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The Rosicrucian Order

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THE CONCURRENCE

This Week's Consideration of a Famous Opinion



¶ This week's monograph introduces the next esoteric principal to be dealt with—that of Fire. Although from time to time we return in our exercises to the first principal, Water, the use of Fire in attuning ourselves with the operation of nature's laws will occupy us for a number of monographs to come. The following quotation fittingly introduces the subject.



What says the esoteric teaching with regard to fire? 'Fire,' it says, 'is the most perfect and unadulterated reflection, in Heaven as on Earth, of the ONE FLAME. It is Life and Death, the origin and the end of every material thing. It is divine SUBSTANCE. Thus, not only the FIRE-WORSHIPPER, the Parsee, but even the wandering savage tribes of America, which proclaim themselves 'born of fire,' show more science in their creeds and truth in their superstitions, than all the speculations of modern physics and learning. The Christian who says: 'God is a living Fire,' and speaks of the Pentecostal 'Tongues of Fire' and of the 'burning bush' of Moses, is as much a fire-worshipper as any other 'heathen.' The Rosicrucians, among all the mystics and Kabalists, were those who defined Fire in the right and most correct way. Procure a sixpenny lamp, keep it only supplied with oil, and you will be able to light at its flame the lamps, candles, and fires of the whole globe without diminishing that flame. If the Deity, the radical One, is eternal and an infinite substance ('the Lord thy God is a consuming fire') and never consumed, then it does not seem reasonable that the Occult teaching should be held as unphilosophical when it says: 'Thus were the Arupa and Rupa worlds formed: from One light seven lights; from each of seven, seven times seven, . . .'

—MADAME BLAVATSKY, 1831-1891

To the Members of the Esoteric Hierarchy, Greetings!

I do not want any of the members of my class to think that the remaining laws and principles of esoteric mysticism center around the use of water or that a bowl of water will be constantly used by each member in his future studies and practices. I simply want you to become familiar with the use of water. Later you will return to it from time to time in connection with your other exercises.

This week, I want to call your attention to the next esoteric law and principle. It deals with fire and the flame. Fire is one of the great elements that the mystics have used in producing marvelous results and in attuning themselves with the operation of nature's laws. You may think of fire and the flame only in connection with heat and light, but fire is an important element in nearly every one of the departments or sections of universal manifestation. Even our own bodies manufacture fire or its equivalent in heat. Without heat in the universe around us and without heat within our bodies, we could not exist. Our bodies manufacture heat every hour that we are alive, and that heat serves many important purposes. There is heat generated from the emanations of the sun. The sun's rays are almost a reversal of our other laws pertaining to light and heat. When we want to produce a substitute light for the sunlight, we first have to produce heat and from the heat comes further light. It is because the little filament of wire in the electric light bulb gets very hot and is overheated that it produces light.

Scientists have been hunting for many years for what they call cold light. They are trying to find some means of making a substitute for sunlight or some sort of light that is not the result of heat and could be used day or night in dark places. In all of our present methods, whether burning a candle, burning a kerosene wick, a gas jet, or an electric light bulb, we first produce heat and from the heat we derive light. It is an expensive, costly, and wasteful method. When we burn the electric light bulb we are getting about 98 percent heat and 2 percent light. In other words, we have to waste a tremendous amount of heat to get a little light. The same is true in burning the kerosene wick. If that heat could be saved, or all of it turned into light so that we would have 100 percent light and no heat, we would have cold light, and a greater amount of light at the same cost.

The sun's rays are still a puzzling and often contradictory phenomenon to us though much has been learned about them. Early experiments made by the use of balloons and airplanes indicate that the higher we ascend from the earth and the closer we get to the sun's rays, the colder the atmosphere! Many have gone far enough up into the sky almost to freeze to death with the sun shining. In fact, modern jet-propelled planes, flying at extreme altitudes, require pilots to be dressed in electrically heated



suits as an added assurance that they will not freeze. On the other hand, a zone of reversal is now speculated where the temperature becomes hotter with height. In parts of the stratosphere it may become as hot as boiling water. This is probably caused by absorption of the sun's rays by the thin layer of ozone which surrounds the earth. The sun itself may be a flaming mass of heat, as generally believed.

The sun's rays are not cold. They contain heat, just as do the radiations from a candle flame. However, radiations in flight, as the rays of the sun, do not give off heat until interrupted by the earth or a material body. That is true for the candle flame, also. Hence it is not correct to assume that the sun's rays contain less heat than earthly radiations as, for example, the flames from a fire. It is true that ordinarily the red and infrared rays are felt by our skin to be hot because they are the kind of rays given off by a body that is hot, but not quite hot enough to burn brightly. Nevertheless, a thermometer will indicate heat in those rays that fall into the blue and ultraviolet region of an intense spectrum as well as in those in the infrared region.

