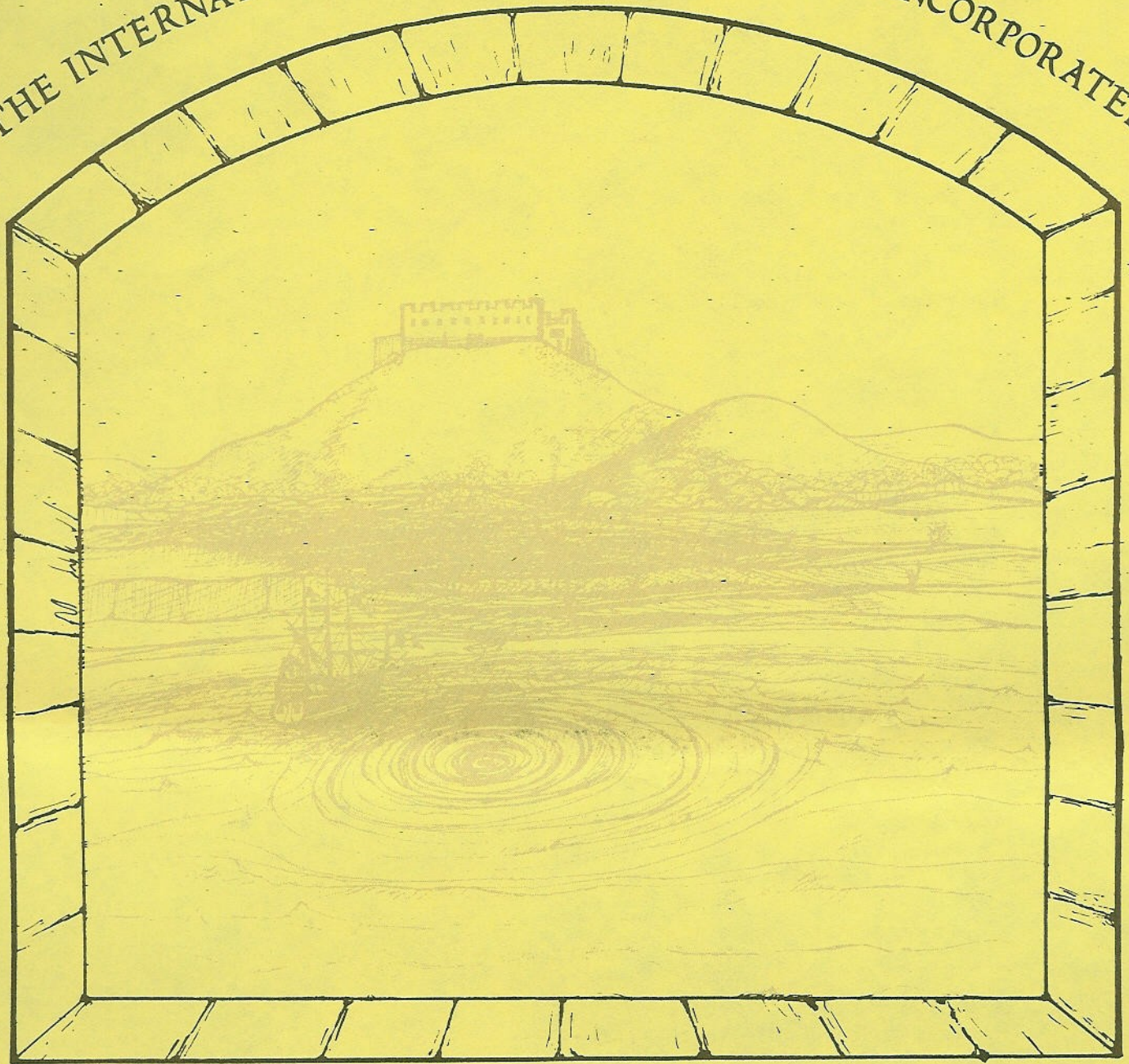


THE INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF MARTINISTS INCORPORATED

Worthing - Barbados - West Indies



PLANE III

LIBER 44 A PATCH OF GREEN

GRADE: *COMPANION*

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DEVOTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT AND MYSTICAL ENLIGHTENMENT OF MAN

AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY IN FIVE CHAPTERS

Chapter 1

I walk down the street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I fall in.
I am lost ... I am helpless.
It isn't my fault.
It takes forever to find my way out.

