



The Rosicrucian Order

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THE CONCURRENCE

This Week's Consideration of a Famous Opinion



¶ Jesus the Christ furnishes the classic example of the perfect response to temptation. After long fasting, we are told, he grew hungry.



3 And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. 4 And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. 5 And the devil, taking him up into a high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will, I give it. 7 If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. 8 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. 9 And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: 10 For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: 11 And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. 12 And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. 13 And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.

—LUKE 4:3-13 (King James Version)

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To the Members of the Esoteric Hierarchy, Greetings!

As has often been the case in the past, I find that I must interrupt our talks about the Masters and speak of the necessity of controlling our thinking and planning. Each hour that you advance through this Degree, more and more Cosmic power is being placed in your hands and you are becoming living creators not only of your own lives but also of the lives of others. God's consciousness is flowing through you; it is a constructive, creative, loving consciousness. Through you, it radiates into the universal mind. If you cause this consciousness to be tainted or poisoned by evil or destructive thoughts, you permit those evil and destructive thoughts to manifest in the universal mind.

I want to warn each of you again, as I have several times, that you must be careful about the things you predict, because your predictions may be fulfilled and then the responsibility rests upon you. On one occasion when some visiting members of the higher Degrees were here and we were analyzing the work together, one of these members made a prediction concerning another member because this other member was careless at times with his possessions. The prediction was that "one of these days someone will discover that you have a large suitcase of rare books in your automobile, carrying them around carelessly, and will steal the suitcase and you will lose the books." The prediction was made seriously and prophetically. I was sorry to hear it uttered. The very next day the suitcase was stolen and the books were lost. I pointed out to the student that the uttering of such a prophecy was the creation of the possibility of it and may have inspired the mind of the person who committed the theft. From the Cosmic point of view, the member who made that prediction was responsible for its fulfillment. Unless we are always ready to assume the responsibility of our predictions, we should not make them.

It is difficult, indeed, to explain these things in this present-day materialistic world and to have materialistic minds comprehend them. It is so easy to ask, "How can the thought in your mind reach the mind of someone else and cause him to do something? How could a prediction about stealing a suitcaseful of books cause someone to find that very suitcase and take it?" What answer can you give to questions like these? How can you explain that thoughts are such living, vital things that unless we guard them, they may materially manifest to someone's hurt? Fundamentally, the whole universe is being re-created minute by minute and hour by hour through the power of mind. The universal mind is creating all things that exist and bringing about all manifestations. The universal mind is composed of the minds and thoughts of all living beings. It is, therefore, charged with good thoughts and evil thoughts and these thoughts react upon the subconscious mind of every individual as urges, impulses, desires, tendencies, and temptations. The old



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Masters claimed that if a group of mystics in an "upper room" concentrated on some great and good things being made manifest in the lives of people, those things would come about. They claimed that the greatest benedictions and blessings have ever come to mankind through the unified thinking of the mystic minds that are leading men upward and onward.

This is something difficult to contemplate. We can only believe it after a test in our own lives, and through personal experience. I cannot ask you to accept these statements because I believe them. I would not accept them when I first heard them. While I did not scoff, I doubted them in the sane and rational way that you may have done. I made up my mind that I would find out from personal experience whether such things were true; yet I realized that in order to find out, I should have to study with sincerity and learn the laws, and give each an opportunity to prove itself. I realized that if there were any truth in such things, my mental attitude might prevent me from having the very experiences I wanted. I realized, too, that if I said to myself, "These things are not true and cannot be proved," I would be preventing any manifestation's coming to me, and, therefore, I would never know whether I had been deceived by others or had deceived myself. I, therefore, decided to have an open mind and turned to inquiry and investigation.

Since then, I have seen such consistent demonstrations and manifestations of these laws as to leave no doubt in my mind. Such demonstrations have made me careful of my thinking. When I receive a message that one of our members is in a hospital in a critical condition, I have to be careful not to say to myself, "This is the end." Such a thought would prevent the proper healing treatment and might be a prediction that would be fulfilled. Then I should have to assume the responsibility for my prediction. If anyone tells me of a sad event about to occur, I immediately arm myself against the temptation of accepting that viewpoint and thinking it will be serious. Instead I think that the right thing will happen, and that no man can tell just what God and the Cosmic laws will do in certain circumstances.

