

## **Introductory Thoughts**

Welcome to our study and salutations from all three sides of the triangle!

You are about to embark on the Rosicrucian journey, one we trust you will benefit from.

Though all paths are a means to the same end, be that the Nirvana or the Stone of the Wise, or even At-one-ment as we shall call it, a question arises each time an earnest student seeks; What line of instruction will allow me to reach my spiritual goals in the shortest amount of time? The speed of your progress is an important factor and at the Rosicrucian School of Philosophy we offer our teachings at a steady rate of unfoldment that is in line with the pace of our current society. Here you will not just receive ancient knowledge, but will also find a way to enhance your way of life. These teachings are designed to increase your mental capacity, your positive mental attitude, and ultimately aims at revealing your purpose in life.

Your Rosicrucian journey will do more than just reveal the Ageless Wisdom. Philosophy of itself is but empty promises. We ask that you learn to 'practice what you preach' and above all things that you take physical action with what you learn. For we offer a knowledge that is also of such practical value for the benefit of mankind. You may ask; How can this be so? How can I make a difference?

Your Rosicrucian journey is not only of individual benefit to you but also benefits many others who are taking this journey with you. You are now a part of the Rosicrucian movement. Though spread far and wide this movement brings many to a similar understanding. Your understanding of your own role in life is important to us. That is why we are willing to provide coaching and mentoring services to you. As you benefit we also hope you are able to positively touch the lives of those around you. Then as a part of a cooperative group, working in harmony, you will truly become a part of the universal unfoldment.

As a matter of fact, you can start to benefit the lives of others right now. Do this simply by smiling more often. It is free to give and easy to share. This simple act can light up the lives of others in so many ways. For this is our goal. It is our vision for the future and for humanity. What a great world it would be if everyone wore a peaceful smile every day?

In partaking in this journey, you will become more sensitive to the universal unfoldment, sensitive to the angelic level of vibration, and will thus be in cooperation with the unfolding purpose. It is the purpose of this course of learning that aspirants will find this awareness. These teachings are not only given in order to train you or provide you with an opportunity. For would you not agree that all life is opportunity? Your mission is to realize this fact and to reach your full potential in life. Ultimately there is nothing you cannot achieve in life. Thus your individual reaction to opportunity is one of the best factors that will indicate your spiritual growth in future. By this you will begin to understand that The Rosicrucian College of AR+CO is not the school of wisdom itself, but rather the world itself is the temple of wisdom, the sky the ceiling, the earth the floor, and you are our valued student and we will do our best by you, to show you the way to reaching your personal goals and awakening your higher conscious.

In good time you will gain this awareness and with persistence will know the truth. Though we may deliver the way, you are left free to apply yourself to these teachings, or not. When you undertake any spiritual work offered, it will occur because of your free choice and self initiated effort. Thus, as our past teachers have said. One does not become a Rosicrucian through affiliation. One becomes a Rosicrucian by ones own merits and effort.

### **Your place in the World Soul**

Many of you may ask 'How am I important? What can I do for the world?'; Let us reply to these questions by pointing out that by bringing our teachings into the minds of our students, and by your dedication to these teachings, your contribution is very real.

The methods of Work provided in this course are those obtained from the greatest masters of knowledge so that our school would capture the best of every teaching. The Rosicrucian work contained in these lessons comes on a tide when the world would be ready to receive it once more. Let us remind you of a time when the Ancient Greek Philosophers liberated themselves from blind faith in the old gods to replace this with rationalism, theory and philosophy. They questioned the existence of the soul. They conceived ideas of an Eternal Mind, that all things are first in the world of Ideas before they manifest. They taught that all things are connected and are a part of the same. The reaction cleared the way for an increased interest in wisdom revival and the mystery traditions.

Once again humanity has shed itself of blind faith, gone through an era of rationalism and science, and is about to reach a climax in spiritual awareness. By thinking clearly as our student and applying

our teachings to your daily life you will be contributing most dearly to the world's awareness as an individual unit of the whole.

This will entail the transformation of your gross personality into a new level of awareness. By applying yourself to the Rosicrucian Journey you have asked for something more in life, you are asking for something more of yourself. You have led yourself to a path that will involve a pledging of your entire personality to the Higher Self so that you will rise above the desires of the lower ego. The renewed age seeks to renew your efforts in bringing about purification of your mind, body and soul so that the entire lower man may be a pure vehicle and instrument through which the divine light may flow.

### **The Path Ahead**

The Rosicrucian Journey, that you now undertake, offers ancient principles in light of modern understanding. The old methods to which our past masters applied themselves still hold good. It is however that today we have moved on because they are left open to uninitiated interpretation. The training we offer for our age is given in a more advanced form because of human progress, as from century to century, the consciousness of humanity has ripened for you to receive a clear method of teaching. Where once the teachings were veiled with symbolism and encryption from the uninitiated, the era allows for full disclosure. The level of the seekers awareness has risen. This in itself demands a new presentation of our knowledge.

In the ancient school the Masters taught their students lines of knowledge that were so abstract that they had to be meditated upon and revisited several times in order to gain a true understanding. For the Alchemist, he went away to perform an experiment in his own time without any pressure. It could take him a lifetime to reflect upon his results. Today in our speedier times the demand for the compassion of each other and world peace is so great that the prolonged methods have given way to a faster method of study that is easier for you. As our student you are seen as having reached the current level of human consciousness by which you are ready to receive a direct method of teaching. Our approach offers a wider presentation of truth and permits a greater freedom of how you may take action with the ageless wisdom

You may ask 'what is the position I should take as a student in learning?' As a self conscious individual and as our student we ask that you always evaluate the information offered. As a seeker of truth your attitude should be aimed at verifying the information supplied by testing this in the crucible of life experience. If for

example, we offer teachings on the five ancient elements, or the nature of astrology, then you should be able to recognize these types of divine energies in a realistic environment in which you exist.

Your understanding of the truth we teach should unveil the cryptic hypothesis and symbolisms left by the ancients so that it becomes recognisable in many cases such as relationships, religion, human behaviour and in historical events. These lessons will connect in your mind the universe to the individual because as you verify our science you will find that as a human unit you are constantly connected with these natural forces. The teachings are then more than abstract philosophy and become very real.

The training before you has a definite plan of study that is aimed at leading you from the human emotional realm and into the realm of enlightenment. You may ask 'why is the system a set structure of learning?'; All expansion requires a natural order of growth. For something to grow it needs a system. Look at a flower, cut an orange, notice the symmetry of a tree or a beehive. There is always discipline. Nature keeps what is essential and follows it's course. Therefore, if you want your awareness to grow, there must be a system of growth. If you want your life to blossom you'll need some order to grow. With your cooperation, and consent, you will move along this path of evolution consciously and scientifically. Your belief will soon give way to knowledge, a knowledge gained through the acceptance of a theory at first, and through revelation it will be strengthened by experience and confirmation.

In undertaking the Rosicrucian Journey you have voluntarily and without pressure stated your willingness to go forward into a more fulfilling spiritual life. From here you must progress with the freedom of choice and through the power of your intellect. Follow any instructions you feel are reasonable and right. When you choose to follow them, attempt to undertake these experiments with accuracy. We will not require obedience to our rules as was taught in several older schools. In the Old Order the Masters extracted oaths of secrecy and strict dedication to the rules of the order. These conditions no longer hold good. The intellectual ability in the current wave of seekers is now too developed to warrant this type of expectancy. Discussion among you can only encourage more growth. In our age the School is responsible for offering its knowledge with great care to you and nothing more. We ask therefore, for no obedience at all while at the same time we are a family of seekers. Work therefore as your environment and higher-self guides you to do so.

You may also wonder at this point how hard or challenging the journey will be? For many the word discipline is not a favourite word. In popularity it appears somewhere between dental visits and dieting. Self-discipline though will make all the difference. We maintain that if you can keep a reasoning mind and take your success and failures equally well you will also encounter in your training the realisation that others have walked this path before and will understand the intended lessons and that the end is only reached through discipline, increasing enlightenment, and in service to nature and others in need. Apply the principle of persistence without attachment to results or the constant procedure of self-analysis. In doing so you will more rapidly arrive at greater usefulness to your fellowman.

Having introduced the path ahead there are several sacred signs that may now be given to you as a member of the Labourer level. Firstly the grip of this grade is to shake your fellow Rosicrucians hand as normal followed by a delayed grip while pressing the thumb to his index finger three times. This should be used when greeted by another fellow of our order including in public. The password of this degree is 'Fiat Lux' which in Latin means 'Let there be Light.'

By the password Fiat Lux may all the Light shine upon you!

**Fraternaly your Imperator, Samuel T Robinson**

## How to use this Manual

Dear student. This manual is design to allow you to study at your own pace! Unlike other Rosicrucian Orders that send you slow paced lessons each week you can take your own time and spend as long as you like on this degree. For the fast learner you may also go as fast as you like however the minimum amount of time required to spend on the first degree is six months. This is because just as you are seeking a special kind of study we are also seeking a special kind of student. We want you to apply our knowledge rather than just read our lessons without doing the practical work. Unless you apply our ancient teachings how else will you really benefit dear seeker? Inside are given the following practical tools:

**Study Prayers:** This section on pages (WHAT PAGES?) are the proclamations that should be declared each time you take up this Grade Manual for reading. You should light a candle and declare aloud the salutations towards the east. There are exactly twelve salutations for this degree. Once you have started your first study you should say aloud the first salutation. Next time you read your Grade Manual declare aloud the second salutation. Continue this process until you have read the manual twelve times and completed the twelve prayers. Once you have finished the process once you should start it all once again from the first prayer because this is part of your Rosicrucian initiation.

**Initiation Ceremony:** The Initiation Ceremony for the Grade of Labourer is provided in this manual. Please read the instructions carefully and prepare for your ceremony properly so as to ensure a sacred experience. This ceremony is not that used by the Memphis Rosae Crucis being the AR+CO Lodge Rite. Instead these ceremonies are provided for the student to receive our Rosicrucian current as an independent self initiator and we will recognise your grade and affiliation with us having undergone this ceremony. Your certificate is enclosed with this manual and you may present this to any AR+CO Lodge to gain entry into meetings as a visiting Rosicrucian or one seeking initiation.

**Main Content:** There are three sections of study in the main content. The first is an introduction to our society. Then the main content of study is given as the mid section of this manual. That means you can read this material as fast or as slow as your lifestyle allows. Do not read this material without lighting a candle and giving your salutations towards the east. You may also need to read this section of the Grade Manual many times. Each Grade Manual offers the last section as History Study at the end of each degree. By this you will not just learn about AR+CO but will encounter many additional Rosicrucian transmissions that have influenced our present society. You may study this at any time during your Rosicrucian Journey.

## Study Prayers

The weekly prayer you should use for this degree is. Recite it in a place where you feel comfortable and will be alone.

*'Oh Great Lord of the Universe, may you grant unto me your mercy so that I may obtain the comprehension of your ancient mysteries through the Society of the Rose Cross. Let the influence of thy Divine and Secret Angels descend upon my head so that I may obtain their wisdom and benefit from all your goodness. So help me my Lord and my Ancient Undying Soul. Amen.'*

The Twelve Prayers for this degree are given. Recite one for each time you study this Grade Manual of the Labourer Degree:

1. *Hail to Thee oh Wonderful East. My heart is open to Internal Discovery!*
2. *Hail to Thee oh Light of the East. Thy Priestess anoints those who enter the Temple!*
3. *Hail to Thee Sacred Point of the East. The Lamps of the Temple are alight and my heart is full of desire!*
4. *Hail to Thee oh Lord of the East. I open the book and stand between the Pillars of Hermes and Solomon!*
5. *Hail to Thee oh Glorious Light of the East. The doors of my Inner Temple are now open to thy Secret Rays!*
6. *Hail to Thee oh Sweet Light. Thy Rays radiate and illuminate the Hidden Path!*
7. *Hail to Thee oh Pathway of Light. I strive towards the East to find my Soul!*
8. *Hail to Thee oh Light of the East. The altar of offering is my heart and soul!*
9. *Hail to Thee Lord of the East. Peace is found in Thy Gentle Light!*
10. *Hail to Thee oh Wonderful East. The Brotherhood of the Rosy Cross has sent its rays!*
11. *Hail to Thee oh Triumphant East. My body is a temple of the Rosy Cross and my mind a chamber of Light!*
12. *To the Gentle East, let Love, Light and Liberty flow into the World that Honour and Restoration may be ours!*

Note: Recite them in order. Start with the first on your first study session until you have opened your manual twelve times and completed all twelve prayers. Then start again to gain the full benefits of these invocations.

## **On Beginning Rosicrucian Prayer united with Spiritual Fire**

*“Raise the Inner Fire that accomplishes the Work.”*

*(Cabalistica Solomonis Sigila 1752)*

Greetings Fraters and Sorors!

Now that you have gained access to our Rosicrucian Journey materials you will need to apply each study session with one of the above prayers or salutations. These prayers are an important part of your Rosicrucian Journey with us because they offer a practical adventure towards the light and serve the purpose of raising your vibration towards higher spiritual intensity.

Every time, before opening your study session, ensure that you light a candle at your study and then recite the prayer aloud. The prayer should be declared towards the east and the candle should burn for the duration of reading your grade manual. This is the first instance of beginning your spiritual work and forms a very important aspect to our spiritual current.

Why, you may ask, would these prayers be so important to the transmission that you are now working with? Firstly these prayers, simple as they are at first, gradually become more intense. They are a cycle of growth and building. This ideal derives from older Rosicrucian transmissions where the aspiring student strives towards the highest light by advancing on with an element of caution. Thus these prayers are formulated to conduct the student in such a way that respect is given on all occasions to the path that you have chosen. A lot can be said about this approach, which on one hand will take many years to comprehend due to the fact that for many it has only remained in the oral tradition. By reading older works such as the Sacred Book of Abramelin the Mage, and the angelic records of John Dee, the student will always find embedded into these systems the importance of approaching the spiritual light gradually, which as many ancients have warned can also be blinding to those who are not prepared to behold. Our prayers then set out as a means of preparation, and as you shall find in the proceeding grades, also become more intense and alchemical. By alchemical we mean ‘spiritually transformative’ in that the ‘alchemical heat’ or the intensity of the prayers shall be raised for the purpose of transmuting the base personality into spiritual gold.

This brings us to touch upon the subject of alchemy and spiritual fire as we perceive it in our transmission seeing that all of these prayers are conducted over a candle flame. All of the stages of transmuting lead into gold, as described by the alchemist, had more spiritual significance known to initiates of the Rosicrucian College. Looking back over your individual life, you will be conscious of the fact that at every life changing moment, we always describe the intensity of our situations as being a ‘hot situation’ sometimes resulting in being ‘burnt out.’ This vital consideration suggest that the fire of alchemy is about bringing life to those crucial ‘boiling points’ where what we no longer need to hold onto shall be dismissed from our personalities in order to spiritually grow as a person. Alchemy in itself refers to this process as burning off the dross from one of our seven metals in order to bring the material to a

higher state. However alchemy, being the process of life, always indicates that it is in fact the human person who is the subject of alchemical work and that alchemical fire always refers to raising the situation to its greatest climax in order to break through to the next level. Having stated such it can be seen that true prayer, as we understand it in our college, is a means of initiation on its own wonderful merits.

The candle therefore is symbolic of a spiritual fire and the Rosicrucian student who adheres to our sacred prayers, also raises the intensity of his or her spiritual journey due to the fact that prayers require real **emotion** behind them in order to truly be effective. Where life is the realm of alchemical experimentation and the student is the subject of transformation, only through intensifying these study prayers will their transformative results be gained. In addition **faith** and **devotion** are two key elements in raising the intensity of your Rosicrucian Journey. The prayer on one hand guides your spiritual progress while the candle is a visual reminder of the most important aspect of your spiritual alchemy: Fire equals emotional intensity towards obtaining the spiritual light. A Hermetic manuscript called the 'Iconologia of Cesare Ripa' from the 17<sup>th</sup> century depicts spiritual emblems representing different methods of transmutation. One of them, titled 'Invocation-calling upon God' describes "A woman clothed in scarlet; having upon her head a flame of fire; and such another flame comes out of her mouth. Invocation is made with great **desire** after the help of God, calling and expecting the same. Wherefore she is fitly painted with two flames of fire: whereof, one comes out of her mouth and the other out of her head: by which is signified, that the true and necessary invocation does not only consist in the voice, but in the **intention of the mind.**"

A close study of all Rosicrucian alchemical manuscripts shows that the so-called fire of the alchemist has to be nurtured, and risen in power and in certain cases has to be animated indicating the path of spiritual progress. A close comparison in Rosicrucian theurgy (spiritual work) shows that prayers at the outset begin in a light fashion, are gradually increased, and climax in due ceremony. Older Rosicrucian transmissions and especially the order of the Asiatic Brethren symbolically described this key teaching as the 'water-fire' or the 'fiery-water' which in itself describes the importance of emotion coupled with faith creating spiritual intensity. The student might ask 'how exactly will I raise this emotional intensity?' Let me tell you that the alchemist also left this most important clue by stating the energy of fire comes from the invisible sun. This of course relates to the heart-center so often referred to among Rosicrucian students and shows that the power of **love, faith, hope and devotion** are key aspects in succeeding as a mystic. Every time you set alight the candle for your prayers, call to mind these words and this will bring you into rhythm with the wonderful light we seek.

In our Rosicrucian transmission, we call this candle the Battery and the Pillar of Fire. As a battery the candle is stimulating your progress. We are always stimulated through one of our five senses and visual stimulation from the battery, by its warmth and glowing light, should awaken from the depth of your soul a very ardent desire for spiritual development. Imagine the difference between someone who reads our lessons disinterested and distracted by the

many, and then imagine the student who applies this key teaching and the results he will gain. As a Pillar of Fire it attracts from the heavenly regions a stream of cosmic life-force filled with the divine presence of our Creator. Older Rosicrucian transmissions replaced the ceremonial sword with the candle battery to unite the divine to the soul as a **cosmic umbilical cord**. Through this sacred light of subtle energy the divine influence of the unfolding plan flows into our work at the beginning of each lesson. When the wave of celestial fire draws out the student's faith and hope and these emotions are allowed to wash out into his life he will be changed irrevocably. On one hand the student will **apply the battery** so that it becomes a **visual trigger to instantly awaken** those feelings of respect for the divine, stimulating **your faith and love, hope and devotion**. On the other hand he will find that the pillar of fire embodies a spiritual light and connects the cosmic to material. The application of this important tool should draw a relationship between the soul and the whole of the universe as one becomes a part of the whole.

Having introduced our method of prayer you should now have your candle in place and in readiness to progress with all of your studies. Ensure that you get the most out of our Rosicrucian College by always lighting your candle and reciting the salutation before opening towards where you have progressed within this book. AR+CO is a path of progress and by employing the fiery-water, of emotional-intensity, life will become an alchemical experience where your faith and love for the divine will be rewarded. This alchemical image depicts these ideas seeing that mercury represents the knowledge of the Rosicrucians.



The Alchemist works with the Mercury by means of Fire.

# FIRST SANCTUM

## ***THE SOCIETY OF ROSICRUCIANS***

### Introduction to our Society

Welcome to a new phase of intense spiritual living in the Rosicrucian current of [Love](#), [Life](#) and [Light](#).

The path before you is indeed intense. Intense in the sense of a new way of living, with dynamic thought, reflection of life, and seeking to recognise the true [spirit](#) and gain alignment with it. Before delving into this intense process of unfoldment any further, [we note that some students](#) will ask: Who exactly are the Rosicrucians and what [can](#) I learn from them?

The Rosicrucian teachings have their origins truly in the most ancient beginnings, [traditionally](#) being rooted in the angelic knowledge taught to Adam, Enoch, Abraham and [Moses](#). [Further inspirations](#) came by the teachings of the Pharaoh Priest Ahkenaten from Egypt, [as well as other parts of Ancient Egypt both before Ahkenaten and that which resurfaced after him](#). We are also deeply rooted in the Schools of Pythagoras and the Neoplatonic traditions as well as the Ancient Mysteries of Eleusis, Mithras, Orpheus and Serapis, and other schools of the ancient Mediterranean world. The Rosicrucian Brotherhood is naturally rooted in the Christian mysticism of the Coptic and Syriac as will be shown in later discussions. Later influences include such lights as Paracelsus and John Dee, the Kabalistic traditions of Safed, as well as the Corpus Hermeticum that came west by way of a monk of the Eastern Church. The Rosicrucian philosophy is a modern rendition of what some scholars have called the *Philosophia Perrenis*, and it is that [philosophy you will be learning on your Rosicrucian Journey](#). These are some of the many influences upon the Rosicrucian tradition and when considering our origins two particular figures emerge as being the founders of our knowledge:

**Ormus:** [By our tradition](#), in the first century lived an Egyptian mystic named Ormus who was a Seraphic Priest and initiate of the mysteries in Alexandria. In 46 [CE](#) he and six of his followers were converted to [Coptic](#) Christianity by one of Jesus' disciples named Mark. The sage reconciled the [Greek Egyptian Rites](#) with Christianity founding the Society of Ormus. He confirmed upon his newly constituted order of initiates the symbol of the Rose and Cross.

**Father C.R.C / Christian Rosencreutz:** In 1378 [the man who was later known as Father CRC](#) was born. At the young age of fifteen he set out to find knowledge and on reaching Damascus in Syria was initiated into a faction of the Rose Cross Order named the 'Blood of the Lamb.' He was later welcomed into other [factions](#) of orders descending from Ormus in Egypt and the city of [Edessa](#) / Fessa and in Spain. In each order he found that the

teachings had degenerated and then, on returning to Europe, reformed the order to its pure teachings and established the College of the Holy Spirit.<sup>1</sup>

While many Rosicrucian schools follow only Ormus or C.R.C, which is to say, following only one or the other, our school has both lineages of knowledge in its teachings and transmissions. For the last two thousand years Masonic Orders have been the only place for entry into the Society of Ormus. Now for the first time its teachings are made available to those outside of Masonic bodies. Our teachings are considered truly authentic Rosicrucian teachings in both spirit and practice. Within our order exists the Council of Eight being the high members of the College of the Holy Spirit while the overall society is governed by a silent group known as the Elder Brothers of the Rosy Cross. Therefore unlike any other Rosicrucian Order you will encounter in your degrees of learning the following orders;

<b>Order</b>	<b>Society</b>	<b>Degrees</b>
Outer College	(outer mysteries)	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> ,
Inner College	College of the Holy Spirit	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup>
Elite College	Society of Ormus	6 <sup>th</sup>
Invisible College	Arcanum Arcanorum	7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> ,

The names of Ormus means 'Light' while [Father CRC, also known later as Christian Rosenkreutz](#) means '[Christian of the Rosy Cross.](#)'

In the tradition of our founding fathers, you will encounter their authentic teachings as passed down from master to student for many ages. At the appearance of our order to the public many mysteries that have not yet revealed to mankind are given here for the first time. Our esoteric [transmissions bring together](#) the finest Rosicrucian teachings available.

Over the last one hundred years we have seen a virtual explosion of groups naming themselves "Rosicrucian." [Our opinion of other groups is not one of discredit or contempt, as those are not attitudes that come from the Heart of the Rose.](#) Instead. In our opinion we maintain that each and every Rosicrucian group [is](#) a part of the Rosicrucian school of wisdom. Each derives from the same light. Each captures one ray of the unlimited teachings and projects a wisdom of value into the world. Although several groups may claim to be the 'only authentic Rosicrucian order' it is clear that Rosicrucianism is a state of mind rather than having affiliation with any form of society. No matter what your affiliations or membership you are welcome into the doors of AR+CO and may have a place with us on common grounds with many other Rosicrucian students. Contemplate the overall picture and you will

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<sup>1 1</sup> Note that in the Fama he was only known as Father C.R.C while the name Christian Rosenkreutz only later appeared in the Chemical Wedding of Christian Rosenkreutz also considered a Rosicrucian Manifesto. Samuel Robinson.

see that all Rosicrucian societies are but streams from the same spring of knowledge. We are each of the same important value of Rosicrucian spirit.

### **Our Society is One of Love**

At the Rosicrucian College of AR+CO we have always called ourselves the "Order of Most Loving Brothers and Sisters." What exactly should this mean to you?

Our concept of Brotherhood extends to every member of the human race. We seek to consider all people with love. The Rosicrucian will watch with care every thought towards his fellow man. The Rosicrucian will clear from his mind all suspicion and criticism and seeks to hold every person unwaveringly in the light of love. Seek to grasp the idea of the potency of such an effort and its power to release our fellow man from his or her bonds and how this can lift humanity to an exceedingly high place. By the pure light of love for each other you will be cooperating with the universal unfoldment and will arrive more rapidly at that gate which opens the lighted way. You have an opportunity to demonstrate to yourself the scientific value and power of love as a powerful force in nature. As a Rosicrucian make this demonstration your endeavour. You will then release for humanity that which is needed to bring about potent and vital changes in the lives and purposes of those around you. Rosicrucian love is beyond being an emotion or a desire for the right action in daily life. Rosicrucian love is the wielding of the force that guides humanity towards unification in peace. Such love is selfless and requires that each Brother and Sister of our school will stamp out egoism to include people of all races as being worthy to achieve higher consciousness.

Rosicrucians of this new age love each other, and their fellow man, with intelligence and an abiding strength. Our temple seeks to release this light and power into the world as best we can and in dealing with other orders we ask you to remember this saying: "All orders are rivers from the same spring of knowledge" because we should each cultivate an ideal of acceptance and togetherness rather than separation.

In respect to our role in promoting the Rosicrucian teachings we provide guidance and support on your *Rosicrucian Journey*. Upon undertaking your initiation ceremony, you will gain full entry into the Outer Planes which contain but only the first two degrees as the outer steps to the College of the Holy Spirit of our Third Degree.

As an student of the Rosicrucian College of AR+CO you might ask: Then how can I benefit from the *fraternal spirit* of this order? In so much as what has been said of our love for humanity let us state that it is not mere feeling alone or empty promises because we believe in taking physical action upon our principles. The warmth of our fraternity extends to you in the form of emotional and spiritual support. As an initiate you will find that several changes will begin to occur in your life as gradually the rose blossoms inside of you and this unfoldment releases the warmth and love of our way to many around you. Emotional blockages will be released and others may begin to

trust you as someone worthy to confide in or ask for some form of advice more often than present. As such your abilities to express such principles will grow as a result of learning and practicing our healing and meditation methods. For you as a person you will have our support and warmth along your progression to awakening the heavenly plane within you. This may manifest in the form of the many friendships we are building within our community. You can meet us in person through initiation lodges and may also write to us online within our internet community. We would like for you to stay in touch with us and share your experiences on this Rosicrucian Journey. Whatever friendships and information you may need we will also be sure to assist you in our private forum where a multitude of Rosicrucian students just like you are willing to listen and support each other.

### **Your Growth with AR+CO**

To answer the second question formulated at the outset of this lesson, “what will I learn from the Rosicrucians?” The *Rosicrucian Journey* will offer many branches of wisdom from the Perennial Philosophy that together form our science of life. The application of what you learn from us will, if you let it, change your life for the better, and thus, change the world.

For many the wisdom of the ancients seemed complex, and for this problem our school delivers this wisdom in plain language so that it cannot be misinterpreted and all can understand them. By this you will easily understand what many prophets have tried to convey in the parables of their time.

To transmit our knowledge we will offer Rosicrucian theory in a practical form. The *Rosicrucian Journey* is a commentary on life rather than just philosophical analogies. In being practical this course of learning is for the better development of the student to experience rather than just read. To classify the intention of this Journey our lessons should bring about the following insights in you and more.

- Understanding the elements and the finer secrets of nature
- To see the relationship between sound, vibration, number, colour and all life and matter.
- To learn the laws of a spiritual psychology as apart from mental and emotional psychology.
- To make clear the nature of the soul and its relationship to the cosmos.
- To solve the mysteries of supernatural powers, and how to use them.
- To find the secret philosophy that is universal to all religions.
- To teach authentic Rosicrucian theurgy
- To apply these teachings for the betterment of your life and humanity.

These teachings should be important to you because we are in a great period of transition. Right now the hidden realms of life are closer than ever before. Unusual phenomena and unexplainable happenings are common discussion and topics among television shows, newspapers and scientist. The same questions that have plagued humanity for thousands of years are on the brink

of discovery because now more than ever before the world is truly seeking. What you seek in life on an individual level may be brought closer by understanding certain fundamental laws. When you see these laws applied with understanding, the mystical becomes demystified and your everyday life is transformed into a living miracle!

### **The World and the Rosicrucians**

In our modern world science and religion are separate entities. We exist in a time when these dual forces of science and religion constantly combat each other. Many friends heatedly argue due to different ideas.

Yet once in our distant past science and religion were one and the same. Both paths had evolved together as one and the science of the era only confirmed the universal laws of life. Yet as time went on science and religion have separated. Not only this but they have emerged as enemies in the modern era. The two extremes have nearly become a danger unto themselves. The danger of science is that, untempered with the way of the heart, it becomes unethical and without moral. If science continues upon its path of non-guidance then what experiments upon animal life forms we see today, such as they are spiritually harmful to another creature, will become very small compared to what we will see in the next era. The Rosicrucian way is universal and harmless to all life on earth. On the other hand religion untempered by reason and analysis becomes blind faith and leads to ignorance, fundamentalism, intolerance and fanaticism. Our current times are being bombarded with religious strife. Fanatics surrender to the evils of suicide bombing and while governments continue to keep genocide under the carpet in many countries. On the other hand there is a way. World Peace is our Rosicrucian Ideal. If both science and religion were to be united hand in hand once more, our spiritual experience would be one of knowledge while our scientific understanding would be one of harmony.

What each group, science and religion, are trying to explain- the Rosicrucians have always answered in both scientific and spiritual terms. Our course of learning shall endeavour to present our knowledge in a method that is relative to the scheme of the scientific approach. It will show how basically reasonable, natural and true is all that is termed mysterious. All things are under the universal law as you shall learn in a time when such knowledge is needed most, now that the war of science and religion has gone on for so long. From the turmoil and confusion of contradiction, the world has ripened and has reached a stage where the beauty and reality of a spiritual-science can be appreciated. Rosicrucianism is a spiritual science and should never be considered a religion dear seeker.

It may be important for you to note that the spiritual re-marriage of science and religion once again is what Rosicrucians alchemically term: 'Conjunctio.'

### **First Step on the Mystical Ladder**

Let's start something practical! The *Mystical Ladder* is what the Rosicrucian school refers to throughout these lessons as a series of practical exercises. When most people think of a mystical ladder, Jacob's Ladder comes to mind depicting a ladder [going from earth to heaven](#) upon which angels abide and travel from heaven to earth to carry out the will of [God](#). In a similar fashion these exercises form steps upon which you can mount and aspire towards the gates of heaven yourself in higher states of consciousness and living.

Throughout the *Rosicrucian Journey* you will continue to receive many exercises that form parts of the *Mystical Ladder* and [here is the first rung of the Ladder](#); your first [exercise](#). It is called Retrospection as a Rosicrucian, [suggestive](#) of the words 'self-reflection' in particular.

### Retrospection

1. As you retire at the end of every day before you go to sleep, spend a moment in reflection of the day's events.
2. Run your mind over every event starting from when you first arose in the morning, considering the events of the morning, day and evening until this reflection moment.
3. Weigh your actions, words and deeds in each event and consider if you acted fairly, truthfully and acted in accordance with peace [and your own conscience](#).
4. If after judging yourself for some time you find that you have done something wrong then make it your promise to rectify that mistake on the next day by whatever [means](#) it is in your power to do so.
5. After you have considered the day and thought about what you can do to improve any transgressions on the next day, dismiss from your mind anything that ties you to the past. Think for a moment about all the things [that](#) you consider in your life to be a wonderful gift. Consider each of those gifts individually and [realize that the](#) world is truly a beautiful and plentiful world to live in.
6. If you wish spend a moment reading some spiritual scriptures, poetry or higher philosophy, [or simply send up a prayer](#). Your last moment should be spent towards greater harmony with the unfolding plan of the universe in mind.

[This exercise](#) should be taken as something [positive](#), [during](#) its practice it [would be](#) a mistake to concentrate too heavily on the negative. Spend each moment of reflection in [self-judgement](#) but also *objectively*, meaning without attachment to the events themselves. If this can be done properly negative thoughts or feelings should not creep back into your mind to torment you emotionally. Train your mind to consider these reflective thoughts as being part of your spiritual process. You only witness them once again so that they may serve a higher purpose and other [than this they should](#) have no affect on

you. The results should be that you assimilate every moment in your life into cosmic consciousness so that all events are processed properly into your being. By this you will truly be learning what ever you are supposed to be learning in your life at that time. You will also avoid accumulating 'bad karma' or any negative backlashes in life following the natural laws of nature. This is one example of how ancient principles can aid in improving your lifestyle and life experience.

Over the next few sections we shall carefully introduce you to some of the concepts that are at the heart of Rosicrucian philosophy. This is presented before your initiation ceremony so that you fully understand what spiritual and ancient currents you will be aligning yourself towards before committing.

**Questions so far:**

- 1. When was Ormus converted and what does his name mean?**
- 2. When was Father CRC born and what does the name: "Christian Rosenkreutz" mean?**
- 3. What is the meaning of the Rosicrucian term "conjunctio?"**
- 4. How many grades are there in the Rosicrucian College of AR+CO?**

Do not progress onto the next section unless you know the answers!

### **Christian Rosencreuz**

So far we have introduced to you the founder of the College of the Holy Spirit, of which you now stand on the Outer Portal as a member, and his name was [Father CRC and often referred to as "Christian Rosenkreutz."](#) Today you shall learn more about the account of our mystical father before undertaking your sacred initiation.

To the public eye [Father CRC](#) first appeared in a declaration of our order in a document named the *Fama Fraternitatis* [which was bound with: Reform of the Universe by Boccacini and a Short Reply to the Esteemed Fraternity of the Rose-Cross by Adam Haselmayer, all published in Kassel, in Hesse. Haselmayer's Reply proves the Fama to have been in circulation since 1610, the set being published together in German in 1614.](#) The *Fama Fraternitatis*, or simply the *Fama*, is at first glance a story of a Christian monk who sought the mysteries, [being dissatisfied with what he was taught in the monastery in Germany](#), and having found them [abroad](#) established our sacred order. The *Fama* is at the same time an invitation for earnest seekers to find the Rosicrucian Order and apply for membership to [this esteemed order](#). Since the publication of the *Fama* our society has remained secret only disclosing its mysteries as best it [could](#) to suit the times. In our current period you have arrived to our order and have gained access to our latest presentation via these grade manuals and our internet services. This is made available now because we believe in the Rosicrucian proverb that says "when a student is ready, the teacher will appear."

### **Father C.R.C according to the *Fama Fraternitatis***

Born in 1378, Father CRC was of noble birth but because of poverty was placed in a cloister at the age of five. He began his learning as a boy in this monastery learning the Latin and Greek languages. Dissatisfied with the teachings of the church, he decided on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and was taken by Frater P.A.L., a monk of the same monastery, half way to the Holy Land while still in "his growing years." However his friend died on the way in Cyprus and C.R.C proceeded alone upon his journey and ended up in Damascus, in Syria, just north of Arabia. He spent some months in Damascus because of illness, so he began to "learn of medicines," studying with the physicians and astrologers, and because of his abilities in these sciences "won the good graces of the Turks." It is from them that CRC learned of the wise men of "Damcar" in Arabia. Hearing of these wise men, CRC no longer wished to go to Jerusalem, but bargained with some Arabians to take him to Damcar, arriving there at the age of sixteen.

Damcar has for many years been considered a fabled "mystical" city, no one knowing just where it was. Some believed it to exist only on an "astral plane" and having no physical counterpart on earth. Recent scholarship has shown it to be the city of Dhamar. We find this fabled city on the 16<sup>th</sup> century maps of Abraham Ortelius, specifically his map "Africae Tabula Nova." We find "Damcar" just south of the city of Sa'na, on modern maps a place called Dhamar, in Yemen, near the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula. CRC had probably booked passage on a caravan going south on the "Incense Road" around the year 1394. During those years the Sabeans held sway in those southern regions as Islam was farther north. Dhamar had for centuries been known as a college town for the wise of Sabean, Zoroastrian, and Oriental Christian philosophies. Syriac Christianity being somewhat rooted in the Sabean stock. And it is here that Father CRC learned most of his wisdom.

In Damcar he was received by the wise men and remained among them for three years learning the Arabic languages and translating much of their ancient knowledge into our book 'M.' After he sailed to Egypt where he continued his studies but did not stay long, he travelled to the holy city of Fez, in Morocco and studied there for two more years. During the Middle Ages, Morocco was one of the most famous centres of the alchemical arts. There he was instructed in the secret creatures existing in the elements.

He crossed over to Spain carrying with him many rare medicines, curious animals and wonderful books. He conferred with the learned in Spain, but was unfortunately met with an unfavourable reception. Deeply discouraged he returned to Germany where he built his house on the brow of a hill and devoted his life to study and experimentation.

After five silent years, CRC elected three faithful friends of the old monastery in which he had been raised. They classified the great knowledge that he possessed, and thus the Rosicrucian Fraternity was established in the West. Later four members were accepted, and together they formed the Council of Eight that today oversees the teachings of our order. Under the direction of CRC they began building a lodge called "The College of the Holy Spirit."