Chapter 2

I walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I pretend I don't see it.
I fall in, again.
I can't believe I'm in the same place.
But it isn't my fault.
It still takes a long time to get out.

Chapter 3

I walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
It see it is there.
I fall in ... it's a habit ... but, my eyes are open.
I know where I am.
It's my fault.
I get out immediately.

Chapter 4

I walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I walk around it.

Chapter 5

I walk down a different street.

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Dear Companions:

We now embark on a series of five special Libers which will feature the remaining five Alchemical principles: Sanctification, Purification, Putrefaction, Fermentation and Combustion. We have already had the first two: At-One-Ment and Regeneration.

Along with these, there will also be five lectures from the Fraternitas Rosae Crucis, plus other material.

As you know we try to feature as wide a range of topics as possible, the objective being to keep the Libers interesting, while at the same time giving you a broader comprehension.

SANCTIFICATIO or Sanctification as it is known in orthodox verbiage, is the third in our series of doctrinal exegeses by the light of Alchemic Truth and wisdom. The academic definition and description of this fundamental, which occupies a prominent position in all essentially Christian and, in fact, **all world religions** even though not specifically indicated as such, may be briefly given:

SANCTIFICATION is the act or process of sanctifying, or the state of being sanctified. Theologically, it is said to be "the gracious work of the Holy Spirit or Spiritus Sancti whereby the subject is freed from so-called sin and exalted to holiness of heart and life. In this it is distinct from Regeneration and Justification."

Dr. Francis L. Patton says, in his Summary of Christian Doctrine, "The Soul's new life begins at Regeneration, its development in strength and stature is Sanctification".

While agreeing with the essential concepts of all the foregoing definitions, in the doctrinalia of the R+C, Sanctificatio takes on a much greater importance when it is seen to be vastly more than a mental concept or a generalized conclusion and becomes a veritable active process, effecting organic changes in the vehicles of manifestation, as well as in the life of the individual undertaking it.

Sanctification may in truth be said "to render holy or sacred" but it is also the active **process of spiritualizing**, or, to invent a term -- "HOLIFYING". And what is more: **SANCTIFICATIO CANNOT BE ACCOMPLISHED IN ONE LIFE TIME OR INCARNATION, BUT IS A PROCESS CARRIED ON THROUGH MANY INCARNATIONS.**

SANCTIFICATION ASSISTED BY THE CELESTIAL HIERARCHIES Again, Sanctificatio is a process begun in the human when it first emerges from the lower evolutionary waves and becomes a true human. In this stage it is begun under the guidance of certain of the Celestial Hierarchies who thus assist each human being to a fair and equal start along the Human Pathway. At this time, the beginning of the

process and the guidance of the Higher Powers is carried on unconsciously to the subject.

UNCONSCIOUS SPIRITUALIZATION

Yet the result of the operations of these Higher Powers will be seen in the activities of even the lowest aborigines, who through the use of amulets, charms, votive objects, etc., -- under the idea of making themselves sacred or holy before their personally created and constructed god -- are in reality acting in obedience to the impulse resulting from the process of sanctificatio, holyfying, or spiritualizing going on unconsciously to them within.

As evolution progresses, and the evolving human conceives the idea of one thing set apart as sacred in comparison with ordinary things, the concept of a special sacredness or sanctity evolves around the thing set apart, and the idea of a special sanctity of a personal nature attaches to the person under whose care or charge the thing set apart, is placed.

SANCTIFICATION ACHIEVED OVER SEVERAL LIFETIMES

Now, Sanctificatio is not only an ethical process, it IS AN INTENSELY ORGANIC, CHEMIC, AND ALCHEMICAL PROCESS: FAR MORE THAN THEOLOGIAN'S HAVE THE FAINTEST IDEA.

And note carefully: if Sanctificatio could be completed in one life time, (under the orthodox concept that one life is all that is accorded to each person), then we should see a phenomenon barely comprehensible to us in our present stage of evolution --- for we should see ordinary, solidly material men and women become so sublimated and etherealized, that, if the process were actually completed, they would ultimately disappear beyond our ken, and death would cease to be a physical act, state, or condition. And what is more, in view of the average length of the physical life-span, it would have necessarily to be effected with such speed that one would hardly reach maturity before one would already be well on the way beyond material or visible expression.

