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The Rosicrucian Order

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THE CONCURRENCE

This Week's Consideration of a Famous Opinion



¶ From the wealth of Arthurian legend there is no story more familiar to us than that of the quest of the Holy Grail. In this the legend of Arthur has been brought into connection with the legends of the Church, the Holy Grail, or Sangreal, being the Cup from which Christ drank at the Last Supper. The ancient esoteric significance of the Quest and the Cup remains unaltered, however. For that reason, we may read with deeper insight than most of the following lines which are the last stanza from *Sir Galahad* by Alfred Tennyson.



*The clouds are broken in the sky,
And thro' the mountain-walls
A rolling organ-harmony
Swells up, and shakes and falls.
Then move the trees, the copses nod,
Wings flutter, voices hover clear:
'O just and faithful knight of God!
Ride on! the prize is near.'
So pass I hostel, hall, and grange;
By bridge and ford, by park and pale,
All-arm'd I ride, what'er betide,
Until I find the holy Grail.*

—ALFRED TENNYSON, 1809-1892

To the Members of the Esoteric Hierarchy, Greetings!

We are at a point now where I want to give you the first esoteric principle in connection with your concentration practice with the Rose and the Cross.

One member of this Degree has asked if it would not be possible to use an emblem of the Rose and Cross, such as the little cross with the rose mounted on it, for concentration and visualizing instead of visualizing the rose and cross in the bowl of water. Our answer to this question is that using a material cross of gold or other metal with the rose on it would be getting too far away from the esoteric side of the practice. For the purposes of ordinary practice in concentration, any bright object is acceptable for concentration, and the Rosy Cross or a symbol of some kind made of bright metal would be as fine as concentrating upon the candle flame or some other object that will hold your attention. The work you are doing now is not for the practice of concentration, but for the development of certain esoteric principles, and we want to get away from anything that is not associated with the esoteric laws.

I must tell you the esoteric significance of the vessel of water which you have been using. In the ancient writings this vessel was called the chalice. It was associated with the Holy Grail or holy chalice used so much in mystical ceremonies. Of course, the vessel could be made out of beautifully engraved metal, either gold or silver, as the chalice that was used by Jesus at the Last Supper was supposed to be. In all really esoteric literature, however, the chalice is referred to as having been made of glass and not metal. Whether the one used by Jesus was of glass or not, no one actually knows. It is doubtful if the magnificently engraved gold cup that has been exhibited in certain places in the world, and which is claimed to have been found among ruins somewhere in Palestine, is the actual holy chalice used by Jesus. It is far too elaborate to have been in service in the humble and homely places where Jesus and the Disciples met. However, that point is not of interest to us now.

Through all antiquity vessels made of alabaster or pure glass were looked upon as far more esoteric than anything made of metal. Also keep in mind that, outside of gold which has its esoteric significance at times, things made of metal were not used by the mystics. Because gold remained pure and did not develop contaminating surfaces or conditions, gold was used by the mystics, the alchemists, and the philosophers, but when it came to something really pure and absolutely clean, glass was preferred.



A beautiful glass cup, chalice, or grail holding pure water is a magnificent, sparkling thing to look upon and is fascinating to the mystic. By developing in this chalice of

water the Rose and Cross, you are combining some esoteric principles that are highly significant. It makes little difference what the shape of the vessel may be. It may be actually a glass bowl or drinking glass. It may be very wide or very tall, as long as it has a fairly large surface of water instead of a narrow surface such as the small drinking glass. A vessel of four, five, six or more inches across its opening at the top is better than one with an opening of only two or two and a half inches.

The purpose of the Rose and the Cross in the water is to carry out a blending of the inner nature, the Cosmic, psychic self, with certain Cosmic vibrations emanating from the Cosmic Consciousness. There develops through the water and the Rosy Cross in it, an evaporation of thought and an emanation of consciousness that is very difficult to explain in words. Moisture was one of the great secret elements used by the alchemists and the dew on the ground, rain, steam, in fact, moisture of any kind including water was looked upon as something that contained the spirit of divine consciousness. That is how and why various forms of baptism were developed even among the so-called pagan religions and that is why a large bowl of water called holy water became a feature of the ceremonies of the early Christian church and why it is still used in the Holy Roman Catholic Church.

We find in the earliest mystical writings of the Rosicrucians a chant used in sacred ceremonies that contains a key to the esoteric significance of the Rose and the Cross in the chalice. In fact, above the altar in the most sacred temples or grottos of the early Rosicrucians in place of a figure of Christ upon the cross, an image of a Great Master, or any other emblem of Deity, there was placed high in a niche where all could see the emblem, a large chalice with moisture rising from it. In that moisture seemed to be a rose with a cross behind it. Above this the Dove of Peace representing the consciousness of the soul of man was depicted. We use this sacred emblem on the cover of the little book called Liber 777, which describes the Celestial Sanctum.