A Soror who lives on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, whose progress through the Degrees has helped me gauge the effectiveness of these studies, wrote me, saying, "I am very glad you gave the explanation you did about predictions, for I have been wondering about that. I have been noticing very much of late the way in which I have been able to do things I had in mind to do, without making definite plans, and being rather uncertain as to their desirability or feasibility. It must make us very careful as we realize something more of our hitherto latent powers. I have noticed several times in recent weeks that when making a decision or talking to someone, a slight shadow or haze seems to pass by me leaving an impression either of encouragement or warning."



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This leads me to believe that many in this Degree have had similar experiences and have either not noticed them or have thought them unimportant. Since it is the purpose of these higher Degrees to perfect as nearly as possible every member's mental and spiritual comprehension of Cosmic law, this letter prompts me to a few more thoughts on the subject by way of emphasis. Persons who have unusual occurrences oftentimes attribute them to some supernatural psychic principle. The more they think about it, the more they believe they have had an unusual revelation. Every teacher and every advanced student know that things happen daily which can be all too easily attributed to supernatural causes.

A person seated in his sanctum filled with high vibrations may suddenly see a book on one of his library shelves fall on its side or drop to the floor. In dropping, it may partly open and when picked up may be opened to a paragraph which seems to have a bearing on the lesson being studied. Immediately the person assumes that some Master or supernatural cause was instrumental in making the book fall and open to this certain page. Such an incident may cause the student to elaborate on it until ultimately it becomes a great and unusual demonstration of some invisible Master who visited the student in his sanctum. The real truth may be that the book fell from natural causes and that the particular paragraph believed important was really no more important than any other paragraph on any other page in the book. You might prove this to yourself by opening the Bible to almost any part of the New Testament and putting your finger upon a paragraph on any page. After a little analysis, you could make that particular paragraph harmonize with the very lesson you are now learning.

We must be careful, therefore, in giving credence to exaggerated claims and statements, and remember that the Cosmic does not seek to impress us by unusual demonstrations. The Cosmic is not a school of magic, nor of weird and fantastic demonstrations. There is no mystery greater than that of our own selves, and there is no more wonderful power than the power of mind in our bodies. There is no greater attainment even by the greatest Masters of the Great White Brotherhood than the attainment of peace and the power that comes from it. We may read how some of the Masters in Tibet or India are able to stand in an open field when hungry and produce loaves of bread instantly without the mixing of flour and water or baking. But even if such did occur, the miracle of such bread would not equal those the mind performs every hour of the day. The truly great Master who found himself hungry far from any city would not use the Cosmic powers to make bread, but would use his own mental control to prevent himself from being hungry. He would, in fact, look upon the sensation of hunger as a temptation to test the Cosmic laws to make something of a material nature, and he would rightly say, "tempt me no more." Certainly, such a Master would show a greater degree of Cosmic unfoldment than the one who submitted to physical hunger and used his knowledge of Cosmic laws to make bread to satisfy it.



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Your unfoldment through these Degrees is not for the purpose of leading you to such mastership as will allow you to turn a rainy day into sunshine, create loaves of bread or cause other marvelous things to happen in your personal affairs. Great Masters have at times made such demonstrations for the sake of helping others, as when Jesus produced food for the hungry. They were not able to control their hunger; he fed them; but we find no place where Jesus or any other Master ever produced material things for his own salvation or personal use. Jesus once said that he was like the beasts of the field and had no place to lay his head. Undoubtedly he could have produced a pillow of something other than stone, or a bed of something more than grass and earth, but he did not. Undoubtedly he could have prevented some of the suffering in his own life, but he did not. He knew that through such suffering and experience, he would rise higher.

As the Soror from Vancouver Island says, we should be careful about what we think and what we say and what we do. To have one's heart set upon purely selfish or personal things is equivalent to misuse of Cosmic principles. Very often, in making plans, certain things will occur before your plans are completed. This is because you have been in accord with Cosmic laws, and they have carried out your plans easily and simply. Because of this, you should be very sure that what you are thinking is constructive and good; otherwise, the reaction will be unpleasant. This is so important that I will deal with it in detail in the next monograph. I did not expect to take up this point for months, but I believe that now is the time, for letters and comments from members indicate that many in this Degree are beginning to experience the great power passing through them.

For the coming week I would have you meditate upon the position you occupy in the universal scheme of things so that you may better understand my next talk.

May Peace Profound abide with each of you.