The logic is surely founded: No gross matter can enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Flesh and Blood cannot inherit the Kingdom. Neither can true holiness exist in impure or gross Matter. Yet the Kingdom of Heaven is here and dwells among men.

Therefore, if Sanctificatio is the process of spiritualizing or holifying, and can be completed in one life time, then it means that the sanctified one must necessarily emerge from the material and soar to the purely spiritual within the compass of our physical cognition and vision.

The logic and evidence of facts is against this, otherwise we shall be regretfully obliged to conclude that no persons yet known on this earth have ever attained true sanctification.

But when we realise that Sanctificatio is a process contained through all of man's involutory incarnations, which is their ultimate purpose, and is an actual, active chemical and alchem-

ical process, then we have hope that our present status is justifiable by our present incarnation, and faith to look forward to the assistance of the Higher Powers who never relinquish their attention to humanity, to give us -- not further personal help -- but knowledge and understanding of the mysteries that we may continue in all good works to do the will of Him whose mental concept and Expression in Manifestation, we individually are.

OUR BODIES ARE THE PRODUCT OF THE FOUR ELEMENTS Our bodies, and all that we practically are, except the Ego, are the product of the four elements, Earth, Air, Fire and Water, and the Ego is not excepted on the higher understanding of these Elements. These Four Elements have combined in Chemical process to produce and furnish the substance for, not only our physical body or vehicle, but our Etheric and Astral vehicles as well. For all Matter is homogeneous, differing in density, but not in kind.

In the formation of these vehicles, into which the process of crystallization enters most actively, the compounds are formed in such a measure that the effect is to hold us to earth, or to material concepts, preventing us from rising to the higher spiritual status.

From the interaction, atomically, of these Four Elements, a specified number of Elements as understood by chemists, are formed. By the combination of these Chemical Elements, over 250,000 compounds can be produced.

The effect of these compounds on man in his earlier evolutionary career is to hold him crystalized in a given status. This is the reason why the aborigines make so little progress, and why they are so slow and in some cases, even impossible of accepting and conforming to so-called civilized customs.

SPIRITUALIZED ATOMS ATTRACTED BY THE EGO Sanctification is the breaking down of these compounds under the unconscious stimuli supplied by the celestial Hierarchs, and then effected by the conscious co-operation and operational effort of the individual himself. This breaking down is effected, little by little in each incarnation, by the Ego attracting to itself and its vehicles an increasing percentage of the more highly spiritualized atoms, that have been used by higher beings in former life-waves, and now await usage by Egos arriving and striving to arrive at the same vibratory ratio of spiritualized energy.

This is a spiritual work which must be done by the Ego. The Physical, Etheric and Astral vehicles have no volitional power of their own in this direction. And the result of this activity of the Ego, is to draw by the power of Attraction mentally exerted, an increasingly larger number of these spiritualized atoms, and with them gradually replacing the structures of its vehicles, supplanting the crystalized material or earthly compounds with the higher spiritualized atoms; a process carried on through our Mercury Water, or universal menstruum.

Thus, life by life expression, the Ego attracts a constantly increasing percentage of these more highly spiritualized atoms, until when the course of the involutory incarnations has been completed, we attain Sanctificatio -- not in completion or perfection -- but in sufficient measure to enable us to become in rapport with beings of a higher spiritual grade and status than those of this planet, and we pass onward to higher phases of expression and manifestation.

SANCTIFICATION IS RELATIVE

This fact, that it is impossible for man to attain at any time complete sanctificatio, but only relatively, in comparative value -- is the reason why we see no perfect homo or human.

Thus, Sanctificatio is far more than an orthodox theological doctrine; it is a COSMIC SPIRITUAL PROCESS, Chemical in the breaking down of the crystalized compounds and Alchemical in the transmutation of the gross, material homo into the actual spiritualized being of verifiable higher vibrational activity than the unawakened man.

SANCTIFICATION A SYNONYM FOR EVOLUTION

And as Sanctificatio is carried on through all involuntary incarnations, the very term itself may be considered as a synonym for EVOLUTION, for exactly like the latter, it never ceases.

Companions should always keep in mind the two processes involved in the complete general process, namely:

(a) The breaking down of crystalized materialistic compounds, and the raising of the atomic structure of each of the vehicles of the Ego, to the next higher spiritual status.

(b) the attraction of a greater number of spiritualized atoms to the regenerated and regenerating structures in each succeeding incarnation.