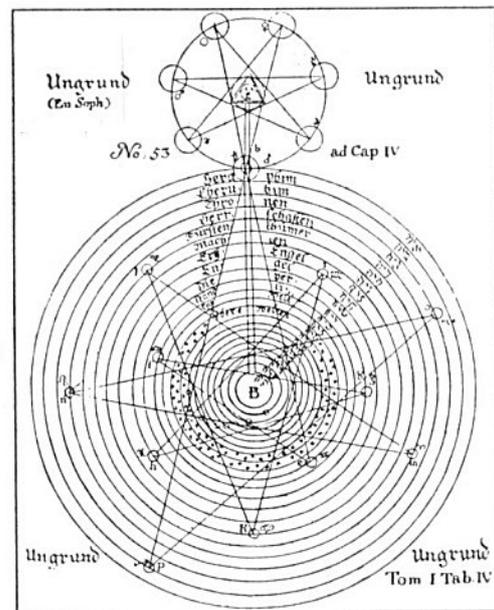
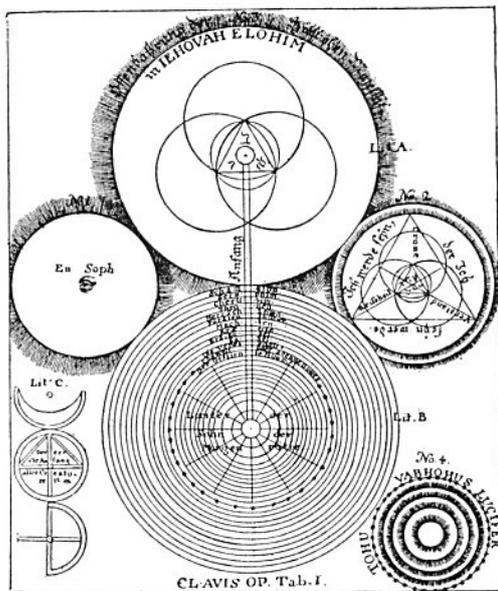
The society was formed with these codes:

1. *First. That none of them should profess any other thing than to cure the sick, and that gratis.*
2. *Second. That none of the posterity should be constrained to wear one certain kind of habit, but therein follow the custom of the country in which they reside.*
3. *Third. That every year upon the day C. they should meet together at the house "Sancti Spiritus," or write the cause of his absence.*
4. *Fourth. Every Brother should look about for a worthy person, who after his decease, might succeed him.*
5. *Fifth. The word R.C. should be their seal, mark and character.*
6. *Sixth. The Fraternity should remain secret one hundred years.*

Father C.R.C died in 1484, leaving behind a legacy of learning. His burial tomb is a symbolic representation of the macrocosmic universe. According to Rosicrucian records no member of the Rosicrucian Order could recall the location of this tomb before the year of writing the Fama or when our Father C.R.C died. However his body was discovered when one of the Brothers decided to make some alterations in the College and while doing so a brass plate bearing the names of the first members of the college was found. Upon tearing it away a portion of plaster came away thereby revealing a secret door. Upon removing the incrustations from the door an inscription was found: Post CXX Annos Patebo (After One Hundred and Twenty Years I will appear.)

On the next sunrise they resumed the work and opened the heavy door. Inside was discovered the hexagonal tomb with seven walls. Each wall having symbols inscribed upon it and an artificial sun in the ceiling gave such light that it was almost blinding to behold. To our amazement a circular altar was found in the centre instead of a tomb-stone. Upon it was written that the vault was erected by C.R.C as a model of the universe and nature. Many other inscriptions were there written describing the mystic character of the builder.

A small closet door was found in each wall and therein many rare and valuable documents were found. Included among them were 'the history and life of the founder,' 'the vocabulary of Paracelsus,' 'the secrets of the order,' together with bells, mirrors and lamps. According to the Fama on removing the altar and the brass plate beneath it was discovered the body of C.R.C in a perfect state of preservation. (because of the Stone of the Wise?)



Diagrams depicting the tomb of *Father C.R.C.*

From *The Magical, Qabbalistical, and Theosophical Writings of Georgius von Welling*, published 1735 at Frankfort and Leipzig also used by the Asiatic Brethren being the name for the Rosicrucian Order for that period.

Since the discovery of these secret documents our order has taken many measures to share this ancient knowledge as our original [founders did](#), who themselves travelled to many countries to teach the Rosicrucian wisdom. The first action taken by these brethren to spread our knowledge was the publication of the *Fama*, and other R+C works, in order to invite interested members to join our quest.

The original six laws of the Rosicrucians as set out in the *Fama* are simple and humble; yet explain in themselves a deeper philosophy, as you shall learn throughout [your Rosicrucian Journey](#). That the Rosicrucians chose no formal attire and dressed in the manner of the country shows that Rosicrucianism, at the outset, was designed to become something appropriate to [any](#) circumstance that the Order might find itself in. In realising this fine point Rosicrucianism is not set in stone for all ages but set out as something that would assume a different form in every century. For this very reason the Rosicrucian tradition can adapt with the times.

The resulting impact of interest in the Rosicrucian tradition has led to a large amount of groups springing [up](#) from the Rosicrucian Order, and now that the time of persecution is over, an entirely new approach to spread this knowledge [can](#) be taken. The latest form in which we can now assume includes the innovative “Cyber College” of which you are now a member. This was done in earnest with the greatest care and interest in your own spiritual development. We desire that the original Rosicrucian tradition will be passed on to many others around the world today.

Our father's message to you as his student is that our teachings are to be regarded as a scientific study of life. The academic **approach** is there, but in our *Rosicrucian Journey* we have centred your learning upon the **experience of life** aspect, **and wish** to bring to your attention the **practical application** of our truths to **your daily life**. In doing so **you become** a **practical Rosicrucian**, rather than an 'armchair theorist,' **this way you live the life of a truly spiritual person acceptable to these modern times**.

**Now we will be offering, for the first time**, many of our unpublished secrets for the purpose of human development **and expanding awareness**. Our society is motivated **by one purpose, the Reintegration of the whole of Humanity and Nature back into its purer state, and that by leading every student of this school into his or her own reintegration**. As a Rosicrucian Student you must also **examine** your own motivations and spiritual goals at this point. Here are some recommendations for **your travels on the *Rosicrucian Journey***.

### **The Rosicrucian Journal**

As seen in the last section many exercises will be given and some of those form part of the Mystical Ladder to enlightenment. These basic exercises should be written into your Rosicrucian Journal. As a part of your journal you will readily be able to make reference to the spiritual work to refresh in your mind the exact method of working. Please **purchase** a journal this week as part of becoming serious and successful in your spiritual **endeavours**. The Rosicrucian Journal will also serve to record many other exercises on the Mystical Ladder and you may also write the results and your impressions of any additional experiments and meditations we offer. You will also want to record dreams and your interpretation of them and points of interest you may find on the *Rosicrucian Journey*. This book will become something personal to you and should be kept **hidden** away from others.

### **Experience is Essential**

Experiencing the Mystical Path is something that can only be **attained** by **applying our** work on the physical level. While our methods are presented only as recommendations and are undertaken of your own free will, we **would emphasize** that unless the work is **experienced** the knowledge is not truly a part of your being. The scales of decision are in your hands to discern how much of the work is for you. Many people offer knowledge in the form of books, lessons, videos, lectures and magazines, yet all of this is only intellectual knowledge. Some people, as we have seen, become caught up on the intellectual path alone and never experience the beauty of proving this knowledge in the real world. And until that knowledge is experienced it only remains a theory. At this point we say never let yourself become a person who only partakes of the intellectual side of the *Rosicrucian Journey*. **The future possibilities in the actual experience of this path are endless, and only in the experiencing of it will you realise the potential for your own personal transformation**. An indication may be made from the fact that what you have learned so far in our first exercise upon the Mystical Ladder, called Retrospection, is of such use that even if you did not continue past these

pages you would have with you such a useful tool that it alone could provide you with great wisdom and improved life experience in relationships, career and your entire **life's** journey. The measure of this one exercise is so great, **and** yet hundreds of such potentially transforming moments await you in our grade manuals. This experience is something that if applied can provide you with **so** much joy and freedom **that you could see the world around you change as with your inner being.**

**Questions so far:**

- 1. When was the *Fama* first circulated?**
- 2. When was the *Fama* first published?**
- 3. In what places did Father CRC obtain his knowledge?**
- 4. How many brethren were in the Rosicrucian Council?**
- 5. What were the six laws of the College of the Holy Spirit?**

Do not read past this page if you do not know the answers!

**Points**

- **Remember to obtain your Rosicrucian Journal.**
- **Include the prayer of this degree from the Study Prayers section into your Rosicrucian Journal and practice it once per week on a night of your choosing. **Though if you have the time, say the prayer after each nightly practice of Reflection.****
- **Remember that experience is essential.**

### **Introduction to Basic Rosicrucian Principles**

So far you have learned of a man that sought out the divine knowledge. **His actual name is unknown; some say he was of the House of Gernelshausen in the Thuringian forest in Germany, which by some traditions held some of the survivors of the Albigensian crusade, of which the castle of Gernelshausen was an outpost. In two of our founding documents, the *Fama* and the *Confessio* he was known as Father C.R.C., but he is often referred to as "Christian Rosenkreutz," as so many believe that the main character in the third founding document of our order, a symbolic allegory called: *The Chemical Wedding*, was in fact, our founding Father. It was Father C.R.C's hearts desire **not only to preserve, but to teach others the divine knowledge of the ancient sages some of which, according to one of our inherited traditions distinct to AR+CO says that he had acquired from the "Temple of the Sun." Damascus at that time was under the banner of Islam, but under Islam the Syriac Christian Church flourished, as did the Jews, since Islam honoured the "People of the "Book," and as C.R.C. was a Christian pilgrim fighting illness,****

he naturally sought out the only Christians in Damascus that ran a hospital, the Syriac, and it was from them he learned of the university in Damcar. The city of Damcar, now known as Dhamar, wherein he studied for three years, lies between two volcanic peaks in the mountains of Yemen, and at the time our Father was there it was a university centre for Ethiopic and Coptic Christianity, Sabeanism and Zoroastrianism. Islam also had a large presence by then as well, but did not interfere with the university as Islam valued education at that time and did not put constraints upon where knowledge came from. It was from the Zoroastrian "Temple of the Sun" that we inherit our *Fire Philosophy*, from the Sabeans our mathematics and knowledge of the stars, and from the Eastern Christians the tools and techniques of the hesychast tradition for the attainment of theosis, or what we call, at-one-ment in AR+CO. C.R.C. later formed the Rosicrucian Fraternity after the mystical Egyptian or Coptic understanding of Christianity and his temple was founded upon the principle of raising the consciousness of the student so that he or she might become enlightened and knowing, and may begin the ascension to complete regeneration and reintegration.

Today the Rosicrucian movement is a credit to his sacrifice and his life-long work. The Rosicrucian temple of today continues to provide outstanding individuals with spiritual direction and vision having allowed his teachings to change with the times.

C.R.C taught that there was only One Supreme Being and that his Brothers should heal the sick. The Rosicrucian Temple continues to teach the *Way of the Heart* so that we may come to live an enlightened life. All our work is constructed around the Way of Love, which is the path leading to the "Way of the Heart." Our principles are timeless deriving from the underlying pattern of truth that can be traced throughout the *Philosophia perennis* and is reflected in all the testaments of sages, saints, eastern and some western, monks, prophets and Christ himself. Through the examples of such enlightened teachers, Father C.R.C. gathered together the highest principles of each philosophy, so that you may be taught a universal philosophy that can be applied to your life no matter your race, religion, caste or sex. It is through this lesson that we shall introduce you to the most basic principles of Rosicrucian philosophy as, at first glance, may be derived from the first of our founding documents: the *Fama*.

To proclaim a Rosicrucian philosophy in just one manual is however impossible as it is to provide one manual on the entire meaning of life. Throughout our next few pages you will hopefully acquire insights into our basic philosophy. Remember all knowledge comes in stages and everyone will understand these concepts at different levels. Thus our work is given in such a way that one naturally grows into deeper and deeper levels of understanding. The first great lesson from Nature is that only through ordered growth and evolution, and not through revolution, will true wisdom be attained. So our teaching is done with this in mind, and at each level new concepts will be introduced. Rather than simply stating that the underlying Rosicrucian principles are this or that in this one manual, we should at least state their purpose. These principles are aimed at increasing your knowledge, thus your

vibration, and through applying [the techniques given in](#) these teachings your consciousness will expand and become magnetized with a powerful force [which will](#) enable you to aid humanity in the light of the Rosicrucian way. As a centre of force the mystic can serve [his or her](#) true purpose in life, be that whatever you may find it to be from your higher self. Your true purpose is what Rosicrucians term your *Great Work* and this is always in line with the universal unfoldment. [This Rosicrucian Journey begins with the idea of opening up a line of communication, a bridge if you will, so that the knowledge and wisdom living within you, that which is called your Higher Self, can flow into your daily life, and by that communication discover what your Great Work truly is.](#) Let us now examine some basic core principles of the Rosicrucian tradition.

### **The Supreme Being**

The Rosicrucian school maintains a belief in a Supreme Being. Every teacher that our Father C.R.C encountered, be they [Syriac](#) or Arabic, Christian or [Zoroastrian](#), Alchemist or [Physician](#), all taught of a universal [Intelligence](#).

Throughout these lessons you will be given [techniques, that if persistently practised, and lived to the fullest, you can experientially](#) verify the existence of such a being to yourself. All of our wisdom after all must be tried and tested by the wise student. Now we will explain our basic understanding of [this](#) 'godhead.'

Upon joining the Rosicrucian College you completed an application form which asked you: '*Do you believe in the existence of a Supreme, Intelligent Being, the Creator and preserver of the Universe?*' The terminology here does not indicate that the Supreme Being of the Rosicrucians is any specific God of any [specific](#) religion as such. Instead the definition is left open to your own beliefs and understanding of the universe at any given time. This is ideal because we [are not teaching](#) a set pattern of beliefs. What may be true for one person today may be drastically different [for that same person](#) many years [from now, remembering the concept of growth](#). This is why our lessons are offered in such a form that they may be interpreted to your own understanding of life. Each person is unique and your application of our Rosicrucian teachings should reflect your own individuality.

You may be a Christian and would like to retain your Christian, [or Trinitarian](#) outlook on God. This is [perfectly acceptable](#). Others may simply believe in a 'Universal Mind' or perhaps your godhood is Krishna-consciousness, Judaism, Muslim or perhaps another path. What is important is that all of these faiths agree that the Supreme Being is Intelligent, he has a plan [for the Universe and](#) for us and that this plan is constantly showing itself. We call this plan 'universal unfoldment' in our Rosicrucian school [following the tradition of the perennial philosophy](#). The Supreme Being of the Rosicrucians is [thereby](#) universal to all religions because ultimately the prophets of the ancient civilisations were communicating with the same Divine Being. Throughout our discussions we may frequently refer to the Creator as 'he' or 'him' although we do not mean to imply that the Supreme Being is male instead of female, as

we believe the Godhead to be above gender and definition. The actual term we use is *apophatic*, which is Greek, and refers to the 'unknowability,' of God in that a finite mind simply cannot comprehend an infinite mind, and also our inability to actually describe God because of his "ineffability." Through practicing the tools and techniques we offer one can experience a connection to this "Ground of Being" as a reality, but the experience can never be expressed to another. This experience is also understood to be felt at different levels so that everyone's attempt at describing it is what has given us so many seemingly different descriptions of "God."

We do iterate that we are not *deist* or *pantheist*. *Deism* is the belief that an Intelligent "God" created the universe, but remains independent from it, completely transcendent, does not guide or intervene in the movements of that universe. *Pantheism* is the belief that everything created, especially Nature, is but a mode, attribute or appearance of one single reality or Being. God is completely immanent and everything is but a cell of its being, and there is not transcendent quality or reality out there. We are, in essence *Panentheist*, in that we do hold to the ultimate transcendence of "God," but that 'he' is totally and completely immanent as well, and thereby guides, controls, and intervenes in the workings of the universe and in each of our individual lives. 'He' is both that 'essence' that fills the space between the proton and the electron, that which we sometimes call the *Prima materia*, and by *emanation*, is also the proton, the electron, the molecule, all the way to us. Deeper mysteries of the nature of emanation, as well as ways to "see" and "hear" these truths, are part of the *Rosicrucian Journey* that lies before you.

We would like to add that as our valued student the God of the Rosicrucians includes whatever the Divine Spirit is to you because you are a Rosicrucian, having been accepted into our school. We embrace all images of the divine whatever that may be to you.

### **The Higher Self**

The Rosicrucians also believe that each of us possess the same divine quality of Godhood inside us. Jesus said 'Ye are Gods,' and 'the kingdom of God is within you,' (*Luke xvii:21*). We call this the **Higher Self** to describe the personal element of this divine spark contained within. Another term we will be using is **Transpersonal Self**. This is why in the ancient Greek temples it was written, "Man, Know Thyself, and thou shalt know the Universe, and the Gods" and as such we seek to understand our own inner nature. **This understanding can change your life**. Every time we have seen the imaginative brilliance of a great artist, a writer, or a musician, and the power of those who demonstrate a will to overcome tremendous odds, we have seen the presence of the Higher Self at work. The Rosicrucian school seeks to awaken the Higher Self in you so that you may find your way.

*"Enter eagerly into the treasure-house that lies within you, and so you will see the treasure-house of heaven; for the two are the same, and there is but one single entry to them both. The ladder that leads to the Kingdom is hidden within you, and is*

*found in your own soul. Dive into yourself and in your soul you will discover the rungs by which to ascend.”*

—St. Isaac the Syrian (died circa 700).

## **The Great Work**

The Rosicrucians believe that the Higher Self, or Transpersonal Self can communicate to the student your true purpose in life. Your true purpose is what we call your *Magnum Opus* or *Great Work*. This formula simply states that everyone is here to achieve One Great Thing in life and this task will be suited to your special qualities. By watching life itself you can see that everything has a purpose. There is a natural cycle in life. The plants and animals or our eco-system support one another, **and keeps the entirety of Nature in balance**. This can only be called intelligence in that it flows through all things in a purposeful fashion just as it flows through you. The Rosicrucians assert that each student has something to complete as your special life task and that by awakening our Higher Self you can find that purpose. Some **individuals that** have risen to this status have been termed prophets because of the power and impact upon the world that resulted **in their** completion of the Great Work.

## **Spiritual Development**

All students **should** desire spiritual **direction to continue their** growth and as humans we reflect through others around us our current state of being. A caution is given here as we advise against any actions that demonstrate your knowledge for some form of reassurance of spiritual growth. For many the glamour of being ‘the spiritual one’ becomes a hindrance to actual progress because we live in an era where our ‘story’ is sometimes more important than practicing what we preach. So the problem of our era is that very few people understand what spiritual development **truly is**.

Spiritual development is not a matter of behaving in accordance with religious rules, customs or dogma. For many this is life but the goal of the Rosicrucian is to experience heaven on earth in an enlightened state of being. This can only take place by becoming more ‘aware.’ ‘Aware of what?’ you might ask. More aware of your surroundings, your feelings, your words, your actions, habits and motivations, **more aware of what drives you through your daily processes, more aware of what truly lies within your own heart**. Your spiritual development will require effort, constancy, honesty, self-examination and sincerity. We have tried however to make this path as easy as possible for you. Spiritual development in the Rosicrucian College of AR+CO however **does not mean** obtaining a mental state of bliss. Our form of spiritual development takes place in the real world where your reaction to life’s opportunities and your ability to manifest the divine on the material level is the true measurement of your level of unfoldment. Therefore we encourage not only a mystical understanding of the universe but also a practical approach to life.

## **The Rose Cross**

When the symbol of the Rose and Cross was worn by the Coptic sage Ormus, then later by our Father C.R.C., no more truer representation could be found to embody the principles of the Rosicrucian Order.

The cross shows that we labour toward the Great Work as people who seek to aid humanity. Our mission is to live in the examples seen in the lives and patterns of many religious mystics. The cross was a means by which they suffered and sacrificed to save the people of their era. This means the cross should remind us of our duty, our constant effort to perform acts that are truly selfless. Throughout our spiritual progress the cross also represents equilibrium and balance. The arms of the cross are equal in the Outer Order and this represents the four elements and four degrees of elemental transformation. As you progress through the four degrees of the College of the Holy Spirit your four lower spiritual personalities are transformed to conform to the *Way of the Heart* and the compassionate self. This means that the cross itself represents the balanced personality of a Rosicrucian. The student will be shown how to balance his mind, body and spirit so that he becomes a powerful force of intelligence and compassion, enabling you to achieve your dreams and come to the aid of both yourself and others.

The cross of the Rosicrucian school is also much broader than deriving its symbolism from Christianity alone. For strictly speaking, the cross is not entirely Christian in symbolism. In pre-Christian times the cross was also used by “pagan” cultures such as the Egyptian, Greek, Babylonian, and Sumerian, as well as countless others. To many cultures the cross represents the four seasons of the year and the path of the sun through its course. As a Rosicrucian it should remind us that we come to the aid of others at any time of the year whether rain, hail or shine. By undergoing the Rosicrucian path of transformation your subconscious will begin to find the equilibrium of the cross within.

The rose upon the cross is a natural addition to our symbol deriving meaning from both far and near eastern and western sources. In the east, the flower represents the spiritual centers in the body. Their unfoldment or opening was said to lead to pure enlightenment. In the Rosicrucian tradition the blooming of the rose within takes place when we completely live an enlightened life. The blossoming is an outward expression of the divine self within. When your time comes, and you are able to live in the performing of the Great Work, you will outwardly express this light, in your thoughts, words and actions. You will be a healer and many people will come to you for council. The light that you find within will come to be known as your Great Work and upon traversing this path you will sew many seeds by which other roses may grow throughout the world.

### **Healing is Rosicrucianism**

Today Rosicrucians practice many forms of healing. According to the Fama the most direct instruction from Father C.R.C. was that we should heal the sick, and that gratis (great-fully.) Unlike many esoteric orders that teach

'magic and occultism' our practices are genuinely aimed at benefiting our fellow man through healing methods and theurgy.

From your current level of Labourer we will begin by [giving you the tools](#) for the unfolding of the [understanding](#) and power of your healing ability. At your graduation of the College of the Holy Spirit you will be a competent healer before even reaching the Inner Sanctum level. [Your healing ability will be uniquely yours, as it could manifest as an ability to heal the body with the energy from the hands, or you might be able to heal the emotions through empathic light, or heal the mind through structured imaging or by many other tools and paths one may take. We will not push you into an arena you don't have an affinity for or a desire to follow, so this we all depend upon your own self-discovery. What we do push is the selfless service to humanity as being more important than one's own self-aggrandizement.](#) Imagine for just one moment what kind of difference this will make to an individual undertaking our course and how the Rosicrucians have always sought to positively influence the world. [Do you truly wish to become a positive force of influence?](#)

For those of you wondering at what kind of healing we teach; our healing breaks loose from modern and traditional ideas in order to incorporate the fact that healing must be conducted firstly on the self before one can heal others. Only spiritual people can become intermediates between the higher divine force and the physical plane. Rosicrucian healing is conducted with an intelligent transmission of energy to various parts of emotional, mental and physical regions so that healing takes place both within the personality of the patient as well as on the physical level.

This course of learning is called the *Rosicrucian Journey* and its healing methods will come in many forms including healing with nature and herbal medicine, healing with internal energy systems and mental/emotional therapy with colour and sound. You will learn flower remedies, visionary experiences, vibrational healing, and how to align spiritual forces to also heal your personality in a form of healing that is also [methodology](#) of self-help. This type of inner healing will release the student from any limitations that we face in life.

Through practice you will begin to understand that healing must be expressed through yourself as a soul, and not just an individual. Because healers must communicate energy from the limitless reservoir of living force, healing in its purest form is viewed as a type of alchemy. This means that the results you achieve on the outside as witnessed in the effectiveness of your ability to heal others, is also a reflection of the healing that has taken place within yourself. Rosicrucians understand that healing also marks the character of a liberated soul in our Rosicrucian philosophy for liberation [and reintegration](#) is our goal.

### **A Complete Universe**

The last and most complex Rosicrucian principle is our model of the universe. This vast subject is something that will be explored throughout your entire [Journey](#). Because true Rosicrucians are analytical, we will examine the

nature of matter and seek to understand the finer vibrations that underlie and unite all things. In the Rosicrucian sense, the universe is entirely connected. All things are made of vibration and our senses report the interaction of vibration to us. But the universe also has many hidden layers waiting for you to explore. What the ancients termed as the seven heavens we define in layers of consciousness until reaching the highest point. As such the Rosicrucian sees the universe as not only physical but also metaphysical. Many people only take note of the physical and a few consider that they do indeed have a soul. But when we consider that we are in fact a [spirit with a soul-with-a-body](#) the perspective is that as a soul we are here to experience something on the physical level while the [entire](#) universe interacts with itself. As a soul our journey is greater and from here the [Rosicrucian Journey will give us the tools to](#) identify our role in the universe itself.

We truly hope that you enjoy learning each part of [your Rosicrucian Journey](#) throughout the degrees of our order. For in learning these ideals you will benefit from them and obtain a greater life experience. For those of you who say there must be more to life than what you are currently experiencing, the next section carries your initiation ceremony to set you on a journey that will change your life forever.

*Oh Seeker! We call you to the Gentle Beauty  
We call you to the Gentle Light*

**Application: Log onto our Rosicrucian Garden Forum. We would like to hear your ideas about the Supreme Being, the Great Work, the Higher Self, Spiritual Development, Healing and symbolisms of the Rose Cross.**

### **RESOURCE MATERIAL Fama Fraternitatis**

This is the key document that the Rosicrucian College first used to make themselves known to the public. It was first published in 1614 in German and in 1615 in Latin, though there are some manuscript copies in existence dating from about 1611.

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#### **To the Wise and Understanding Reader.**

Wisdom (saith Solomon) is to a man an infinite Treasure, for she is the Breath of the Power of God, and a pure Influence that floweth from the Glory of the Almighty; she is the Brightness of Eternal Light, and an undefiled Mirror of the Majesty of God, and an Image of his Goodness; she teacheth us Soberness and Prudence, Righteousness and Strength; she understands the Subtilty of words, and Solution of dark sentences; she foreknoweth Signs and Wonders, and what shall happen in time to come; with this Treasure was our first Father Adam fully endued: Hence it doth appear, that after God had brought before him all the Creatures of the Field, and the Fowls under Heaven, he gave to every one of them their proper names, according to their nature.

Although now through the sorrowful fall into sin this excellent Jewel Wisdom hath

been lost, and meer Darkness and Ignorance is come into the World, yet notwithstanding hath the Lord God sometimes hitherto bestowed, and made manifest the same, to some of his Friends: For the wise King Solomon doth testifie of himself, that he upon earnest prayer and desire did get and obtain such Wisdom of God, that thereby he knew how the World was created, thereby he understood the Nature of the Elements, also the time, beginning, middle and end, the increase and decrease, the change of times through the whole Year, the Revolution of the Year, and Ordinance of the Stars; he understood also the properties of tame and wilde Beasts, the cause of the raining of the Winds, and minds and intents of men, all sorts and natures of Plants, vertues of Roots, and others, was not unknown to him. Now I do not think that there can be found any one who would not wish and desire with all his heart to be a Partaker of this noble Treasure; but seeing the same Felicity can happen to none, except God himself give Wisdom, and send his holy Spirit from above, we have therefore set forth in print this little Treatise, to wit, Famam & Confessionem, of the Laudable Fraternity of the Rosie Cross, to be read by every one, because in them is clearly shewn and discovered, what concerning it the World hath to expect.

Although these things may seem somewhat strange, and many may esteem it to be but a Philosophical shew, and no true History, which is published and spoken of the Fraternity of the Rosie Cross; it shall here sufficiently appear by our Confession, that there is more in recessu then may be imagined; and it shall be easily understood, and observed by every one (if he be not altogether voyd of understanding) what now adays, and at these times, is meant thereby.

Those who are true Disciples of Wisdom, and true Followers of the Spherical Art, will consider better of these things, and have them in greater estimation, as also judg far otherwise of them, as hath been done by some principal Persons, but especially of Adam Haselmeyer, Notarius Publicus to the Arch Duke Maximilian, who likewise hath made an Extract ex scriptis Theologicis Theophrasti, and written a Treatise under the Title of Jesuiter, wherein he willeth, that every Christian should be a true Jesuit, that is, to walk, live, be, and remain in Jesus: He was but ill rewarded of the Jesuits, because in his answer written upon the Famam, he did name those of the Fraternity of the Rosie Cross, The highly illuminated men, and undeceiving Jesuits; for they not able to brook this, layd hands on him, and put him into the Galleis, for which they likewise have to expect their reward.

Blessed Aurora will now henceforth begin to appear, who (after the passing away of the dark Night of Saturn) with her Brightness altogether extinguisheth the shining of the Moon, or the small Sparks of Heavenly Wisdom, which yet remaineth with men, and is a Forerunner of pleasant Phebus, who with his clear and fiery glistening Beams brings forth that blessed Day, long wished for, of many true-hearted; by which Day-light then shall truly be known, and shall be seen all heavenly Treasures of godly Wisdom, as also the Secrets of all hidden and unvisible things in the World, according to the Doctrine of our Forefathers, and ancient Wisemen.

This will be the right kingly Ruby, and most excellent shining Carbuncle, of the which it is said, That he doth shine and give light in darkness, and to be a perfect Medicine of all imperfect Bodies, and to change them into the best Gold, and to cure all Diseases of Men, easing them of all pains and miseries.

Be therefore, gentle Reader, admonished, that with me you do earnestly pray to God, that it please him to open the hearts and ears of all ill hearing people, and to grant unto them his blessing, that they may be able to know him in his Omnipotency, with admiring contemplation of Nature, to his honour and praise, and to the love, help, comfort and strengthening of our Neighbors, and to the restoring of all the diseased.

**Fama Fraternalitatis,  
A Discovery of the Fraternity of the most laudable Order of the Rosy Cross.**

Seeing the only Wise and Merciful God in these latter days hath poured out so richly his mercy and goodness to Mankind, wherby we do attain more and more to the perfect knowledg of his Son Jesus Christ and Nature, that justly we may boast of the happy time, wherein there is not only discovered unto us the half part of the World, which was heretofore unknown & hidden, but he hath also made manifest unto us many wonderful, and never-heretofore see, Works and Creatures of Nature, and moreover hath raised men, indued with great Wisdom, which might partly renew and reduce all Arts (in this our Age spotted and imperfect) to perfection; so that finally Man might thereby understand his own Nobleness and Worth, and why he is called Microcosmus, and how far his knowledg extendeth in Nature.

Although the rude World herewith will be but little pleased, but rather smile and scoff thereat; also the Pride and Covetousness of the Learned is so great, it will not suffer them to agree together; but were they united, they might out of all those things which in this our Age God doth so richly bestow upon us, collect *Librum Naturae*, or a perfect Method of all Arts: but such is their opposition, that they still keep, and are loth to leave the old course, esteeming Porphiry, Aristotle, and Galen, yea and that which hath but a meer shew of learning, more then the clear and manifested Light and Truth; who if they were now living, with much joy would leave their erroneous Doctrines. But here is too great weaknesses for such a great Work: And although in Theologie, Physic, and the Mathematic, the Truth doth oppose it self; nevertheless the old Enemy by his subtilty and craft doth shew himself in hindering every good purpose by his Instruments and contentious wavering people. To such an intent of a general Reformation, the most godly and highly illuminated Father, our Brother, C.R. a German, the chief and original of our Fraternity, hath much and long time laboured, who by reason of his poverty (although descended of Noble Parents) in the fifth year of his age was placed in a Cloyster, where he had learned indifferently the Greek and Latin Tongues, who (upon his earnest desire and request) being yet in his growing years, was associated to a Brother, P.A.L. who had determined to go to the Holy Land.

Although this Brother dyed in Ciprus, and so never came to Jerusalem, yet our Brother C.R. did not return, but shipped himself over, and went to Damasco, minding from thence to go to Jerusalem; but by reason of the feebleness of his body he remained still there, and by his skill in Physick he obtained much favour with the Turks: In the mean time he became by chance acquainted with the Wise men of Damasco in Arabia, and beheld what great Wonders they wrought, and how Nature was discovered unto them; hereby was that high and noble Spirit of Brother C.R. so stired up, that Jerusalem was not so much now in his mind as Damasco; also he could not bridle his desires any longer, but made a bargain with the Arabians, that they

should carry him for a certain sum of money to Damasco; he was but of the age of sixteen years when he came thither, yet of a strong Dutch constitution; there the Wise received him (as he himself witnesseth) not as a stranger, but as one whom they had long expected, they called him by his name, and shewed him other secrets out of his Cloyster, whereat he could not but mightily wonder: He learned there better the Arabian Tongue; so that the year following he translated the Book M. into good Latin, which he afterwards brought with him. This is the place where he did learn his Physick, and his Mathematicks, whereof the World hath just cause to rejoyce, if there were more Love, and less Envy. After three years he returned again with good consent, shipped himself over Sinus Arabicus into Egypt, where he remained not long, but only took better notice there of the Plants and Creatures; he sailed over the whole Mediterranean Sea for to come unto Fez, where the Arabians had directed him. And it is a great shame unto us, that wise men, so far remote th'one from th'other, should not only be of one opinion, hating all contentious Writings, but also be so willing and ready under the seal of secrecy to impart their secrets to others.

Every year the Arabians and Affricans do send one to another, inquiring one of another out of their Arts, if happily they had found out some better things, or if Experience had weakened their Reasons. Yearly there came something to light, whereby the Mathematica, Physic and Magic (for in those are they of Fez most skilful) were amended; as there is now adays in Germany no want of learned Men, Magicians, Cabalists, Physicians, and Philosophers, were there but more love and kindness among them, or that the most part of them would not keep their secrets close only to themselves. At Fez he did get acquaintance with those which are commonly called the Elementary Inhabitants, who revealed unto him many of their secrets: As we Germans likewise might gather together many things, if there were the like unity, and desire of searching out of secrets amongst us.

Of these of Fez he often did confess, that their Magia was not altogether pure, and also that their Cabala was defiled with their Religion; but notwithstanding he knew how to make good use of the same, and found still more better grounds of his Faith, altogether agreeable with the Harmony of the whole World, and wonderfully impressed in all Periods of times, and thence proceedeth that fair Concord, that as in every several kernel is contained a whole good tree or fruit, so likewise is included in the little body of Man the whole great World, whose Religion, policy, health, members, nature, language, words and works, are agreeing, sympathizing, and in equal tune and melody with God, Heaven and Earth; and that which is dis-agreeing with them, is error, falsehood and of the Devil, who alone is the first, middle, and last cause of strife, blindness, and darkness in the World: Also, might one examine all and several persons upon the Earth, he should find that which is good and right, is always agreeing with it self; but all the rest is spotted with a thousand erroneous conceits.

After two years Brother R.C. departed the City Fez, and sailed with many costly things into Spain, hoping well, he himself had so well and so profitably spent his time in his travel, that the learned in Europe would highly rejoyce with him, and begin to rule, and order all their Studies, according to those sound and sure Foundations. He therefore conferred with the Learned in Spain, shewing unto them the Errors of our Arts, and how they might be corrected, and from whence they should gather the true Inditia of the Times to come, and wherein they ought to agree with those things that are past; also how the faults of the Church and the whole Philosophia Moralis was to be

amended: He shewed them new Growths, new Fruits, and Beasts, which did concord with old Philosophy, and prescribed them new Axiomata, whereby all things might fully be restored: But it was to them a laughing matter; and being a new thing unto them, they feared that their great Name should be lessened, if they should now again begin to learn and acknowledg their many years Errors, to which they were accustomed, and wherewith they had gained them enough: Who so loveth unquietness, let him be reformed.

The same Song was also sang to him by other Nations, the which moved him the more (because it happened to him contrary to his expectation,) being then ready bountifully to impart all his Arts and Secrets to the Learned, if they would have but undertaken to write the true and infallible Axiomata, out of all Faculties, Sciences and Arts, and whole Nature, as that which he knew would direct them, like a Globe, or Circle, to the onely middle Point, and Centrum, and (as it is usual among the Arabians) it should onely serve to the wise and learned for a Rule, that also there might be a Society in Europe, which might have Gold, Silver, and precious Stones, sufficient for to bestow them on Kings, for their necessary uses, and lawful purposes: with which such as be Governors might be brought up, for to learn all that which God hath suffered Man to know, and thereby to be enabled in all times of need to give their counsel unto those that seek it, like the Heathen Oracles: Verily we must confess that the world in those days was already big with those great Commotions, laboring to be delivered of them; and did bring forth painful, worthy men, who brake with all force through Darkness and Barbarism, and left us who succeeded to follow them: and assuredly they have been the uppermost point in Trygono igneo, whose flame now should be more and more brighter, and shall undoubtedly give to the World the last Light.

Such a one likewise hath Theophrastus been in Vocation and Callings, although he was none of our Fraternity, yet nevertheless hath he diligently read over the Book M: whereby his sharp ingenium was exalted; but this man was also hindered in his course by the multitude of the learned and wise-seeming men, that he was never able peaceably to confer with others of his Knowledg and Understanding he had of Nature. And therefore in his writing he rather mocked these busie bodies, and doth not shew them altogether what he was: yet nevertheless there is found with him well grounded the aforementioned Harmonia, which without doubt he had imparted to the Learned, if he had not found them rather worthy of subtil vexation, then to be instructed in greater Arts and Sciences; he then with a free and careless life lost his time, and left unto the World their foolish pleasures.

But that we do not forget our loving Father, Brother C.R. he after many painful Travels, and his fruitless true Instructions, returned again into Germany, the which he (by reason of the alterations which were shortly to come, and of the strange and dangerous contentions) heartily loved: There, although he could have bragged with his Art, but specially of the transmutations of Metals; yet did he esteem more Heaven, and the Citizens thereof, Man, then all vain glory and pomp.