The important fact for us is that the sun's rays mix with the magnetism of our earth and produce heat around us. It is of a degree that maintains life on this earthly planet. The situation on the moon is quite different. The moon has no internal heat and no protective atmosphere. The light we see on the moon is from the sun's rays striking it and illuminating it. It is reflected sunlight that comes to us from the moon. Since the moon has no internal heat, it becomes intensely cold during the night. During the day, which is equally long, the fiercely blazing sunshine produces a heat which probably exceeds that of boiling water. Heat at "noon" will probably be about 261 degrees Fahrenheit; at "midnight" the temperature will drop to approximately 240 degrees cold or below zero.

The other planets throughout the universe, like the earth, appear to have some heat of their own as a result of the sunlight acting upon them. Why the moon is different in this regard has never been definitely solved except that the moon is not a regular planet like Mars, Jupiter, Venus, and Saturn, but a sort of satellite that broke away from some other planet, very possibly from the earth itself, and flew into space as dead, lifeless matter without any magnetism or electrical quality, and, forced to revolve around and around in space, its shape became spherical.

Some of the most marvelous processes inside our bodies, connected with the digestion and assimilation of food, and the processes of metabolism, produce body temperature or heat. There is a sort of thermostatic arrangement in us that increases the heat as the body needs it, and decreases it as it is not needed.



If man goes to the North Pole to live, the heat within his body is increased automatically so as to enable him to stand the colder temperatures on the outside of the body. If he goes to the Equator to live, the body gradually adjusts itself to the terrific heat outside and does not produce so much heat on the inside. By this marvelous plan the temperature of the blood of the average human being is kept at the same degree whether he goes into the ice and snow of winter, or into the terrific heat of summer. Even if a man steps out of a very warm room into a large refrigerator and remains there for an hour, his internal equipment, controlled by the subconscious mind, adjusts the blood temperature to meet the cold conditions, and the adjustment is made within twenty or thirty minutes.

This process is not solely to keep the blood at a certain temperature, but to aid in other vital activities of the body, even to assisting the brain to operate properly and to keep nerve energy at its proper power and activity. One of the important features of this internal heat in the body is to keep the glands and psychic centers active and normal. When we concentrate upon certain psychic centers, we unconsciously increase the heat in those centers; thereby causing an increase of energy and of functioning. If the practice is continued over a period of some months, these glands and psychic centers become accustomed to this increased activity and establish that activity as a standard and maintain it even when we are not concentrating upon them. Many of the exercises and practices in the lower Degrees were for the purpose of energizing these psychic centers through concentration, and thus raising the key of their activity to a higher pitch where it would maintain that activity, quicken our psychic faculties and help us to a better degree of psychic evolution. In some persons this development is more quickly accomplished than in others, but eventually it works for each in the same way.

Ill-health and various diseases are the result of some interference in the body that prevents the blood from remaining at a normal temperature, or prevents some of the glands and other parts of the body from functioning properly. When disease is in the body or a germ is at work, the body heat is increased because of increased activity of the blood and nerve energy to fight the disease. This increase in heat shows on the thermometer as an increase of temperature, and doctors and nurses are able to judge the condition of the patient by the rise and fall of this temperature. At one time, early physicians thought the normal temperature of the average person should be one hundred degrees Fahrenheit. Therefore, they made their thermometers so that one hundred degrees would equal the body temperature. These early physicians were in error by two degrees, approximately, the normal temperature of the average human being about ninety-eight degrees, not one hundred. When the thermometer of today reaches one hundred degrees for a person, it indicates an increase of temperature. If this increase mounts to one



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hundred and one or one hundred and two, it becomes a serious indication.

So delicate and accurate is this indication of heat that with some diseases a temperature of one hundred and one or one hundred and one and a half is far more serious than a temperature of one hundred and two or one hundred and three with other diseases. Just as we have barometers that indicate the humidity and other qualities of the atmosphere, so the thermometers used by physicians to test the internal heat of the body are a very accurate guide as to whether disturbances of a serious nature are going on within the body. If a person goes from a moderate climate to the North Pole where the heat of the body automatically increases, the normal temperature might be slightly more than ninety-eight or ninety-nine without indicating a serious illness. At the Equator, likewise, where the body temperature is lower than ninety-eight, nothing serious would be indicated as it would be if this occurred in places of a moderate climate.

I want you to give some thought to this subject of heat while you continue your experiments with the water this week. It will serve to prepare you for experiments of a different nature to come.

May Peace Profound abide with each of you.