Atoms in the aggregate, through molecule and mass, compose Metals. MAN IS COMPOSED OF METALS, and this fact has been emphasized in previous Alchemic lessons. The destiny of ALL metals is ultimately to become gold. THE DESTINY OF ALL MEN IS ULTIMATELY TO BECOME GOLD. In every natural thing is the seed of Gold, which will ultimately, in aeons more or less remote, transmute the substance into Gold, for Gold like all things, grows from its seed.

The destiny of man and metals is therefore identical, and the structure of their atoms being identical, this must perforce be true.

In the earth, or mineral kingdom, from Lead or Saturn up through the metallic grades, all are gold in varying phases of transition, but all ultimately destined to become pure GOLD.

In the Human Kingdom, all grades from the aborigine to the highest cultural type are destined to become ultimate GOLD.

The metals in the Mineral kingdom will attain the status of metallic Gold on the material plane first, as terrestrial Gold.

The human will become Gold on the celestial plane, when his vibrational status permits his return to the mother sphere, the Sun.

GOLD A MATTER OF ATOMIC STATUS For GOLD whether deep down in the womb of Mother Earth, or high in the Great Central Sphere of our Solar System is not a matter of nomenclature, but of atomic status, and when our atomic and corpuscular vibrations attain the highest possible grade pertaining to this particular Solar System, then shall we become celestial GOLD.

And when the atomic and corpuscular vibrations of lead and all succeeding metals have increased to those accorded chemically to Gold as now understood by science, then all the metals in the bosom of Mother Earth will have become GOLD in truth, and then shall the Golden Age become renaissant, and restored to mankind, and then shall we know the New heaven and the New Earth described in the Apocalypse, for behold all other things shall have passed away.

Sanctificatio is therefore the attainment of Alchemical Gold on the Spiritual Plane, as Sanctificatio (or increasing the vibrational powers) of metals is the Attainment of Chemical Gold on the Material or Physical Plane.

SANCTIFICATION A PROCESS OF SPIRITUALIZATION By referring to alchemical definitions you will see how the esoteric and exoteric exegeses of Sanctificatio agree; it is being understood that it is a process of spiritualizing, i.e., the action of spirit upon substance or matter and the raising of Matter to higher spiritualized atomic vibrations.

SPIRIT Spirit, or Spiritus, is alchemically defined as "God in his highest aspect as an eternal, universal principle or power, invisible, and in a state of the greatest purity and comparative perfection." "The Divine Element in Nature." "The antithesis of Matter", yet, "material" in a transcendental sense. Spiritual substance. A conscious, organized, invisible principle. The substance or Body of Christ. The term "Spirit" is also used to signify the essence or character of a thing, the sum of the highest attributes or powers.

"SPIRITS" Similarly, the term "Spirits" literally refers to "Powers", but in the modern application of the term to "dis-embodied astral forms and souls of men and animals". This definition has originated through the modern misconception of the true nature of man.

SUBSTANCE Substance is Alchemically defined as "that unknown and invisible something which may manifest itself either as Matter or

Force; in other words, that substratum of all things which is ENERGY in one of its aspects and MATTER in another."

ONE SUBSTANCE : THREE ASPECTS As Companions already know, Alchemists comprehend THREE Substances, or rather three aspects of the ONE SUBSTANCE: Salt, Sulphur, and Mercury. "They are the basis of all existence and in each of these three substances the other two are contained".

They form an inseparable Trinity in Unity, and a Unity in Trinity, differing however in its aspects and manifestations. Consequently in some things the Salt, in others the Sulphur, and in still others the Mercury, is predominant.

They represent

- (a) Thought, Word and Form;
- (b) Body, Soul and Spirit;
- (c) Earth, Water and Fire;
- (d) Fire, Light and Heat;
- (e) etc, etc, etc,.

THE TRINITY The concept of the Trinity comprehends the idea of the ALL to Hermetic students. It is the expression of the WHOLE of the Universe. "Everything is a Trinity, and three is the number of form. *Every conceivable thing consists of Matter and Motion in Space, and the Three are forever One and Inseparable.*" "God" is a Trinity, and the Universe being a manifestation of God, every part of the Universe must necessarily be a Trinity. **Everything is a product of THOUGHT, WILL AND SUBSTANCE (FORM), i.e. -- MERCURY, SULPHUR AND SALT."**

SOUL (R+C) Soul has been defined in the R+C lectures as a product or pabulum extracted from the Threefold Body by the Threefold Spirit. (Please check the correct meaning of the word 'pabulum' in a dictionary if you have not already done so.)