Fraternally,

YOUR CLASS MASTER

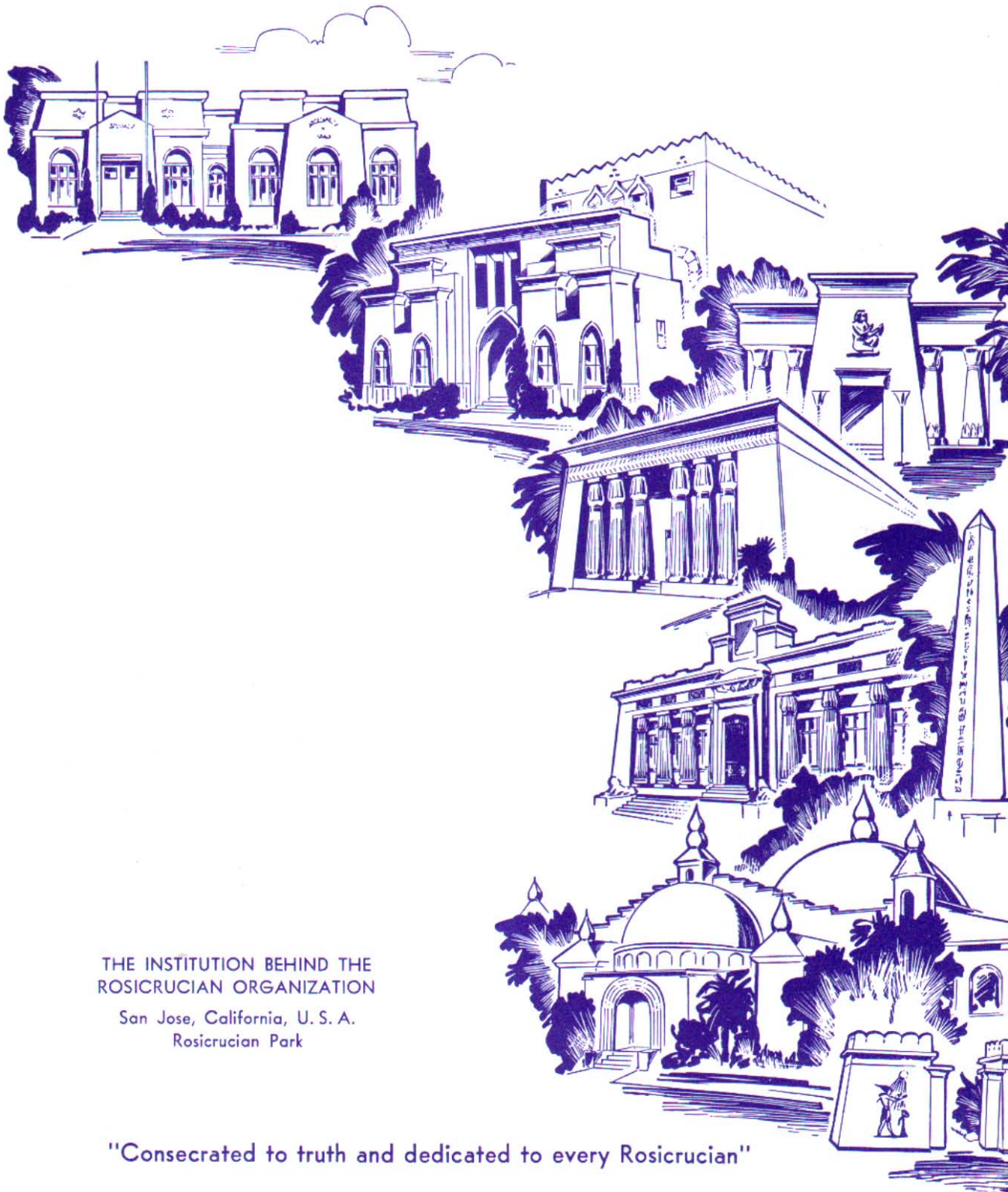


Summary of This Monograph



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 advancing student has more and more power placed in his hands. He virtually becomes a creator not only in things concerning himself but also in things concerning others.
- ¶ He is under the constant necessity, therefore, of seeing that nothing of evil passes from his thought to the universal mind to be radiated to others.
- ¶ A mystic precept of old was that whatever was visualized as a blessing to men could be brought into manifestation if only it were concentrated upon.
- ¶ Such a precept cannot be accepted until one has proved it to be true; neither can it be accepted unless one preserves an open mind regarding it.
- ¶ Many things occur daily which might be attributed to supernatural causes. One should be careful, nonetheless, in such circumstances lest he become overcredulous.
- ¶ The Cosmic does not strive to impress us by unusual demonstrations; nor does the greatest man yield to the temptation to appear a magician by producing things for his own need unnaturally.
- ¶ Our meditation this coming week should concern itself with the position we occupy in the scheme of things.



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