



The Rosicrucian Order

MASTER MONOGRAPH

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THE CONCURRENCE

This Week's Consideration of a Famous Opinion



¶ The idea that man is capable of transcending his finite self and becoming one with the infinite had no supporter more ardent than Plotinus, the Alexandrian, who sought to restore the ancient truths lost or distorted by time. The following quotation, in conjunction with this week's exercise, is well worth our careful consideration.



The wise man recognizes the idea of the Good within him. This he develops by withdrawal into the Holy Place of his own soul. He who does not understand how the soul contains the Beautiful within itself; seeks to realize beauty without, by laborious production. His aim should rather be to concentrate and simplify, and so to expand his being; instead of going out into the Manifold, to forsake it for the One, and so to float upwards towards the divine fount of being whose stream floats within him.

You ask, how can we know the Infinite? I answer, not by reason You can only apprehend the Infinite by a faculty superior to reason, by entering into a state in which you are your finite self no longer, in which the Divine Essence is communicated to you.

—PLOTINUS, A.D. 204-270

To the Members of the Esoteric Hierarchy, Greetings!

It has been pointed out to you recently that there are certain days in the month when some of the astral influences brought about by the moon's cycle are more fortunate for certain things. These fortunate days, however, will actually become fortunate only if constructive and fortunate things are planned for and expected on those fortunate days. Our life is certainly in our hands to mould as we will, but nevertheless, we still have the same clay to deal with that we always had.

We may go into a sculptor's studio and see him with a large mass of clay before him, and we may note that he is moulding it into the likeness of an evil creature. The clay is his most valued asset and he has the power, mentality, the understanding to mould it into one thing or another. The way to correct the sculptor's "evil" work is not to discard the clay nor to deny the sculptor the use of his talents as an artist, but to take that clay, and with that ability and artistic skill make something more helpful, more inspiring, more beautiful.

Our own bodies are like the clay in the sculptor's hands; so are our lives. We can mould them as we choose, but we cannot cast them completely aside. We cannot accomplish anything by merely sitting down and concentrating on what we would do or what we would be. We must see to it that each thing we do, each act, each expression of ourselves conforms to the ideal picture we have in mind. We must take advantage of the fortunate influences of the heavens and the fortunate moon periods and sun periods to do those fortunate, constructive, uplifting, and inspiring things.

It is not a simple matter, and it cannot be said that all you have to do is to think of self in an ideal picture and have this ideal picture materialize. Many tendencies that are misdirected and have become weaknesses can easily be modified or redirected into another channel so that they will strengthen our character and make us more proficient, even though we are still enlarging upon the tendencies that were previously unfortunate.

Most of the members of this class are eager to go on with the esoteric exercises, applying some of the principles we have been dealing with recently. For the coming week, there is a simple but very important exercise that will produce very interesting results, and lay the foundation as well for some further exercises that are to follow. Do not judge its importance by the fact that few words are needed to tell you about it, or that it is not accompanied by a long discourse on associated principles. Sometimes the briefest formula in chemistry or physics will produce the most marvelous results.



You are all familiar with the important mental and psychic conditions known as the borderline state. It is the state in which the subconscious or psychic consciousness is evenly bal-

anced with some degree of the objective consciousness so that there is an interchange or exchange of ideas and impressions. Some wonderful and most impressive experiences in the way of visions, telepathic communications, or sensing the thoughts of Masters with whom we are attuned occur in this so-called borderline state.

Very often an outstanding or unusual psychic experience at night awakens us partially and we then enter the borderline state where the objective consciousness receives impressions from the subconscious or psychic consciousness. In this state we are able to remember in the morning the things that occurred during our psychic experience.

The following exercise which you are to practice will help you easily and quickly to reach the borderline state for a few minutes. The best time in the day to practice this is early in the morning when you first awaken.

If you are accustomed to being awakened by an alarm, or by someone calling you, arrange it so that beginning tomorrow morning you will be awakened or called about ten minutes earlier than you have been accustomed to being awakened. Either set the alarm a little earlier or instruct someone to call you ten minutes earlier. If you do use an alarm and no one calls you, make up your mind when you go to bed that you are going to awaken about ten minutes earlier than heretofore. If you are not obliged to awaken and arise at any definite minute, but can always spend a few minutes longer in bed if you desire, then there is no need for you to change the moment of your awakening.

The idea is that beginning tomorrow morning, instead of getting out of bed and following your customary morning procedure, think for a moment of going on or into the borderline state of consciousness. Allow yourself to go back to sleep or nearly asleep for about ten minutes. First you must come to a fully awakened state so that you will know just what you are going to do. Stay in bed; do not get up or turn around, but remain in the same position as you were when you awakened. For a minute or two think of yourself and your surroundings so as to be sure that you are fully, or almost fully, awake; then decide that as you gradually go back to sleep you will not go into a deep sleep, but just to the borderline where you will be conscious of what you feel, hear, taste, or smell. Then relax and lie in any position that is comfortable to you, and allow yourself to go to sleep again. At the same time request that your objective mind will go partly to sleep and that your psychic state will be on the borderline of sleep and that you will awaken in ten minutes and remember all that has occurred.