SOUL (Alchemical) Alchemically, it is the semi-material principle connecting Matter and Spirit. "It leads, so to say, an amphibious existence between these two poles of substance, and may ultimately become amalgamated with either one or the other. The Body is the mask of the Soul; the Soul, the Body of the Spirit".

THE REAL MAN The Real Man, alchemically, is an "invisible, internal power, (spiritual) which, in its outward appearance or manifestation appears like a human being. Man may be considered as a ray emanating from the great Central Sun of the Universe, having become polarized in the heart of an incipient human organism, endowing the latter with life, and stimulating its growth. At a certain state of its development that organism becomes conscious of its existence in the phenomenal world, and with this the illusion of self is created".

UNIVERSAL SPIRIT / CHRIST There is nothing real and permanent about the being called Man, except this internal, Divine power which is called the Spirit, which is ultimately identical with the universal Spirit -- the Christ".

Alchemically, Man is comprehended under two aspects; "Vir", or the human being in whom the male elements preponderate, and "Woman" Womb-man in whom the female elements preponderate.

Now let us summarize our definitions:

Man, comprehended in his dual aspects, Vir and Womb-man, is in reality an invisible, internal spiritual power or ray from the great Central Sun, polarizing in Matter and crystalizing into manifestation its outward or exterior vehicles. This polarization in Matter has produced the compounds of Matter, which the process of Sanctification is to break up, in order that the ray may ultimately return to its spiritual source, -- which it may not do until it has recovered its essentially spiritual nature.

By the action of the Powers or Spirits of Man (the Threefold Spirit) directed by Love, Wisdom and Intelligence, our Salt, Sulphur and Mercury, exerting the power of attraction on the more greatly spiritualized atoms, replacing the grosser atomic structure in its dense crystallization with these spiritualized atoms which made up what is termed "Spiritual substance", the result is, in view of our definition of spiritual substance -- the awakening and birth of the Christ within.

Finally, it is the awakening and birth of the "Christ within", in a very active degree.

THE METHOD Nothing could be simpler in practical application -- and the practice of attracting the more highly spiritualized atoms to the vehicles of the Ego, *is simply the natural concomitant of bridling or controlling the whole body*, thereby releasing it from conformity to the laws of materialism, freeing it from the resultant crystalizing power of those laws, and making possible the spiritually constructive work on a greater scale.

ALL LIFE IS A CONTINUOUS PROCESS OF SANCTIFICATION, each moment sanctifying the individual to a greater degree and approximating his ultimate spiritual illumination more rapidly. And each incarnation accelerates the process, until when we have drawn to ourselves all the more spiritualized atoms as is possible in this planetary environment, then we shall evolve to higher and higher spheres of activity, even as have those messiahs *who have at all times appeared unto humanity as examples of the homo or human who has become comparatively perfect by the ultimate of earthly sanctification.*

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Q U E S T I O N S

- 1) Can "Soul" in the R+C terminology, be likened unto an Etheric Body or an Astral Body?
- 2) Give the definition of "Soul" (a) as termed by the R+C, (b) as termed by the Alchemists.

Dear Companions:

MEDITATION : THE SCIENCE OF SYNTHESIS

The complex problem of modern life can be solved easily if people know the science of meditation. It is only when the mind is tranquil that it can really observe the immense activity of the brain without creating psychological complications. The greatest importance should be given to the correct understanding of the working of the mind, because it is the only instrument we have, and as long as we are ignorant of the ways of the mind, there is every possibility for taking its fancies, vagaries and distortions for Reality. However, when we discover its many methods of creating illusions and aberrations we see them as unreal and they no longer bind us.

Meditation is really a technique for the attainment of spiritual tranquility since the practice of meditation brings about transformation of the body and mind by progressive reduction and elimination of the noxious stimuli which ordinarily excite and disturb. *Regular meditation creates a new type of disposition in the mind which gradually eliminates the impressions gathered both in the subconscious and unconscious mind.* Thus, the mind is purged or emptied of all the factors likely to disturb its inner composure. Then meditation ripens into a higher state in which the aspirant rises above the usual duality of subject and object and perceives the Infinite.