Nevertheless he builded a fitting and neat inhabitation, in the which he ruminated his Voyage, and Philosophy, and reduced them together in a true Memorial. In this house he spent a great time in the Mathematicks, and made many fine Instruments, ex omnibus hujus artis partibus, whereof there is but little remaining to us, as hereafter

you shall understand. After five years came again into his mind the wished for Reformation; and in regard he doubted of the ayd and help of others, although he himself was painful, lusty, and unwearisom, he undertook, with some few adjoynd with him, to attempt the same: wherefore he desired to that end, to have out of his first Cloyster (to the which he bare a great affection) three of his Brethren, Brother G.V. Brother J.A. and Brother J.O. who besides that, they had some more knowledg in the Arts, then at that time many others had, he did binde those three unto himself, to be faithful, diligent, and secret; as also to commit carefully to writing, all that which he should direct and instruct them in, to the end that those which were to come, and through especial Revelation should be received into this Fraternity, might not be deceived of the least sillable and word.

After this manner began the Fraternity of the Rosie Cross; first, by four persons onely, and by them was made the Magical Language and writing, with a large Dictionary, which we yet dayly use to Gods praise and glory, and do finde great wisdom therein; they made also the first part of the Book M: but in respect that the labor was too heavy, and the unspeakable concourse of the sick hindred them, and also whilst his new building (called Sancti spiritus) was now finished, they concluded to draw and receive yet others more into their Fraternity; to this end was chosen brother R.C. his deceased fathers brothers son, brother B. a skilful Painter, G. and P.D. their Secretary, all Germaines except J.A. so in all they were eight in number, all batchelors and of vowed virginity, by those was collected a book or volumn of all that which man can desire, wish, or hope for.

Although we do now freely confess, that the World is much amended within an hundred years, yet we are assured, that our Axiomata shall unmovably remain unto the Worlds End, and also the world in her highest and last Age shall not attain to see any thing else; for our Rota takes her beginning from that day when God spake Fiat, and shall end when he shall speak Pereat; yet Gods Clock striketh every minute, where ours scarce striketh perfect hours. We also stedfastly beleeve, that if our Brethren and Fathers had lived in this our present and clear light, they would more roughly have handled the Pope, Mahomet, Scribes, Artists, and Sophisters, and had shewed themselves more helpful, not simply with sighs, and wishing of their end and consummation.

When now these eight Brethren had disposed and ordered all things in such manner, as there was not now need of any great labour, and also that every one was sufficiently instructed, and able perfectly to discourse of secret and manifest Philosophy, they would not remain any longer together, but as in the beginning they had agreed, they separated themselves into several Countries, because that not only their Axiomata might in secret be more profoundly examined by the learned, but that they themselves, if in some Country or other they observed anything, or perceived some Error, they might inform one another of it.

Their agreement was this: First, That none of them should profess any other thing, then to cure the sick, and that gratis. 2. None of the Posterity should be constrained to wear one certain kind of habit, but therein to follow the custom of the Country. 3. That every year upon the day C. they should meet together at the house S. Spiritus, or to write the cause of his absence. 4. Every Brother should look out for a worthy person, who after his discease might succeed him. 5. The word C.R. should be their

Seal, Mark, and Character. 6. The Fraternity should remain secret one hundred years. These six Articles they bound themselves one to another to keep; and five of the Brethren departed, only the Brethren B. and D. remained with the Father Fra: R.C. a whole year; when these likewise departed, then remained by him his Cousen and Brother J.O. so that he hath all the days of his life with him two of his Brethren. And although that as yet the Church was not cleansed, nevertheless we know that they did think of her, and with what longing desire they looked for: Every year they assembled together with joy, and made a full resolution of that which they had done; there must certainly have been great pleasure, to hear truly and without invention related and rehearsed all the Wonders which God hath poured out here and there through the World. Every one may hold it out for certain, that such persons as were sent, and joined together by God, and the Heavens, and chosen out of the wisest of men, as have lived in many Ages, did live together above all others in highest Unity, greatest Secrecy, and most kindness one towards another.

After such a most laudable sort they did spend their lives; and although they were free from all diseases and pain, yet notwithstanding they could not live and pass their time appointed of God. The first of this Fraternity which dyed, and that in England, was J.O. as Brother C. long before had foretold him; he was very expert, and well learned in Cabala, as his Book called H. witnesseth: In England he is much spoken of, and chiefly because he cured a young Earl of Norfolk of the Leprosie. They had concluded, that as much as possibly could be their burial place should be kept secret, as at this day it is not known unto us what is become of some of them, yet every ones place was supplied with a fit successor; but this we wil confesse publickly by these presents to the honour of God, That what secret soever we have learned out of the book M. (although before our eyes we behold the image and pattern of all the world) yet are there not shewn unto us our misfortunes, nor hour of death, the which only is known to God himself, who thereby would have us keep in a continual readiness; but hereof more in our Confession, where we do set down 37 Reasons wherefore we now do make known our Fraternity, and proffer such high Mysteries freely, and without constraint and reward: also we do promise more gold then both the Indies bring to the King of Spain; for Europe is with child and will bring forth a strong child, who shall stand in need of a great godfathers gift.

After the death of I.O. Brother R.C. rested not, but as soon as he could, called the rest together, (and as we suppose) then his grave was made; although hitherto we (who were the latest) did not know when our loving father R.C. died, and had no more but the bare names of the beginners, and all their successors to us; yet there came into our memory, a secret, which through dark and hidden words, and speeches of the 100 years, brother A. the successor of D. (who was of the last and second row and succession), and had lived amongst many of us,) did impart unto us of the third row and succession; otherwise we must confess, that after the death of the said A. none of us had in any manner known anything of Brother R.C. and of his first fellow-brethren, then that which was extant of them in our Philosophical Bibliotheca, amongst which our Axiomata was held for the chiefest Rota Mundi, for the most artificial, and Protheus the most profitable. Likewise we do not certainly know if these of the second row have been of the like wisdom as the first, and if they were admitted to all things. It shall be declared hereafter to the gentle Reader, not onely what we have heard of the burial of R.C. but also made manifest publickly by the foresight, sufferance and commandement of God, whom we most faithfully obey, that if we

shall be answered discreetly and Christian-like, we will not be afraid to set forth publicly in Print, our names, and surnames, our meetings, or any thing else that may be required at our hands.

Now the true and fundamental relation of the finding out of the high illuminated man of God, Fra: C.R.C. is this; After that A. in Gallia Narbonensi was deceased, then succeeded in his place, our loving Brother N.N. this man after he had repaired unto us to take the solemn oath of fidelity and secrecy, he informed us bona fide, That A. had comforted him in telling him, that this Fraternity should ere long not remain so hidden, but should be to all the whole German Nation helpful, needful, and commendable; of the which he was not in any wise in his estate ashamed of. The year following after he had performed his School right, and was minded now to travel, being for that purpose sufficiently provided with Fortunatus purse, he thought (he being a good Architect) to alter something of his building, and to make it more fit: in such renewing he lighted upon the memorial Table which was cast of brasse, and containeth all the names of the brethren, with some few other things; this he would transfer in another more fitting vault: for where or when Fra: R.C. died, or in what country he was buried, was by our predecessors concealed and unknown unto us. In this Table stuck a great naile somewhat strong, so that when he was with force drawn out, he took with him an indifferent big stone out of the thin wall, or plaistering of the hidden door, and so unlooked for uncovered the door; wherefore we did with joy and longing throw down the rest of the wall, and cleared the door, upon which that was written in great letters, Post 120 annos patebo, with the year of the Lord under it: therefore we gave God thanks and let it rest that same night, because first we would overlook our Rotam; but we refer our selves again to the confession, for what we here publish is done for the help of those that are worthy, but to the unworthy (God willing) it will be small profit: For like as our door was after so many years wonderfully discovered, also there shall be opened a door to Europe (when the wall is removed) which already doth begin to appear, and with great desire is expected of many.

In the morning following we opened the door, and there appeared to our sight a Vault of seven sides and corners, every side five foor broad, and the height of eight foot; Although the Sun never shined in this Vault, nevertheless it was enlightened with another sun, which had learned this from the Sun, and was scituated in the upper part in the Center of the sieling; in the midst, in stead of a Tomb-stone, was a round Altar covered over with a plate of brass, and thereon this engraven:

A.C. R.C. Hoc universi compendium unius mihi sepulchrum feci.

Round about the first Circle or Brim stood, Jesus mihi omnia.

In the middle were four figures, inclosed in circles, whose circumscription was,

1. Nequaquam vacuum.
2. Legis Jugum.
3. Libertas Evangelij.
4. Dei gloria intacta.

This is all clear and bright, as also the seventh side and the two Heptagoni: so we

kneeled altogether down, and gave thanks to the sole wise, sole mighty, and sole eternal God, who hath taught us more then all mens wit could have found out, praised be his holy name. This Vault we parted in three parts, the upper part or sieling, the wall or side, the ground or floor.

Of the upper part you shall understand no more of it at this time, but that it was divided according to the seven sides in the triangle, which was in the bright center; but what therein is contained, you shall God willing (that are desirous of our society) behold the same with your own eys; but every side or wall is parted into ten squares, every one with their several figures and sentences, as they are truly shewed, and set forth Concentratum here in our book.

The bottom again is parted in the triangle, but because therein is discribed the power and rule of the inferior Governors, we leave to manifest the same, for fear of the abuse by the evil and ungodly world. But those that are provided and stored with the heavenly Antidote, they do without fear or hurt, tread on, and bruise the head of the old and evil serpent, which this our age is well fitted for: every side or wall had a door for a chest, wherein there lay diverse things, especially all our books, which otherwise we had, besides the Vocabular of Theoph: Par. Ho. and these which daily unfalsifieth we do participate. Herein also we found his Itinerarium, and vitam, whence this relation for the most part is taken. In another chest were looking-glasses of divers virtues, as also in other places were little bells, burning lamps, & chiefly wonderful artificial Songs; generally al done to that end, that if it should happen after many hundred years, the Order or Fraternity should come to nothing, they might by this onely Vault be restored again.

Now as yet we had not seen the dead body of our careful and wise father, we therefore removed the Altar aside, there we lifted up a strong plate of brass, and found a fair and worthy body, whole and unconsumed, as the same is here lively counterfeited, with all the Ornaments and Attires; in his hand he held a parchment book, called I. the which next to the Bible, is our greatest treasure, which ought to be delivered to the censure of the world. At the end of this book standeth this following Elogium.

*Granum pectori Jesu insitum.*

*C. Ros. C. ex nobili atque splendida Germaniae R.C. familia oriundus, vir sui seculi divinis revelationibus subtilissimis imaginationibus, indefessis laboribus ad coelestia, atque humana mysteria ; arcanave admissus postquam suam (quam Arabico, & Africano itineribus Collegerat) plusquam regiam, atque imperatoriam Gazam suo seculo nondum convenientem, posteritati eruendam custo divisset et jam suarum Artium, ut et nominis, fides acconjunctissimos herides instituisset, mundum minutum omnibus motibus magno illi respondentem fabricasset hocque tandem preteritarum, praesentium, et futurarum, rerum compendio extracto, centenario major non morbo (quem ipse nunquam corpore expertus erat, nunquam alios infestare sinebat) ullo pellente sed spiritu Dei evocante, illuminatam animam (inter Fratrum amplexus et ultima oscula) fidelissimo creatori Deo reddidisset, Pater dilectissimus, Fra: suavissimus, praeceptor fidelissimus amicus integerimus, a suis ad 120 annos hic absconditus est.*

Underneath they had subscribed themselves,

1. Fra: I.A. Fr.C.H. electione Fraternitatis caput.
2. Fr: G.V. M.P.C.
3. Fra: R.C. Iunior haeres S. spiritus.
4. Fra: B.M. P.A. Pictor et Architectus.
5. Fr: G.G. M.P.I. Cabalista.

#### Secundi Circuli.

1. Fra: P.A. Successor, Fr: I.O. Mathematicus.
2. Fra: A. Successor, Fra. P.D.
3. Fra: R. Successor patris C.R.C. cum Christo triumphant.

At the end was written :-

Ex Deo Nascimur, in Jesu morimur, per spiritum sanctum reviviscimus.

At that time was already dead Brother I.O. and Fra: D. but their burial place where is it to be found? we doubt not but our Fra: Senior hath the same, and some especial thing layd in Earth, and perhaps likewise hidden: we also hope that this our Example will stir up others more diligently to enquire after their names (whom we have therefore published) and to search for the place of their burial; for the most part of them, by reason of their practice and physick, are yet known, and praised among very old folks; so might perhaps our Gaza be enlarged, or at least be better cleared.

Concerning Minitum Mundum, we found it kept in another little Altar, truly more finer than can be imagined by any understanding man; but we will leave him undescribed, untill we shal truly be answered upon this our true hearted Famam; and so we have covered it again with the plates, and set the altar thereon, shut the door, and made it sure, with all our seals; besides by instruction and command of our Rota, there are come to sight some books, among which is contained M. (which were made in stead of household care by the praise-worthy M.P.) Finally we departed the one from the other, and left the natural heirs in possession of our Jewels. And so we do expect the answer and judgment of the learned, or unlearned.

Howbeit we know after a time there wil now be a general reformation, both of divine and humane things, according to our desire, and the expectation of others: for it's fitting, that before the rising of the Sun, there should appear and break forth Aurora, or some clearness, or divine light in the sky; and so in the mean time some few, which shall give their names, may joyn together, thereby to increase the number and respect of our Fraternity, and make a happy and wished for beginning of our Philosophical Canons, prescribed to us by our brother R.C. and be partakers with us of our treasures (which never can fail or be wasted) in all humility, and love to be eased of this worlds labor, and not walk so blindly in the knowledge of the wonderful works of God.

But that also every Christian may know of what Religion and belief we are, we confess to have the knowledge of Jesus Christ (as the same now in these last days, and chiefly in Germany, most clear and pure is professed, and is now adays cleansed and voyd of all swerving people, Hereticks, and false Prophets,) in certain and noted Countries maintained, defended and propagated: Also we use two Sacraments, as they are instituted with all Forms and Ceremonies of the first renewed Church. In Politia

we acknowledge the Roman Empire and Quartam Monarchiam for our Christian head; albeit we know what alterations be at hand, and would fain impart the same with all our hearts, to other godly learned men; notwithstanding our hand-writing which is in our hands, no man (except God alone) can make it common, nor any unworthy person is able to bereave us of it. But we shall help with secret aid this so good a cause, as God shal permit or hinder us: For our God is not blinde, as the Heathens Fortuna, but is the Churches Ornament, and the honor of the Temple. Our Philosophy also is not a new Invention, but as Adam after his fall hath received it, and as Moses and Solomon used it: also she ought not much to be doubted of, or contradicted by other opinions, or meanings; but seeing the truth is peaceable, brief, and always like herself in all things, and especially accorded by with Jesus in omni parte and all members. And as he is the true Image of the Father, so is she his Image; It shall not be said, this is true according to Philosophy, but true according to Theologie; And wherein Plato, Aristotle, Pythagoras and others did hit the mark, and wherein Enoch, Abraham, Moses, Solomon did excel; but especially wherewith that wonderful book the Bible agreeth. All that same concurreth together, and make a Sphere or Globe, whose total parts are equidistant from the Center, as hereof more at large and more plain shall be spoken of in Christianly Conference.

But now concerning (and chiefly in this our age) the ungodly and accursed Gold-making, which hath gotten so much the upper hand, whereby under colour of it, many runagates and roguish people do use great villanies, and cozen and abuse the credit, which is given them: yea now adays men of discretion do hold the transmutation of Mettals to be the highest point, and fastigium in Philosophy, this is all their intent, and desire, and that God would be most esteemed by them, and honored, which could make great store of Gold, and in abundance, the which with unpremeditate prayers, they hope to attain of the alknowing God, and searcher of all hearts: we therefore do by these presents publickly testifie, That the true Philosophers are far of another minde, esteeming little the making of Gold, which is but a parergon; for besides that they have a thousand better things.

And we say with our loving Father R.C.C. Phy: aureum nisi quantum aurum, for unto them the whole nature is detected: he doth not rejoyce, that he can make Gold, and that, as saith Christ, the devils are obedient unto him; but is glad that he seeth the Heavens open, and the Angels of God ascending and descending, and his name written in the book of life. Also we do testifie that under the name of Chymia many books and pictures are set forth in Contumeliam gloriae Dei, as we wil name them in their due season, and wil give to the pure-hearted a Catalogue, or Register of them: And we pray all learned men to take heed of these kinde of Books; for the enemy never resteth, but soweth his weeds, til a stronger one doth root it out. So according to the wil and meaning of Fra: C.R.C. we his brethren request again all the learned in Europe, who shal read (sent forth in five languages) this our Famam and Confession, that it would please them with good deliberation to ponder this our offer, and to examine most nearly and most sharply their Arts, and behold the present time with all diligence, and to declare their minde, either Cummunicate consilio, or singulatim by Print.

And although at this time we make no mention either of our names, or meetings, yet nevertheless every ones opinion shal assuredly come to our hands, in what language so ever it be; nor any body shall fail, who so gives but his name to speak with some of

us, either by word of mouth, or else if there be some lett in writing. And this we say for a truth, That whosoever shall earnestly, and from his heart, bear affection unto us, it shal be beneficial to him in goods, body and soul; but he that is false-hearted, or onely greedy of riches, the same first of all shal not be able in any manner of wise to hurt us, but bring him to utter ruine and destruction. Also our building (although one hundred thousand people had very near seen and beheld the same) shall for ever remain untouched, undestroyed, and hidden to the wicked world, sub umbra alarum tuarum Jehova.

### **Initiation into the First Degree**

Last section we introduced to you some of the core principles underlying the Rosicrucian teachings. This was done so that on entering into the first initiation ceremony you would be aware of what kind of organization you would be aligning with.

Everything in the world carries a certain force based upon its vibration. The vibration of the Rosicrucian College of AR+CO has become something by which many people around the world seek to align. You will be joining a fraternity of like-minded seekers and many are with you because we aspire to the highest principles in life while attuning to the laws of the universe.

You have learnt that the purpose of our teachings is to expand the consciousness of the student while raising your vibration to a heightened state. The Rosicrucian follows the examples left by the ancient mystics and C.R.C and lives by the Cross and expresses the Rose. Remember that the way of the Cross is to surrender to that which is greater than ourselves because the world does indeed have a destiny for you. What you do today contributes to where humanity may find itself in hundreds of years from now. Indeed this is why every member of the Rosicrucian Fraternity is special to us because we are planting seeds within the world that as we like to say 'in which all things are planted and souls shall blossom to the beauty of true unfoldment.' This is something that shows the rose upon the cross brings about evolution and unfoldment as a result of the trials and tribulations of our path.

### **On Fraternity**

A fraternity is something that can only be defined as a family. Many have asked us the meaning of the word 'fraternity' in depth and our answer has always been that there are many families to which people belong. There is your immediate family of relatives. There are in-law family members. And then there are groups like sports clubs and friends that stay together. As a fraternity we are not just an organization because Rosicrucians benefit one another by sharing a common cause. We are like a family, a club and friends all

together as the goal of personal liberation and enlightenment ties us together in a common cause. As such in undertaking the Rosicrucian Journey you are never alone but stand in a crowd of humble seekers just like you.

If you can indeed liberate the soul imagine what a wonderful experience this must be. According to the ancients this possibility is a reality when one aspires to the higher. This is something to bear in mind when undertaking your initiation ceremony.

This section is designed for you to read at first before undertaking the following ceremony itself.

### **Initiation Ceremony**

**Requirements:** You will need a table or some form of altar. Please also bring candles and incense. Place two candles upon the altar. Place a mirror upon the altar so that during this ceremony you may see your own reflection as the Master Within. Most importantly suspend a rose from the ceiling above your head for this ceremony. You will also need a black cord to tie around your waist.

#### **Ceremony:**

Say 'Peace Profound to all of the Universe!'

'In the name of the Lord of the Universe, Who works in Silence and whom naught but Silence can express, I hereby declare the outset of my Rosicrucian Journey.'

'I invoke the Rosicrucian Unknown and Silent Masters as I set my feet upon the path that leads from the hidden truth unto revealing truth, from mere beliefs unto reason, and from un-surety unto pure knowledge. This I declare is what the Ancients described as the mystic's journey from the place darkness unto the Light. May I therefore find the Light'

*Trace the Triangle over your body by first pointing your index finger upon your forehead, then upon your right shoulder, then cross over to your left shoulder and once more upon the forehead.*

"By the Sign of the Triangle I formulate into my being the Triple Truth that the Humankind is more than just flesh and bones but consist of three primary parts, Mind, Body and Spirit and that together they can be purified and combined to formulate a most wonderful person. What turmoils the emotions and mind has offered now becomes opportunity to align with the nature of my Higher and Undying Soul. Amen. This I declare is what the Ancients described

as the Great Work of Sulphur, Salt and Mercury and their alchemy is such that when purified and united once again; Lead can be turned into Gold. Let me therefore find the Spiritual Gold."

*Please kneel for your solemn pledge.*

"In the name of the Lord of the Universe, I kneel below the Sword of Cause and Effect to take this oath \* to practice positive relations between myself and all members of this College. \* I solemnly promise not to perform any immoral act towards this College and \*not to copy or to allow to be copied or to pass on or circulate the materials of this College. \* I also swear to *think* and *act* and *speak* for myself and that no person shall control me and cause me to lose control of these faculties. \*Finally I also solemnly promise to pursue my own personal development with great determination now and for the rest of my days for the betterment of humankind. \*These things I swear to abide with by the sign of the Triangle and before the presence of the Holy One. Amen"

*Still kneeling take black cord and tie around waist three times*

"Bound to the world of materiality I stand here amidst the drama of soul searching, where the mystic can arrive from being bound towards the light. Being born with the hidden virtues of Divinity within me, my Immortal Soul descended unto the physical from a primal sleep so that I might find the undying Life."

"Let the mystic journey of the Sun be taken once again."

*Kneeling in the West facing West and say;*

"Oh face of the West where the Sun sets and the darkness begets forgetfulness washing away the knowledge of Self let me remember the nature of my hidden Soul. For at the time of darkness the ancients conceived of mythical creatures; where living serpents in the night also become symbols of danger and fear. Yet as myths describe the overthrowing of the serpent and the hero triumphs over the darkest hour let me also arrive from here into hands of wisdom and knowledge and the comfort of my Higher Soul."

*Kneeling in the East and face the East and say:*

"Oh face of the East where the Sun joyfully rises to awaken the knowledge of the Self may I arrive to the dawn of a golden day. For at the rising of the sun the ancients conceived of mythical creatures; where the undying phoenix symbolized rebirth and transformation. Yet as myths describe the phoenix standing forth

from the ashes and the hero is brought to life once again let me therefore find wisdom and knowledge in life and life anew."

*Stand once again.*

*Spend a moment in contemplation reflecting upon the meaning of this ceremony. You may also like to state what you would like to gain from the Rosicrucian Journey. While offering any prayer look towards the Rose above your head. To finish the ceremony say:*

"Our subject of study is inexhaustible for it is the Universe itself whose Mysteries I seek to fathom by the aid of this secret College, and the especial knowledge of the Ancient Rosicrucian Order. The grades before me, therefore, form the ladder, which aids me to mount towards heaven, a ladder in which the angels abide to present the books of knowledge. Let this Society develop my soul by the unveiling the hidden light, and my mind by its special studies, and my body in the course of healing humanity, as I desire but One Thing, before the presence of the Holy One."

"By the password of Fiat Lux I hereby declare myself a **Labourer of the Art** in the society of the Ancient Rose Cross Order to the betterment of myself and to the aid of humanity."

"So help me Oh Lord and the Ancient Rosicrucian Masters and even my own Higher Soul. Amen"

### **Initiation Symbolism**

For some of you the idea of undertaking a ceremony such as this is new. For others who are more advanced it may seem a simple ritual at first but its implications are such that when taken the spiritual current to which you align within our College shall dawn upon your mind that our ceremonies are more than myth and ritual. In each and every case for beginner and advanced alike the myths are mythic motifs and become allegories by which we attain growth. By this I mean that the myths are symbolic of something that is internal to the human personality and subconscious mind. Instead of believing in these myths as faith our approach to myths are to impress them upon the student so that we shall have some form of representation to which we can aspire.

In future sections it shall become more clear as to how myths can be imprinted into the psych as when conducted in such solemn occasions as initiation ceremonies we are impressing upon our subconscious that we seek to internally unfold the same events as presented in the myth. As such your higher self is represented by the many heroes, saints, angels and mystics that appear in the

myths. While the ego is the personality in the myth that tries to prevent the mystic from reaching his goal of liberation. Such examples are found in all sacred books.

Our example of the Labourer ceremony presented here is a modified version of the ceremony by which students undergo in our Rosicrucian Lodges so that you may conduct it for yourself in your own home. The ritual itself presents an older ceremony in modern form to provide students with a system of initiation that is relevant for today. The themes and formulae in the ceremonies themselves have not changed and you are given a rite that is more universal. As such you should find nothing in these ceremonies that is contrary to your moral, civil or religious values.

Some of the themes within the ritual should be explained here for your understanding. The symbol of the triangle appears in the ritual because for the Rosicrucian tradition it is universal. Variations of it appear among members regalia who like to also place within it the symbol of the Cross, or another such as the Eye of Ra or the Star of David to denote what kind of spiritual origins you have in particular. At this point the triangle symbolises the complete person representing mind body and spirit while also acknowledging the existence of other layers to reality such as the spiritual and the mental going beyond the physical.

The first mythic allegory in the ritual appears when sulphur, salt and mercury are mentioned. According to the medieval alchemical tradition, which makes part of the greater Rosicrucian tradition, the alchemist's goal was to search for the Stone of the Wise for the purpose of transforming lead into gold. The theory of alchemy says that all physical things consist of three parts being sulphur, salt and mercury and that when they can be separated from one another the substance of work can be purified in detail. Once purified the three parts are assembled back together in the laboratory experiment and when completed the substance should be of a higher state, and hopefully transmuted into gold. In the initiation ceremony we are treating this tradition as something that alludes to a process that is more internal and therefore spiritual as well. Sulphur, salt and mercury refers to the mind, body and spirit, as the Rosicrucian seeks to be purified and become enlighten. The idea that lead can be turned into gold is ofcourse an allegory of spiritual development. Lead is the base person who is yet to develop and transform the personality. While Gold I the end result and spiritual enlightened person and shining personality that reflects the light of the world around in every facet of their being.

The oath itself is a reasonable commitment to the society that is helping you arrive to your higher goals. The 'sword of cause and

effect' could instead be called karma as whether or not the oath is seriously taken the implications its contents, such as how you treat other Rosicrucian members or how you value our sacred material will result outcomes for you depending upon your actions regardless. In taking the oath you may also like to have some kind of Holy Book of your choosing upon the altar so that you may place your spare hand upon that also to show the solemnity of the moment. At this point we also ask that you please take down the points of the oath and record them on the inside of the front cover of your Rosicrucian Journal. You will notice that there is no 'oath of secrecy' regarding our society as compared to the older Rosicrucian rite that required strict observance of this virtue. Our only restriction here is with the circulation of the material among others because our society depends upon the small donations we ask to operate our college for its many students.

A major theme in the ceremony is the solar-cycle. This motif appears in many of our ceremonies and in the regalia worn to meetings. Rosicrucians also call the solar-cycle the 'myth of the dying god' because this theme appears in all cultures in one form or another. For the Egyptians Ra was the god of the sun. The sun was life giving to the Nile and was thought to die every day in the west. During the night Ra was said to travel the underworld and overcome the serpent Apep so that he may be born once anew. When the sun arose in the morning the dawn meant to the Egyptians that Ra had been born again and had triumphed over darkness. The study of Egyptology and Egyptian myth and legend is paramount to understanding the backbone of our Rosicrucian tradition. Remember that Christian Rosenkruetz also travelled to Egypt and learnt from the sages of the east. Ormus himself was an Egyptian sage of the Serapis temple yet both these men revitalised the mystery of Christ to that of the Egyptian mysteries. This was achieved because they saw the universality in both religions. The myth of the dying god takes place through Christ on a human basis where Christ is born, dies and arises from the tomb once again. This is why many new-age teachings also refer to him as the solar-christ yet Rosicrucians have understood this principle for many ages.

When considering the solar-cycle in the ceremony we are primarily looking at darkness in the west and light in the east. Instead of being something literal and factual the motifs are again allegorical to suit the needs of those many Rosicrucian students who come from a wide range of religious backgrounds. The darkness we speak of takes shape in the minds of those who choose to act without compassion and truth. We live in a world today where our daily newspapers and televisions bear messages of this darkness in the shape of war, poverty and misunderstanding. What knowledge

could be learned to unite all people and heal the pain that our fellow humans are experiencing is called the light of the east in the ceremony. The rising place of the sun symbolises all those things that embody peace, freedom, triumph, knowledge coupled with love, science coupled with spirituality. For the Rosicrucian student, on an individual basis, emerging from the place of darkness to the light symbolises your spiritual journey from whatever state of mind you may have to a greater sense of awareness and joy.

Having expressed the idea that these themes appear as allegory and allude instead to your internal spiritual transformation we hope that you can see the light in which we abide with each other. Our time is such that we must look for the similarities as opposed to our differences among friends, family, cities and nations. When this is achieved we shall create better world.

**Activity:** Today we would like for you to record into your Rosicrucian Journal the meaning of the words *allegory* and *allude*. Please look for their meaning in a dictionary. After you have written down their meaning you may like to write some notes or a paper on how you could see the value of interpreting myths as allegories for describing the process of inner transformation. The last part of this exercise is to describe an allegory in anything you may like. You could use something like the story of the lost child Oliver Twist as an allegory to finding the inner lost child or use any story/poem of your choosing. If you like please share with us your experiences on our members forum?

### **Points**

**You do not have to know the initiation ceremony by memory to undertake it. You can read it out loud as well although many students do prefer to commit it to memory.**

**Make sure you write down the points of the oath into your Rosicrucian Journal.**

\*\*\*\*

May peace abide with you and your loved ones.

And may Life become a living Rosicrucian Lesson

## Resource Material

### The Rosicrucian Oath

Dear student. Seeing that you have now undergone your initiation ceremony and have undertaken the oath sincerely we have decided to present this original oath of the Rosicrucian College that was used for initiations past.

Derived from the papers of Dr Sigismund Bacstrom, this oath, in fourteen parts was the oath of initiation from the Societas Roseae Crucis, one of the branches of the Order at that time. Bactrom was initiated into the order by Comte Louis de Chazal on the island of Mauritius in 1794. Under this instruction Bacstrom performed the High Art of transmutations and became recognized as one of the greatest Alchemist of his time, no doubt due to the knowledge gained from the Rosicrucians. In reading the fourteen parts of this obligation you will notice the fourth promise which states the equality of women in our fraternity as opposed to other fraternal orders that are exclusively for men.

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In the name of Jehovah Elohim

the true and only God manifested in Trinity

I do hereby promise, in the most sincere and solemn manner, faithfully to observe the following articles, during the whole course of my natural life, to the best of my knowledge and ability; which articles I hereby confirm by oath and by my proper signature hereunto annexed.

One of the worthy members of the August most ancient and most learned Society, the Investigators of Divine, Spiritual and Natural Truth (which Society, more than two centuries and a half ago, did separate themselves from the Freemasons, but were again united in one spirit amongst themselves under the denomination of Fratres Roseae Crucis Brethren of the Rosy Cross - that is the Brethren that believe in the grand atonement made by Jesus Christ on the Rosy Cross, stained and marked with his blood for the Redemption of Spiritual Nature \*) having thought me worthy to be admitted into their august society, in quality of a Practical Member and Brother (one degree above a Member apprentice) and to partake of their sublime knowledge, I hereby engage in the most solemn manner.

1. That I will always, to the utmost of my power, conduct myself, as becomes a worthy member, with sobriety and piety, and endeavour to Prove myself grateful to the Society for so distinguished a favour as I now receive, during the whole course of my natural life.
2. I will never openly publish that I am a member of this august Society, nor reveal the name or Persons of such members as I know at present or may know hereafter, to avoid derision, insult or persecution.

3. I solemnly promise that I will never during my whole life prostitute, that is publicly reveal, the secret knowledge I receive at present or may receive at a future Period from the Society or from one of its members, nor even privately, but will keep our secrets sacred.

4. I do hereby promise that I will instruct, for the benefit of good men, before I depart this life, one person, or two persons at most, in our secret knowledge, and initiate and receive such person (or persons) as a Member Apprentice into our Society, in the same manner as I have been initiated and received (in quality of a Practical member and brother); but such a person only as I believe to be truly worthy and of an upright well meaning mind, blameless conduct, sober life and desirous of knowledge.

And, as there is no distinction of sexes in the spiritual world, neither amongst the blessed Angels nor among the rational immortal spirits of the Human race; and as we have had a Semiramis, Queen of Egypt, a Myriam, the prophetess, a Peronella, the wife of Flamel, and lately a Leona Constantia, Abbess of Clermont, who was actually received as a practical Member and Master into our Society in the year 1796, which women are believed to have been all possessors of the Great Work, consequently Sorores Roseae Crucis and members of our Society by possession, as the possession of this our art is the key to the most hidden knowledge. And moreover as redemption was manifested to mankind by means of a woman (the Blessed Virgin), and as salvation, which is of infinitely more value than our whole Art, is granted to the female sex as well as to the male, our Society does not exclude a worthy woman from being initiated, God himself not having excluded women from partaking of every spiritual felicity in the next life. We will not hesitate to receive a worthy woman into our Society as a member apprentice, (and even as a practical member or master if she does possess our work practically and has herself accomplished it), provided she is found, like Peronella, Flamel's wife, to be sober, pious, discreet, prudent, not loquacious, but reserved, of an upright mind and blameless conduct, and withall desirous of knowledge.

5. I do hereby declare that I intend with the permission of God to recommence our Great Work with my own hands, as soon as circumstances, health, opportunity and time will permit, that I first - I may do good therewith as a faithful steward, second - that I may merit the continued confidence which the Society has placed in me in quality of a practical member.

6. I do further most solemnly promise that (should I accomplish the Great Work) I will not abuse the great power entrusted to me by appearing great and exalted, or seeking to appear in a Public character in the world, by hunting after vain titles of Nobility and vain glory, which are all fleeting and vain; but will endeavour to live a sober and orderly life as becomes every Christian, though not possessed of so great a temporal blessing.

I will devote a considerable part of my abundance and superfluity (Multipliable infinitely) to works of private charity, to aged and deeply distressed people, to poor children, and above all to such as love God and act uprightly, and will avoid encouraging laziness and the profession of public beggars.

7. I will communicate every new or useful discovery relating to our Work to the nearest member of our Society and hide nothing from him, seeing he cannot, as a worthy member, possibly abuse it or prejudice me thereby. On the other hand, I will hide these secret discoveries from the world.

8. I do moreover solemnly promise (should I become a Master and possessor) that I will not, on the one hand, assist, aid, or support with Gold or Silver, any Government, King, or Sovereign whatever, except by paying of taxes, nor, on the other, any populace, or particular set of men, to enable them to revolt against their Government. I will leave public affairs and arrangements to the Government of God, who will bring about the events foretold in the Revelations of St. John, which are fast accomplishing. I will not interfere with affairs of Government.

9. I will neither build churches, chapels, nor hospitals and such public charities, as there are already a sufficient number of such public buildings and institutions, if they were only properly applied and regulated. I will not give a Salary to a Priest or Churchman as such to make him more proud and indolent than he is already. If I relieve a distressed worthy clergyman, I will consider him in the light of a Private distressed individual only. I Will give no charity with the view of making my name known in the world, but Will give my alias privately

10. I hereby promise that I will never be ungrateful to the worthy friend and brother who initiated and received me, but respect and Oblige him as far as lies in my power, in the same manner as he has been obliged to promise to his friend who received him.

11. Should I travel either by sea or by land and meet with any person that may call himself a Brother of the Rosy Cross, I will try him whether he can give me a proper explanation of the universal fire of Nature and of our Magnet for attracting and manifesting the same under the form of a salt, whether he is well acquainted with our work, and whether he knows the universal dissolvent and its use. If I find him able to give satisfactory answers, I will acknowledge him as a member and a brother of our Society. Should I find him superior in knowledge and experience to myself, I Will honour and respect him as a Master above me.

12. If it should please God to Permit me to accomplish our Great Work With my own hands, I will Give praise and thanks to God in humble prays: and devote my time to the doing and promoting all the good that lies in my power and to the pursuit of true and useful knowledge.

13. I do hereby Solemnly promise that I will not encourage wickedness and debauchery, thereby offending God, administer the Medicine for the human body, nor the Aurum Potabile to a patient or patients infected with the venereal disease.

14. I do promise that I Will never give the fermented metallic medicine for transmutation, to any Person living, no not a single grain, unless the person is an initiated and received Member and Brother of the Society of the Rosy Cross.

To keep faithfully the above articles as I now receive them from a worthy member of our Society, as he received them himself in the Mauritius, I willingly agree and sign the above with my name and affix my seal to the same, so help me God. Amen.

In testimony that I have initiated and received Alexander Tilloch Esq. in quality of Practical Member and Brother, a degree above a Member Apprentice, on account of his practical knowledge and philosophical acquirements, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, Sigismund Bacstrom

M.D. London April 5. 1797.

### **The Secret Meaning of Oaths**

Dear Labourer of the Rosicrucian College of AR+CO

Seeing that you have just undergone your first initiation ceremony now is the time for you to embark upon the path that leads from Darkness unto Light, and from Ignorance unto Wisdom. There is something special about the Labourer initiation that every student should know. Firstly our College affirms that whether or not you are initiated in lodge, or through these lessons, the results will be the same, and you shall also be recognised as equal in footing to any lodge member as they would be recognised in our Cyber College. What is important is that you understand it is not the Master who initiates you but rather the Rosicrucian current is available to any human at any time. This current is one of spiritual evolution and your initiation ceremony is **very real**.

