use and become strong points in the life of the individual. This is truly the art of transmutation. The man who finds that he is not doing the right work in life and modifies the tendencies, so as to change the nature of the work, is really transmuting something from one nature to another. Transmutation does not mean the making of something out of nothing.

In my next talk with you, I will deal with the direct application of some esoteric principles in connection with the remoulding and changing of some features of our daily lives.



May Peace Profound abide with each of you.

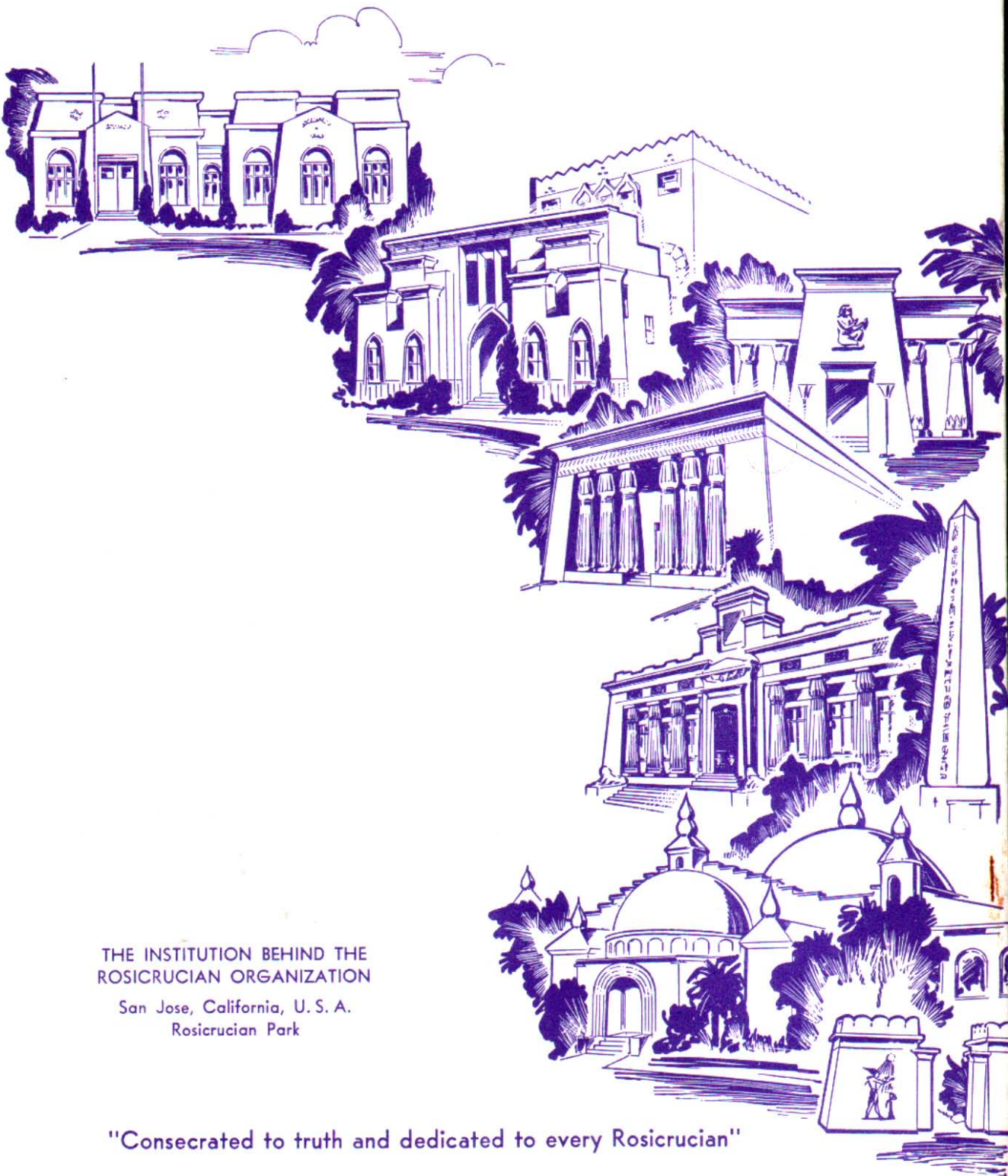
Fraternally, YOUR CLASS MASTER

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.

- ¶ In addition to attuning ourselves with the sun's influences by using our right musical note and ascertaining which day of the week is our sun-day, we must take into consideration the influences of the moon and the other planets.
- ¶ The moon's greatest effect is upon the brain and spinal nervous system.
- ¶ Neptune affects the mental side of our psychic natures, encouraging visions, and awareness of beautiful invisible worlds beyond.
- ¶ Uranus likewise affects the mental side of our psychic natures, but in a practical way.
- ¶ Mercury affects the clearness of our brain activities, while Mars affects the health and vitality, in certain ways assisting and modifying the sun's radiations.
- ¶ Saturn presents opportunities for choosing our course of action—for deciding between right and wrong, or "between light and darkness."
- ¶ By briefly reviewing monographs of the past weeks, we realize that man is subjected to many influences. It is the purpose of these higher Degrees to show how these influences may be modified and redirected.



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