MEDITATION CLEARS THE MIND

Meditation implies a constant awareness of every moment and we need this capacity to detach ourselves from everything. In meditation the marks of all impressions that are stored in the mind are wiped away and thereby we experience the fullness of life and benediction.

Suffering is the dominant characteristic of the human condition and we all know that a conditioned mind crippled by the psychological memory breeds fear and insecurity. The main cause of pain is traceable to craving & attachment and the individual is the prisoner of the misconception mistaking the unreal for the real. When he disciplines the mind, destroys the shackles of desire and achieves inner peace, then only is he free from mental anguish, frustration, disappointment, despair, anxiety and dejection.

Meditation is an effortless state that leads us beyond psychological confusion into a state where the mind is at perfect peace. It is a delicate discipline to observe our thought processes as they are without the burden of our past memory and preconceived ideas. It provides practical methods of holistic living that foster inner balance and outer harmony.

Inner freedom is a state of being alone in meditation, which means: no dependence on others. Perhaps there comes a moment for all of us when we meditate quietly -- the inescapable state of solitariness or aloneness -- and in that meditative awareness, fear

and sorrow drop away and the real surrender of ego takes place spontaneously. The only way to solve the conflict of dissatisfaction is by losing our ego which is the veil that hides the vision of Truth. Hence, *the giving up of the false self is the first step towards the realisation of Reality and the culmination of meditation.*

MEDITATION IS AN INNER STATE Meditation cannot be superimposed from outside and it wells up from inside when our mind is not the battle ground of contradictory and conflicting desires. It is a state of awareness into which we take a plunge and leads to the realization of the Supreme. After you experience this realization, your whole outlook changes.

Actually, meditation implies unconditional, total change and radical transformation of the human mind. We reach this creative silence when the entire energy is gathered, when we are alert and do not allow the mental faculty to be dissipated. The enquiry of Truth becomes an all consuming flame within when we start living every moment with choiceless awareness.

It is futile to embark upon a spiritual journey with a selfish mind and impure heart. All the teachings of the great saints can be summarised to this: that our primary need is to attain a silent mind and this emptiness of mind is indispensable for the realization of Truth.

Generally, our mind is like a mirror, it gathers dust while it reflects. The dust must be blown off again and again and this constitutes the process of the dissociation from our ego because it maintains a screen between ourselves and reality. We must get rid of all our disturbances both outer and inner in order to perceive the Reality. The right perception is possible only with the help of a silent mind and without right perception there cannot be right action.

NO SHORT CUT TO ENLIGHTENMENT It is very necessary to develop the divine qualities of mental alertness and purity of heart. There is no short cut to enlightenment. What is required is a transformation of consciousness, a reshaping of every aspect of thinking. The content of human consciousness is the whole movement of thought and the desire for power, position and the pursuit of pleasure in which there is fear. Without understanding the subtle activities of our mind, we cannot progress in the spiritual life. Meditation means choiceless awareness, which implies the ability to drop a thought when it is complete and not to entangle it with succeeding thoughts.

If we can sustain this state of non-reactional observation naturally, the momentum of past psychological confusion goes into abeyance; then there is nothing more to observe, consequently the division between the observer and the observed withers away by itself. In this divine synthesis we experience the bliss of the Infinite in which state the last activity of ego goes voluntarily, effortlessly. This is the beginning of inner freedom and the sweetness of silence.

In meditation all the complications that the ego weaves, drop away, that is: the network of complexities as well as all the inhibitions fade. At present the mental energy in its totality has no opportunity to function properly since the ego is dividing and pulling it in so many directions. In meditation the mind is completely silent as it is not moving in any direction because the ego is in abeyance. The usefulness in meditation then, is although the mind has all the talents and capacities intact, yet there is a total cessation of mental activity. This means energy which divides into contradictory desires, conflicting intentions, and scattered into various directions, comes back to its original source. This is something with which we can readily experiment, when we practice meditation.

THE EFFECT OF MEDITATION

Every thought or feeling disturbs or gives a jerk to the whole chemistry of the body, but when we are in meditation there is perfect rhythm which means the digestive process, the glandular and the nervous system all are in a harmonious state, thereby the biological and psychological processes are beautifully synthesized.