**Introducing: Applying the Rosicrucian Oath:** Accompanied in your last study was a side lecture on the Rosicrucian oath. In the next section you will learn about the undertaking of ritual oaths and how to apply them today. The ancient principles of oaths like any aspect of our work are employed by modern and ancient mystic alike because they are about **setting a higher standard** for yourself and this is important to your current phase of transition.

In the ancient worlds of Egypt and all throughout- Labourer initiation ceremonies were relatively the same, from place to place, due to the fact that no matter what school of thought, the initiate is beginning a spiritual journey and the same certain principles must be given in order to prepare the way. In Rosicrucian Lodges the initiate is introduced into the temple to kneel before the presence of the Lord of the Universe to swear the oath of secrecy. The student also commits himself to a new moral code or way of living. The life of the student thereafter is said to become more meaningful, spiritual and complete through the living out of those principles. In a similar manner your initiation ceremony also offers a new spiritual life. Our lessons will also become a part of your journey and you will find that every time you participate, by reading our Rosicrucian Journey lessons, your inner-mind also creates change in response to your commitment to the work outlined. In other words, by reading your lessons, at least twice each week, you are telling your subconscious that you are ready to make lasting changes in your life. The members of the ancient mystery schools also underwent profound changes after undergoing initiation. The Roman Diodorus wrote

*‘Those who have taken part in the mysteries are said to become more pious, more upright, and in every way better than their former selves.’<sup>2</sup>*

There are many reasons for this, and the student should see the foundation of these changes as deriving from the oaths of initiation. Think over your Labourer oath. You may even like to refer to your Rosicrucian Diary where you recorded it down. Such oaths, taken in solemn pledge before the divine, ensured that the candidate would adhere to a pious way of living, with proper conduct in the life of truth, generosity, humility, understanding, and love unto all others. Our work begins with the fear of God and ends with Charity and Love. It is not the purpose of our College to bind you to any kind of oath however. Rather the Labourer ceremony states that you undertook your oath ‘kneeling below the sword of cause and effect.’ Our oaths therefore are not forced upon the student as such, but manifest as a result of the student’s desired interest in true spiritual development, as for real spiritual growth to unfold, these ideals are simply relative to arising from the material life to the spiritual living of a Rosicrucian. Notwithstanding the oaths also assume the most basic standards for the student. We know that everyone is different and recognise that you may be at a certain level of progress that is higher or in some cases you may need to progress slower than others. Whatever the case AR+CO will accommodate your spiritual needs, and because everyone is unique and different, in this lesson, and the next, we will also show you the true spiritual meaning of oaths and how to set a new standard for yourself rather than the Rosicrucian College imposing one that is not relative to your current level of development. Abide in your own peace and understand that for all seekers illumination is achieved through levels of progress.

### **Understanding the Ancient Oath of the Rosicrucians**

Traditionally the Labourers of your current level undertook oaths that were perhaps best suited to another time. Your initiation oath was suited instead to our times. We call this oath the ‘Ancient Oath of the Rosicrucians’ because our transmission is also known as the Memphis Rosae Crucis. MR+C

This lesson particularly studies the principles behind the oath you have undertaken in your initiation ceremony so that your commitment to spiritual growth is understood in full. We are also offering it as case-subject for study along side some parts of the oath outlined in last weeks Side Lecture. The oath in last weeks side lecture came from Bactrom’s Rosicrucian society, the Societas Rosae Crucis, and will serve to provide a complete understanding of what Rosicrucian commitment is and should be. We ask that you read this lesson, as with all our lessons, with care and give some thought to its meaning.

**Activity:** At this moment we ask that you take a pen and note down on a spare piece of paper or in your Rosicrucian Journal the underlying principles that you can see as being its core meaning of each part of this oath. The first section of the Ancient Oath reads:

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<sup>2</sup> Quoted in Inge, W.R (1899) pg 351

*"In the Name of the Lord of the Universe, I Kneel below the Sword of Cause and Effect to take this oath \* to practice positive relations between myself and all members of this College."*

Note down what you think could be the meaning of the above paragraph. When you are ready read on. Do your notes match some of the following points? The first should be that at the outset the highest power is invoked by calling upon the 'Lord of the Universe.' In order to operate on this plane with the most divine guidance the highest influence should always be sought and this principle applies in all our Rosicrucian Prayers and Ceremonies. The oath simply names the Supreme Being as the Lord of the Universe instead of nominating a particular faith. This is because the only prerequisite to membership was that you believe, in some form or another, in a higher being or power. The oath is also undertaken in free-will reminding us that at any time the work suggested in this course is also undertaken by your own freewill. All teachings are recommendations at most. You would have noticed in Bacstrom's Rosicrucian oath that silence is mentioned repeatedly regarding the work of the ancient order, and secrecy was afforded to its teachings and as part of practicing positive relations to members the names of our Brethern were also kept secret. We also apply this by asking the student to **respect** the integrity and privacy of our loving Brothers and Sisters. As a seeker you might sometimes come across those who do not understand your spiritual pursuits. Some people might hold your ideals against you and this can cause difficulty at work or at play. The underlying principle here is that you exercise some discretion as to who you reveal your esoteric interest unto. And out of respect for all of our other Brothers and Sisters, you do not mention their identity to anyone else seeing that they may also be discriminated against and expose their private interest.

Something should be said of your **public relationships** and your mystical studies. It is important for you to know at this stage that you will mainly encounter these following groups of people in relation to your esoteric studies.

Group One: The non believer- people that fall into this category will tend to react to your practices by putting you down, ignoring them is usually the best approach. Group Two: The religious fanatic- those who are in this group are likely to react badly to your mystical interest. The reaction will vary from a misplaced attempt to save you from "the devil" and out right anger. In practice it is far better that these people are not made aware of you interest. Group Three: Those who simply do not care- these people are usually to involved in their own lives to really care what you do, any questioning they present you with is likely to be short lived as it does not directly involve them. Group Four: This person, who although is fairly logically minded, has no reference point with which to understand what you are doing, this type of person responds well to the scientific or historical aspect of the work, your best approach is to answer their questions to their level of understanding and relate it back to something they understand.

Some additional notes to keep in mind when dealing with people:

Firstly, unless you are directly asked it is often best to not say anything. There is no need to tell everyone in your life about ones mystical involvement. Unless it is a spouse or partner there is little need. Secondly, if directly asked, answer at the questioners level of understanding; avoid using technical terms as this is likely to confuse the person and cause more suspicion about your work; in other words keep it simple and to the point, and be honest. Thirdly if you find yourself dealing with a rather confronting person, try to gain control of the conversation, attempt to turn the conversation back to the other person and not talk about yourself. And Fourth, above all else exercise common sense when dealing with people - a little of that is sometimes better than any other advice we can give you.

Once again take your pen to a piece of paper to note down the underlying principles you can see in the second part of the oath. Remember that there are no right or wrong answers and you may also find many meanings that we do not mention. The next part of the Ancient Oath reads:

*“I solemnly promise not to perform any immoral act towards this College and not to copy or to allow to be copied or to pass on/circulate the materials of this College.”*

Based on this oath and that of the Societas Rosae Crucis you can see that in recent times, and definitely in ancient times, secrecy was quite important among mystical circles. The principle behind this part of the oath is based upon secrecy however we do not exercise this aspect of the tradition any more. Students are allowed and encouraged to speak about our materials. The rule of not circulating our materials has more to do with protecting our honourable society against plagiarism which is so common today.

It was interesting for us when one of our students submitted his notes on the Ancient Rosicrucian Oath. He described this part of the ceremony with an image from the once popular cartoon called ‘Secret Squirrel’ which I very much enjoyed. If you think the Rosicrucian College was at one time bit ‘cloak and dagger’ you are probably right. The original rite of the Rosicrucians was a secret mystical society. However the time of secrecy is over due to the fact that we live in a ripe age for enlightenment. There are so many publications, mystical-text and new-age materials available that it is also the duty of all Rosicrucian societies to guide human progress with the undying principles of our Order. Secrecy does not exist in the Rosicrucian College of AR+CO. Some societies forbid their members to study with other esoteric and Rosicrucian organisations. Instead of hindering humanities progression we heartily recommend that you study with any society and read any material that interests you at any given time. Follow your inspiration as it will lead you to the True Stone. In our College we maintain that the Great Work is not a secret hidden in the depths of some underground Rosicrucian vault. Rather your growth depends on understanding the humans’ Inner Temple and whether or not you are willing to listen and learn from the little person inside. The most sacred of all teachings come from experiencing life rather than finding them enclosed within temple doors.

The College to which you are now a member does teach a large amount of unpublished materials and does possess secret teachings. These teachings are carried in our oral traditions which will be shared freely to all within both Lodges and in the Grade Manuals. At one time the reasoning behind the retention of documents by the Praemonstrator was for the benefit of his students. A fine example could be seen if perhaps a Labourer were to obtain our highest theurgical experiments. To understand such a document, and the method of work involved, the student must be an expert in astrology, invocation, divination, geometry, geomancy, colour symbolism, archetypes, and have a firm understanding in our methods of enochian mysticism and our conception of the universe. Put simply the student would have wasted more time scratching his head in confusion for several years due to the complexity of these documents if not suffering from mental overload as is seen with most students who approach enochian too early in others schools of thought. Had the same amount of time been given in commitment to the basic fundamentals it would lead to the understanding of these higher teachings. Instead of simply keeping secrets we ensure that you are always aware of what teachings lay ahead and what teachings are relevant to your current level of understanding. This course is designed to take the very most beginner and transform him or her into a Rosicrucian Adept. If at any time you feel you are ready to study a subject that is in a higher grade this is also positive. Take to yourself any book that you feel you would benefit from in order for you to prepare the way. We desire our students to blossom as true Rosicrucians should. The next part of the Labourer Oath reads:

*I also swear to think and act and speak for myself and that no person shall cause me to lose control of these faculties. \*Finally I also solemnly promise to pursue my own personal development with great determination now and for the rest of my days for the betterment of humankind*

We hope that at this point you have written several notes on this part of the oath. All of them are of course correct. What you have written reflects the strongest aspects of yourself in terms of your spiritual pursuits and your independence. At this point in the oath there is not a mention of compassion or healing others. This is because at the Labourer level the student is called to the time of the Hermit rather than the time of the Healer. A hermit is one who retreats into studying the sacred way and the first step for the Rosicrucian student is that of learning. Before Moses could free his people he spent his time in solitude obtaining the wisdom of God and obtaining the power to make a difference in his world. Your current level is exactly the same. A time will come when you will have both knowledge and power at which time a higher moral code is required of the student to act according to the elevation of the entire world's consciousness and to exercise responsibility with the powers obtained from these teachings. For now the Labourer student is merely asked to pursue their own spiritual development as spiritual transformation is always the aim of our studies. The basic principle also encourages you to commit to your heart and memory the lessons we offer.

A lot can also be written on the first principle of this part of the oath. You are told to not come under the influence of another person's Will. What exactly

does this imply? You are after all instructed in what to do quite often at work or at play while competing in sports activities. However in those cases you follow instruction due to the fact that you have *chosen* to be in those positions. You can work in any place and play anywhere. Your task is to think about what you really want to do or act or say, especially in employment, social gatherings, spiritual working groups and in relationships. Ask yourself, are you easily led? Think over the last few weeks. Did you really want to do this or that? If not, now is the time to make changes as to how you live your life and how you want to spend your time living. Everything should be done out of great pleasure. Aside from responsibilities, such as parenting, if it's not fun you're probably in the wrong place. The key is to simply be true to yourself and be yourself all the time.

Once upon a time, in the ancient era, the oaths of old were undertaken with a great amount of punishment should the student fail to live up to the new standards outlined in their oaths. The student swore to observe these principles upon the pain of suffering, being expelled and submitting himself to a deadly energy. We live in lighter days where the student is more aware. No longer does the College need to threaten a student with such oaths. Your understanding of its deeper meaning should be that the candidate was offered the most basic instruction of new moral code at the Labourer level. The only form of punishment in reality is caused by only one person. Imagine a person who could not live up to the most basic principles of life. Such a person is destined to doom. This was the essence of the oath then and the same holds true today. Think to yourself about the basic principles outlined in this lecture. Imagine the results for someone who failed to be discrete about their esoteric studies? Imagine the same person failing to respect the privacy of those they study with? What would happen if they allow themselves to be controlled by another? The goal of the Rosicrucian Student is to become a Great Human made from Spiritual Gold. While each of us are 'only humans' we must try on a daily basis to become better people in order to arise to the calling of the Great Work. On a daily basis you should say 'I am willing to change, I am willing to change.' Try this now if you like.

The principles of the Labourer Oath are simple, but you should read, and re-read the principles outlined and after some contemplation, ask yourself, are any of these changes going to be easy for me? If at any time you feel yourself unwilling to commit to any one of these ideals that is where change is needed most. Changing yourself is like cleaning a mental house. Just like cleaning a house you have to go through the mental rooms and examine your thoughts and beliefs. Some you will love and polish, others need a light dust. Still others need to be thrown in the trash like used magazines.

Sometimes when you clean your house you entirely rearrange your furniture and this is like redefining your new mental parameters. The oath of the Rosicrucian College introduces the philosophy of our school of thought yet because each grade is supposed to reflect your current stage of progress we also feel that you should formulate and create your own personal standards by which to live by. In your next lesson this concept shall be covered in full.

*These things I swear to abide with by the sign of the Triangle and before the presence of the Holy One. Amen”*

### **Points of Consideration:**

#### **All Rosicrucian Work begins with the Highest Divine Influence**

#### **Rosicrucian Oaths are about Setting Higher Standards.**

(Note: as a suggestion these points can be recorded in your Rosicrucian Journal of which you should now have.)

### **New Personal Standards for Growth**

This is the era of greater illumination and understanding. Already in the sections past we have touched upon some fundamental ideas of the Rosicrucian College and some of these have been practical experiences. In the next series of lessons, where you shall learn about nature and the universe, your study will be delivered slowly in order to completely absorb the details of each and every Rosicrucian Cosmos Principle starting from the most basic to the most advanced.

Our organisation comprises of many sincere seekers who each desire self mastery and personal empowerment. Such mastery and power can only come from knowledge, and this knowledge, when applied, is the only requirement to obtain that power. In your last study you gained insights into the minimal requirements to succeed as a Labourer. By studying the oath of the Rosicrucian College you also learned that **the underlying principle behind oaths was to set a higher standard and way of living for initiates.**

In this section you will learn how to set higher standards for yourself. It is said that the ‘body is your temple’ and where this holds true your inner temple should also have its own philosophy. Each one of you is unique and different. No-one else in the world is like you. Your life is shaped by who you are, what you like and dislike, what you aim towards, your interest and hobbies, and essentially you also carry special qualities that no-one else in the world has. All of your past experiences were due to how you feel about life, and what standards you have set for yourself. The Neophyte Oath is relative to mastering the minimal skills of life- however, because you are unique you should also undertake to define your own personal principles. These principles can be set out in what we call your **Personal Standard**, as after all you are different from every person. Each of you should have your own form of statement to reflect your own uniqueness. Where temple oaths are universal to humanity a Personal Standard captures your personal creed and like an oath it will remind you of your personal development on a daily basis. You might ask ‘what does the Personal Standard mean to my inner temple?’

**A Personal Standard is like a personal temple oath.** Temple oaths change from grade to grade because each grade/level is also relevant to a level of spiritual progress. The oaths of each grade therefore reflect a higher stage of

evolution while setting higher standards to progress from that level of vibration. Similarly your Personal Standard will also change as you progress, due to the fact that you will outgrow some of your ideas as you develop. As you become more illuminated to truths you may altar your Personal Standard to conform to your new understanding.

Like an oath the Personal Standard are statements by which criteria are set out and everything else is directed and evaluated by your own self reflection upon it. The Ten Commandments are an example of a standard that has endured because it captures some basic underlying principles that were core to the people of the era. You will also find through reading all sacred books that the prophets also tried to describe this process by aiming towards a higher way of living. No matter which religion you look towards each testament expresses these same ideas in different words and languages. Because of its universality Rosicrucian students take measure of their current state and aim towards something higher by creating a Personal Standard that reflects these timeless ideas. Now let's write one for you:

### Writing the Personal Standard

In order to write a Personal Standard which is your aim towards a higher way of living you must therefore express it from the centre of your heart. The heart is very important in our Rosicrucian tradition as it is referred to so often. We call it the heart-centre, and more often its philosophy is summarised as the **Way of the Heart and the Heart of the Rose**. We specify its importance over the mind because all compassionate and harmonious feelings derive from this centre of our being. To Rosicrucians it is the ideal lens through which to see the world, and it is an ideal centre from which to express ourselves. The seven-pointed star here is called a septagram. According to the ancient Egyptians and Hebrews the seven pointed star symbolised Venus and Love while in the Rosicrucian College the seven pointed star also symbolises the Way of the Heart or path to true spiritual development.



In the septagram the Heart of the Rose is considered as appearing in its centre while the seven esoteric planets are also attributed to each of its seven points. As such the heart appears amidst the septagram to show the equilibrium of the seven esoteric planets around it, also representing different principles in its harmony. It is from the Heart of the Rose that we obtain harmony with the rest of these principles as they appear often around the seven pointed star.

The septagram is of course ancient to the Rosicrucian College. It is a symbol of synthesis and the mystical due to its links with the **number seven**. Seven is an integrating number, encapsulating as it does the principles of classical mystical thought. There are seven planetary spheres around it, governed by the seven planets of classical astrology, there are seven colours or rays in the rainbow, seven days of the week, and seven distinct notes in a diatonic musical scale. In our College, the septagram, as an expression of the number seven, represents higher intelligence and the beauty of wholeness. Because it

is also a symbol for Love it appears as a Rosicrucian motif describing the harmony of the Soul of the Rosicrucian Adept. It embodies the attainment and harmony we desire.

From the Heart of the Rose we may define ourselves and consider each aspect of our lives individually. Through self-awareness we may use our heart centre to examine our world and direct our lives towards a beautiful existence. Because the Heart Centre or Heart of the Rose is amidst the Seven Pointed Star we are provided with a map in which we can draw upon our unique talents and areas of contribution. It is here that we can draw upon all principles that give direction and purpose to our destiny by which we will formulate our Personal Standard.



*Alchemical seven-pointed star  
With the Seven Planets*

It is also here that our focused efforts achieve the greatest results. As you draw upon each principle with your heart centre you expand it and therefore expand the beauty of your life. Whatever principles surround your heart centre will be the source of your personal philosophy. The seven planets, describe below are attributed to the seven points of the septagram as seen in the alchemical image of the seven pointed star. In its centre appears the divine while the cube at the bottom represents the prima-materia or student who seeks transmutation from lead into spiritual gold.

- ♄ Saturn: Represents your faith. Initiates your ability to maintain that your whole life is part of a divine process. Spirituality and your higher intentions. Lifestyle: Spiritual Life.
- ♃ Jupiter: Represents your level of optimism and sense of fairness or lack of it. Represents your sense of justice and your ability to deal with time. Lifestyle: Employment and Money
- ♂ Mars: Represents your source of self-worth, your determination, your self-esteem, your basic personal strength or lack of it. It provides your ability to act. Lifestyle: Physical Health
- ☉ Sun: Represents your harmony with each of the surrounding principles of life. It is your ability to maintain a balanced life or lack of it. Lifestyle: Music and Balance
- ♀ Venus: Represents your ability to care and to love. Introduces your concern for others or lack of it. Lifestyle: Romance



Mercury:

Represents your level of intellect and capacity to bring thought into each of the other principles. Introduces discernment and objective thinking when dealing with matters. Lifestyle: Communication



Moon:

Represents your emotional anchorage or lack of it. Represents your situation with people and ego control. Lifestyle: Family

Remember that like an oath the Personal Standard captures the principles of your inner temple. Here the Seven Pointed Star is a map for your heart centre. It is a reference that interprets for you what is happening inside of you. It is the heart centre that brings them all into harmony with one another. By looking at life through the heart centre we can identify with the surrounding principles. This will give you a sense of balance when formulating the Personal Standard statement.

Now consider each point respectively. To do this you should visit each planet and decide what you feel is important to you and you may also include any points where you would like further development. Saturn: Do you want to increase your amount of spirituality? To do this you can include this in your Personal Standard. Jupiter: Do you have principles about the way you would really like to spend your money? Or would you like to put more effort into your career? Mars: Do you want a healthier body? If so include that you will eat wisely and exercise regularly. Sun: Do you feel strongly about balancing certain aspect with each other, such as family and work, or fitness and study? Venus: Do you feel strongly about maintaining a good relationship with your partner? Would you like to show others that you care? Mercury: Would you like to develop your reading or communication skills? Perhaps you could elevate your standard by removing slang? Moon: Can you develop yourself in any way that might be of some purpose to your family? Perhaps it could be something simple like 'I will spend more quality time with my grandparents.' Make sure you can see where you are weak or overly strong in any of the planetary principles. This way when you bring them together in the heart centre your personal standard enables you to live a Rosicrucian lifestyle. This is because the heart harmonises planetary principles around it causing your internal rose to blossom.

At the Labourer level you should also include the principles outlined in the oath of the Labourer. These could be written as 'I will commit to study the Rosicrucian Sciences.' Or perhaps you would write this as 'I will be the best Rosicrucian student I can be.' Each statement should just capture the principles of the Labourer in your own words. Others could be 'I will not suffer myself to be led by another person' or 'I will be true to myself.' 'I will choose wisely in whom I speak of esoteric matters.' 'I will only use my esoteric powers for the benefit of mankind.' By including this you will be following the AR+CO Rosicrucian process of spiritual development which is important because you are working inside the Rosicrucian current at the Labourer level. When you reach the first Sage level its new principles will replace the Labourer ones.

Remember that the Personal Standard is like an oath. It is something that you will undertake for your own spiritual development. As such it should reflect your own uniqueness. One person might include more about their children or family. Another might focus the planetary principles towards their career. One of our first students expressed his personal standard in this way:

### *PERSONAL STANDARD*

I will seek a balanced lifestyle  
I will exercise wisdom in what I choose to eat, read, see and do  
I value the rights, freedoms and responsibilities of other people  
I will be a self-starting individual  
I will be true to myself and will follow my heart  
I will act on situations rather than be acted upon  
I will keep myself free from destructive habits  
I will develop new positive habits  
I will be the best esoteric student I can be  
My money will be my servant, not my master.  
I will avoid wasting money  
I will seek financial freedom  
I will avoid engaging my words, actions or thoughts in anything that is for  
the purpose of the gratification of my ego  
I will keep secret my esoteric studies  
I will only use my esoteric knowledge for positive outcomes  
I will respect others and treat everyone as a special individual  
I will avoid procrastination and slang  
My thoughts, words and actions will be positive  
I will not engage in gossip or anything that hurts another being  
I will acquire personal freedom and financial freedom  
These are my beliefs and as such this is my personal standard by which I will  
live my life to the betterment of myself and all humankind  
So help me my Lord and Secret Undying Soul

The Personal Standard here outlines more than the most basic principles of the Labourer level. This is also because the Personal Standard is also a series of goals, that is, goals of how you would really like to be. You may not always live up to your standard, but when the standard is present it is something by which you can direct your purpose in life. Once you have formulated your Personal Standard you should place it inside a picture frame so it can be viewed daily. This will tell your subconscious that you are serious about making changes in your life. Once you have done this you may like to light some candles and say a prayer over your framed Personal Standard. During this time you may also like to commit yourself to meet those standards to the best of your ability with some additional prayers to a Higher Power. This is one example of the kind of theurgical invocations that have the ability to bring about self-transmutation. A prayer you could use follows:

“In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, I (Name), a student of the Rosicrucian Temple, with my heart of hearts, call upon the Divine Aid of

the Lord of Truth, so that this commitment to a higher purpose may be undertaken in the presence of our Lord and witnessed by the Holy Ones. So that transmutation may effect, from this day henceforth, this shall be my Personal Standard by which I shall live. (read out personal standard.) These principles, I swear to abide with, in the name of the Lord of the Universe, who works in Silence, and Naught but Silence can express. So help me oh Lord of the Universe and my own higher soul!"

This ceremony when undertaken will also send a strong impression to your subconscious that now is the time for a new way of living. Essentially it will awaken your new inner potential. Your Personal Standard can be used at any time as a positive affirmation and reminder of your own commitment. At the very least you should place it somewhere where you can always see it clearly everyday. This will increase your personal character and strengthen your resolve about who you are and what you want to achieve in life. As such, when you enter life's challenges you will have strength because you already know exactly how you will deal with every situation in a balanced manner incorporating all of the planetary principles around the Hearth of the Rose. When each planetary principle is harmonized and enlivened by each other in this way they create the great force producing a noble personality, a balanced character, and a **beautifully integrated individual**. This is what we call the **Blossoming of the Rose** in our Rosicrucian College.

Remember that this course is one of spiritual development. We know that if any student applies himself to our work the results will be tremendous. Make sure that you if you want to make a Personal Standard you should take action on the teachings we offer, instead of just seeing them without participation. Then you will be a true Rosicrucian and begin the Blossoming of the Rose.

## **SECOND SANCTUM**

### ***THE SECRET STUDY OF NATURE***

Welcome dear Labourer of the Rosicrucian Art!

As a newly initiated member of our society you have begun a new path that shall lead you from the material world unto the spiritual life. We have all spent our lives existing on the physical level, some living more spiritually than others, yet how many of you are aware of the inherent divine qualities of the material world itself?

Many of us go to work, pay our mortgages, study, have family and children, cook and clean spending most of our time working upon the physical level. We are trained as a society to perceive life as being 'hard' and that spiritually should allow us to 'escape' from this world. All in the while we have forgotten when the physical world was simply magical in itself. As children the sky was a divine ceiling, butterflies were angelic and every day was spent in awe of our universe.

Can you perceive the divine qualities of the physical world once again? This question is important as the Labourer's journey from the material world to the higher forms of consciousness should seek to perceive some form of spirituality that is immediately available to the student in order to take you from 'here to there.' Here you may recognise that divinity is not something far off and unobtainable but is in reality quite obtainable and close to us all of the time. Take in a deep breath right now. Allow the wholeness of the air to fill your lungs. Now gently release that air as is comfortable to you. Does it feel good to nourish your body with air? Now instead hold your breath for as long as you can. This may take some time but do this now. After a while you feel uncomfortable. It then becomes unpleasant and then intolerable. What does this tell you about our experience on earth in relation to nature? With this small experiment you can perceive that we are in fact dependant upon a quality physical existence in order to make our lives as wonderful as possible.

Some of the teachings in this manual includes: modern scientific quantum physics, sympathetic vibratory physics, the atomic theories as conceived by the ancient Greeks, and the study of life, nature and evolution as a form of providing evidence that nature in itself is evolving intelligence. We shall also cover eco-psychology, a form of healing our minds through nature, and demonstrate the Gaia-hypothesis which akin to our most ancient thoughts, says that our mother- earth is in fact alive as are all things upon it.<sup>3</sup> Paramount to all of this is the holographic-universe theory, and vibrational study, which also supports the Rosicrucian notion of the World Soul as it connects the spiritual realms to the physical leading you to higher worlds.

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<sup>3</sup> The Gaia-Hypothesis is in reality a modern name for the Anima-mundi and considers the eco-system as key evidence for the earth as a living being with a Soul.

## Anima-mundi Principles.

According to the Rosicrucian tradition our alchemical-forefathers taught that all the secrets of the universe could be found in the earth alone. This is because the World Soul is naturally in harmony with the higher will of the Divine Creator. Here in the grade of Labourer of the Art you will learn more about this **Soul of the World** which Rosicrucians term the '**Anima-mundi.**' In perspective of how your will come to understand nature on this Rosicrucian Journey it is important for you to bear in mind this ancient world-soul/anima-mundi concept in six enumerated points. They are given to you on the outset of this degree as ideas and hypothesis. They are not to be accepted on faith but instead you must learn to *know* in order for the invisible doors to be further opened. These ancient six points have already been hinted at by older Rosicrucian transmissions but their clarity has remained hidden until now. Throughout this grade you will learn that the six laws of the anima-mundi in the Rosicrucian teachings of nature are:

1. The anima-mundi is the Soul of the physical world.
2. The anima-mundi is the Archangel under which the physical world is regulated and held in materiality.
3. The anima-mundi is a web or network of fine interlacing channels, grouping matter through a subtle ether-force (vibration) of which it utilizes to control the world to appear in its material form.
4. The anima-mundi vivifies this force and produces all form as a radiating emanation of the higher Creator.
5. The anima-mundi directs these emanations so that the action of all matter is focalized in harmony with the Unfolding Plan.
6. The anima-mundi ether-net, is a veil of initiation for the first Rosicrucian degree. It is to be transcended in order to rise to the higher planes beyond matter and is the doorway to the invisible.

Please write these six points into your Rosicrucian Journal. You may also like to discuss them with your fellow AR+CO students online and when considering these keys it is also important to realize that the anima-mundi, as the force of manifesting energy into form, is not a barrier between the physical and astral planes. Rather it can be openly transcended when your understanding of nature is fully developed to permit rising to the next level. When you have, through meditation and concentration, expanded your awareness to the full extent of nature and reached its borders you will be enabled to pass the veil to a subtler plane. The transitional phase region of passing from this plane unto the other is known as a ring-pass-not in our Rosicrucian transmission. You will also in future lessons learn that there are four planes in which we also divide matter so that the stages of matter also become like stepping stones of initiation. Remember that for the Labourer the anima-mundi is an initiator of the Mystery of Isis dear student and that in Egyptian Rosicrucianism Isis is a symbol of nature. You may receive our degrees which are nice for belonging to our community spirit. However the greatest initiation that can be gained spiritually in the Labourer Grade is to

master these secrets on nature in your heart and soul and from there you will truly ascend spiritually into the next astral level of Rosicrucian initiation. (Hence the validity of self initiation at home for the student.)

The Rosicrucians being alchemist by nature were also physicians of the era. Contemplate how their medicines were achieved? They experimented and soon learned that nature had a secret. That secret was that nature consists of order, and that there is no such thing as chaos in our universe. The good intentions of those Rosicrucians who only sought to heal through the applications of their higher wisdom furthermore led our fraternity discover many additional mysteries. That secret was so important during the dark-ages. The Rosicrucians knew that in nature all things consist of vibration and geometry being harmony and form. We are here for a reason. All things in nature and on this planet are a part of an eco-system and are here for a reason. The Lord has a Plan for us. We call this the Unfolding Plan. Many traditions offer the idea that the material world is somehow 'mundane' and that we are here in some dark state of spirituality.<sup>4</sup> The Rosicrucian College however teaches that the material world represents pure creation. The planets, animal life and the vegetable and mineral kingdoms are a microcosmic reflection of the higher divine universe. All things in this world are considered to reflect the nature of the pure creator and the structure of the greater universe. In another Rosicrucian science, called Kabbalah, the physical world is also known in the ancient Hebrew language by word 'malkuth' which means the 'Kingdom' or the 'kingdom of God.' Thine is the Kingdom the power and the glory oh Lord, says the Lords Prayer. This is why Rosicrucians consider the kingdom of earth a beautiful place to live upon that the Lord has provided for us and as a Labourer initiate your study shall reveal this truth. May all physical forms now become your secret teacher!

### **Nature - the First Universal Religion**

Today many hunger for alternative forms of spirituality that are more connected with nature in our modern era. This is what we call the resurgence of nature-based-religions. Spiritually connecting with nature is certainly important as opposed to merely studying it alone. The Rosicrucian College does not neglect our human need to connect with the natural world by offering this knowledge in this degree as did those alchemists of the Rosicrucian traditions. By studying nature you will begin to understand your immediate surroundings from which you can therefore use as a stepping stone to higher realms. How can we find our way to the divine worlds if we cannot find the hidden paths that lead us? The Bible also says: unless we build our house upon the rocks our work is but in vain while Rosicrucians add that unless we found our knowledge on nature our work risks becoming theoretical without substantial evidence of its physical existence as it should always be demonstrated as reality on the material plane.

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<sup>4</sup> This is not contrary to the Rosicrucian stream known as Martinism who teach that we are in a Fallen State of Divinity. Rather you should understand that nature is a perfect teacher and that we are called to remember our higher natures and claim our divine rights.

Take a look around wherever you are right now and see the age we live in. Times certainly have changed from our ancient reliance on nature. We travel from place to place in our little automobiles. When we want to speak to a friend whose home is a thousand miles away, we say 'hello' into plastic telephone. At night, when the room grows dark we push a button and there is light. If we happen to be cold we push another button and the electric heater spreads its pleasant warmth through our study. On the other hand when it's hot in summer we use air-conditioning to keep us cool and comfortable. We seem to be the masters of all the forces of nature and we make them work for us as they were our obedient slaves. But do not forget one thing when you pride yourself upon our splendid achievements. We have built our civilisation upon the fundamental wisdom that has been built at great pains by the people of our ancient world. In our study of nature therefore we shall trace our human relations to nature as the most ancient humans understood it. It is here that we shall find the most ancient philosophy of life and mystical understandings of the world around us. Perhaps you will also find that there are many fundamental principles that we have lost touch with?

For ancient man to prosper and procreate, we had to understand and use the world around us. We learnt what was edible, and when and where foodstuffs would be ready for us to eat. Tribal man's knowledge of the seasons told us when to prepare a store of food for winter or drought. There were also times when spring came too late and the frost did not lift or food went bad. Or what about when the summer rain did not fall and the crops died? In those moments of desperation, ancient man cried out to the gods. These gods were our ancient connection to nature. They were the personifications of the elements, rain, trees and all nature. Because we were entirely dependant upon nature during these times the basis for our human belief in these nature gods came out of need. Our connection to nature is one of need. Our ancient ancestors understood this and had a structure of beliefs that reflected the natural science of the world as they knew it. Our most ancient mystical rites revolved around nature's cycles in the form of fertility and weather rituals.

Ancient tribal priest sought to deal with the problems of life through his immediate surroundings. Modern anthropology shows shamanism and *tribal spirituality was practiced in every part of the world*. As such we also encounter the *first forms of universal religion known to man* where Rosicrucians begin to bind together a mutual understanding of all religions and all people. Like our ancient tribal ancestors you must therefore, as a spiritual seeker, become more aware of the physical universe at this time in your life allied with the scientific thought of our times. By beginning with tribal thought and viewing our stone-age ancestors you can also begin to understand the seeds of thought ancient man planted that eventually gave rise to civilised forms of religion and our evolving understanding of science which continues to expand with our consciousness. Let us further examine ancient man and his emergence and understanding of nature in the next few lessons.

### **Ancient Man and Nature**

In the beginning man in his earliest forms was very primitive. He did not have the mental capacity we do today. Earliest man did not know what 'time' meant. He kept no records of birthdays, wedding anniversaries or the hour of death. (we shall use the term 'he' to describe our ancestors out of convenience.) He had no idea of days or weeks or years. When the sun arose in the morning he did not know where it came from. Perhaps somewhere under the earth? All he knew was 'it is light' and he used the light of day to gather food for his family. When it grew dark, he returned to his wife and children and gave them whatever he found to eat that day. It could have been birds, berries and roots. Whatever meat he had they ate it raw in this early time of human existence. When they were full they went to sleep and the sun was swallowed by the earth in the west. Perhaps the sun died every day?

In a very general way he kept track of the seasons. Long experience had taught him that the cold winter was always followed by the mild spring, and that spring grew into the hot summer when fruits ripened. The summer ended when gust of wind swept the leaves from the trees and when a number of animals crept back into their holes for the long hibernation sleep.

This was our earliest existence. Our early ancestors accepted the changes of cold and warm and asked no questions. If lucky they survived and that was all they could hope for. Suddenly however something happened that worried ancient man greatly. This was the onset of the ice age.

The warm days of summer had come very late. The fruits had not ripened at all. The tops of the mountains which used to be covered with grass lay deeply hidden under a heavy burden of snow. Then on one morning, and to our ancient ancestors surprise, quite a number of wild people, different from the other inhabitants of his valley had approached from the region of the high peaks. They muttered sounds which no one could understand. They looked lean and appeared to be starving. Hunger and cold seemed to have driven them from their former homes. There was not enough food in the valley for both the old inhabitants and the newcomers. When they tried to stay more than a few days there was a terrible fight and whole families were killed. The others fled into the woods and were not seen again. Man went on concerned with these sudden changes, and all the while, the days continued to grow shorter and the nights were colder than they ought to have been.

Finally, in a gap between the two high hills, there appeared a tiny speck of ice. It increased in size as the years went by. Very slowly a gigantic glacier was sliding down the slopes of the mountain ridge. Huge stones were being pushed into the valley. With the noise of a dozen thunderstorms they suddenly tumbled among the frightened people and killed many while they slept. Century-old trees were crushed into kindling wood by the high walls of ice that knew of no mercy to either man or beast.

At last, a thing unknown to these ancestors, the world began to snow. It snowed for months and months and months. All the plants died. The animals fled in search of the southern sun. The valley became uninhabitable. Doing the only thing they could, man hoisted his children upon his back, took the few

pieces of stone which he had used as a weapon and went forth to find a new home. Why the world should have grown cold at that particular moment scientist now say was due to massive volcanic eruptions and meteorites pounding the earth creating a dark cloudy atmosphere. This of course was not known to our ancestors however the lowering of the temperature made a great difference to the human race. Imagine for a moment living in these times.

For a time it looked as if every one would die. But in the end this period of suffering proved a real blessing. As evolution would have it, the cold killed all the weaker people and forced the survivors to sharpen their wits lest they perish also. Placed before the choice of hard thinking or quick dying, the same brain that had first turned stone into a hatchet now solved difficulties which he had never faced in older generations. In the first place, there was the question of clothing. It had grown much too cold to do without some sort of artificial covering. Bears and bison and other animals who live in northern regions are protected against snow and ice by a heavy coat of fur. Man possessed no such coat. His skin was very delicate and he suffered greatly. He solved his problem in a very simple fashion. He trapped, hunted and caught animals with fur. When bears were weakened or hurt he killed it with many blows from a stone. At this time man was still very primitive. With a sharp piece of flint he cut the fur of the animals back. Then he dried it in the sparse rays of the sun, put it around his own shoulders and enjoyed the same warmth that had formerly kept the bear happy and comfortable.