Fraternally,

YOUR CLASS MASTER

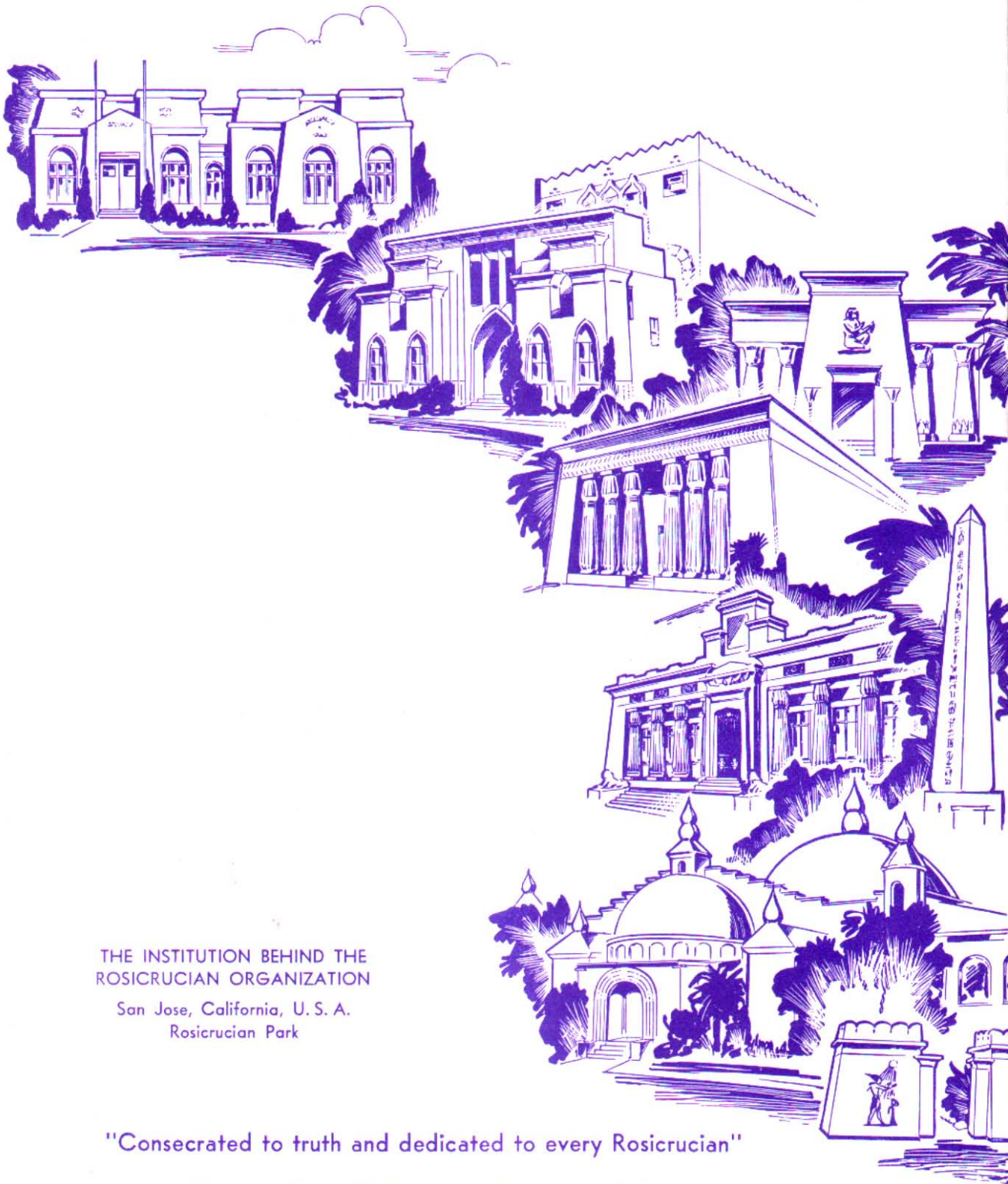


Summary of This Monograph



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.

- ¶ Fire, one of the essential elements of universal manifestation, is used by mystics in attuning themselves with the operation of nature's laws.
- ¶ The sun's rays are almost a reversal of other laws pertaining to light and heat. We first have to produce heat to obtain light, although science has attempted to discover *cold light* for many years.
- ¶ Much regarding the sun's rays remains puzzling to us. Although high altitudes are freezing, it is suspected that there exists a zone of reversal. Sun's rays do not give off heat until interrupted by the earth or a material body.
- ¶ It is not definitely understood why the moon, like the other planets, has no internal heat of its own as a result of the sunlight acting upon it, unless it is because it is not a regular planet.
- ¶ A sort of thermostatic arrangement increases or decreases the heat in man's body as needed. Disease and ill-health result from interference with this regulating functioning within the body.



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