We live in a world full of stressful situations and to run away from stress is to run away from life. *By changing our mental responses we can easily learn to manage mental confusion because virtually all psychological stress comes from the rush and hurry of a frantic mind which jumps recklessly to unwarranted conclusions, rushes to judgements.*

Such a mind subjects the body to continual stress because it is always on the move, desiring, worrying and fearing. Simply by slowing down the mind -- the first purpose of meditation -- much of this kind of stress can be removed from life.

As long as there is a division in consciousness between like and dislike, that division itself will be a breeding ground for frustration, insecurity and anxiety. As a matter of fact, psychosomatic studies have shown how often they cause most damaging physical diseases and unhappiness.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE WAY WE REACT

It is not so much the particular event or circumstance that brings on an attack of anxiety; it is the **significance we ascribe to that event**, the way we react to it in our own mind, that triggers anxiety or tension and brings on the attack.

We can attain real freedom by transcending our mind which is limited and conditioned by various factors. Meditation is the correct method to contact the Cosmic Consciousness. Without understanding the very structure of the mind it is impossible to go beyond the mind, because the movement of the mind which functions within the limitation of psychological time brings fear and deception.

The meditative awareness increases the capacity to understand the totality of the mind; then there is freedom and divine bliss. Philosophically speaking, there is only the eternal present

and there is neither past nor future. So long as the ego is there -- it creates fear or frustration. The element of fear is introduced by the ego when it thinks about the future or when the mind dwells in the past. The best way to overcome the fear of insecurity is to observe the movement of the mind through meditative awareness. Then the agitation of the mind stops as the ending of the activity of the mind is the beginning of the sweet state of silence and serenity. Till we reach the state of internal silence we cannot be liberated from the influence of fear -- which always brings sorrow and misery.

HALF-LIVING Nowadays, man has lost the charm and beauty of living totally every moment, because in life he passes through half-lived experiences. Therefore, the challenges of life are half-met and half-resolved. Obviously, challenges unmet and the tension unresolved, go down to his subconscious mind and torture him -- as every experience which is not lived totally, brings various psychological complications. Fragmentation of attention is the main cause for all misery and sorrow in life. Hence, the aim of meditation is the complete integration of the human being.

When the psycho-physical energy of man is directed by enlightened intelligence something wonderful happens and he experiences bliss and harmony in his relationship. Meditation does not mean a state of oblivion nor is it a condition of stupor. Meditation is possible, when there is no thought interference which means, psychologically, the mind becomes a witness to thought activity.

In meditation there is cessation of the variations of the mind, then mind becomes calm and serene and in that silence there is no agitation of any kind, no stir mars the perfect stillness. In meditation the feeling of separation vanishes, the ego barrier is dissolved and transcended. True spirituality is harmonious and holistic living, free from greed, ambition and competition. To live a life of freedom is the aim of meditation, because man is born to live a perfect life.

ONE'S THOUGHTS ARE THE CAUSE OF UNHAPPINESS *The major obstacles to man's liberation and total transformation are memory, habit and attachment to fixed ideas/images.* In order to understand the nature of ourselves, it is necessary to focus our attention on the working of our mind. With a view to having this self-knowledge, the mind must be aware of itself from moment to moment, its own movements, urges, motives and operation of psychological memory. If the mind can be aware of all that within itself, then there is a possibility of being free from all conditioning and misery.

When one realises that it is one's thoughts that cause the unhappiness, then there is the right foundation, the correct starting point for investigation which means that for the first time one becomes wholly responsible for one's own sorrow and **NOT SOMETHING EXTERNAL**. At this stage, what is immediately meaningful and relevant is, one should unceasingly enquire into various activities and psychological reactions of the mind with ever increasing attention. This method of carefully watching the origin and the end of each thought will give the capacity to probe into both conscious and

unconscious mind and thereby not to get entangled in thoughts.

There is in man an inherent urge to grow, develop and expand because each soul is potentially divine. The importance of spiritual discipline cannot be neglected, because the development of life truly means the cultivation of calmness of mind. Man's achievements in various fields are but the manifestations of this inner attainment. He who is master of his mind is capable of entering into the ocean of the Infinite.

THE KEY TO SELF-MASTERY

Although the real freedom is within us it has to be rediscovered by persistent effort in the right direction despite repeated failures. The secret of every great achievement lies in devoting one's life in the art of meditation in an atmosphere of freedom, fearlessness and solitude.