After the first two or three trials, you may find you have a little difficulty in keeping in the borderline state, that every now and then you may have to awaken yourself partially to keep from going too deeply to sleep. You may also find that things distract your attention, and that you must turn your head



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away and block out the light of a window or noises on the street or in the room, to be thoroughly relaxed and completely alone in your thoughts. Also you may find after the first few tests that you do not remember exactly what did occur. You may sense you had some vision or felt something, or even heard something, but you cannot recall it perfectly.

By the third or fourth morning you will be determined to hear and to have some experience. You will find suddenly on that morning, or a subsequent one, that you will remember some little experience. What you remember may be only a color, a picture, a message, some city or place, or it may be just a word or a symbol. Start putting your impressions in a notebook; and each morning after you arise and have attended to other matters, write in that notebook whatever impression has come to you during your ten-minute borderline state. At least note whatever you happen to remember of what occurred. If you will do this throughout the coming week, or until the next monograph comes, you will be prepared for what I am going to tell you and you will have some interesting experiences in the meantime.

May Peace Profound abide with each of you.

Fraternally,

YOUR CLASS MASTER

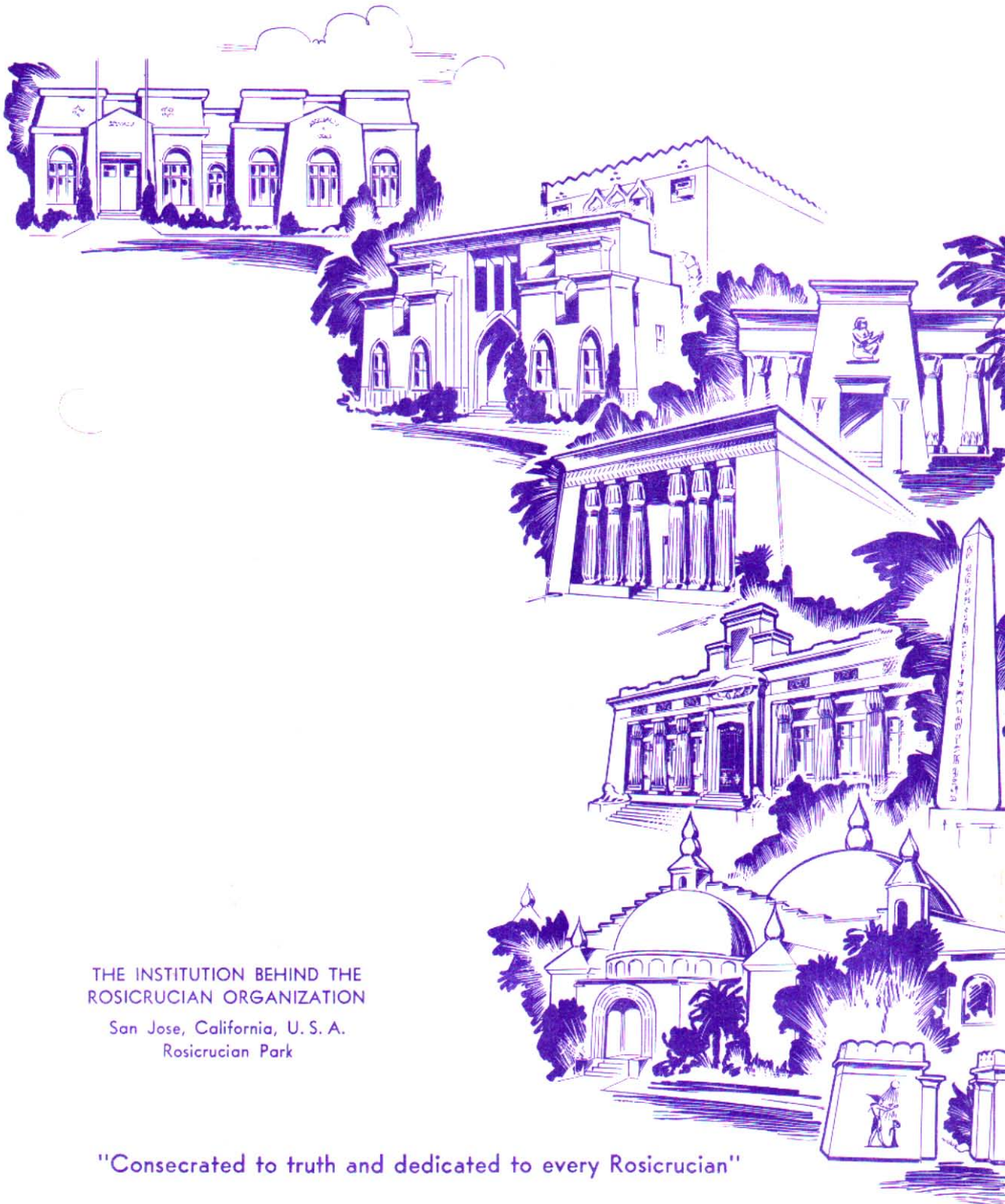


Summary of This Monograph



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.

- ¶ Our lives and our bodies may be moulded as we will by taking advantage of the fortunate aspects of the heavens, and of other influences; at the same time we can make our every action and thought conform to the ideal we have in mind.
- ¶ We may strengthen our characters by modifying and redirecting unfortunate tendencies into other channels.
- ¶ A simple exercise, producing interesting results and laying the foundation for exercises to come, is that of dropping back into the borderline state of sleep for about ten minutes in the morning before getting up.
- ¶ Keep a daily record of your impressions and experiences during this ten-minute borderline state.



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