We have never given to the public or to the members of the lower Degrees the esoteric significance of this little oval emblem. Now this old sacred chant conveys in brief words the principle back of the Holy Grail of the Rosicrucians. The first words of the chant are these.

Ad Rosam per Crucem, Ad Crucem per Rosam.

These words mean, "To the Rose by way of the Cross, to the Cross by way of the Rose." In other words, by means of the Cross we reach the Rose and by means of the Rose we reach the Cross. The next part of the Latin chant, translated into English, says that in this way through the Rose and the Cross we attain



resurrection. That means the elevation and the rising of the soul consciousness into Cosmic attunement where the soul and psychic self are in perfect harmony with the Cosmic Consciousness. Taking the wording altogether, we find it means that by using the Cross as a ways and means, we reach the Rose and thus attain the great heights, and through the Rose we reach again the Cross and in this dual process we finally attain perfect attunement with the Cosmic.

This is an unusual combination of esoteric principles and something that cannot be explained briefly and something you cannot grasp and comprehend in a day, a week, or a month, even if I used a hundred pages of manuscript in attempting to make it plain to you. I know that it took me weeks and months of meditation and many, many psychic experiences to realize, first of all, what was meant by moving through the Cross to the Rose and through the Rose to the Cross, and to understand what was meant by the resurrection of the psychic self.

I presume you realize that the resurrection of Jesus the Christ as related in the Holy Bible has never been thoroughly understood by priest, clergy, or layman. The significance of Jesus going upon the mountain heights for that Resurrection and Ascension, if it really was, after having been in the tomb, is a combination of esoteric principles not easily understood except by the mystically developed. Being placed in the tomb and brought back to life again and allowed to rise from the tomb through the assistance of the angels involves a whole set of mystical laws.

I have already explained from time to time about the angels and archangels and their connection with the Hierarchy and the Cosmic. All through the mystical literature of the Rosicrucians, and that of the mystery schools that preceded them, there is reference to the tomb. Even Christian Rosenkreuz in the Rosicrucian traditions was buried in a tomb that was different from any tomb that any man had ever seen. On a certain date that tomb was opened and there came out of it the spirit of Christian Rosenkreuz, or, in other words, of the Christian or Christ Rosy Cross.

Here we have another esoteric principle involved that perhaps I should explain. The words Christ and Christus have meanings that are entirely different in many ways from those attributed to them by the so-called Christian church and religion. You will notice in studying the Holy Bible that the word Christ was not used during the lifetime of Jesus, but became a term that was attributed to him because of his attainment and development. The Christ Consciousness is the Cosmic Consciousness and is not something that belongs exclusively to the Christian church or to Christian doctrines. Jew and Gentile alike can experience the Christ Consciousness without becoming Christian in the sense of being members of the Christian church.



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Rising from the tomb, however, is symbolical of rising from the limitations of life. It has nothing to do with the ordinary so-called death of the body. Resurrection in the spiritual and esoteric sense has nothing to do with the burial of the body in actual death. From the esoteric point of view each one of us lives in a tomb and exists in a tomb until we are able to free ourselves of the limitations that surround us. Man may have the freedom of the world, and wealth enough to journey from country to country and place to place, but still he is entombed unless he has experienced the esoteric resurrection.

The story of the rising of Jesus from the tomb is an allegorical as well as a traditional story, and for that reason the writers of the Holy Scriptures attempted to make the story of the tomb very symbolical. They did not go into great detail regarding the material nature of the tomb, but described it in a way that gave it a spiritual meaning. On the other hand, devout Christians and many of the priests and clergy have tried to interpret those words in a material sense, and there are people who try to paint pictures and describe the tomb of Jesus in a material sense. As soon as we realize its spiritual significance, however, the material side of the tomb becomes insignificant.

I think I have given you enough to furnish many thoughts for interesting meditation during the coming week. You are to continue looking into the bowl of fresh water, seeking a bright spot you can turn into a Rose with a Cross behind it. Just what you may find in addition to all of this I am not going to explain for several weeks, but next week I will tell you more of the esoteric principles involved. Remember, these periods each day are going to improve your health as well as build up a mystic power and a degree of attunement that will be of great service to you in many ways, especially in giving you spiritual illumination.

May Peace Profound abide with each of you.