Then man faced a housing problem. Many animals were in the habit of sleeping in a dark cave. Man followed their example and searched until he found an empty grotto. He shared it with bats and all sorts of creeping insects but this he did not mind. His new home kept him warm and that was enough. Often, during a thunderstorm a tree had been hit by lightning. Sometimes the entire forest had been set on fire. Man had seen these forest-fires. When he had come too near he had been driven away by the heat. He now remembered that fire gave warmth. Thus far, fire had been an enemy. Now it became a friend.

A dead tree, dragged into a cave and lighted by means of taking branches from a burning forest filled the room with unusual but very pleasant heat. Perhaps you will laugh. All these things seem so very simple. They are very simple to us because some one, ages and ages ago, was clever enough to think of them. But the first cave that was made comfortable by the fire of an old log attracted more attention than the first house that ever was lighted by electricity. Soon after one of our ancestors must have come upon the idea of cooking raw meat, either by accident or invention. These events, clothing, food and fire made our stone-age ancestors feel that the height of civilisation had been reached. Even today when we hear of a marvelous invention we are very proud.

Forty thousand years ago when the world was on the point of freezing to death, an unkempt and unwashed cave-man, pulling the feathers out of a half-dead chicken with the help of his brown fingers and his big white teeth--

throwing the feathers and the bones upon the same floor that served him and his family as a bed, felt just as happy and just as proud when he was taught how the hot cinders of a fire would change raw meat into a delicious meal. "What a wonderful age," he would exclaim and he would lie down amidst the decaying skeletons of the animals which had served him as his dinner and he would dream of his own perfection while bats, as large as small dogs, flew restlessly through the cave and while Prehistoric man lived through at least four definite eras when the ice descended far down into the valleys and covered the greater part of the European continent.

From that moment on man left behind him concrete evidence of his existence in the form of tools and weapons and pictures and in a general way we can say that history begins when the last cold period had become a thing of the past. The endless struggle for life had taught the survivors many things. Stone and wooden implements had become as common as steel tools are in our own days. Gradually the rudely chipped flint axe had been replaced by one of polished flint which was infinitely more practical. It allowed man to attack many animals at whose mercy he had been since the beginning of time.

The mammoth was no longer seen. The musk-ox had retreated to the polar circle. The tiger had left Europe for good. The cave-bear no longer ate little children. The powerful brain of the weakest and most helpless of all living creatures--Man--had devised such clever instruments that he was now the able harness the forces of nature. The first victories over Nature had been gained but many others were to follow. Equipped with a full set of tools both for hunting and fishing, the cave-dweller looked for new living quarters. The shores of rivers and lakes offered the best opportunity for a regular livelihood. The old caves were deserted and the human race moved toward the water. Now that man could handle heavy axes, the felling of trees no longer offered any great difficulties.

This study so far should have taught you that the journey of mans survival and emergence tells us one important thing about our relationship with nature. That man himself was always trying to come to terms with his natural environment. We have always, as humans, wanted to know how nature works, why we are here, and what we can do in order to improve our life circumstances. As such, humans are essentially mystical beings with curious minds. At first our thoughts were only centred on the earth-plane because of survival however as we gradually understood the human mind also expanded towards a contemplation of the higher worlds.

### **Points of Consideration:**

**All original spirituality was entirely nature based.**

**This was the first universal religion.**

### **For Beginners**

As yet you have only read the first quarter of your grade materials. And although you are practically starting out on the Rosicrucian Journey you may feel like a mere beginner of our order but know that you are upon the glorious path of enlightenment! By applying yourself to our lessons you are sending a message to your subconscious that now is the time for true emergence.

In the Ancient Rose Cross Order we have strived to set a standard of excellence towards your learning. Through constant research we are able to combine the most latest scientific fields of study to our lessons so that our ancient Rosicrucian teachings are complimented with modern ideas that support your studies. Because of the detail and attention we place into the lessons we ask that during your study do not be discouraged to take notes or highlight certain ideas and points that you see within this manual. Your Rosicrucian Journal may contain the points of consideration given at the end of some paragraphs worth noting and you may like to include any ideas that you perceive as relative to the topics concerned. It is important also that you read this grade manual twice during your Labourer Degree to completely absorb the contents herein. These studies will teach you how to wield the power of your mind to improve your life's circumstances in order to enrich your life experience. Mystical studies should enrich the meaning of everything around you so that the simplest things of which you did not regard or give consideration to before suddenly has meaning as everything around you becomes more significant. This is not achieved through trying to simply gain meaning in places where there is nothing or by mere exaggeration. Instead your heightened awareness of nature is being raised through this study.

### **Prehistoric Man Begins to Come to Terms with Nature**

For countless ages birds had been constructing comfortable houses out of chips of wood and grass amidst the branches of trees. You may remember as a child the wonderment at every time you saw a birds nest. 'Oh' you would proclaim. 'Look at the birds nest.' There was always something special about these places in nature. It was like a little world unto itself as the child wonders what may be inside it. Ancient man in his more primitive mental state also likened his thoughts towards the birds nest and decided to follow their example. He also decided to build himself a nest and called it his 'home.' He did not, except in a few parts of Asia, take to the trees which were a bit too small and unsteady for his purpose. He cut down a number of logs. These he drove firmly into the soft bottom of a shallow lake. On top of them he constructed a wooden platform and upon this platform he erected his first wooden house. It offered many advantages over the old cave. No wild animals could break into it and robbers could not enter it. The lake itself was an inexhaustible store-room containing an endless supply of fresh fish. These houses built on piles were much healthier than the old caves and they gave the children a chance to grow up into strong men and women. The population increased steadily and man began to occupy vast tracts of wilderness which had been unoccupied since the beginning of time.

All the time new inventions were being made which made life more comfortable and less dangerous. Often enough these innovations were not

due to the cleverness of man's brain. He simply copied the animals. You know of course that there are a large number of beasts who prepare for the long winter by burying nuts and acorns and other food which is abundant during the summer. Just think of the squirrels forever filling their larder in gardens and parks with supplies for the winter and the early spring. Early man in his primitive form was less intelligent in many respects than the squirrels was yet to figure out how to preserve anything for the future. He ate until his hunger was satisfied, but what he did not need right away was wasted because it went spoiled. As a result he often went without his meals during the cold period and many of his children died from hunger and want. Until he followed the example of the animals and prepared for the future by keeping sufficient stores when the harvest had been good and there was an abundance of wheat and grain. Through understanding nature, man began to understand how to come to terms with these cycles of nature and as his mind grasped new ideas many more tools were made in order to cope with his surroundings.

We do not know which genius first discovered the use of pottery but she deserves a statue. Very likely it was a woman who had got tired of the eternal chores of the home and wanted to make her household duties a little less exacting. She noticed that chunks of clay, when exposed to the rays of the sun, got baked into a hard substance. If a flat piece of clay could be transformed into a brick, a slightly curved piece of the same material must produce a similar result. And behold, the brick grew into a piece of pottery and the human race was able to save for the day of tomorrow. If you think that my praises of this invention are exaggerated, look at the breakfast table and see what pottery, in one form and the other, means in your own life. Your oatmeal is served in a dish. The cream is served from a pitcher. Your meat is carried from the kitchen to the dining-room table on a plate. Your milk is brought to you in a china mug. Then go to the store-room (if there is no store-room in your house go to the nearest store). You will see how all the things which we are supposed to eat tomorrow and next week and next year have been put away in jars and cans and other artificial containers which nature did not provide for us but which man was forced to invent and perfect before he could be assured of his regular meals all the year around. Even a gas-tank is nothing but a large pitcher, made of iron because iron does not break as easily as china and is less porous than clay. So are barrels and bottles and pots and pans. They all serve the same purpose; to provide us in the future with those things of which we happen to have an abundance at the present moment. And because he could preserve edible things for the day of need, man began to raise vegetables and grain and saved the surplus for future consumption. This explains why, during the late Stone Age, we find the first the first gardens and farms grouped around the settlements of the early pottery makers. So far in your Labourer manual you have seen the journey of man to this point of development. But what were his spiritual ideas or religion throughout these times? What does this say about spirituality and nature?

### **Insights into Prehistoric Spirituality**

From the stone-age leading to the first moments of agriculture the religion leading from the start of those times to the pottery makers was relatively the

same. The world religion was a nature based religion. As mentioned in the last section we introduced the idea that all forms of ancient spirituality began as nature based religions. We also said that no matter what part of the planet, anthropology has shown that tribal spirituality was the first universal religion. It may have differed from tribe to tribe by language and the images they used however all of those religions were describing the same ideas. In this section we shall delve further in tribal culture to find out what kind of ideas they used to describe the natural world around them. This is given to enhance your understanding of nature.

### **Ancestor Worship**

Archeology has shown that religion in some form or another has been an essential element in the life and culture of all humans throughout the ages. As Rosicrucians you need to know how many of the beliefs and practices of later religions, both ancient and modern, are rooted in their prehistoric prototypes of the stone-age. The period we have described so far lasted from 500,000BC to 10,000BC. This phase therefore has an important place in understanding how to obtain mystical enlightenment. Both archeological excavations and the study of our present tribal cultures that continue to practice nature religions shows that man may have begun his first spiritual ideals when trying to come to terms with death. The earliest trace of archeological religious evidence is clustered around prehistoric burial sites. In caves in China and Europe the heads of the dead were found perhaps as ancestral icons and some have suggested that the flesh of the heads were eaten in order to obtain the knowledge and vitality of their deceased. Skulls excavated in France had been made into drinking cups, which suggest the first form of sacraments in ancestor worship. After the fall of man our primitive ancestors feared death. It was the end they could not avoid. In these times was conceived the idea of a Spirit World where the ancestors were said to reside. Burials became ceremonial in order to prepare the dead for the next life. The dead were given items that they might require for survival in the next life also. Ancestors became revered as protecting deities and guiding spirits who continued a close relationship with the living and continued to influence our affairs.

Ancestor worship was universal to all nature religions. Where did the dead go? Our ancestors would ask. When asking 'how could the soul just end?' a response was given in the form of a continual life for the dead so that man might not have to fear death any longer. **The belief in a surviving element of the human person, such as the soul, and in an afterlife began in the stone-age**, and forms the basis for many modern thoughts such as the idea of heaven and hell. In its most ancient form the spirits of the dead were often thought to help the living, but it was thought they also did harm if they were not propitiated. Because of this foundation all societies today give ritual attention to death or to the souls of the dead, but not all of these practices may appropriately be called ancestor worship. In ancestor worship the dead continued to live with us and very near to mans location. Ancient man thought of his ancestors had become supernatural beings that not only had the personality of their kinsman but had also gained a supernatural influence on the world around them. The spirits of the dead were with them, they could

see, hear, feel, understand and communicate with our living ancestors. The dead would make moral judgments, could be demanding, joyful, angry, stern, kind and cruel by having all the normal traits from their human condition. As man tried to come to terms with his surroundings, throughout his many discoveries of tools and fire, the ancestors were ever with him. Primitive man created periodic rites, that is to say, they had special days of the month or week that were used to honor the dead and could call upon them in times of need. During these times primitive man did not know much about the elements or his surroundings. They did not know why they were here or what many things were. But they did know each other. They knew their families and their friends. And so in a world where they could not identify with many things they called upon those whom they knew the most, their ancestors. Ancestor worship was essentially born to gain guidance from the invisible world. There is something inside our human nature that instinctively knows that there is another dimension to which we cannot immediately perceive. Our primitive ancestors conceived of ancestor worship yet it did not cease to exist with them but has continued onto modern times.

From the stone-age ancestor worship continued to the ancient civilisation of the Mediterranean, where cults of the dead sometimes also existed and among later European groups. The ancient Egyptian religion featured a cult of the dead but gave little attention to ancestral spirits except those of royalty. In ancient Greece ancestor worship overlapped into hero worship. Among northern and eastern peoples of Europe, the ancient Celts, Teutons, Vikings and Slavics also gave importance to the spirits of their ancestors. Some Christian streams revere the Saints and have sacred days for them while other related religions revere different prophets. On the other hand our culture today often venerates people in our history such as the founding fathers of our country and modern war heroes. Remember that as a Rosicrucian all life is an opportunity for something. Should you ever come across different cultures and native persons who practice a tribal form of religion then you should see at once an opportunity to learn more about life. We encourage you to ask and speak with people who have different cultures to expand your understanding of the cosmos if others are willing to share. After all we are all God's children and from tribal religions all modern thought was planted and born.

### **Animal Worship**

Some of our students have asked 'why are we studying these ancient cultures?' and 'aren't we supposed to be studying nature?' These questions are important to answer because right now the position of your learning is from the perspective of not just studying nature. **We are also studying spirituality in regards to nature itself.** We are examining what different religions and peoples around the world have to say about nature through the very eyes of those people who have experienced it on perhaps a deeper personal level than many of ourselves. The interesting thing about what we find in these primitive religions is that we still experience many forms of their ideas still today. One of these traditions is animal worship.

Not a part of the Rosicrucian tradition itself, the worship of animals was of primary importance to our stone-age ancestors. Sometimes described as totems or animism, this tradition also emerged from the immediate surroundings of our ancient ancestors. As man began to explore he encountered many kinds of animals. What were they he thought? Why can some fly? What powers they must have. Where do they come from? And central to the idea of animal worship our ancient man conceived that these creatures must have some kind of sacred spirit and that animals themselves were the guardians of the world around them.

Without animals stone-age man knew that he would die. There would be no fish to eat. No bison or birds to hunt and catch. And so to honour that which he needed the most primitive man created a system of connecting with the animal kingdom. The animals became his cousins, brothers and sisters, while various tribes began to identify with different animals.<sup>5</sup> In ancient man's mind he thought that he could somehow become stronger if he could only harness the power of the lion. Some birds were seen to lay more eggs, or certain animals were seen to birth more offspring than others, and so these animals became associated with fertility. Animals were man's immediate connection to the powers of nature, a means by which he could master the forces of nature through the symbolism of sacred animals.

He collected the bones, tusk, feathers and teeth of his animal cousins to gain their power. Some animals were seen to be symbols of fear and so the serpent and crocodile were the physical demons that haunted the existence of primitive man. In due time he also understood the delicate nature of the animal kingdom around him. Ancient man understood that he must not kill or take more animals than would be required and that hunting seasons would also ensure the continuance of different species. Without food man would die. And so rituals were also created to empower the natural world around him to encourage the life of animals and the vegetable kingdom. Sometimes primitive man wore the skins of animals and mimicked their movements and sounds so that he could gain sympathy with the spirit of the animal and therefore gain its power and strength.



Animal worship in its most ancient form also connected animals to the spiritual world. Instead of being physical beasts they also became guardians of both the material and spiritual worlds. They were closely associated to ancestor worship as both animals and ancestors now had the ability to affect and guide them. Myths were also created to describe his ancestor's journeys with the animals that were important to him. The stars in the sky were eventually grouped into what we call constellations today. The survival of animal and ancestor worship is seen in the twelve signs of the zodiac that each depicts an ancestor and animal sign however not many people recognize the ancient roots of this common knowledge. By observing the twelve signs next time you

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<sup>5</sup> Many of these animal spirits later became the elementals and fairies of the Rosicrucian tradition.

see them you will notice beast such as the lion, the bull, scorpions, and crabs. All depict very natural symbols which through the nature of the animal somehow describes the stars.

### **Additional Activity: Perceiving the Rosicrucian Current**

So far you have begun a journey into studying the natural world, our history with it, and its spiritual impact upon humankind. With patience you shall learn in future sections how nature religions also impacted the religion of Egypt and will continue on to study the composition of matter and study of the World Soul. Remember that you are a Labourer of the Art and that this degree may take time. The Rosicrucian Journey is one that will open your eyes over a period of time, as no wonderful achievements were obtained over night.

Having come thus far we suggest you to spend a moment in peace and quiet meditation. Realize that the Rosicrucian Order is a current of Light and that all students, including you, are connected to its astral thread by becoming a member of our welcoming society. This light is being transmitted to you via the astral thread not only from us but also because you are attracting the current through your own aspirations to our transmission. This connection between the students and the order is what we call an 'egregore.' A group connection to a Rosicrucian stream is also considered the egregore itself.

We say that the egregore of the Rosicrucian College of AR+CO is one of Love and Peace. The members of our society, from both our headquarters and many of our distant home study students, contribute to this order's current. We would like to invite you to participate in feeling this current at this time so that it continues to become a beautiful experience for you and for others. You can do this right now by spending a mental moment, sending a thought of Peace and Love towards all Rosicrucian students who are studying in the Labourer degree with you. In return an astral wave will return to you sending back the love from the other members of our society.

This may seem all too easy but through experiencing this simple meditation, you will also gain something in return. Remember that others are doing this same exercise with you and by investing your love and thoughts you will also receive the warmth of our fraternity which can polarize your being into happiness and belonging. Remember that we are a fraternity, and everyone should feel welcome and should know that you and everyone else in our college are making some contribution towards this current of Light. Spend several minutes sending your warmth into this current and then meditate on what that current returns to towards you. In future exercises you shall also gain more advanced methods of contacting our Rosicrucian current in order to receive additional teachings via this astral thread.

At the end of this exercise record your results in your Rosicrucian Journal. Describe how you felt and remember anything gained from this experience. You may like to share any feelings or thoughts received with our online forum.

## **On the Grip and Password of the Labourer**

Before returning back to your study of nature it is important to mention that in introduction you were given the **grip and password** of the Outer Plane. The landmarks of this degree are important because by these secret signs and words Rosicrucians can identify themselves to each other. Remember that the grip is to shake your fellows hand as normal followed by a delayed grip while pressing the thumb to his index finger three times. However now that you are initiated into the Labourer degree through completing your self-initiation-ceremony we will now mention that this initial description of the grip is however incomplete. The true and complete grip of the Labourer also includes the left hand, which is used to grip the elbow of the right arm that you are shaking. This additional aspect is only given to initiates. The symbolism of our grip is very simple. The shaking of the hand simply implies a greeting, while gripping each others elbow locks them together. This lock symbolises our fraternal bond of love towards one another because the egregore of our order, mentioned in the last lesson, is one of group spirit and fraternal warmth. The pressing of the fingers is done three times and this is used to symbolise the Law of the Triangle from your initiation ceremony. Remember that the law of the triangle says that man is more than a physical body or a mental mind. Our three fold law recognises the higher spirit and we say that man consists of Mind, Body and Spirit together, and when pressing the fingers thrice we are indicating this truth towards one another. The password 'Fiat Lux' is very simple in meaning, it means 'let there be light' and it was spoken in Genesis and in most accounts of how God created the cosmos. As a Rosicrucian you may use this information to test those who claim to be members of our College and when you hold the elbow of the other s/he will know that you are an initiated member of the Rosicrucian College of AR+CO.

This information is only available to students who have committed to their Rosicrucian Journey and have undergone the initiation ceremony. Hence we have concealed it here within the manual. Because you have earned the special privilege of being a part of this fraternity we ask that you honour our society by remaining silent in regards to the signs of this degree and its hidden symbolism. By this you will gain the respect of other Rosicrucian members who are willing to greet you as a brother or sister of our society.

## **Ancient Man and Nature Continued**

In the last few sections you learnt about ancient man in his most primitive form and how he came to terms with the natural world around him. You also began to learn aspects of his stone-age religion which included ancestor and animal worship. You saw how our ancestors' progressed from the stone-age while and learned about some aspects of his religion. Now you shall continue with both aspects in that you shall see how mans' progress continued to shape his religion thereafter the primitive age coming into the Egyptian era, which provided a great influence on our Rosicrucian teachings.

On his journey of self-discovery primitive man gained some knowledge of his surroundings. He learnt the secret of fire, how to cook food and eventually at his greatest moment learned to use clay for producing pottery items. The use of pottery provided man with storage containers and he was now able to store food for a longer period. Now that stores could be preserved in wheat, dried fruits and salted meats man could copy the animal kingdom by creating food stores for the long winters and also learned to cultivate his own crops. Although still a hunter-gatherer he now only had to hunt for meat when this primitive man became an agricultural farmer. He gave up his habit of wandering for food and settle down in one spot where he could raise his children until the day of his death and could now be buried among his own people. Although primitive in its first forms the benefits of having ones own corn crops, gardens and berries radically changed his life. Savage man could now rest more and perhaps this led to more thought.

It is safe to say that these earliest ancestors of ours would have given up the ways of savages of their own accord if they had been left to their fate. But suddenly there was an end to their primitive isolation. Prehistoric man was discovered. A traveller from the unknown west-land who had dared to cross the turbulent sea and the forbidding desert sands had found his way to the wild people of the area. On his back he carried a pack. When he had spread his wares before the gaping curiosity of the bewildered natives, their eyes beheld wonders of which their minds had never dared to dream. They saw bronze hammers and axes and tools made of iron and helmets made of copper and beautiful ornaments consisting of a strangely coloured substance which the foreign visitor called silk. Overnight the Age of Stone came to an end. It was replaced by a new civilization which had discarded wooden and stone implements centuries before and had laid the foundations for that 'Age of Metal' which has endured until our own day.

It might seem as if this sudden jump in technology was highly unlikely for our stone-age man. However no two persons do precisely the same thing. No two human brains ever reach exactly the same conclusion at the same speed in time. You would have noticed this yourself while growing up. Some children were faster learners than others and our history was no different thousands of years ago. Prehistoric man was on his fair way to progress. He had managed to survive the stone-age and the snow and the wild animals which in themselves were a great deal for them. He had invented many useful things. Suddenly however other people from a different part of the world entered the race. They rushed on a much faster speed of discovery and within a shorter space of time they reach a height of civilization which had never before been seen upon our planet. They set forth to teach what they knew to others who had been not so fortunate as themselves. What impact would this have had on the culture and spiritual ideals of our ancient stone-age man?

### **The Prehistoric Roots of Egypt**

You know that the worship of animals was practiced by primitive man and that at some time Egypt and its religion seems to have suddenly emerged from a savage culture into a highly civilized system of worship. The original motive

behind the kinship of animals with man now transformed them into deities. With the knowledge of metal man now donned amulets of the serpent and the bull, while the tribal leader became the pharaoh who associated his stature with the hawk. The loin now became life sized temple figures while many other animals became personal standards. Primitive man did not separate himself from the religion of the past on obtaining the knowledge of metal but instead glorified his understanding of the universe by transforming his animal spirits into anthropomorphic gods. These animals can be seen to have been transformed into four groups of gods by the following way:

All the animals that were considered clean and useful to primitive man, such as the ram, the bull, the cow and the calf naturally became the gods who embodied good and noble things. These were the gods of fertility, wealth and love. There were also a number of beasts that were considered unclean or dangerous. They commanded respect from primitive man because their wielded and aura of power, glory and mystery. Animals such as the lion and cat, the dog and ape and the jackal, the hawk, vulture and ibis, the royal serpent and the frog and beetle all came to represent qualities of power, good and truth. Another group of animals that were also unclean but were considered more so dangerous to our primitive man became the gods of evil. These were the animals that caused our ancestors great difficulty during the stone-age. The hippopotamus, the swine, the crocodile, the snake, and the scorpion all became the gods symbolizing infernal things. The last group of animals came from the spirit world of primitive man. These became the phoenix and animals such as the sphinx.

### **The Animal Gods of Egypt**

When primitive man deified his animal spirits into gods it shows that it was not his religion so much that changed but rather the technology with which he used to express his beliefs. The writing of Egypt also shows he maintained his connection to nature in that all the hieroglyphs of Egypt are also symbols of natural things depicting animals, water and the eye etc. The Rosicrucian College of AR+CO continues to have many Egyptian symbols, some of them animals within our order. For the Outer College, of which you are now a member, students are signified by the symbol of the scarab beetle. In this section you will learn about some of the animals that became the gods of Egypt. *“If the student has progressed so far that he can perceive the spiritual forms of those phenomena which are physically visible to his external sight, he is then not far from the stage where he will behold things which have no physical existence, and which therefore remain entirely hidden from those who have not received suitable instruction and training.” R.Steiner.*

**Baboon** - The baboon was one of the representations of Thoth, the god of writing and knowledge while at other times the baboon symbolized Khonsu, the youthful moon god. Both deities were related to the moon and the humanoid ways of the large baboons are an obvious cause for Egyptians to regard them as the wisest of animals. Thoth is represented as a baboon from the first dynasty down to late times, and four baboons were sacred in his

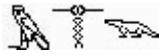
temple at Hemmopolis. These four baboons were often portrayed as adoring the sun; this idea is due to their habit of chattering at sunrise.

**Bull** - The bull was sacred in many places, and its worship underlay that of the human gods, who were said to be incarnated in him. The idea is that of the fighting power, as when the king is figured as a bull trampling on his enemies, and the reproductive power, as in the title of the self-renewing gods, "bull of his mother." The most renowned was the Hapi or Apis bull of Memphis, in whom Ptah was said to be incarnate and who was Osirified and became the Osir-hapi. Thus appears to have originated the great Ptolemaic god Serapis, as certainly the mausoleum of the bulls was the Serapeum of the Greeks. Another bull of a more massive breed was the Ur-mer or Mnevis of Heliopolis, in whom Ra was incarnate. A third bull was Bakh or Bakis of Hermonthis the incarnation of Mentu. And a fourth bull, Kan-nub or Kanobos, was worshipped at the city of that name. The cow was identified with Hathor, who appears with cow's ears and horns, and who is probably the cow-goddess Ashtaroth or Istar of Asia. Isis, as identified with Hathor, is also joined in this connection.

**Cat**  - Many deities were depicted as cats, both domestic or wild, and so they were seen as benevolent, sacred animals. Bast, originally a desert cat, was later depicted as a domestic cat. Ra was shown as 'The Great Cat of Heliopolis' who defeated Apep in 'The Book of the Dead'.

**Cattle**  - Hathor, Isis, Nut and Bat were three goddesses who were often depicted as cows, with the horns of cows or with the ears of cows. Because of this, and because of the relationship of the pharaoh as a living god, the cow came to symbolize the mother of the pharaoh. The cow was also a solar icon, where Nut carried the sun across the sky on her back, when she was in cow form. The cow was linked to female fertility and to the mother of the pharaoh. Osiris was related to the bull - the Apis bull, after death, became Osiris-Apis. While it was still alive, the Apis bull was seen as the Ba of Ptah, mummified god of creation. The Mnevis bull was regarded as the Ba of Ra-Atum. The bull, therefore, was linked to masculinity and the pharaoh.

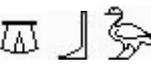
**Cobra**  - The cobra serpent was sacred from the earliest times to the present day. It was never identified with any of the great deities, but three goddesses appear in serpent form: Uazet, the Delta goddess of Buto, who represented Lower Egypt and kingship; Mert-seger, "the lover of silence," who could punish criminals with blindness or her venom. Rannut, the harvest goddess was sometimes depicted as nursing children and as protector of pharaoh.

**Crocodile**  - Ammut, the demoness at the judgement hall, had the head of a crocodile along with other fearful creatures, and was known as 'the devourer of the dead' who punished evildoers by eating their hearts. The crocodile was also sacred to Sebek, who was portrayed as a human with the head of a crocodile, or as the crocodile itself. The temples of Sebek usually

had sacred lakes where crocodiles were fed and cared for. The hippo goddess of childbirth, Taweret, was thought to have the back and tail of a crocodile, or was shown with a crocodile perched on her back.

**Falcon / Hawk**  - The hawk is the sacred bird of the falcon-headed solar god Horus, it was also regarded as his soul. The falcon was a bird that had protective powers, and was frequently linked with royalty, where it was depicted as hovering over the head of the pharaoh, with outstretched wings. The falcon was also sacred to Montu, god of war, and Sokar, god of the Memphite necropolis. The bird of prey was sometimes associated with Hathor, 'The House of Horus'. The son of Horus, Qebhsenuf who guarded the canopic jar of the intestines, was a falcon-headed god. The human headed ba-bird was sometimes given the body of a falcon. From its prehistoric roots the souls of the dead were thought to fly up to heaven in the form of a hawk. In nature primitive man also saw how the falcon liked to destroy the serpent by swooping down and tearing away the snakes head. This is why primitive Egyptians and then later civilized Egyptians came to know the hawk, and Horus, as the slayer of the serpent god.

**Frog**  - The frog goddess Heqet was often shown as a frog-headed woman or as a frog. Because the Egyptians saw that there were many frogs, all appearing from the Nile, they associated the frog with fertility and resurrection, and so Heqet was a goddess of childbirth. The four male primeval gods of the Ogdoad - Nun (water), Amen (invisibility), Heh (infinity) and Kek (darkness) - were all frog gods.

**Goose**  - The goose was the sacred animal of Geb, who was also known as 'The Great Cackler' when he was in goose form, and had the sign of the goose as his headdress. Isis was sometimes described as 'the egg of the goose', being the daughter of Geb and both are related to fertility and birth.

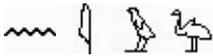
**Heron**  - The heron, and was thought to be the original phoenix - it was a bird of the sun and rebirth, the sacred bird of Heliopolis, closely linked to the primeval mound. It was also thought to be the token of both Ra and Osiris.

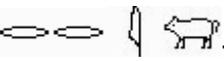
**Hippopotamus**  - Set was thought to have turned into a hippopotamus during his fight with Horus, where he was harpooned by the falcon god. The male hippopotamus was Set's animal, and an evil animal. Primitive man was well aware of the danger of crossing a hippopotamus which today are among the most dangerous threat to humans in Africa. Ammut, the female demon who ate the soul of the dead had the rear end of a hippopotamus, and was combined with the body parts of other fearsome Egyptian creatures. The female hippopotamus, on the other hand, was the manifestation of Taweret, the benevolent hippo goddess of fertility and childbirth. She was one of the most popular goddesses of the household, particularly among expectant mothers.

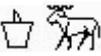
**Ibis**  - Regarded as the reincarnation of Thoth, the sacred ibis was sacred to the god of knowledge, who had the form of an ibis-headed man. The Akhu, part of the soul, was written with the sign of a crested ibis.

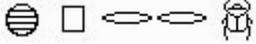
**Jackal**  - Because the jackal haunted primitive man's cemeteries on the edge of the desert it came to be taken as guardian of the dead. Egyptians associated the jackal with Anubis, the god of embalming and mummification, who was depicted as a black colored jackal or a man with the head of a black jackal or dog. One of the four sons of Horus, Duamutef, was a jackal headed god who guarded the canopic jar that held the stomach. The other jackal god was Wepwawet, the Opener of the Ways, who performed the Opening of the Mouth ceremony on the pharaoh so he would be able to speak in the afterlife. Our Egyptian ancestors associated this aspect to the jackal because they were the makers of tracks in the desert, and these became the best guides to passing through uncertain valleys.

**Lions**  The lion was connected with the rising and the setting of the sun, and so were thought to be guardians of the horizon and were linked to solar deities. The earth god Aker was shown in the form of a 'double sphinx' - two lions seated back to back - and was thought to guard the sun as it entered and exited the underworld at the eastern and western horizons. Shu, god of dry air, and Tefnut, goddess of moist air, were lion-headed and lioness-headed deities respectively. Many pharaohs associated themselves with lions, and so the lion came to symbolize rulership. Lions were also linked with ferocity and war-like deities. Sekhmet was either shown as a lioness, or a lioness-headed woman who came into being as the Eye of Ra to destroy mankind for Ra, who was also known for her healing powers. Hathor, goddess of love, was thought to have been sent out as the Eye of Ra, and so was also linked to lionesses.

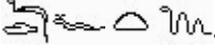
**Ostrich**  - Maat, the personification of order, was shown as a seated woman wearing an ostrich feather as her headdress or as the feather itself.

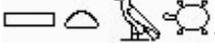
**Pig**  - The pig was an animal sacred to Set, god of chaos. Set took the form of a pig and blinded Horus. Eventually Horus regained his sight. The eyes of Horus was thought to represent the sun and the moon, and the legend of the blinding of the god was an explanation of solar and lunar eclipses. Plutarch said that, once a year, pigs were sacrificed to the moon.

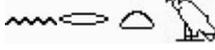
**Ram**  - The ram was sacred to Banebdjedet, ram-god of Mendes, and Khnum the god who created men on his pottery wheel. Amun also had a ram form, though this was a different species of sheep. Primitive man saw the ram as a fertile beast and as such, the fertility god Heryshef took the form of a ram or a ram-headed man and the ram gods embodied kingly statures.

**Scarab Beetle**  - The personification of the scarab god Khepri, a solar god of resurrection. As the scarab pushes its dung behind it in a ball, so the Egyptians thought that Khepri pushed the sun across the sky. Young scarabs emerged, born out of the dung, and so the scarab also came to symbolize new life and creation. The scarab was also linked to Amen, as was Khepri himself.

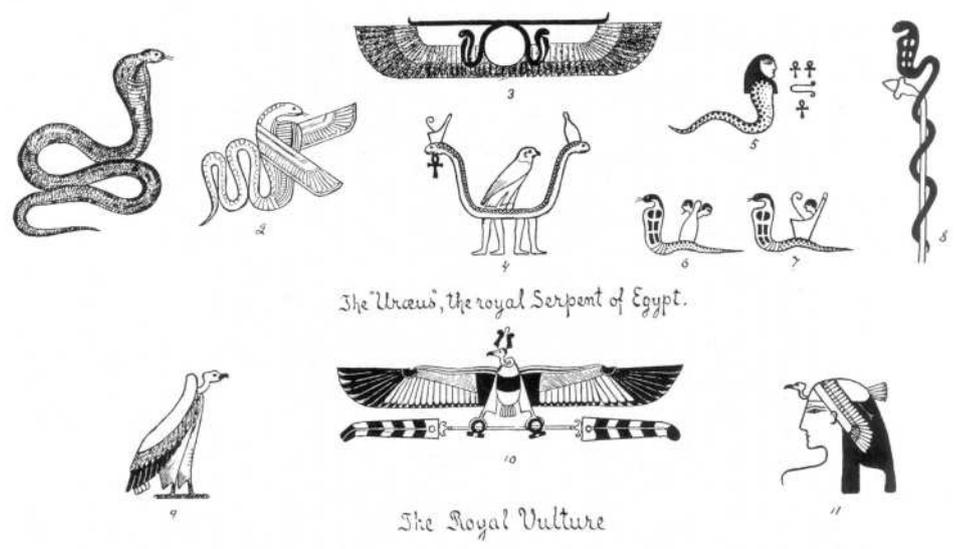
**Scorpion**  - Serqet was a scorpion goddess and was usually depicted with a scorpion on her head and featured in spells to both avoid and cure venomous bites. Shed, a god known as 'the savior', was linked with the scorpion and gave protection against its sting. Tabitjet was another scorpion goddess, relating to the bleeding caused by the loss of virginity. The scorpion was sacred to Isis, who was thought to have been protected by scorpions while Horus was young.

**Snake**  - The snake had mixed popularity in Egypt because snakes caused the danger and the cure to the venom. Apep was a snake-demon of the underworld, who tried to stop Ra on his nightly journey through the land of the west. The four primeval goddesses of the Ogdoad - Naunet (water), Amaunet (invisibility), Hauhet (infinity) and Kauket (darkness) - were also snake goddesses. There was a snake god called Nehebkaw who was depicted as a man with the head and tail of a snake.

**Turtle**  - The turtle was associated with Set, and so with the enemies of Ra who tried to stop the solar boat as it traveled through the underworld. This was because the turtle was associated with night, and so came to symbolize darkness and evil.

**Vulture**  - The vulture was the emblem of maternity, as being supposed to care especially for her young. Hence she is identified with Mut, the mother goddess of Thebes. The queen-mothers have vulture head-dresses; the vulture is shown hovering over kings to protect them, and a row of spread-out vultures are figured on the roofs of the tomb passages to protect the soul. The vulture's feather also became associated with Maat and truth.

**Note:** This list is important to you because it is a first glimpse into a topic we call archetypes which we shall explore later in further lessons.



## CONCORDO

Dear student here we will introduce the first Concordo to your studies. The word concordo is Latin for 'agree' and to 'concur' and is used throughout our Rosicrucian Journey to describe ideas and thoughts that are in harmony with our teachings. This concordance comes from E.A.Wallis Budge author of 'Egyptian Magic', 'the Egyptian Book of the Dead' and the 'Gods of the Egyptians.' His contribution is of great importance to Rosicrucian students and we shall draw upon his work throughout our Rosicrucian Journey. This quote deals with primitive mans relationship with the beast around him which later became his gods. It is also important to note that since then a number of these snakes have been excavated in Egypt and Australia.