Fraternally,

YOUR CLASS MASTER

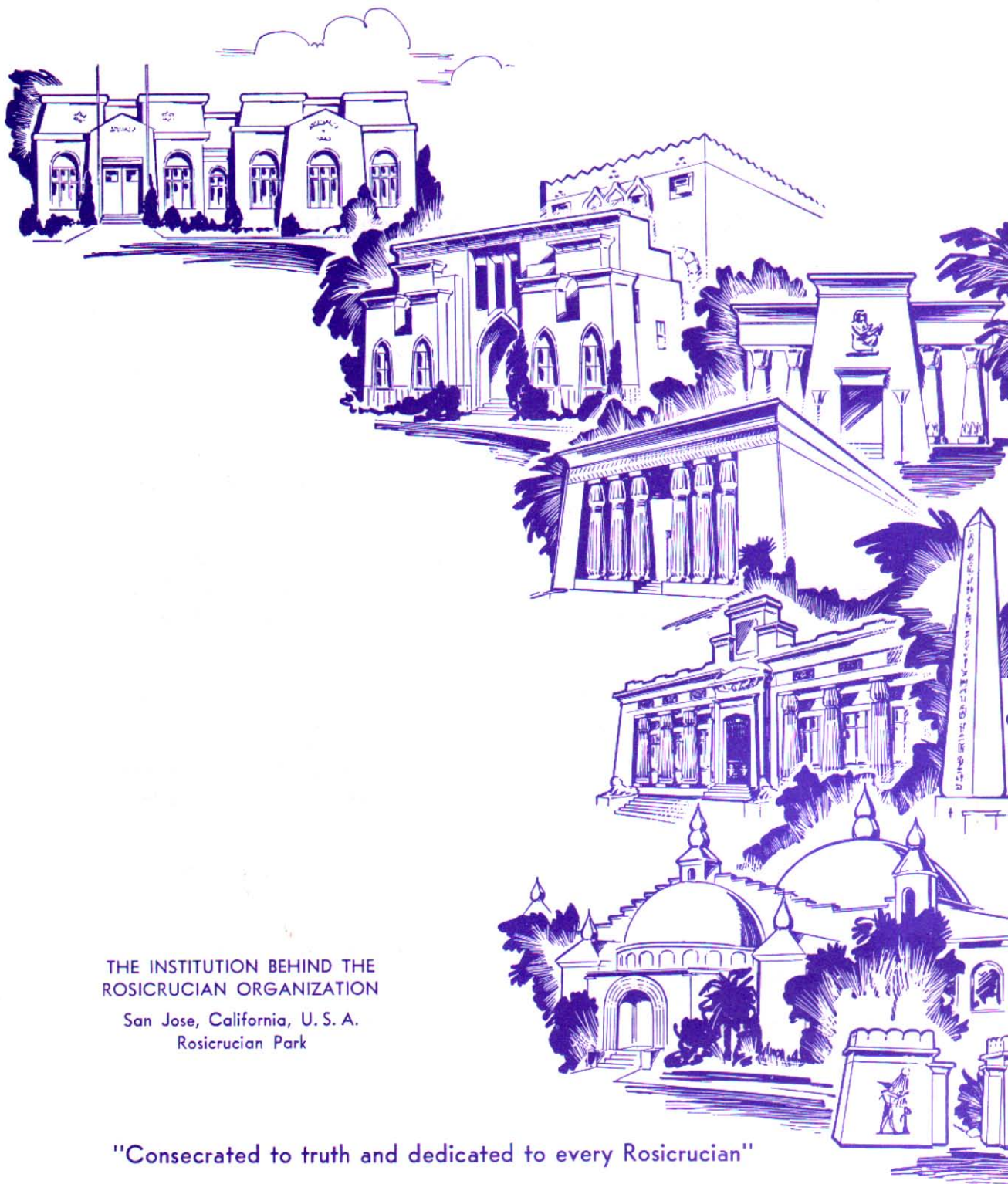


Summary of This Monograph



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 experiments being done now are for the purpose of developing certain esoteric principles and not for the practice of concentration. Therefore use of a material cross with the rose would not be acceptable.
- ¶ The vessel of water being used in these experiments is associated with the Holy Grail or holy chalice used in mystical ceremonies. In antiquity vessels made of alabaster or glass were used since, except for gold, metals are impure and not esoterically significant.
- ¶ The purpose of the Rose and the Cross in the water is to blend the inner nature with certain Cosmic vibrations emanating from the Cosmic Consciousness.
- ¶ A key to the esoteric significance of the Rose and the Cross in the chalice is contained in a chant used in sacred ceremonies. We find this chant in the earliest writings of the Rosicrucians.
- ¶ The first words of the chant, "*Ad Rosam per Crucem, Ad Crucem per Rosam*" mean "To the Rose by way of the Cross, to the Cross by way of the Rose."
- ¶ The chant reveals the esoteric meaning of resurrection and the dual process by which man finally attains perfect attunement with the Cosmic.
- ¶ The Christ Consciousness is the Cosmic Consciousness and may be experienced by all alike.



THE INSTITUTION BEHIND THE
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