*"Apep, the serpent-devil of mist, darkness, storm, and night, and his fiends of rebellion, were not the result of the imagination of the Egyptians in historic times, but their existence dates back from the period when Egypt was overrun by mighty beasts, huge serpents, and noxious reptiles of all kinds. The great serpent of Egyptian mythology, which was indeed a formidable opponent of the Sun-god, had its prototype in some monster serpent on earth, of which tradition had preserved a record; and that this is no mere theory is proved by the fact that the remains of a serpent, which must have been of enormous size, have recently been found in the Fayyum. The vertebrae are said to indicate that the creature to which they belonged was longer than the largest python known. Apep were as hostile to man as was their master to the Sun-god, and they regarded with terror by the minds of those who had evolved them." (his footnote also adds) "If proportions of this snake were the same as in the existing Python it probably reached a length of thirty feet." A.E.Wallis Budge 1904.*

### **Points of Consideration:**

**The Animal Spirits of primitive man later became the gods of Egypt**

**Remember that Jesus said to his disciples: 'be as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves.'**

**Make sure you keep practicing the first exercise upon the Mystic Ladder. This was the practice of Retrospection or recounting your daily activities and by measuring them you can reconcile to the Light. It may be a good time to read the retrospection exercise once again in your Rosicrucian Journal**

**Remember that you must say one of the prayers before reading this manual due to the way in which our current is transmitted.**

### **Resource Material**

**Derived from the Aurora of the Philosophers**

Dear Student. This time we have included a lecture by the Alchemist Paracelsus. Some important considerations can be derived here in regards to our Rosicrucian teachings. Paracelsus says that the Chaldeans, Persians and Egyptians had a universal knowledge of Nature and that it was universal among them. Our Rosicrucian teachings also derive from these sources because like the Egyptians, Chaldeans and Persians nature is the foundation of our school of knowledge. Paracelsus here also warns that some teachings can be mere 'speculation' and without devaluating the ideas of the Greeks we do know that the reality of our knowledge must be verified as opposed to being a speculative study. This is why Rosicrucian knowledge not only has its foundations in nature but the student also seeks to apply our spiritual principles to the problems of life so that what you learn is real to both the physical and mental worlds of Life and Ideas.

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### WHAT WAS TAUGHT IN THE SCHOOLS OF THE EGYPTIANS.

The Chaldeans, Persians, and Egyptians had all of them the same knowledge of the secrets of Nature, and also the same religion. It was only the names that differed. The Chaldeans and Persians called their doctrine Sophia and Magic; and the Egyptians, because of the sacrifice, called their wisdom priestcraft. The magic of the Persians, and the theology of the Egyptians, were both of them taught in the schools of old. Though there were many schools and learned men in Arabia, Africa, and Greece, such as Albumazar, Abenzagel, Geber, Rhasis, and Avicenna among the Arabians; and among the Greeks, Machaon, Podalirius, Pythagoras, Anaxagoras, Democritus, Plato, Aristotle, and Rhodianus; still there were different opinions amongst them as to the wisdom of the Egyptian on points wherein they themselves differed, and whereupon they disagreed with it. For this reason Pythagoras could not be called a wise man, because the Egyptian priestcraft and wisdom were not perfectly taught, although he received therefrom many mysteries and arcana; and that Anaxagoras had received a great many as well, is clear from his discussions on the subject of Sol and its Stone, which he left behind him after his death. Yet he differed in many respects from the Egyptians. Even they would not be called wise men or Magi; but, following Pythagoras, they assumed the name of philosophy: yet they gathered no more than a few gleams like shadows from the magic of the Persians and the Egyptians. But Moses, Abraham, Solomon, Adam, and the wise men that came from the East to Christ, were true Magi, divine sophists and cabalists. Of this art and wisdom the Greeks knew very little or nothing at all; and therefore we shall leave this philosophical wisdom of the Greeks as being a mere speculation, utterly distinct and separate from other true arts and sciences. **(Meaning: Wisdom must be practical rather than theoretical! The more down-to-earth the better!)**

### On the Scarab as an Outer Order symbol

To revise so far you have gained some knowledge of how our beliefs have evolved from nature based religions. You have seen how the animal spirits of primitive man later became the animal like gods of ancient Egypt. This understanding is important because the Rosicrucian College traces its spiritual current to the Egyptian School of Enlightenment. Take pride that you have gained some crucial information already in such a short amount of time. If you have been keeping true to your Rosicrucian Journey and have been

applying yourself in full you should be reciting the prayer of this degree, given at the start of this manual, at least once per week on a day of your own choosing. You should also be performing the Retrospection exercise every night as set out on **WHAT PAGE?**. Remember that this is important to understand yourself and measure your actions, performed during that day, in light of truth, fairness and peace. The beauty of performing this exercise is that when you find that you have done something you can also rectify that issue on the next day. These exercises, Prayer and Retrospection are important to the Labourer's level of transformation. They may seem all too simple through reading but apply your-self and gain the rewards instead of just imagining what can happen. We believe that through this basic prayer its subtle effects can draw upon the current of our College and set into motion a process of higher initiation. Later in higher grades the work shall intensify.

The Symbol of the Outer College is the Scarab. In the last section you saw how various Egyptian creatures came to embody different divine qualities as the Gods of the Egyptians. The Greeks called the scarab the 'skarabeios' – a word of unknown meaning. The Egyptians on the other hand called it Khepera which means 'being' and 'becoming.' It also means 'to roll and evolve' a point that should encourage students in looking for the true meaning of its symbolism. Its color is black but it also appears in metallic colors. As a student these colors embrace the student coming from a world of darkness seeking illumination, while the metallic aspect draws upon alchemical symbolism. The student is the prima-materia of alchemy, or the gross-matter for alchemical transmutation into a higher matter. The scarab is born at the edge of the desert and spends half of its life crawling down to the bank of the river Nile. Once there the female gathers a ball of dung and mud measuring around one or two inches in diameter and here it deposits a great number of eggs. In your spiritual journey this symbolizes the Rosicrucian students desire to drink from the river of knowledge. While the eggs placed into the earth and dung are the new ideas gained from our society. After laying the male and female then take turns in rolling the ball back to the edge of the desert. The beetles usually drag it along with their hind legs but are often seen as carrying it on their heads with the front legs. Remember that many of the great enlightened masters also had to suffer. Christ had to carry the cross of suffering upon his back only to meet his own death.

This aspect of suffering is not a painful task to be undertaken by the student but instead represents the commitment and sacrifices that you will need to make in order to learn and grow as a spiritual person. At the edge of the desert the beetles bury their ball into sand to be hatched out by the heat of the sun. This on the other hand should remind you that all true spiritual birth is accomplished in the real world and in the light of the sun through experiencing and applying our teachings.

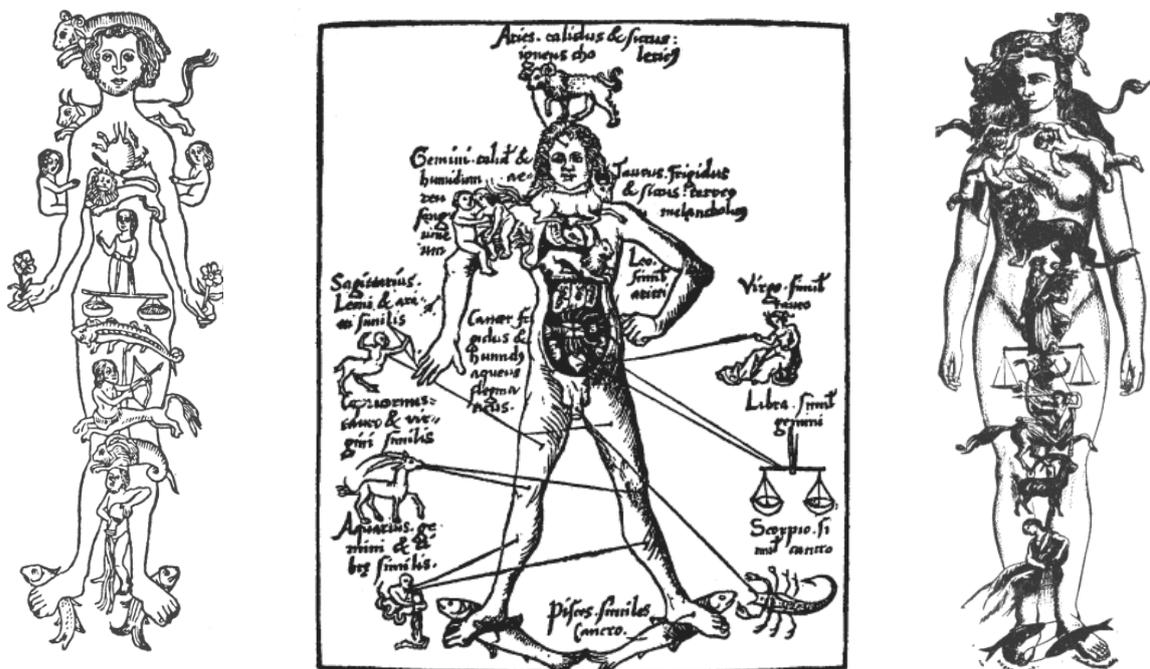


The scarab was associated with Ra, the sun-god, partly because of the round shape of its ball. It was seen to contain the germs of a new generation as the ball of the sun contains the germs of all life in the

universe. It was also a solar-insect because the scarab became especially lively during the hottest hours of the day, flying about in the sunlight when all other creatures seek shade and rest. In the world of the mundane very few people apply themselves to a higher spiritual cause while the student remains busy learning and dissolving his ego. Because of this association Egyptians sometimes represented the sun-god with a beetle on top of his head, or with a beetle instead of a head.

### Man as the Sum of all Creatures

In your last section you encountered several more animals that later became the Gods of the Egyptians. Something important can now be gained from this knowledge. In the ancient funeral text of Egyptian Pharaoh Pepi we read: ‘His head is from the hawk, he cometh forth and riseth up in heaven. The skull of this Pepi is that of the divine goose. The backbone of this Pepi comes from the bull.’ This ancient text is the first known example of the deification of the parts of the body as practiced by the ancient Egyptians. We see here yet another instance of man’s ancient connection with nature. But why did the Egyptians choose to represent the different parts of the body with animal imagery? According to the Egyptians man represented the unity of all living creatures. Rosicrucian students recognize this truth by **perceiving within the architecture of man all the different animals that contribute to our physical compositions**. Throughout your next few online discussions you will learn which animals seem to embody the characteristics of our different limbs, organs, bones, ears, eyes, and all aspects of our physical makeup.



**Diagrams:** The ‘Grand Man’ of the Rosicrucians, depicting the animals of the zodiac associated with the parts of the body.

**The Human Head in Nature:** In this manual the first part of the body you shall consider is the head. In the head we find that all of the soft parts, the eyes, brain, ear drums and tongue are all encased in the hard skull as in a shell. The head is carried in a resting position. The less it moves the better it can play its role. We observe and interpret most of the outside world with the help of our head. The sense organs do not stand out as protrusions. If the nose does, it gives a comical effect, “as if” – to quote Goethe- “it wanted to raise claims to which it is unable to substantiate.” By comparing this picture with animal heads, the *retention* of prominences becomes clearer. We need only think of a pecking bird, or of the nodding head of a horse with its movable ears, or of the long antennae of a crab with its eyes on stalks. The human head, morphologically speaking, tends toward secretiveness and repose. It withdraws into its protective casing. Searching among animal types for similar form tendencies, one is guided to basic animals as are provided with shells, beyond which the organs scarcely protrude and into which they can quickly withdraw. The best example is the shellfish – like oysters and clams. Here all soft parts huddle together and are wrapped inside. There is no head as a separate organ. This animal is “all head” as it were. The most delicate parts, heart and kidney, occupy the safest innermost portion. Only the foot can protrude and help, by forward thrusts followed by contraction, to move the animal slowly on the sandy or muddy bed of the water. This foot is muscular and may be compared to a tongue. The seashell is therefore a head which moves laboriously by licking and sucking. Other animals that embody these aspects of our architecture include the snail, the starfish, sea-urchin and sea-cucumber, each of which resemble the nature of our heads without ever physically resembling it. Instead we find their natures are the same by principle of their function.

### **Student Activity**

Dear Rosicrucian student. At this time we wish to introduce you to the concept of ‘Student Activities’ which are given to you on occasions so that you can participate actively on our cyber-community. Our cyber community is more than just an internet forum or a group of students studying under the AR+CO banner. Rather we at AR+CO consider our cyber-community to be a centre for forming friendships and a place where we can learn about your interest and how you may consider these mysteries to equate with your current understandings. Our student-activities are usually quite challenging and the beauty of such challenges is that they have the capability to stimulate your minds, to fire your neurons into action and create a thinking and creative student which is what we desire. And so if such activities can bring about your creative thinking mind then we are succeeding as a society in aiding others to think and act for themselves. Your first activity is to discuss this concept of how animals relate to the parts of the human body. Your challenge is to find any animals, insects, creatures or reptiles, that may describe the functions of any part of the body both internal or externally. The first example we have given to you, describing how shell-life depicts the composition of our human heads. Your activity is to submit at least two post to our Rosicrucian-Sanctum forum describing how you also perceive within the architecture of man different animals that contribute to our physical compositions. Remember the

popular saying 'tell me and I'll forget, show me and I might remember, involve me and I will remember.'

## CONCORDO

This Concordo comes from Madame Blavatsky, the great Theosophical writer and founder of the Theosophical Society. According to Blavatsky she derived her knowledge from some form of Cosmic Masters which some Rosicrucian groups regard with more importance in than others. In her work the 'Secret Doctrine,' Madame Blavatsky describes man's synthesis of nature as the 'human monad' which gives important keys to man's origin in all animal phyla. Will you not concur that man appears as a compendium of the animal realm?

*Here is one instance says the "Book of the Dead" -- "I am the mouse." "I am the hawk." "I am the ape." .. "I am the crocodile whose Soul Comes FROM MEN." "I am the Soul of the Gods." Of these last two sentences, one: "whose soul comes from men" -- is explained by the Lecturer, who says parenthetically, "that is, as a type of intelligence," and the other: "I am the Soul of the Gods," as meaning, "the Horus, or Christ, as the outcome of all." The secret teaching answers: "It means far more." . . .It gives first of all a corroboration of the teaching that, while the human monad has passed through all the three kingdoms -- the mineral, the vegetable, and the animal -- in this every mammal has sprung from Man in the semi-ethereal, many-shaped creature with the human Monad in it. In the esoteric language, it is not the form of flesh, blood, and bones, now referred to as Man, which is in any way the MAN, but the inner divine MONAD with its manifold principles or aspects. (Secret Doctrine II pg 635.)*

### Letter to the Student on Doing Positive Things

Dear Student. Today we have decided to include some thoughts on doing positive things as after all we have said that our Rosicrucian lessons would contain information on being positive. This letter in brief is a reminder about being positive and in future lessons, especially in the section on Mental Alchemy, you shall learn more about training the mind to be positive.

Many of us waste time by not being very constructive wondering 'Shall I do this? Or shall I do that?' This letter is a reminder not to waste time. Some people spend days, weeks, months, even years, in a futile mental debate about what exactly to do, but instead end up doing nothing. We can plan all we like but ultimately all the planning is done by God. So **no matter what, do something positive more often with what time you do have.** You can never do enough to develop yourself or help others in some way. There are many things we can contribute towards instead of wasting time. Many of us have seen how even a few careless moments can pull us down in life. If we see something that needs attention in life and needs to be done it is better to complete that task now than have to have a problem with it later. Essentially time is life. Value your time and spend it well. The brain likes to rest like any other muscle in your body. But like a muscle we should keep it exercised and ready. If we spend too much time resting physically the mind can also become used to being vacant. Occupy yourself as a Rosicrucian with healthy reading,

mental prayer or stimulating conversation. Everything in life we experience is ultimately the result of what we keep in our mental closet. Make sure you keep it clean and another positive practice is to develop your vocabulary and remove from it any harsh or slang words that so many of us use so often. When you keep the source of your mind clean the river of life will flow clear as crystal.

There is so much benefit to doing positive things. Firstly you'll get self confidence. It does not matter if you fail the first time. You can rectify your mistakes and then succeed. After a few successes, even in small achievements your confidence will grow and you will go on to achieve greater things. The Rosicrucian Journey is not an attempt to look at our human problems, our problems in life or what is wrong with the world. Instead we are aimed towards positive thoughts, positive actions and positive results. Therefore, make sure you do not sit back in the arm chair and worry about things. Life is the Rosicrucian Journey. Worry leads nowhere, unless you want to become a pessimist? Instead try to focus on the positive and think about what you can do right now to make a difference. At any time you face a problem, or have a spare moment, just ask yourself, what can I do right now that will help improve my life?

We are not trying however to paint a beautiful picture that says life will simply be wonderful. Certainly there will be obstacles that crop up in the way but you should know that this happens naturally in the process of achieving anything good. When you try to do something good, and obstacles appear, regard those problems objectively. Let yourself become separated from the emotions that might have upset you and see your obstacles as a challenge instead. In fact, treat them as an opportunity to grow. If the divine has any special plan for us, obstacles are certainly a part of it. They are there to test the performer of the good work. **They come to test our sincerity, patience and faith.**

Sometimes the stronger you resolve to achieve something worthwhile the more powerful the opposing force. Do not feel frustrated or give up. As Rosicrucians we all believe in a God or Divine Being and a Sustaining Force that Created the Universe. It is here that Rosicrucians obtain strength through faith in God and faith in yourself. All great achievements cannot be won without undergoing trials and tribulations. Such is the nature of not only our lives but also our spiritual pursuits and Great Work. So be natural and enjoy opportunities because each time you overcome a challenge in the process of doing something positive you shall find the spiritual gold in the Heart of the Rose in you. Fraternally the Elder Brothers of the Rosy Cross.

### **Anima-mundi Elaborated**

Greetings Good Fraters and Sorors!

I would like us to spend a moment realizing the influence of nature upon our esoteric philosophy. As you have seen the primitive forms of animal worship emerged to become the higher religion of Egypt. Another influence from nature is that the duality of darkness and light as seen in the cycle of the sun,

came to be known as 'good and evil' by the Egyptians. We know that the 'good gods' of Egypt were associated with Light while those 'evil gods' and hazardous creatures became the gods of Darkness. Essentially **the symbolism of Light and Darkness is taken from nature**. All prophets, religions and masters have spoken of the darkness as a representation of ignorance and fear, while Light has come to be known as purity, divine radiance and wisdom. Will you not agree that it is so amazing how nature has affected our human understanding of our universe?

Continuing with your study of nature we shall now expand upon the Anima-mundi. In the Golden Chain of Homer we read: "*Nature comprehends the visible and invisible Creatures of the Whole universe. What we call Nature especially, is the universal fire or Anima Mundi, filling the whole system of the Universe, and therefore is a Universal Agent, omnipresent, and endowed with an unerring instinct, and manifests itself in fire and Light. It is the First creature of Divine Omnipotence.*" As Rosicrucians we have proposed that the Universe is conscious and that the earth's centre of intelligence is called the Anima-mundi, or 'World Soul.' Now may be a good time to go back and revisit the six principles of the Anima-mundi on (**WHAT PAGE?**). So far you have learned many things about nature but what does the Rosicrucian school say about where its life comes from and what is the secret purpose of nature? And for that matter is there any purpose and reason for all that is occurring in nature or is there just chaos?

The Columbia Encyclopedia defines the Anima-mundi as a Latin word 'philosophically denoting a universal spirit or soul that functions as an **organizing principle**.' Plato was the first to state that this concept held the same relation to the world as the human soul does to your body. Friedrich Wilhelm Josef von Schelling used the term as a **unifying principle, coordinating the organic and inorganic in life**.' This idea is universal to both Eastern and Western cultures and stems from primitive speculation about our natural environment.

Throughout this study you shall learn exactly what the World Soul is in relation to nature. You shall also learn about **Nature's Communion**<sup>6</sup>, the Rosicrucian practice of intimacy with the Soul of the World by perceiving its formative force and its active intelligence. By this you will esoterically understand that the Soul of the World is purposeful and that it guides us and guards the course of our planetary evolution. Some students have expressed uncertainty in regards to our principle of the anima-mundi asking if we are 'worshippers of nature' in some form. Let us state that Rosicrucianism does not worship nature in any way, and neither does it regard the Anima-mundi as being the ultimate source or creator itself. Rather the Anima-mundi is part of a higher process from One Being, which in simpler terms our Rosicrucian society accords it with an Archangelic-like-status under the presidency of our One Creator. Our forefathers, the Elder Brothers of the Rosy Cross, also taught that the Anima-mundi was similar to an Archangel and represented her as a Divine Woman.

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<sup>6</sup> **SAM DON'T FORGET TO ADD IN THIS RITUAL**

## Primitive Origins of the World Soul

The student might ask; why would the Rosicrucian College propose that the world is conscious and has a soul? Let us answer this by asking in return; where on earth would you get this idea? The question in itself proposes the answer. Seeing that our philosophy derives from the most ancient sources we should again return to the study of primitive man, remembering that the nature religions practiced by our primitive ancestors established the first form of universal religion known to man. But what did our primitive ancestors understand of the World Soul in such a stage of infancy of our evolution? Through tribal cultures that still exist today we know that stone-age man afforded all nature with the title '**Mother Earth.**' As his mother all things upon our planet became his cousins, relatives, friends and guardians. Thus all things were regarded as having life of themselves.

This idea is known as '**animism.**' The word animism derives from the Latin word anima for 'breath and soul' and provided the basis for the Rosicrucian principle of the anima-mundi. British anthropologist Sir Edward Burnett Tylor was the first to describe the origin of religion and primitive beliefs in terms of animism. He defined animism as the general belief in spiritual beings and asserted that all religions, from the simplest to most complex involve some sort of animism. He also said that primitive peoples, defined as those without written traditions, believed that spirits or souls are the cause of life in human beings; they pictured souls as phantoms, resembling vapours or shadows, which can transmigrate from person to person, from the dead to the living, and form into plants, animals, and lifeless objects. In deriving his theory Tylor assumed that an animistic philosophy developed in an attempt to explain the causes of sleep, dreams, trances, and death. In simpler terms, the stones, rocks, mountains and rivers were also the children of their Mother Earth and therefore must also be endowed with a spirit of their own. Primitive man developed a set of beliefs that said there was spirit in all things; a spirit of the rocks, a spirit of the trees, and a spirit of the mountains. All of these spirits became the children of our Mother Earth and animism suggests that they are also 'animated' with life. These ideas primitive man conceived and tribal cultures that still exist also believe this today. Similarly Rosicrucianism also continued this concept in that there are elemental spirits presiding over all the parts of nature which shall be studied later. What this tells us of our Rosicrucian philosophy is that our principle of the anima-mundi, or World-Soul, has roots in the very first thoughts of man. It is both very ancient and universal in nature and application. In the next stages of learning you shall discover if the world is alive and protective in scientific terms.

Note: Mother Earth since primitive times has been known to every culture. Since ancient times she was called Anat, Cybele, Geb, Shiva, Ishtar, **Isis**, Nephys, Demeter, Bula, Inanna, Nerthus, Ninkhursag, Prisni, Tanent, Tellus Mater, and Gaia and has as many names as there are languages. In Rosicrucian thought the earth forms the body while the anima-mundi is its Soul and this is why Isis also appears among the imagery for this degree and why the Labourer of the Art is also called the Sage of Isis in relation to his study of nature deriving from our original Misriam traditions.

## A Conscious Earth

As we have seen throughout our history the concept of the earth's consciousness has been part of all human culture in one form or another. Ancient cultures present mother-earth as a Cosmic Power with both the authority to create and destroy and this idea is certainly not new. James Hutton (1726-1797), the father of geology, once described the earth as a kind of super-organism. Our Rosicrucian transmission has a long history in carrying this idea as presented by Rudolf Steiner in his lecture 'the Earth as a Being with Life, Soul and Spirit,' delivered in Berlin in 1918. Our College carries is a continuation of his Rosicrucian transmission.

Our school possibly offers the most up-to-date view on the Rosicrucian principle of the World Soul because we offer it in light of scientific fields. In order for this ancient principle to be true we believe it must be recognized in scientific fields of study. Our application of science reveals the actions of the Anima-mundi upon the physical plane as being a complex entity involving the earth's biosphere, atmosphere, oceans, and soil, and a total cyclic system which seeks an optimal physical and chemical environmental balance for life on this planet. This implies, according to the Gaia-Hypothesis<sup>7</sup>, that through the consciousness of the anima-mundi, the earth sustains a kind of homeostasis, or maintenance of relatively stable and constant condition. In other words the anima-mundi acts as the organizing principle of the earth, causing it to become a single system, like a coherent, self-regulated, assemblage of physical, chemical, geological, and biological forces that interact to maintain a unified whole balance upon our earth. The organizing principle of the World-Soul described by the ancients can now be seen and experienced in deeper levels, thanks to the revelations of science and the raising of our own human consciousness to perceive the modern manifestation of the Rosicrucian teachings.

## CONCORDO

This Concordo comes from Lewis Thomas, a medical doctor and skilled writer also wrote in 'the Lives of a Cell' the following interesting observation:

*"Viewed from the distance of the moon, the astonishing thing about the earth, catching the breath, is that it is alive. The photographs show the dry, pounded surface of the moon in the foreground, dry as an old bone. Aloft, floating free beneath the moist, gleaming, membrane of bright blue sky, is the rising earth, the only exuberant thing in this part of the cosmos. If you could look long enough, you would see the swirling of the great drifts of white cloud, covering and uncovering the half-hidden masses of land. If you had been looking for a very long, geologic time, you could have seen the continents themselves in motion, drifting apart on their crustal plates, held afloat by the fire beneath. It has the organized, self-contained look of*

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<sup>7</sup> The Gaia Hypothesis is a modern theory that states the Earth is an Alive Living Being. It is an environmentalist approach to the Anima-mundi of the alchemist and Rosicrucians.

*a live creature, full of information, marvelously skilled in handling the sun. (he also writes) I have been trying to think of the earth as a kind of organism, but it is a no go...it is most like a single cell."*

### **Perceiving Our Living Earth**

This meditation might allow you to experience the Anima-mundi first hand. Our Rosicrucian transmission states that the Planet Earth, like ourselves, is a conscious living being and that all things are interconnected by a unifying intelligence and that it is 'alive and kicking.' However, because study alone may only lead to a partial understanding of any teaching we offer the following meditation based on Perceiving Our Living Earth (POLE) which we hope you enjoy. This meditation is given so that you may *feel* the Anima-mundi.

**Activity:** At first begin with regular breathing. Take even slow relaxing breaths. And when you feel that the moment is right, declare: 'As Above, so Below, so let me understand the Mystery of Isis!' Now relax some more and then imagine that your vision has become like a magnifying glass, you can now 'zoom in and zoom out' to perceive whatever you desire. Now toy with the idea that your vision also has an 'x-ray-like' ability that can also penetrate through physical layers. Using your mental vision, imagine your whole body, as if you were looking at yourself through the eyes of someone else. Now begin to peel away any layers you like and imagine the different types of bone structures, veins, organs and so-on. Now zoom into this picture and see all of the blood cells. Now see all of the healthy enzymes and antibodies that sustain your health. See how your body is composed of billions of cells working together as part of a single living being. - Now take this visualization further by imagining yourself as being far outside in space observing our Mother Earth from the distance. Spend a moment meditating on how the billions of life forms on earth are working together as a super organism. Understand that like us the Planet Earth is a conscious living being, for as our bodies are composed of billions of cells working together as a single living being, so are the billions of life forms on earth working together as a super living organism. Meditate on what each part of the earth is doing as a part of a whole living being. You may see how the world's trees and rainforest are functioning as our planets lungs, exchanging oxygen and carbon dioxide in concert with the oceans. Meditate on the atmosphere as a global respiratory system. See how our rivers and streams are like a circulatory system for the planetary body, bringing clean water and purifying the system. Notice how the whole planet breathes by contracting and expanding with the moons gravitational pull. Witness the seasonal cycles mirroring bodily changes, from the beginning of life in spring to eventual passing away in autumn and then to rebirth once again in spring as the cycle continues forever. Now spend as long as you like, breathing and meditating in harmony and in unison with the earth's life force.

When you have finished this meditation declare aloud '**I have Beheld the Mystery of Isis!**' in order to end the ceremony.

(Note: not everyone can imagine the POLE meditation so easily. It may help if you obtain some crayons or coloured pencils and draw something that represents what we are describing as you read through the exercise.)

This perception of the World Soul comes from a modern theory known as the Gaia-hypothesis which lends its beautiful imagery to the Anima-mundi concept. Accordingly Gaia is the Greek Earth Mother form, but as we demonstrated in the last lesson every culture had a name for our mother-earth and accordingly in our Egyptian Rosicrucian Stream we identify with Isis because of our heritage in the Egyptian rites of Freemasonry and because this degree is also called **Sage-of-Isis** in reference to your current study of nature. Thus take heed dear student that although you may be entirely monotheistic in belief, such as observed by the Christians and Jews alike, the depictions of Isis in this degree is only in relation to her representation as a symbol for the earth and a symbol for your current study of nature. We are at one time Egyptian Rosicrucians and maintain there is only one Creator and one Supreme Being above all things.

### **CONCORDO**

Dear student this Concordo comes from Rudolf Steiner the past Grand-Master of our Rosicrucian stream. His contribution is naturally of great importance to our Rosicrucian students and we shall draw upon his work throughout our Rosicrucian Journey. Here Steiner explains the synthesis of all nature describing how everything effectively is dependant upon the Whole in order to survive. That whole we call the Anima-mundi.

*"In Nature everything is ordered with infinite wisdom, with an infinitely wise economy. All living beings possessing Kama (astrality) — animals and men, and all etheric living beings — plants — are inter-related. We breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbonic acid. The animals do this also. Now if this were simply to continue, the air would soon be quite full of carbonic acid. But the plants assimilate carbonic acid and breathe out oxygen. Animals and men cannot live without plants. Now carbonic acid consists of carbon and oxygen. The plants retain the carbon and breathe out the oxygen. Man on the other hand takes in the oxygen and through his life processes transforms it into carbonic acid by uniting it with carbon. The plants build up their bodily form out of the carbon which they have retained." R. Steiner.*

### **The Ancients Describe the Earth's Harmony**

Having learned a very down to earth approach to the Anima-mundi you should now examine how intuitively aware the ancients were of this knowledge. Ernest Holmes in Lessons of Natures Laws wrote: *"If we find this to be true of the laws of the mechanical world, why should we not also find it true of those Mental and Spiritual Laws which transcend the mechanical*

*world?"* Our observations thus far must therefore have been known by the ancients and they must have reasoned that such laws of nature were relative to the higher worlds. Similarly when Pythagoras first called the universe a kosmos (cosmos), he did so because the universe is an embodiment of both order and beauty. This order and beauty is rooted in 'harmonia' the fitting together of opposites, a union which is accomplished through the principle of logos or 'proportion.' Through the use of proportion, natural structures achieve a working union between the part and the whole, and the natural proportions embodied in living things allow them to function in the best possible way. – Drawing on Pythagorean ideas, Plato concluded that there is an intrinsic relationship between proportion, goodness, and beauty. In his cosmological dialogue (the Timaeus), Plato presents a Pythagorean creation myth that explains the underlying structure of the cosmos. In order to account for the underlying harmonious structure of living things and the greater universe, Plato describes the nature of the World Soul, which embodies the principles of harmony, proportion, and relatedness between the part and the whole. Our lessons describe what Plato meant by the organization of the World Soul, and shows how the archetypal harmonies of the World Soul (sameness and difference united by proportion) are incorporated in living, natural structures. Nature itself will clearly demonstrate that there is no separation between the 'ideal' and the 'pragmatic,' because nature uses ideal proportions, which allow things to function in the best possible way. In this way, the natural world possesses intrinsic value, because natural structures embody virtue, goodness and beauty. Plato's principle of the World Soul also demonstrates a relatedness in which we find we are able to know the universe due to the fact that we are an embodiment of living nature itself, as seen in our descriptions on how mans composition is similar to the many creatures of nature. In this sense, the harmony of the World Soul points towards an inclusive worldview in which aesthetics, ecology, ethics, mathematics, economics, science, and art are not separate, but are inherently related areas under the presidency of the World Soul.

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Also Plato says in the Timaeus. "Now when the Creator had framed the soul according to his will, he formed within her the corporeal universe, and brought the two together, and united them centre to centre. The soul, interfused everywhere from the centre to the circumference of heaven, of which also she is the external envelopment, herself turning in herself, began a divine beginning of never ceasing and rational life enduring throughout all time. The body of heaven is visible, but the soul is invisible, and partakes of reason and harmony, and being made by the best of intellectual and everlasting natures, is the best of things created. And because she is composed of the same and of the other and of the essence, these three, and is divided and united in due proportion, and in her revolutions returns upon herself, the soul, when touching anything which has essence, whether dispersed in parts or undivided, is stirred through all her powers, to declare the sameness or difference of that thing and some other; and to what individuals are related, and by what affected, and in what way and how and when, both in the world of generation and in the world of immutable being. And when reason, which works with equal truth, whether she be in the circle of the diverse or of the

same-in voiceless silence holding her onward course in the sphere of the self-moved-when reason, I say, is hovering around the sensible world and when the circle of the diverse also moving truly imparts the intimations of sense to the whole soul, then arise opinions and beliefs sure and certain. But when reason is concerned with the rational, and the circle of the same moving smoothly declares it, then intelligence and knowledge are necessarily perfected. And if any one affirms that in which these two are found to be other than the soul, he will say the very opposite of the truth.”

### **Science and Rosicrucian Study**

Greetings respected Fraters and Sorores!

As we continue through the study of nature we are going to continue to pursue many interesting avenues of thought that provide additional explanations of what the mystics have taught since the times of Egypt. Some of these additional avenues you are going to soon encounter will delve into modern scientific fields. Here the purpose of scientific study in your Rosicrucian Journey is to *enrich* your study and to support what the ancients have always maintained. Seeing that we live in such fast paced times we need fast paced learning in order for the modern student to enjoy what is being taught. If however our knowledge was delivered in older form alone as many societies still do, it would only seem to the modern student far too slow paced for them to enjoy. And thus with science and a positive inclusion of the timeless self-change ideals the combination provides a teaching that we felt was far more vitalizing and refreshing for the modern reader. The inclusion of science however was not our idea alone for it in fact derives from the more recent Rosicrucian manifestations of the last century. In hindsight we see a progressing Rosicrucian knowledge that always changed and evolved to suit the times and situations that the current may find itself within. Remember those Elder Brothers of the Fama whose law it was that they keep to the customs of the country in which they may find themselves within. In this we know that from the outset Rosicrucianism was designed to always blend with the surroundings and times it may find itself also.

Your consideration of these subjects in the first degree should bring the realization that right now you are laying down a foundation for a lifelong work. As such the present lessons you are now receiving are just as important as the higher degrees because without these foundations the higher teachings will not become clear. The Ancient Rose Cross Order represents a new Rosicrucian stream of thought in that since the times of its original foundation this current has also embraced modern thinking and modern ideas for the modern student. All of the new technologies, scientific discoveries and new psychological models can only enhance what the ancients have said seeing that the modern ideas of the West are beginning to catch up with what was taught in ancient schools of initiation. Indeed we are on the verge of conjunction, that marriage between the contending forces of science and religion bringing a universal wisdom. Before we delve deeper lets return to two of our World Soul laws: 4 the anima-mundi vivifies this force and produces all form as a radiating emanation of the higher Creator. And 5 the

anima-mundi directs these emanations so that the action of all matter is focalized in harmony with the Unfolding Plan.

### **The World Soul and Universal Soul**

Continuing with our study of the Anima-mundi we have perceived so far from the POLE meditation that in the world there is some kind of organization and a living soul which is conscious. **What Rosicrucians also secretly consider is that the Soul of the World is sensitive the directions of the divine plan.** And Orphic hym to Gaia reads: 'Oh Goddess, Source of Gods and Mortals, All-Fertile, All-Destroying Gaia, Mother of All, Who brings forth the bounteous fruits and flowers, All variety, Maiden who anchors the eternal world in our own, Immortal, Blessed, crowned with every grace, Deep bosomed Earth, sweet plains and fields fragrant grasses in the nurturing rains, Around you fly the beautiful stars, eternal and divine, Come, Blessed Goddess, and hear the prayers of Your children, And make the increase of the fruits and grains your constant care, with the fertile seasons Your handmaidens, Draw near, and bless your supplicants.' At once it is seen that according to the ancients we are subject to both the bounteous and destructive powers of the World Soul but who gives the orders?

According to the Egyptian sage Hermes the universe was made imperfect to some degree so that mankind would play his part. All religions state that the Creator is both the destroyer and giver of life. And so as we have already hinted, the Anima-mundi is credited with an Archangel like status so that it delivers the Will and executes the purpose of our Creator as any angel does. Nothing is considered as separate in this universe for the World Soul is also the manifestation of the Universe Soul just as a wide circle can have a dot in its midst. When we meditate on the ideal of the anima-mundi being the intelligent organizing principle of the world we should at once realize that its manifestation is the global ecosystem as a whole. Everything works in ordered splendour and unison, overlapping from the smallest of algae, bacteria and plankton to the migration of birds, caribou and whales. Everything is intelligently self-regulating and acting coherently and wisely as you experienced in the POLE meditation. Humans are mostly composed of 70% water and 30% earth, much like the surface of planet earth. And as you approach your path of development you will find that all divine manifestations are also executed through nature and that all miracles are natural rather than other-worldly alone. Because our physical bodies are composed like the earth we are subject to both the destructive and beneficial powers of the anima-mundi. "And the Lord God formed us of the dust of the ground and breathed into our nostrils the breath of life and we became a living soul." Genesis 2:7. This means that because the Creator Father is both the giver and destroyer we at once should realize that the anima-mundi is a mediating principle between humankind of the God-aspect upon the physical plane.

Remember that there are three planes in the Law of the Triangle, being the Physical Plane, Mental Plane and Spiritual Plane, in this law the mediating anima-mundi principle holds true only on the physical plane as we experience physical things. What our good Supreme Creator has in stall for us on this

world is executed through the Anima-mundi just as when the earth was flooded in our ancient past as so many cultures say. With its Archangel like status we are in fact experiencing the presence of something very divine every day at work and nothing is mundane.

(Note: This is why so many ancient tribal cultures, such as American Indians, are able to communicate with God through observing the presence of nature and the motions of animals. The Romans and Greeks also predicted future events through the motions of birds and this art was called **augury**.)

**Points of consideration:**

**The World Soul is in harmony with the Divine Over-Soul**

**Questions so far:**

**What is Augury and how does it work?**

**Are you recording your thoughts/meditations in your Rosicrucian Journal?**

### **Conjunctio of Science and Mysticism**

A word on conjunctio should be shared with you today because your Rosicrucian study explores both scientific and spiritual realms.

As we have stated the work of conjunctio is near because the work of the Rosicrucian Order is to manifest its purpose. This work is manifesting both physically and practically in our times so that a synthesis may occur between the divine aspects and the mental aspects. So far we have only referred to it as a marriage between science and mysticism. Yet we are in difficult times because the details within the whole are not easily understood and humankind is only on the verge of true and complete union between the findings of scientist and the inflowing knowledge of the mystical worlds. The Rosicrucian Order is however pursuing the highest point of this union as humanity is currently able to understand. What you should be able to see is that we are on the verge of a new peak of human understanding.

The work of conjunctio is currently a Spiritual Plan that is knitting its web throughout the world doing its work quietly. The Anima-mundi now more than ever before is teaching science the purpose behind matter and a higher inflowing enlightened current is being directed through the higher worlds to the Rosicrucians. Last weeks lesson revealed that the Rosicrucian secret of the Anima-mundi is that it is in total cooperation with the Unfolding Plan. While science is concerned only with its own activity of outer examinations it is nonetheless slowly becoming subservient to the purpose of spiritual union with divine recognition. Do you wonder how this will happen?

We are about to see many wonderful things in the next hundred years of our evolution. Scientists are making the *most* advanced discoveries and are

formulating new hypotheses in all fields of study. These new discoveries are actually sensitive reactions to the Divine Plan which draw them closer and closer to our own spiritual approaches. It is this subtle work that is making possible the marriage between the inner worlds of the spirit and mainstream thought and culture. A close study of quantum physics will show that indeed science is becoming more mystical where the mystical is becoming more scientific. We say that the conjunctio will occur when the substance of these scientific discoveries is measured and their hypothesis can only point towards One Thing: that we are subject to a Higher Plane and that the Supreme Being is absolute. The rapidity of this union is increasing and the blending of scientific knowledge and intuitive wisdom is currently being released into the world. This influence will draw out more interest. The barriers that the Rosicrucians have faced throughout the ages, from 'rational minds,' will be replaced by the study of the occult laws of the universe as the centre of attention for the modern world.

### **Massaging the Head**

Something to help the brain in future should now be given. After all everything you learn from us is done through reading, viewing, contemplating and remembering. The brain as we have seen is the creator of what you perceive as reality and is also the centre for all mental activity, for storing memories, and as the ancients may have also done they sought to increase the brains capacity. Luckily for you the method for increasing your brain's ability given here does not require that you deform your head into a cone shape! The exercise given is simple massaging of the head to increase fresh oxygen and glucose supply to the brain. Like adding oil into a machine it will also improve the circulation of spinal fluid and blood to the brain allowing it to work to its fullest capability. It is also proven to remove emotional stress which we can all do without. According to a system of healing known as craniosacral-therapy there are 29 bones in the skull that can be moved. The improvement of circulation of spinal fluid within and around the brain caused by massage is said to remove blockages and restore harmonious flow of body fluids. It is the lack of symmetry in the skulls rhythmic circulation towards the body that is used to determine emotional problems in this therapy. In other words not enough fluidic flow in some parts of the head causes emotional problems and there is a relationship between what emotional problems are caused by what parts of the skull have poor flow. Through massaging the head you will be able to encourage the motion by touching the points all over the head and creating a natural flow that will correct the imbalance itself. To do this all you need to do is press your fingers around the surface of your head, create a rhythm and use circular motions and massage deeply any areas that 'do not seem to come alive.' This alive feeling is the stimulation of blood flow to that area. Try it now by letting your hands and fingers glide over the skull and do this often to encourage clear thinking and a positive mind state.

### **An Introduction to Atoms**

In your knowledge of the Anima-mundi you are so far beginning understand the wholeness of nature. Hopefully by looking over the whole of nature

through such meditations as POLE you will recognize by your own contemplations that the earth has a living body like yours and mine. You have seen the apparent organization in it that like us has a cleansing system for its body in the rivers and sea and a respiratory system in its atmosphere. The POLE meditation reveals how our ecosystem is like an entire living biosphere similar to the functions of our own body. We have named this the Mystery of Isis<sup>8</sup> in the Laborer degree and now on a deeper level your study will show on a deeper level that science also considers that the earth is an entire sea of atoms and that all natural manifestations are interconnected by some kind of order in the microscopic level. Thus now that you have observed the living earth or anima-mundi from the an external global-biosphere perspective you can now adventure to examine what nature is composed of according to science and how science is also the newest supporter of the anima-mundi.

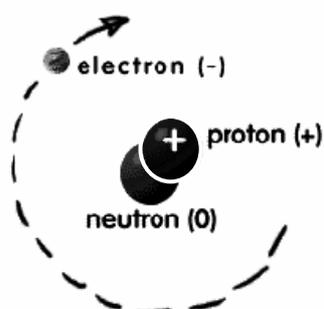
The older understanding of science states that there are two forms of matter being **animate** and **inanimate** objects consisting of elements, atoms and particles (notice the word 'anima' in each term.) Inanimate objects are said to be physical forms that do not possess life of their own such as rocks, metals, books and glass. While animate objects are material forms that possess life such as animals and plants. What both of these groups, animate and inanimate objects, hold in common is that they both consist of atoms and what recent science has shown is that all atoms are indeed alive and organizing our world actively and reactively. Some of you may ask what are atoms?

**All things in the universe have microscopic atoms as their building blocks.** The concept of atoms was first realized by Greek philosophers five hundred years before Christ, namely by Leucippus of Miletus and his pupil Democritus of Abdera. According to Greek history Democritus realized this concept when cutting apart his food. He meditated on how halves can become quarters, and that these quarters can yet be cut into smaller pieces. Many times over he was able to reduce the size of his pieces, until at one point he arrived to pieces so small that his hands could no longer manage to cut them apart. He therefore conceived that somehow beyond his ability to see it directly these smaller pieces must also consist of yet tinier pieces of themselves. Thus the atomic theory was born. Democritus and his mentor developed five major points in their atomic theory (the theory of atoms) which were: 1) That all matter is made up of undividable particles called atoms. 2) That there is a void empty space between atoms. 3) Atoms are completely solid. 4) Atoms are homogeneous with no internal structure. And 5) Atoms vary in size, shape and weight. These concepts formed the basis for modern scientific thought and the Greek principle of an atomic universe still holds true today. However since its inception by the Greeks our understanding of atoms has also grown. We now know that the fourth Greek concept, that atoms have no internal structure, is also incorrect. This is because atoms are in fact a world unto themselves. After countless experiments science knows that the atom is made of yet smaller particles called **electrons**, **protons** and **neutrons**. Considering the exactitude of the Greek philosophers in all other

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<sup>8</sup> Note: The Mystery of Isis derives from our roots in the Memphis and Misraim Rite. In the higher Egyptian Degrees Isis described as a Symbol for Nature. Your current study expands upon this ideal.

aspects of their atomic theory one can only wonder at the mind's capabilities to intuitively find the truth even without the technology to absolutely substantiate it. These electrons, protons and neutrons are what forms an atom together. You should think of them as the three primary pieces of an atom.



**Model of the Atom:** The Rosicrucian tradition considers the model of the atom as a mini representation of the universe. Like the solar system, consisting of the sun in its centre and planets rotating around it, the atom has the nucleus in its centre and in the place of planets there are electrons revolving around in orbit. Here we are reminded of the Hermetic axiom that *'everything that is above is the same as everything that is below.'*

Please note dear student that this is a 'model of an atom' used by science rather than what an atom really looks like. The more recent form of science known as quantum physics has also shown that atoms are not form but rather made up on wave as you shall learn in future. Remember the anima-mundi laws: 4 the anima-mundi is a web or network of fine interlacing channels, grouping matter through a subtle ether-force (vibration) of which it utilizes to control the world to appear in its material form. 5 The anima-mundi vivifies this force and produces all form as a radiating emanation of the higher Creator.

### Interconnectedness of the Atom

Now that you have gained a basic understanding of what an atom is you are prepared with a wonderful tool in which to study nature and impress upon yourself the interconnectedness of all things through the World Soul on a deeper level. One example of noting the work of the atom in the anima-mundi web can be observed through atom groups which seem to behave like our own immune system. The immune system of the human body is responsible for destroying disease-causing agents that it may encounter in our bloodstream and its defensive agents are called '**antibodies.**' Can you imagine the responsibility of our immune systems? It is after all what keeps us alive on a microscopic level! There are thousands of different disease causing agents that might invade our body. But the antibodies fight these agents and destroy them in our body. How does it do this? Well these tiny cells, called antibodies, act in concert to create an effective immune response to any diseases. When a disease causing agent, such as a bacteria, breaches the body's first line of defense, such as saliva or the skin, the antibodies will 'gang up' on the bacteria and destroy it. Our antibodies work much like an old game we all used to play called Pac-man. In Pac-man a little yellow man in the shape of a yellow circle went around eating all the ghouls. Our antigens are similar but we have many thousands of Pac-man type cells within us. They act together and attach themselves to a virus and destroy it directly while others make it easier for other cells to destroy them directly. They work as a company of host and group against the invading disease in order to destroy it as a team.

Similarly atoms have been observed as acting like antibodies to 'protect' themselves. When a group of atoms become positively charged they are then called 'positive ions.' This occurs when one of the electrons are taken away from the atom by a source of radiation or light. In the model of the atom above you can see that the electron has a negative charge and so its removal makes the atom positively charged turning it into an ion. Science has shown that gases containing a high density of electrons and positive ions behave as if they were alive. Instead of behaving like an individual atom the group of atoms behave like an interconnected whole. Although their movements in these gas clouds seemed random science has observed that vast numbers of electrons are able to produce effects that are organized like our antibodies. Like some kind of living creature, the gas fields (called plasmas) are able to constantly regenerate themselves and enclose all impurities in a wall in the same way that our immunity system functions against viruses in the body. Dear student, why would something behave like a self preserving biological system unless it were alive?

Science so far cannot detect how millions of atoms are communicating with each other and have yet to create a hypothesis for a guiding interconnected web of life regulated by something higher such as the Anima-mundi. There are some things that science alone may never completely explain due to the complexity of the Divine, yet conjunctio will provide the clearest results and this progress is near. Until that time the present point of science should not be the limitation of your understanding dear student seeing that the science of the Rosicrucian is not dependant upon outward the senses alone but instead also turns towards the more noble powers of the soul. It is the inner senses that will grant knowledge of both the higher and the lower worlds so that in first understanding nature and form, as you have thus far, you shall also find those nearest stepping stones to the higher truths that remain behind matter. After all dear student: doesn't it conclude that by meditating on nature ultimately you will find that everything in nature has a purpose? And that this purpose has some animating life? And that animating life if working in harmony (as you have seen so far) must therefore rely on that same thing we call the Anima-mundi?

**Questions so far:**

**Why should you massage your head?**

**What are atoms and its smaller parts?**

**Who created the atomic theory?**

**What is an antibody and what does it do?**

**A Letter from our Emperor Samuel T Robinson**

Dear Rosicrucian Student.

As I meditate for a moment on our relationship I marvel at the future that is ahead for both of us. By 'our relationship' I mean that without all of you joining our society we would have no members, and so I consider that AR+CO is not a society with just teachings, it is also a society with students. You are now a part of an evolutionary Rosicrucian stream. The teachings that you now receive derive from older Rosicrucian ideals but at the formation of our new dispensation I feel that we are currently breaking down many of the barriers of old that have remained within esoteric streams and I hope that you can feel the good that we in the High Council are investing into this College for the benefit of every student and the future progress of all Rosicrucian members.

I imagine that there are many students in other orders who prefer to study within many different Rosicrucian streams or have not yet discovered our current. What is important for you to realize is that the AR+CO current is like a physical Rosicrucian 'Stream.' By stream I mean that there are many Rosicrucian orders out there that make up the many currents that flow into our stream and some of them derive from more ancient roots than others. What you will find is that the AR+CO current is a powerful stream because all the other currents are flowing into ours like many smaller rivers creating a stronger and wider Rosicrucian stream for you to experience. Tracing back our history before Steiner we arrive to the steps of the Egyptian Masonic Rite. It is here that so many Rosicrucian currents were invested into its rite and were tied into its system when Egyptian Masonry was formed. Both historically and spiritually our present Rite has become like a spiritual blooming flower that has manifested at the end of this chain of events. Those Rosicrucian currents that lay latently and subtly hidden within the Egyptian Rite of high grades have indeed manifested and flowered into our present society. As you progress spiritually you will find that your clairvoyant ability to simply 'plug in' and learn directly from these spiritual schools will provide many additional teachings that once belonged to older Rosicrucian bodies. As a seeker and by delving deep within the spiritual plane of this transmission many teachings that were not available to you will make themselves manifest in a very understandable manner. Some of our students have experienced this so far by producing of their own psychic abilities teachings that belonged to older rites and transmissions. Yet these students had not seen any of these teachings from the older Rosicrucian streams (and those older orders have confirmed with us that the teachings are indeed the same.) These experiences are available to you through the esoteric methods we offer and with great excitement I anticipate your progression to these wonderful times.

I would also like to touch upon the Egyptian origins of the Rosicrucian Order. Today many modern Rosicrucian streams claim lineage to 'Egypt' by direct descent and these claims are largely as preposterous as trying to lay claim to possessing the Ark of the Covenant. Put simply some Rosicrucian Orders out there claim many things that are simply impossible. What is important for you to realize is that indeed the Rosicrucian College has its roots in Egypt. But **the Egyptian transmission runs as an esoteric thread on the spiritual plane.** It has passed down throughout the ages through many schools in many forms. It has passed through sages and alchemist, from master-to-student, and then into larger groups, and has on many occasions gone underground

and changed its name. Some of these schools even focused on one ancient idea or practice neglecting others, while later groups followed completely different ideas and practices entirely, all of which however were a part of the older Egyptian heritage and derive a portion of this ancient thread that has sown its way throughout the ages. (Today the whole Rosicrucian thread is what we are seeking.)

As the Egyptian transmission is entirely spiritual and this thread was passed on throughout the ages as a spirited way of thinking it truly cannot be traced by any one lineage as claimed by some societies. But do not think that we do not believe in the Egyptian transmission that has been passed onto the Rosicrucian Order! The esoteric thread runs from the Egyptians to the present era and is something that you can FEEL rather than simply know by study and history. Cagliostro was entirely correct when he said that '*all initiations come from Egypt.*' This important key to the Ancient Rose Cross Order shall lead you along a safe and sane approach to the ancient mysteries. Remember the saying that 'ye shall know them by their fruits' when it comes to examining groups laying direct claim to the Egyptian heritage. You will recognize immediately the truth of the matter so long as your wits are kept about you. What is also important for you to recognize at the end of this letter is that this subtle thread can not only be felt: **it can also be contacted by any Rosicrucian student at any time.** By all the meditations and higher practices of the Ancient Rose Cross Order you will indeed obtain that same ancient and subtle astral thread of transformation that is available and has always been available to all Rosicrucians. With my deepest sincerity I ask you to contemplate the meaning of this letter and seek to find the Rosicrucian current by opening your heart and mind to the Way of the Rosy Cross.

With my Greatest Blessings through the Triangle!

**In LVX Samuel Robinson IX<sup>0</sup>**

Imperator of the Ancient Rose Cross Order  
Grand Hierophant of the Memphis Rosae Crucis

### **A Word on Persistence**

Fratres and Sorores, today we wish to offer you these thoughts on persistence in your Rosicrucian Journey because it is important to remember that we live in modern times, when living and learning conditions are far easier than those of our Rosicrucian forefathers. Put simply we do not have as many challenges as our ancient mystics had to overcome in order to receive the mysteries. However we should bear with the same journey they had to remember their spirits and follow in their footsteps.

Remember the story of the ancient temple builder's because your work, of building the Inner-Temple is not so different. After all, how did the stone-cutter break open the giant boulder? He started out with a large hammer and struck the boulder as hard as he could. On the first time he hits it there is not even a scratch. Not a chip. Nothing. But he pulled back the hammer and hits again, and again- 100, 200, 300 times even without penetrating the stone. After all

this effort, the boulder may not show even the slightest crack but he keeps hitting and hitting. The people probably passed by and laughed at him for persisting when obviously such actions were having no effect. But the temple builders were very intelligent. They knew that just because you don't see immediate results from your current actions, it does not mean you are not making progress. The builder keeps hitting and hitting on the same point, full knowing that on the 700<sup>th</sup> or 900<sup>th</sup> hit, or maybe even on the 2012<sup>th</sup>, the stone doesn't just chip, but literally splits in half. Was it the single blow that broke the stone to raise the temple? No, of course not. It was constant and continual persistence that broke the stone. And so remember this story, dear Labourer of the Art, because the time of building your Inner Temple is at hand. Only with persistence and dedication will the results of your Rosicrucian Journey be obtained and like the ancient monolithic temples the results will be powerful and timeless.

### **The Three Great Planes**

In the Rosicrucian tradition we speak of Three Great Planes deriving from the Law of the Triangle. The Law of the Triangle speaks of mind, body and spirit while they are also called the Planes of Correspondence in the Kybalion. Written by unknown initiates the Kybalion expresses the Hermetic and arcane truths of the Rosicrucians. The second Hermetic principle, of the planes of correspondence, states that all that is above is the same as all that is below. It embodies the truth that there is a harmony, agreement, and correspondence between the several planes of Manifestation, Life and Being. This truth is a truth because all that is included in the Universe emanates from the same source, and the same laws, principles, and characteristics apply to each unit, or combination of units of activity, as each manifests its own phenomena upon its own plane. The Hermetic Philosophy considers that the Law of the Triangle in dividing the universe into three great classes of phenomena, known as these Three Great Planes:

- I. The Great Physical Plane.
- II. The Great Mental Plane
- III. The Great Spiritual Plane.

These divisions are more or less artificial and arbitrary, for the truth is that all of the three divisions are but ascending degrees of the great scale of Life, the lowest point of which is undifferentiated Matter, and the highest point that of Spirit. And, moreover, the different Planes shade into each other, so that no hard and fast divisions may be made between the higher phenomena of the Physical and the lower of the Mental; or between the higher of the Mental and the lower of the Physical. In other words they represent varying degrees of vibration manifesting.

You will therefore know that spiritual forces are the highest vibrations while the mental vibration is lower and then the physical vibrations are furthermore lower and much slower. An atom of matter, a measurement of force, the mind of mankind, and the radiance of the divine, are all essentially the same thing: manifestations of vibrations but all vary on degrees of one scale. All things are

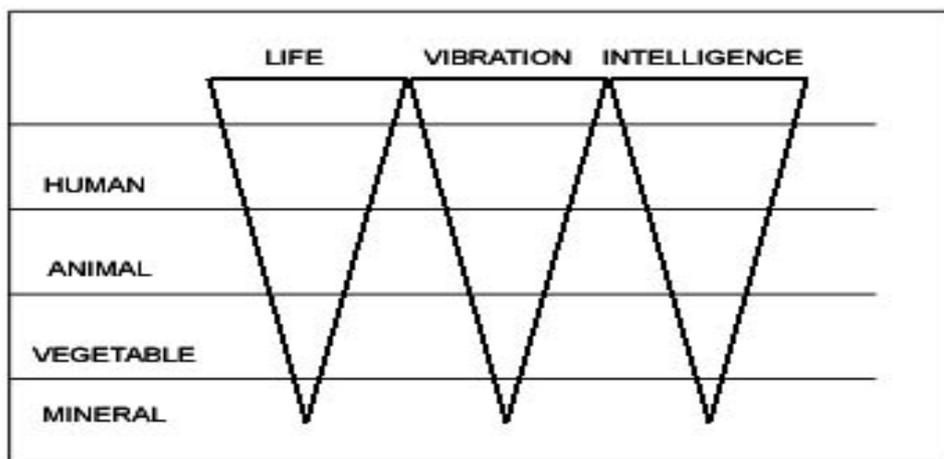
a manifestation of the All and have their existence solely as radiations of a higher force.

### The Planes of Matter

The Anima-mundi acts within the lowest of the Three Great Planes. Its work is to grouping manifestations of vibration into coordinated matter. That is why the alchemist and Rosicrucians additionally conceived that the Three Great Planes also had divisions in sub-planes. The sub-planes of matter are called:

- The Human Kingdom
- The Animal Kingdom
- The Vegetable Kingdom
- The Mineral Kingdom.

Diagram of the Planes of Matter



### The Universe is Vibration

**Further to your study of nature Rosicrucian College has always considered that the world is entirely made up of vibration.** Considering this point of observation, your study therefore should logically produce a connection between matter-vibration-life-intelligence. This four stage thread of matter, vibration, life and intelligence is what connects the lowest forms of matter upon the physical plane to the higher forms of life. *The lower the rate of vibration the less life force can be present.* In the diagram above the decreased presence of life, vibration, and intelligence is shown through the four Kingdoms of Matter. Created traditionally by the alchemist and continued by modern science the higher the level of vibration the higher the additional level of life-force and intelligence.

Some would say that certain material forms simply have no life of themselves. This is because these forms have low vibration. But some objects demonstrate higher vibration, and start to show a presence of life force. Such occurrences appear in small enzymes, bacteria, and single-cell life forms. But while the raised rate of vibration does bring life it only allows it to be present. We are, as human beings, have the highest rate of vibration in the physical

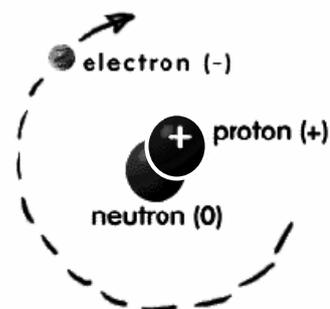
world and therefore express both a higher form of life force and are capable of expressing this higher degree of intelligence. Meditate on these ideas dear student and connect in yourself your surroundings and see how matter, vibration and life interact. Can you see how the presence of life is dependant upon the level of vibration? Remember Anima-mundi law 3. The Anima-mundi is a web or network of fine interlacing channels, grouping matter through a subtle ether-force (vibration) of which it utilizes to control the world to appear in its material form.

### Evidence of Vibration

In studying science you should also see evidence of this vibration. This is important due to the emphasis of vibration in modern Rosicrucian traditions. It is that missing element of understanding how nature and matter is connected to the higher worlds. This is because vibration extends even beyond the element of life-force in matter, and therefore connects the material world to the higher planes of existence as vibration flows from higher dimensions into others. This is why vibration is the key esoteric-principle for all healing and how the Rosicrucian is capable of affecting ones surroundings. The Rosicrucian and alchemist Paracelsus said: *'the art of healing comes from nature, not from the physician. Therefore the physician must start from nature, with an open mind.'*

When we experience anything in the physical world we know that it is recognized through the five senses. Our touch, sight, hearing, smell or taste is our sensory perception at work. But they are merely registering the type of vibration near us as our brain creates for us an image of what the senses are saying. What then is this vibration we are experiencing? Where does it come from? Many modern Rosicrucian societies understand that the universe consist entirely of vibration. Yet they are not saying where this vibration comes from and this I believe is due to their failure to work in harmony with the Divine Plan and complete the work of conjunctio. Had any of these groups looked deeper they would have easily found the answers in science and that science coupled with mysticism is truly a powerful teaching appropriate for our modern times. As you have learned, the model of the atom, was only a 'model' as this was not a true representation of what an atom actually looks like. However the model does explain what an atom consist of in a clear manner.

Modern science says that the centre of the atom is called the nucleus. In the diagram here, you can see the orbit or path of the electron as it goes around the nucleus. This orbit or path is called a *shell* in science. For the past few decades it was thought that the shell was simply the path of orbit alone, meaning that the electron revolved around the nucleus in a circular rotating manner.

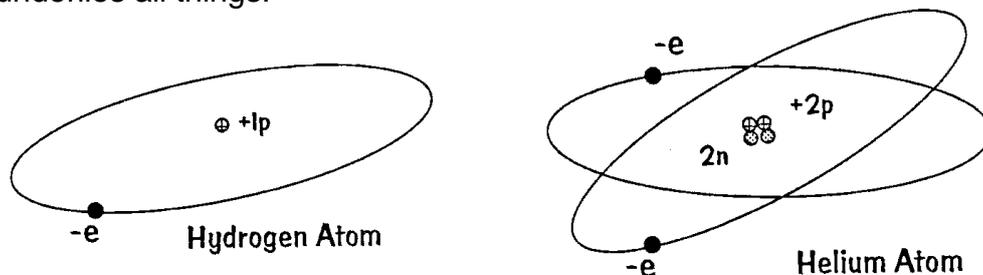


But this was a mistake- scientist took the model of the atom as being literal. Indeed in the diagram you can see that the electron is always moving.

However you know the truth is the model of the atom is just that. It is a 'model' and only a means for explaining atoms.

The shell is really a *parameter* where the electrons exist. The electrons move within the shell (orbit or ring) and in doing so it moves in any direction you can imagine. It moves upwards, downwards, sideways etc so long as they stay within their shell. The electrons vibrate within the shells field in any direction. The shell marks out the distance in which the electrons will vibrate from the nucleus. If you were an electron in the first shell you would always be closer to the nucleus than those in the second shell. You could vibrate in any direction you liked but would have to stay in your shell.

This is why matter is in reality made up of vibration in both scientific and mystical fields! Atoms are made of vibrating fields of electrons and as you shall see in future lesson modern quantum physics explains how the vibration of these atoms are more so wave and form together. Can you now envision why this theory is of utmost importance to gaining your mystical understanding and abilities? Essentially the Rosicrucian will utilize the truth that underlies all things.



### Vibration is the Web of the World Soul

In so far as you have seen the Anima-mundi is real in terms of observing: the biosphere of the earth as a living self-functioning organism: observing ionic-atoms as self-preserving living entities: and observing how vibration is the interconnecting principle that streams through all things. Like wearing a pair of looking lenses everything is beginning to be seen like an interlaced web.

You are starting to see that nature, and all things in this world are interconnected through this web of life and that this joining web is known as the anima-mundi by the Rosicrucian Order. Again law three states the Anima-mundi is a web or network of fine interlacing channels, grouping matter through a subtle ether-force (vibration) of which it utilizes to control the world to appear in its material form.



Perhaps you have wondered why your examination of the anima-mundi principle thus far has, for the most, part only been given in light of modern thought? The purpose of this was to emphasize for your mind that Rosicrucian ideals are not mere superstition or conceptualized speculation like some idealist schools. We are seeking to impress these ancient ideals upon your mind through rational presentations because the mind of any balanced

student should follow rational thinking. If however your study was entirely rooted in ancient thought alone not only would this be irrelevant for our modern times but the path of learning could also lead to superstition as some schools unintentionally will lead you (even if their intentions are good.) The Rosicrucian College will never ask you to accept our beliefs on good faith. At the outset we presented our six laws of the Anima-mundi as mere hypothesis to be learned and possibly rejected by the student. For some schools offering 'occult ideals' as 'facts' may work but I ask you: how close are those schools to being another religion rather than being a school of mysticism? The future path of modern-mystics shall offer both mental-and-spiritual Illumination because you shall not merely have faith, instead you shall *know*.

## CONCORDO

This Concordo comes from Anna Kingsford. She was one of the first female British physicians and was best known as an advocate of women's rights, animal rights and vegetarianism. After establishing the Theosophical Society in 1880 in England she later resigned when she realised that its Eastern focus couldn't at that time be reconciled with her own Western beliefs. Her work focused on the Rosicrucian ideal of Christian Pantheism, exploring the Bible in symbolism and the mythologies of Egypt, Greece and Rome. Because her ideas had similarities to Neoplatonic, Gnostic and Alchemy the founders of the Golden Dawn were attracted to her Hermetic Society. She also emphasized the idea that both men and women should work together in their spiritual quest. According to Anna Kingsford, her mystical revelations came to her during her sleep and were called her Illuminations. These teachings were verified by a later study of ancient philosophy. In 'Clothed with the Sun' Anna speaks of the anima-mundi and world as having soul and how it works in harmony with the Unfolding Plan through its 'karma.' In particular her words remind us of laws 4 and 5 of the Anima-mundi. 4 the anima-mundi vivifies this force and produces all form as a radiating emanation of the higher Creator. 5 the anima-mundi directs these emanations so that the action of all matter is focalized in harmony with the Unfolding Plan.

*"Thou knowest already the nature of the planet and the divisions of its Ego into four parts or regions. Of these thou knowest that the soul or Psyche is in man, the human superior reason. Now there appertains to the planet besides all these four regions, an atmosphere of a magnetic nature. This atmosphere is well known to thee. It is the astral or sideral soul of the planet, the anima mundi or picture-world. Therein are stored up all the memories of the world: its past life, its history, its affections and recollections of physical things. The adept may interrogate this phantom world, and it shall speak for him. It is the cast-off vestment of the planet; yet it is living and palpitating, for its very fabric is spun of psychic substance, and its entire parenchyma is magnetic. And forasmuch as the planet is an entity ever being born and ever dying, so this astral counterpart of itself is ever in process of increase-the mirror of the globe, a world encompassing a world. But the Divine Spirit, Dio-Nysos, is not in this magnetic circle. God the Nous is in the celestial, and the temple thereof is in the heart of humanity. Such as is the astral world to the planet, the*

*Ruach is to man. And in truth the great magnetic sphere of the planet is itself composed and woven out of the magnetic Egos of its offspring, precisely as these in their turn are woven out of the infinitely lesser atoms which compose the individual man. So that, by a figure, one may represent the whole astral atmosphere of the planet as a system of so many tiny spheres, each reflecting and transmitting special rays. But if in this astral sphere thou shouldst seek the true soul and Divine Spirit, thou shalt not find them; for they are of the higher altitudes. But the world's true soul migrates and interchanges. And this is the secret of the "creation" of worlds. Worlds, like men, have their karma."*

### **Initiation through the Anima-mundi**

So far you are expanding your knowledge of our six laws of the Anima-mundi and are thus expanding your awareness of nature. At some point this understanding will be expanded to the full extent of nature leading you to a higher world. This journey of transition from the material to the higher worlds reveals your current state of initiation. Many of you seek the jump directly into the deeper mysteries of our Rosicrucian current but as yet have not gained any previous experience in expanding your consciousness to the full extent of nature. The anima-mundi as a ring-pass-not is therefore a true veil of initiation which must be transcended in order for you to reach the next degree of understanding. Thus we say **be comfortable dear student with your current surroundings and seek to come to terms with nature**. In our experience there are many systems of initiation that have lost touch with our natural heritage as was understood before the described Fall of Man. Remember that every religion contains a portion of the Great Truth and our spiritual brethren among native tribal cultures seem to have a deep wisdom that the Rosicrucians here also seek to restore to the West.

In the modern world there are many different Rosicrucian streams. Some offer initiation rituals that are mere verbiage alone and seek to explain the mysteries of nature just through words and man-made diagrams. The visuals might stimulate the mind but the true power of nature is with us in the world and can be experienced first hand in reality. We do not need to imagine it or just contemplate it through words and ideas. Nature is available to you at any time waiting for you to reconnect. Therefore remember dear student that all of nature is a sacred space. No place is more holy than the other and every place can become a setting for worship. Also remember that the true Rosicrucians of old were alchemist. Such being the alchemical Rosicrucian had direct contact with nature through all of his workings and also seeks to transcend the same veil of initiation passing from the natural plane into higher wonders by delving directly into nature's bed. At one time this form of reintegration with nature was also called the fairy marriage by Rosicrucians.

Your journey at this moment is very much the same as the Rosicrucians of old. You are delving into nature and understanding its hidden secrets. While alchemy is one key used at one time by the Rosicrucians not all of us in the modern world have the luxury of being able to study alchemy to its full extent being such a vast subject. It was also very time consuming so much that

some alchemists also never penetrated the ring-pass-not, seeing that some mystics lured themselves into one of the greatest traps of esoteric study. This trap occurs when at every time the mystic nears the veil of initiation they turn back towards nature believing that nature is the entire key. In many respects it is a key. It is a key for opening doors to higher realms. The Rosicrucian Journey of AR+CO was designed to offer the most direct path to transcend the ring-pass-not of nature in the shortest time possible. This fast progression places you into contact with nature, and we ask that you never become so attached to it that you fail to pass beyond its veil of initiation.<sup>9</sup>

### **Evidence of the Anima-mundi as the Unifying Principle**

So far you have seen that all things consist of atoms, and that ultimately all things, even atoms themselves consist of vibration. Yet what can this reveal about your Rosicrucian Journey? From the six laws of the Anima-mundi you know that its work is to group nature through the fine interlacing channels of vibration, called the ether-net, and thus act as an organising principle. The principle of vibration also says that all things also consist of wave, pulse and form and that this vibration is the subtle connection through all the levels of existence. According to scientist 'the universe consists solely of waves of motion.' In simpler terms they are saying 'there is nothing other than vibration.' A scientific field known as Sympathetic Vibratory Physics now proves that the universe is essentially musical.

Sympathetic Vibratory Physics studies musical sound and vibratory signatures in relation to each other. Essentially all things have a vibratory signature and through the study of sound that all things in the universe are shown to be interconnected through vibration and harmony. It also shows that there is no chaos in the universe. If the universe were chaos there would be no harmony but only degrees of chaos. All sound and vibration would be just levels of mundane noise. When experiencing sound, our eardrum is responsible for registering the sound waves because it vibrates. The human ear can detect sounds that vibrate between 20 to 20,000 times per second however there are many other sounds we cannot hear. Slower vibrating sounds (infrasonic) and faster vibrations (ultrasonic) can not be heard. Animals have various ranges of hearing capability. However if we had the capability to hear all levels of vibration we would hear the harmony of valleys, stones and rivers. Science has brought us closer by being able to register the vibration of things we cannot hear by measuring vibratory signatures in matter. Remember law three: *'the anima-mundi is a web or network of fine interlacing channels, grouping matter through a subtle ether-force (vibration) of which it utilizes to control the world to appear in its material form.'*

Science now knows that the universe is not an aimlessly vibrating chaotic sound of mundane noise. And none can doubt there is order recognizable throughout nature from the uniformity of atomic structures and behaviours to

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<sup>9</sup> (Note practical alchemy will be examined further in a higher degree and is covered in full within a side order within our society. Until then however we shall continue with your progress of initiation.)

spiral galaxies whose swirling arms of orderly stars span light years and billions of years of activity. This innate order has been long recognized, researched and categorized and has also been identified through music theory. In vibratory terms what is considered disorderly vibration can be organized in terms of music principles. In other words we can see the organizing principle of the Anima-mundi at work!<sup>10</sup>

Music itself is simply organized vibration or sound sets in orderly principles of structure and behaviour. What few realize is that the principles that make sound into harmonious music are the same principles that govern all associating vibrations throughout the universe - and that includes everything that there is. Any vibration gives rise to a complex yet simple series of subordinate vibrations known generally as harmonics and these harmonics are relative to one another like the rhythm of a song. By being connected through rhythm Sympathetic Vibratory Physics shows order in the universe and connectedness through all things. This is what Rosicrucians have always described as the ether-net and other terms.

### **Evidence of the Worlds Consciousness**

So far you have seen evidence of the presence the World Soul in four main studies. They were: 1 the Gaia-hypothesis, where the earth was viewed as a living organic-biosphere of life: 2 the action of ions in Gas Clouds, which come alive as in our own immunity system: and 3 Vibration as the grouping principle of the universe: and 4 Musical Theory shows that there is total order in our world.

These studies together form remarkable evidence of a World Mind. It is no wonder why we are capable of forming remarkable links with each other and why the Rosicrucian masters have also passed on information to their students by hidden methods even when they were thousands of miles apart. Can you perceive that the Rosicrucian current is presently radiating towards you and initiating you by its vibratory force? Many of you are finding that the Rosicrucian Journey is not just a series of papers alone. It is also an initiating force and its design is to unlock the hidden light within. Go back over and re-read the exercise given on Perceiving the Rosicrucian Current on page (WHAT PAGE?) and see if you understand how easy it is to unite with the Rosicrucian Spirit. Some more advanced students from more magical Rosicrucian streams may have at first thought it all too simple. However considering what you now know about the vibration of the universe, is it really so hard to believe that obtaining the Rosicrucian stream could be so simple for all? We affirm that our esoteric current is available to all at any time.

### **Bacteria Study as Evidence of the Organising Anima-mundi**

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<sup>10</sup> For the best evidence see website: <http://www.svpvril.com/musicuni.html> containing the paper 'The Sympathetic Vibratory Physics- It really is a musical universe!'

We are going to continue to expand upon this study with how even the tiniest life forms have a remarkable ability to cooperate with one another although their physical attributes make it seem unexplainable.

The images here are of bacterium known as *Chondromyces-aurantiacus*. This bacteria begins in a little lemon shaped spore that blows in the wind to settle on the grounds soil.



There each spore germinates, spitting out several thousand tiny rod-shaped bacteria. These bacteria, without the aid of any visible moving parts, congregate with similar associations from other spores, forming a colorless slime. The slime moves through the soil searching for food, each bacteria following in the tracks of each other. When the food runs out, the slime begins to pile up on itself, rod upon rod, each bacterium secreting more slime until the microscopic organisms are perched thousands high. From this height new spores are released to start the cycle all over again. Science has not yet discovered how these bacteria communicate and how their joint decisions are made.

The amoeba *Dictyostelium discoideum* lives in liquid films on the forest floor, consuming bacteria and dividing relentlessly. When an amoeba senses a shortage of food, it releases a short burst of the chemical cyclic adenosine monophosphate. Any amoeba that receives the call amplifies it and relays it on, then begins to move toward the source of the first signal but never any of the secondary signals.



Within minutes, the other amoeba groups form a pattern of feathery crystal shapes as they converge on the original. After two or three hours, all amoebae in the area are gathered around the original signalers where they congeal into a sausage shape about two millimeters long. Have you ever seen a Chinese-Dragon at a parade? Inside of this moving dragon are men who work together to make the dragon come alive and move. This new form built up of many bacteria is exactly the same. It now begins to act like a single, multi-cellular organism, developing a distinct front and hind end, and moves slowly toward any source of heat it senses.

After as long as two weeks, the amoebae sort themselves out into work groups with a variety of different jobs. A small group of amoebae gets sealed into a capsule to create a new spore. Its 'work-mates' then hoist their friends into the air at the end of a long, thin, well anchored stalk. Again science does

not know how they communicate with earth other and their view of what an individual bacteria has been totally blurred.

### **Humans Interconnected**

We are One: For this one instance think deeply on what these examples of the World Soul is offering in understanding your role in humanity? As Rosicrucians it is important to realize why we believe in the Brotherhood of Man. It is not essentially a feeling and idea for the sake of it. It is instead a reality due to the fact that we are a macrocosm of what we have just seen. Rosicrucians have always believed in the Brotherhood of Man because the World Soul shows that we are on a spiritual journey *together*. We are not separate individual entities. We are co-joined in the order of the World's vibration. It may be difficult to imagine when there will be no racial, national or separatist religious thinking present in human culture. The time when humanity will be able to think in universal terms still lies ahead but the current resistance to this force is a sure sign that the influence of good is also growing stronger. More and more we are seeing that humanity desires to break free from the separatist models of government, religion, and thinking and we say that true world peace is not impossible.

Loving and understanding is the essence of the Brotherhood of Man as envisioned by Rosicrucians. We at once understand how nature works and are therefore part of one-humanity rather than separate individuals. How like the tiny life forms we are as our destiny as a whole is dependant upon our cooperation and love. We ask dear student that you express both goodwill and consciously seek an understanding of each human person you encounter. This should always be at the heart of any spiritual person because sometimes people suffer and if we truly are connected then at a higher level humanity is suffering as a whole to some degree. Learn to be there for others dear student for the purpose of healing the whole and you will become a co-worker of the Unfolding Plan.

### **CONCORDO**

This Concordo was written by Elias Canetti 1905-1994. His life began when he was born in Bulgaria and came from a Sephardic Jewish background. Fleeing the Nazis before the outbreak of World War II he wrote many important works including novels, plays and was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1981.

*“The crowd, suddenly there where there was nothing before, is a mysterious and universal phenomenon. A few people may have been standing together--five, ten or twelve, not more; nothing has been announced, nothing is expected. Suddenly everywhere is black with people and more come streaming from all sides as though streets had only one direction. ... It seems as though the movement of some of them transmits itself to the others. But that is not all; they have a goal which is there before they can find words for it. This goal is the blackest spot where most people are gathered. ... As soon as a man has surrendered*

*himself to the crowd, he ceases to fear its touch. Ideally, all are equal there; no distinctions count, not even that of sex. The man pressed against him is the same as himself. He feels him as he feels himself. Suddenly it is as though everything were happening in one and the same body.”*

## SECRET TEACHING OF THE FIRST DEGREE

### *PASSING THE RING-PASS-NOT OF NATURE*

Congratulations Labourer of the Art!

You have now reached the Ring-Pass-Not of initiation in this degree. Provided you have assimilated all of the knowledge of this manual, this experience will be very real. To summarise so far you have gained the knowledge of the structure of nature being the sub-planes of matter and how they are dependant upon the force of vibration. The higher the vibration- the higher the presence of intelligence and life-force-vitality: leading from the mineral-kingdom to the animal and human-kingdom. You have also seen the world as a living organism and witnessed how vibration is the underlying force upon which the Anima-mundi acts to organise and regulate the world in accordance with the Divine Plan. On the physical level that plan has manifested itself as an evolution of physical natures. In also seeing the interconnectedness of nature and humans through vibration you are now able to stand forth from the first degree into the second. This is because you have expanded your understanding of nature and perceived at some point the 'big picture' which leads to the veil of initiation. Remember the laws of the Anima-mundi: 1 the anima-mundi is the Soul of the physical world. 2 the anima-mundi is the Archangel under which the physical world is regulated and held in materiality. 3 the anima-mundi is a web or network of fine interlacing channels, grouping matter through a subtle ether-force (vibration) of which it utilizes to control the world to appear in its material form. 4 the anima-mundi vivifies this force and produces all form as a radiating emanation of the higher Creator. 5 the anima-mundi directs these emanations so that the action of all matter is focalized in harmony with the Unfolding Plan. 6 **the anima-mundi ether-net, is a veil of initiation for the first Rosicrucian degree. It is to be transcended in order to rise to the higher planes beyond matter and is the doorway to the invisible.**

Now that you know that all matter consist of vibration and that vibration is the joining factor between all things you can indeed penetrate the ring-pass-not. We are saying that higher perception depends upon this knowledge because those same laws that govern nature also govern the higher worlds. Through vibration you will be able to learn in a full waking state knowledge of the higher astral plane due to the occult fact that **vibration is also the intermediary between physical bodies and the higher worlds.** The blind and deaf do not have all of their five senses to rely upon and thus their intuition is naturally increased because a latent ability in all of us can be awakened. Your transition from the physical plane to the higher worlds also depends upon your sensitivity to vibration. Through careful steps at first to increased esoteric training you will learn to remain conscious and intelligent while also looking outside of the physical and above it and will see clearly.

The Rosicrucian Order of AR+CO has offered dowsing as the first practical step upon this journey because it will teach you how to intuitively know the

meaning of vibrations. The method seems simple at first, but the process of Rosicrucian learning is designed to be a carefully conducted journey. This is because our society teaches a safe and wise progression due to the fact that the higher facilities must also be used intelligently. Our methods are time tested and place emphasis upon the divine expression rather than on manifesting mere psychic phenomena. The approach of the Rosicrucian is therefore one of Divine Service when entering the higher worlds and only by this approach will the transition through the ring-pass-not endure and set your feet in the higher worlds. This service to the higher is the work of the Rosicrucian Order and is an essential element to creating a continual inflow of spiritual energy. Thus the applications of vibratory sensitivity are aimed at being less self-centred because the value of such knowledge and abilities has not yet been realised by many 'new-age-seekers'. With the right objective the student can join the work of the Rosicrucians which has been hidden thus far because the abilities of higher perception do indeed have an intelligent purpose. Start with the basic exercises given here and in doing so become objective. With this approach in mind you will remove the illusions of the astral-plane and also be rewarded with assistance from guides and masters<sup>11</sup> as has been perpetuated by many Rosicrucian Orders.

### **Evidence of Vibratory Perception in Nature**

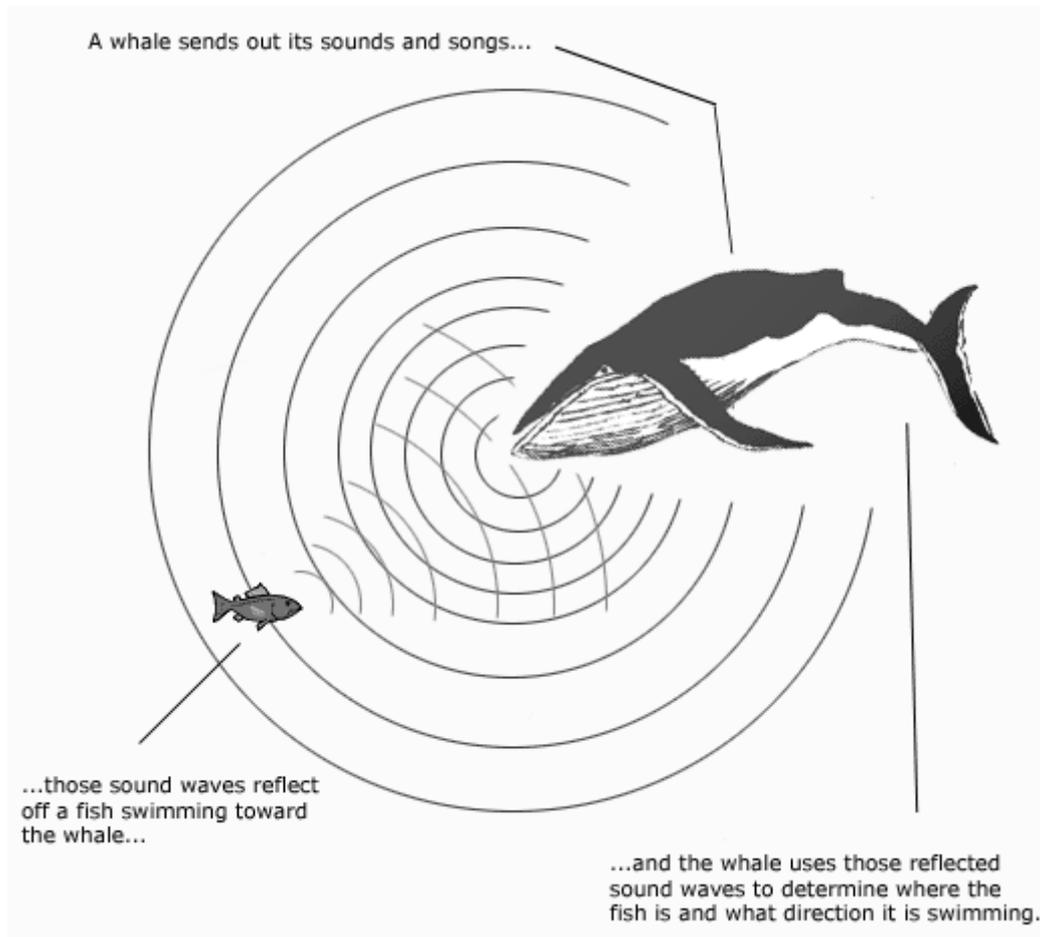
As humans we hear many things. This is because our ears are registering sound and as you know sound is also vibration. Nature shows that there are many sounds that humans cannot hear but other creatures can. This ability is called sonar. Sonar simply makes use of an echo. When an animal makes a noise it sends sound waves into the environment around it. Those waves bounce off nearby objects, and some of them reflect back to the creature that made the noise. Similarly when you stand in a canyon and shout sound echoes back to you in waves.

While we can hear things like a truck driving by to the writing of a pen there are also many sounds we cannot hear. The bat on the other hand can hear those sounds. This is because their frequencies of registering sound is much higher than ours and so we can't hear it. A frequency is how fast an object vibrates and sound vibrates in waves. These vibrations are measured in Hertz. One Hertz is equivalent to one vibration in a second. Humans can hear from 20 Hz to 20 kHz. Anything higher is called ultrasound or ultrasonic sound. The reason that bats use ultrasound is because it has such a high frequency and it has a low diffraction or it bends less. They use this sound to do a couple of things such as catching their prey and traveling at night. This is how they use vibration. They make a sound and wait for it to bounce back to hear it. If they hear the bounce return faster in a particular area than the rest of the sounds then they know that something is near. The way bats register this sound is through their large ears which are similar to satellite dishes in function. They are 'dishes' registering vibratory waves. The range of such low-frequency sonar is remarkable. Dolphins and whales can also tell the

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<sup>11</sup> Also known as Unknown Superiors, the Unknown Philosopher, being Contacted, and as Rosicrucian Masters in both modern and older Rosicrucian transmissions: from Martinism to Amorc.

difference between objects as small as a rice grain from 50 feet away, and they use sonar more than sight to find their food, families, and direction. Human devices like submarines and the LFA sonar being tested by the military can travel thousands of miles, and can cover 80% of the earth's oceans by broadcasting from only four points.



Similarly devices made by man can emit ultrasonic pulses by using a radiating device. It listens with a sensitive microphone, or hydrophone, for reflected pulses from potential obstacles. This is how submarines navigate. In radar astronomy scientists are able to detect meteors by day with echolocation. Usually we can only see them at night blazing into our atmosphere but during the day because of the sunlight we are normally unable to see these amazing phenomena. **But by bouncing waves off incoming meteors we can also know what we cannot envision with our own normal sensory perception.** Remember dear student that the brain is a super computer! There are over 100,000,000,000,000 possible connections between neurons in the brain, which makes the human brain more powerful than any computer ever made. Your brain dear student is the key to your higher perception of vibrations. Where the five senses merely register lower vibrations you will also learn to understand those higher vibrations that connect the physical world to the astral plane and upwards to the higher worlds. We ask you: is it so hard to imagine that because whales and other creatures use vibrations to see beyond their own reality that our perception is any different? The wise student is critical and knows that he or she will only 'believe it when they see it.' That

is why the Rosicrucian Journey is an ordered process of spiritual development. In order to awaken the brains higher consciousness to the light of the higher worlds your training will be carried over a process of several years. We advise that to prove or disprove our Rosicrucian science to your self the student can only admit this is true or false by undergoing the esoteric training provided. This will take some time because in order for the brain to awaken to the higher spiritual forces its abilities must be gradually raised. At this moment your hidden sense are 'asleep' and lying dormant. But the entire ability of the brain can be aroused successfully starting with the Rosicrucian methods given here and continuing throughout the Rosicrucian Journey.<sup>12</sup>

**Points of Consideration:**

**Vibration is the key to higher perceptions**

**Vibration intermediates between physical bodies and higher worlds.**

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<sup>12</sup> Note: Although the process of awakening a higher awareness may seem slow the rate of advancement is designed to provide the Rosicrucian student with a path that allows for a safe no risk approach.

## **LABOURER APPLICATION**

### ***DOWSING IN THE ROSICRUCIAN ORDER***

Ave Fraters and Sorors

Welcome to the dowsing section of your learning. In this phase you will gain information on how dowsing works as the first stage to attuning towards subtle vibrations. This section is designed to make working with a pendulum practical. Some of you may ask 'What is dowsing?'

Dowsing is an investigative process using tools such as the pendulum to uncover information that is not apparent through our immediate perception. It is an immediate way Rosicrucians use to gain insights into unknown dimensions. You may be more familiar with a form of dowsing for the purpose of finding water with a rod. Dowsing has also been used to locate metals, treasure, missing belongings and land-mines during war time. In the Rosicrucian tradition we apply this tool to enhance your knowledge of things that cannot be seen at first glance as the first stage in gaining a feeling for perception of subtle thread vibrations.

The word 'dowsing' is relatively new but the practice is very ancient. Throughout history man has always sought knowledge from the divine and after the described fall when even their many gods did not answer their questions, they turned to divination methods. Tools were developed to provide ominous signs so that some understanding of hidden things could be known for ancient mans peace of mind. Dowsing in its current form has not changed since it began and is probably the most ancient form of divination. In partaking of this method we are retracing the work of our ancestors and relive the rites of old from the stone-age, to Egyptian practice, to modern Rosicrucianism.

Well over three hundred items have been known to be used as dowsing instruments. The scientific term for dowsing is 'radiesthesia' and some famous dowsers included in history are: kabbalist/chemist and artist Leonardo De Vinci, Nobel prize winner Charles Richet, father of modern chemistry Robert Boyle, General of the nazi army General Rommel, and the great scientist Albert Einstein. Needless to say these are individuals of great stature and high intelligence, of which Leonardo De Vinci is said among some Rosicrucians lines to have also been a Rosicrucian.

Through experimentation you will learn that higher information can indeed be obtained by following in their footsteps. That is not to say that these men on the other hand obtained their knowledge through this process, it is rather that we are opening our minds to the same possibilities as they did, and in doing so may unlock the closed doors of inner intelligence.

The Ancient Brothers of the Rosy Cross have incorporated dowsing into your study because it can allow you to understand vibration as it stands, incorporating the ideal that we should desire to study nature. During the

formulation of the original Rosae Rubae et Aurae Crucis (Order of the Ruby Rose and Golden Cross) in 1888 dowsing was at least incorporated as a part of the Rosicrucian Order at that time. Dr. Felkin who continued the work of the RR et AC in New Zealand under the directions of Rudolph Steiner also expanded its use to colour healing, astrology, tatvas, and auric readings. Our current society continues the Steiner Rosicrucian transmission as passed onto the Elder Brothers of the Ancient Rose Cross Order. Our formulation of this transmission is to distinctly continue the Steiner Rosicrucian current as it was both ritually and orally passed onto us.

## **History and Timeline of Dowsing**

### **Ancient Era**

Cave drawings of dowsing were found in Spain dating back to the cro-magnum era (prehistoric man) some 40-50,000 years ago. Cave drawings located in Iraq depict dowsing with a 'Y' shaped rod from 8000 years ago. Another Stone Age cave painting at Tassili N'ajjer in the Sahara desert depicts an eager crowd watching a dowser search for water. Later in Egypt dowsing is mentioned on stonework and in King Tut's burial chamber dowsing tools were found. In China dowsing appears engraved on the statue of a Chinese emperor and another woodcut from China depicts dowsing at 2000BC.

In the Bible Moses is told by God to 'take the rod and speak ye unto the rock and it shall give forth water.' Numbers 20:9-11. He does this in this Exodus (17:5-6) because the people are thirsty. The Prophet Ezekiel reports that King Nubucadnezzar of Babylon was uncertain as to which city (Jerusalem the capitol of Judaj or Rebath which is now Amman Jordan) to attack. He directed his dowsers to select the best target, which was Jerusalem which lead to it's seizure and the "Babylonian captivity of the Jews". The Jews learned this art from their captors and in the Old Testament prophet Hosea wrote: "They now consult their pieces of wood then the wand makes pronouncements from them". (4:12)

The historical records of Greece record that dowsing and the art was widely practiced on the Island of Crete, as early as 400 BC. Researchers have uncovered evidence that the Pytheon Oracle of Delphi used a pendulum to answer the questions posed by her clients, kings, queens, nobility and military commanders who travelled great distances to confer with her.

Herodotus, the 5th century B.C. Greek historian wrote of the use of willow divining rods by the Scythians, a nomadic Iranian people who travelled the prairies of what is today southern Russia. Another reference to the use of the willow divining rods appears 800 years later in a Roman history written by Ammianus Marcellinus. Various types of tree branches were used - hazel, as well as other nut and fruit trees - always trees that were indigenous to the area. Mention is made of using divination by the Germanic tribes when the Roman Empire was in its glory. Variations of these instructions on how to cut (dowsing) rods appear in the archives of nearly every European country.

Instructions on the use of rods were left by Basil Valentine, a Benedictine monk and alchemist in the 1300 hundreds in Saxony.

According to Cicero in the first century BC the dowsing rod was called the 'lituus' and was used by Roman augers for divination. Cicero himself had been and diviner said that he could not see how two augurs could look at each other without laughing. Today Rosicrucians marvel that something so simple could be so effective.

After the ancient era dowsers were thought by some to be witches or the devil. This was brought on by churches and Martin Luther who said "that this was the work of the devil". It is known that Martin Luther's father was a miner who may have been a dowser or worked with many miners who were dowsers during this time. Many of the dowsers themselves treated their craft with such superstition and mystery that it is not hard to believe that some would think of them as evil doers as their procedures for doing their work seemed very strange. The dowsing stick used had to be cut from a certain tree on a particular day from a branch facing a definite direction. It could only be used if it was soaked in salt and could only be used once. The dowser, to be successful, had to wear one sock of a specified color. Since many dowsers felt that they had to use a branch from a Witch Hazel Tree to locate water, they soon became known as 'water witches.' Dowsing began to be practised in secrecy perhaps because of its occult associations, superstitions and the Church's condemnation as the work of the devil. Because of this, it became unpopular if not actively dangerous to practise dowsing. The practice never died out completely but disappeared from public view.

### **Sixteenth Century**

From the ancient era leading to the sixteenth century dowsing does not seem to be mentioned. This could be due to man's decline in knowledge during the dark ages but the practice did survive. England's Henry the VIII, reigning from 1509 – 1547, hired a treasure finder named George Dowser who was successful and the name stuck. Queen Elizabeth the 1st enlisted the aid of German miners to come to England to teach dowsing to their miners. This would enable them to find the mines and ore deposits they needed. German physician, Georgius Agricola, also known as Georg Bauer, in 1556 demonstrated a German dowser at this work in his book *De Re Metallica* being a treatise on mining. According to Agricola, miners used a forked twig to find underground mineral veins with great success. The miners insisted that it was the influence of the vein and not the dowser who caused the movement of the twig.

### **Seventeenth Century**

Around 1630 in Lyon, France there was a famous murder case of a wine merchant and his wife. The police asked a dowser for help. Using his rods he walked through the streets of Lyon, crossing a bridge over the Rhone River, constantly guided by his rod's indications, he eventually found a man who

played a significant role in the murder of the vintner and his wife. He tracked the man involved in the case with dowsing tools and helped solve the case.

The climate in Britain was more favourable, and in 1665 the scientist Charles Boyle, one of the founding fathers of modern science, referred to the possible reality of dowsing in a paper to the Royal Society. (Miller, 1999).

According to Christopher Bird, author of "The Divining Hand", no one is absolutely certain of the origin of the verb to dowse. But it seems to have made its first official appearance in 1650 in an essay written by English Philosopher John Locke. In his essay, Locke wrote that by the use of the dowsing rod, one could devise or discover water and precious minerals (such as gold & silver and mineral ore) Locke has appropriated his phrase from the long dead English west country language of Cornwall - where in Cornish Dewsys meant "Goddess", and "Rhod" meant tree branch, and from which he "coined" the phrase - Dowsing Rod.

In 1659, the church took an increasing interest in dowsing. One of the most important figures in the debate was a Jesuit priest called Gaspard Schott. Originally Schott denounced the divining rod as an instrument of the devil. He later retracted this view, and is remembered to the history of dowsing as the first person to attribute the movement of the rod to unconscious muscular action. ("Magiae Universalis Naturae et Artis," by Gaspard Schott. Quoted in Ellis, 1917).

### **Eighteenth century**

Almost one hundred years after Agricola, around 1730, two dowsers, the Baron and Baroness de Beausoliel, become quite popular for their skills in locating mineral deposits with dowsing. In France alone they discovered over one hundred and fifty deposits of iron, gold and silver. Their success was so considerable they received commissions from royalty and even the Pope. They were the first recorded people of the West to locate water by dowsing. Records of this practice became more common from that point. Before the end of the Seventeenth Century, dowsing had spread throughout most of Europe and was considered a black art by the church. The result was that although great in skill the Baron and Baroness de Beausoliel were charged with sorcery. They were found guilty of practicing the 'black arts' and died in prison three years later. Dowsing caused a great deal of controversy as others considered it a natural process of symmetry and attraction and repulsion. Some believed that dowsing was a divine gift and took this further by baptizing their rods to Jesus Christ along with their children.

Dowsing continued to be a source of debate for clerics for at least another century, but it was not until 1780 that an attempt was made by science to tackle the problem. Pierre Thouvenel, a physician to Louis XVI, conducted the first recorded scientific tests of dowsing. Thouvenel's curiosity was aroused by reports of a peasant called Barthelemy Bleton, who apparently had an unusual sensitivity to water. One story stated that Bleton had found a spring strong enough to run a mill. Thouvenel decided that Bleton was an

excellent subject for his research into "animal magnetism," magnetism being a fashionable scientific theory that was gaining great currency at the time. Thouvenel noticed that although Bleton could detect water with great sensitivity, the ability seemed useless when Bleton was insulated from the ground (earth vibrations.) This led the physician to propose an electrical origin for the force.

## **Nineteenth Century**

In 1812, France, Michel Eugene Chevreul investigated the use of the dowsing pendulum to find underground water, as well as its use by a Professor Gerboin of Strasbourg, for chemical analysis. Chevreul noticed that when he suspended the pendulum over a bowl of mercury, there was a reaction. He also noticed that there was no reaction when a glass plate was interposed between the pendulum and the mercury. Still unconvinced, Chevreul decided to conduct what today would be called a double blind trial. An assistant interposed and removed the glass plate without Chevreul's knowledge and no reaction was seen. He concluded that the phenomenon was nothing more than the result of involuntary muscular movements in the hand induced by mental process.

The next significant development in the study of dowsing was the research done by an American called Charles Latimer. In 1875 Latimer read before the Civil Engineers' Club of the Northwest a paper entitled "The Divining Rod," in which he claimed that the dowsing force worked by electrical currents passing from the ground through the body, which induced a magnetic field between the rod and the ground. (Ellis, 1917).

Scientific Tests were conducted from 1891 onwards by Sir William Barrett, a professor of physics at the Royal College of Science in Dublin and a principal founder of the Society for Psychical Research conducted a series of test beginning in 1891. His conclusions were published over two volumes of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research. (Barrett, 1891, summarised in Hansen, 1982.) Barrett favoured the psychical explanation, although some of his experiments did show that dowsers had some sensitivity to magnetic fields. He later conducted experiments to see if dowsers could find coins hidden underneath articles on chairs. (Barrett and Besterman, 1928. Summarised in Hansen, 1982). Although the results seemed impressive on paper, (odds against chance occurrence of 1 in 80,000) the precautions taken seem to have been inadequate and, crucially, the study was not double blind. Despite the flaws in Barrett's approach, this is the first complete scientific investigation of the effect to be found in modern times.

During the Victorian era, dowsing became popular once again, possibly tied in with the Victorian interest in spiritualism and associated topics. Victorian scientific interest, aided by a softening of the Church's attitude, brought dowsing out into the open. In 1874, Thomas Welton translated and published Jean Nicholas' book (The Rod of Jacob or the art of finding treasure, springs, boundaries, metals, mines, minerals and other hidden things, by the use of the forked twig 1691) in English.

## Twentieth Century

A number of respected men, including the physicist, Albert Einstein, performed impressive feats with a variety of dowsing devices. Most of these feats were only of academic value but by the middle of the 20th century dowsing was regularly being put to a great variety of profitable uses. Perhaps the most recent high profile use of dowsing was reported to be by the British army during the Falklands war.

Dr. Karl Berg, Arch-Bishop of Salzburg, Austria in a Decree of 1942, said "If a Christian wants to do Gods will and protects himself with prayers when doing radiaesthetic works (dowsing) and use his or her instruments only in a helping way based on love, when examining houses, and finding water, then this work is blessed by the church." This helped remove the devil and witch names dowsers were called for many years.

Farmer J W Young convinced wild-catter, Ace Gutowski, that oil lay beneath West Edmond, Oklahoma by demonstration with a goatskin-covered bottle hung from a watch chain which invariably swung from north to south when over oil. As a result, in 1943, Gutowski drilled a hole and discovered the largest oil deposit in Oklahoma for 20 years. And that is just one of very many examples of oil strikes by dowsers.

In 1952, Colonel Harry Grattan, CBE, Royal Engineers was given the task of building a new Headquarters for the British Rhine Army at Mönchen Gladbach, Germany. Planning for at least 9000 people who would need 750,000 gallons of water per day was a major project. Water supply was a big problem and the three local waterworks would have had to upgrade their equipment and pass the costs on in the form of water rates at £20,000 a year. A considerable sum in 1952. Colonel Grattan knew of a nearby family with a private well, which produced better quality water than any of the waterworks. He employed a geologist with the intention of tapping this source but a trial bore produced very little water. The Colonel was a proficient dowser, and decided to use his skills to solve the problem. Using the traditional forked twig the colonel began dowsing and getting reactions everywhere to the west of the test bore. On the strength of this two further trial bores were executed with spectacular results. The trials showed that the ground was mainly solid clay, but between 73 and 96 feet down there was an aquifer, which produced a copious supply of excellent quality water. The German government responsible for sites construction was less than convinced by such surveying techniques and were adamant that the water supply would soon dry up. Gaining the support of his superior, General Sugden, Colonel Grattan was able to continue his exploration. Dowsing from horseback, the colonel plotted out the full extent of the aquifer, which extended to within a few hundred yards of two of the waterworks. The British Rhine Army's private waterworks were constructed providing the Army with all the water it needed and savings running into millions of pounds over the years.

In more recent times, the military has used dowsing to locate water, mines, and tunnels. General Patton had a complete willow tree flown to Morocco so

that a dowser could use branches from it to find water to replace the wells the German Army had destroyed. In 1959, Vernon Cameron, a dowser, via map dowsing, demonstrated to Navy officials, where all the U.S. and other submarines were located. The navy would not confirm or deny his findings, but a few years later he was denied a passport because he was considered a security risk. During the Vietnam war, the U.S. military had dowser, Louis J Matacia, teach the marines how to find land mines and underground tunnels of the Viet Cong.

The fairly recent development of treasure hunting as a popular hobby has drawn one or two dowsers to the challenge of using their skills to find buried metal artefacts. The most successful treasure dowser in Britain is Jim Longton from Lancashire. Jim took up dowsing when he retired from the wrestling ring and first hit the headlines in 1990 after finding a spectacular hoard of Viking silver brooches valued at over £40,000. (\$60,000) His latest find is potentially Britain's Tutankhamen: a seventeenth century shipwreck, believed to contain untold treasures, including a 230 piece gilt-silver dinner service once owned by Charles I. While divers work on the recovery, Jim is being kept busy locating more treasure wrecks for a marine salvage company.

### **Dowsing tools**

A dowsing tool is nothing more than a communication device. In and of itself it has no power and no ability to move. Although no one knows how or why dowsing works, it seems that the movement of the pendulum or rod(s) is controlled through or by your subconscious (or something of that nature). Most experienced dowsers use all of the basic dowsing tools which are the Y Rod (a forked stick), the L Rod (a rod bent in the shape of the letter L), the Bobber (a long slender tapered stick), and the Pendulum, (a weight that is attached to a string or chain) or variations of all of these. Any object hung from a piece of string is a pendulum and an old wire coat hanger can be cut and bent into an L-rod. The tool chosen is usually just the most convenient one for the job at hand. As dowsing devices come in all sizes, shapes and materials, it is important only that you choose a tool that you're comfortable with for all instruments work equally well for experienced dowsers. In fact, it is important not to impose any beliefs on yourself that a particular tool is better than another. In the Labourer Degree you will be using the swinging type pendulum for your dowsing tool. If your favourite crystal pendulum isn't available, a washer hung on a piece of fishing line will work just as well!

### **How does dowsing Work?**

Many consider dowsing a sixth sense that was given to early man to survive as a species in a very hostile environment so that he could find water, food and shelter and other things necessary for survival.

Dowsing is a normal sensory perception available to birds, fish, animals and man. Salmon use it to find their way back to their birthplace to spawn. The swallows use it to go south or north to return to the Mission Capistrano every year. Bees find their way back to the hive after flying from flower to flower

over a distance of 2 miles or more. The monarch butterfly returns to the same tree in Santa Cruz, California from South America, three generations later. Thousands of lost cats and dogs have crossed the country to reunite with their owners. People use this sensory perception all of the time, without words or actions. We sense if we are welcome or unwelcome as we enter a room. Mothers know when a child is in trouble or making trouble. Many of us at numerous times knew who was on the phone before we answered it, or who was at the door before opening it. We all have sensed good or bad feelings about a person or situation and our feelings were proved true. These feelings are all intuitions of subtle vibrations which underlies all things in nature. Thought waves are also vibrations and vibration sensitivity will open the Rosicrucian to knowledge of the higher worlds. At first you are going to attune your body to subtle vibrations through dowsing. What the mind does not know the answers to the subconscious can read through the collective ether-net of the World Soul. All knowledge is available at any time and the subconscious through seeing the whole will direct your muscles to move involuntarily so as to cause to swing you pendulum so the mind knows the meaning of those hidden vibrations emitting through the universe.

### **Learning to Dowse with a Pendulum**

Dowsing with a pendulum is a skill that anyone can learn. It does take practice but then what worthwhile goal is ever reached without effort? Before you can practice you do need to discover what the movement of the pendulum or rod means. To simplify matters you will only concentrate on using a pendulum. The various rods are employed most often for fieldwork.

Most dowsing can be accomplished using three movements: one for a yes/positive answer, another for no/negative, and a third for maybe/neutral (or a rephrase the question) response. Experienced dowsers may also count the number of swings or turns to determine depth of an item being searched for; rely on the movement of the instrument to determine the length of a particular treatment they're doing; etc.

The first step is determining what YOUR responses mean. Your responses may vary from another person's but that is fine - what works for you is all that counts! Take your pendulum and hold the string or chain between your thumb and first finger, about 2 ½ to 3 inches from the weight at the end.

Sit quietly for a few moments to centre and ground yourself. If you find that you are out-of-sorts in some way then wait until another time when you are more relaxed. While slowly swinging the pendulum vertically back and forth, mentally (or out loud) ask the pendulum to show you your YES movement by swinging in a circular direction. This will be clockwise or counter-clockwise. If there is little or irregular movement it might be beneficial to hold the pendulum over your right knee. Repeat the question "Please show me what my YES response is." Repeat for a NO response (over the left knee if necessary). Ask for your MAYBE response. Oftentimes it will be a back-and-forth swing at a 45-degree angle. It should be something quite different from the circular motions.

Now you need to practice, practice, and practice some more! You should start by asking questions that you know the answers to. For example, is my name Mary? Then you can move on to asking questions where the answer can be verified, such as “Are there any messages on my answering machine?” If you get a YES response, ask, “Is there 1 message?” “More than 1 message?” “Is there 2 messages?” and so on. These simple exercises, done consistently, will enhance and confirm your ability to dowse. For the Labourer Degree we would like for you to start using your pendulum at least twice per day. However do not train yourself to become dependant upon its answers. Rather train yourself to use it effectively.

### **Using charts**

There are a number of charts available commercially or you can make your own. You can add numbers 0 to 100 (in increments of 10) for a percentage chart or mark the names of various remedies (herbal teas) to see which ones you should take. Anything at all can be marked on the chart. Hold you pendulum at the centre of the bottom line and slowly swing it back-and-forth horizontally. Then ask a question such as “What is the percentage of likelihood that it will rain today?” The pendulum will slowly move to a diagonal back-and-forth swing over the correct figure.

### **Spiritual Development**

Your spiritual development is of great importance for this one thing alone is a contribution to the whole of humanity. The ancient mystery schools taught their followers to strive for moral purity. In some instances this is called the ‘polishing of the stone’ which in the Masonic tradition reminds us of the process of cutting out a raw stone and then forming it into a brick so that eventually, when polished enough, it will become a part of the temple. Such is the development of our own personal character. Both Plato and Jesus taught that we should not only strive for moral purity but also to be of pure thought. Your personal standard, from the first Sanctum of this manual, was a step in the right direction. With dowsing we can measure ourselves against this standard on a daily basis.

The concept of self reflection is a matter of developing a conscience or ‘heart for others.’ This was developed by the Stoic philosophers (followers of Plato) and inherited by the Rosicrucian School. You have been practicing this in the Retrospection exercise given in the first Sanctum of the Labourer. Here you are told that to listen to your conscience and in so doing is to follow the inner spirit measurements. The followers of Pythagoras were also required every night to remember all the events of the day and judge themselves morally from the standpoint of a higher perspective as in your Retrospection exercise. The need to also confess ones mistakes was taught by Christ as an essential element of obtaining peace of mind and inner forgiveness. However this tradition is by far more ancient as in the Egyptian Book of the Dead we find the ritual of the ‘negative confession’ dating as far back as 1500BCE. This

ritual was a means of declaring the evils we have avoided at death so that the soul would not be consumed by the devourer within.

### **Dowsing with Retrospection**

Every night we propose that you undertake this ceremony to test your spiritual development. The several dowsing charts enclosed below are designed to aid your daily self-examination. Not only will it hold the ego firmly in check but it will also help you become a better person with strong moral character.

Before you go to sleep begin to relax for a moment of sacred silence. If you like say any prayers that come to your mind during this ritual. Perform the Retrospection exercise as normal and objectively recall all of the events from your day. At first this may seem difficult, but with time your memory of events will improve. In addition you can spend a minute observing your Personal Standard document and carefully read it.<sup>13</sup> While reading each statement, ask yourself how you measure up to them. Look at each statement and relate the day's events and consider the following:

Your Words  
Your Actions  
Your Thoughts

For example, if your statement included 'I will not engage in anything that is for self gratification' then you should ask yourself 'Was I boastful in any way? Were any of my actions done to show off or gratify my ego? Did I entertain the idea that I was better than others some how?' Or if your statements included something like 'I will show compassion to others,' you should also ask yourself: 'Did I show compassion to others? Who did I help today? Did I think against anyone instead of regarding them with compassion today?' Each statement in your Personal Standard should be considered in this way.

Finally, take the virtue chart and lay on a flat surface. Mentally attune yourself to the pendulum and ask yourself 'What virtues do I need to develop?' The pendulum will swing towards one of the virtues on the chart such as humility, understanding or faith. Write this virtue down in a diary or notebook as a reminder and try to develop and use this virtue sometime during the next day. Now replace the virtue chart with the vice chart and ask yourself 'What vices do I need to eliminate?' Again, write this down in your diary or notebook and try to refrain from using this vice during the next day. During that day, record your progress if you have time. These exercises are very important to your own spiritual growth because the Rosicrucian Journey is also the Inner Way.

Now compare the virtue and the vice. Do they relate to one another? Do they relate to you? Be careful that you do not disregard any information as the times we do not listen to ourselves is when we are in need of guidance most! Throughout this exercise a prayer could be said at any time asking for divine

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<sup>13</sup> Remember the Personal Standard should be printed where you can see it clearly. The best placing for it is besides the bed where you will see it each morning on rising. It is best placed within a certificate frame so that you learn to become serious about self-development.

support in obtaining self development. Do not be afraid to adapt this practice to yourself and even make more dowsing charts where you think some virtues and vices could be added. No-one likes to hear about their own short comings or that 'I'm a grumpy bum' so most of all have fun and learn to laugh at yourself and become light hearted towards your short comings. This is because by undertaking this path you can afford to laugh at how silly our shortcomings are, knowing that you are really growing away from them.

HEALTH

EXERCISE

DOWSING