The key to self-mastery consists in discriminating the real from the unreal.

The more a person is aware of his divine nature the greater his capacity to observe all his mental happenings in a detached way, as a witness, and thereby he is in tune with the Infinite. Do you remember what Saint-Martin said? PLEASE RE-READ LECTURES #86 & 87, IN LIBER 24.

Better life, happier life, peaceful life, all these are products of the personal discovery of Truth. Life is new at each moment and therefore, one must live in the living present by dropping the dead past so that we can enjoy the beauty of meditation and for which one should be totally open, spotlessly pure, absolutely frank and fully receptive. A delicate, sensitive and silent mind when combined with a tender heart has a divine quality to comprehend the contents of consciousness and the immediate condition of the psyche.

THE CAUSE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL CONFLICT

The human mind is constantly exposed to a variety of stimuli both internal and external and these stimuli acting through various sense organs, cause an incessant series of changes in the subconscious mind. Some of these fluctuations appear to be pleasing while others are painful and these sensations invariably create a mental tension which disturbs the equilibrium of the mind. It is apparent that our attachment to pleasure and aversion to pain, are the real cause of the psychological conflict.

Although science and technology have piled comfort upon comfort, yet we can see in the present day greater and greater incidence or neurosis and psychosomatic illness and a large number of problems arising from psychological maladjustments. One of the most acute problems of our society is indeed the problem of strained human relationships, because man seems to have lost the art of living together peacefully.

Man has continuously been engaged and primarily concerned with the search for happiness. Yet the happiness that most of us are searching for cannot be had in sensual pleasures, because one's

miseries and moods of depression simply stem from the persistent pursuit of wrong and unreal excitements. What the scientists have been trying to prove nowadays on an experimental basis has been intuitively perceived by sages and they went further and declared from their own intuitive experience that what we call the individual soul is only a part of the Cosmic Being or Absolute Reality. In other words, each soul is like a wave and is only a part of the ocean of Infinity.

THE AIM OF MEDITATION The beauty and bliss of oneness of microcosm and macrocosm can be experienced in deep, silent meditation. Unless a man rises above the allurements of his senses he cannot expect substantial progress and development on the spiritual path. The lifting up of the mind to the realm of divinity is the aim of meditation.

The seeker who knows that all life is one in essence treats all living things with reverence and respect. For him, service is love in action, and he derives the greatest satisfaction in sharing his knowledge, understanding and spiritual energy with others. To lead a spiritual life, one must have the divine quality of fearlessness; so that one can face all difficulties and problems boldly.

To establish inner harmony through self-discipline is very important as otherwise there is the possibility of deviating from the central aim of meditative awareness. It is very essential for the aspirant to dedicate his life not only in the service of humanity, but also in liberating himself from the limitation of his mind so that he is quite capable of experiencing the sweetness of meditation.

Love is purely a divine attribute and the perfume of love can be enjoyed only when a seeker transcends his mental realm to the state of Cosmic Consciousness. To live in that state of Infinitude one must discard all the petty desires and purify his heart so that the spiritual energy can be generated for the spiritual elevation of humanity.

Although our physical bodies and minds are limited and conditioned, the soul is capable of Infinite expansion and can become one with the Cosmic Consciousness through the practice of meditation because, to state it picturesquely again, each soul is a part of the ocean of Infinity. There is a direct and intimate relationship between the individual part, and the Cosmic whole, and it is the awareness of that relationship that is the foundation of the spiritual life.

SOUL THE CORE OF THE PERSONALITY The soul is the core of the personality and it is the center around which the whole personality is to be integrated. If we wish to make spiritual life natural and

continuous we should attain harmonious integration of personality, because in many people, their emotions go one way, intellect goes another, and action follows a third course.

As a matter of fact, spiritually is neither an emotion, a reasoning, nor an action. It is something directly connected with Divinity and in which state the mind is free from all superficial impositions, conditioning and ego distortions.

REAL MEDITATION Real meditation consists in the passive and choiceless observation of one's thoughts and feelings from moment to moment. In this state of watching the thought process one makes no attempt whatsoever to interfere with the psychological reaction towards people, events, situations, ideas and so forth. Actually, it is an unprejudiced observation of the mind in the sense that there is no repression or condemnation. This makes the possibility of allowing the contents of the subconscious and unconscious desires to get exposed and transcended. When the noise of the petty mind has been silenced, when the death of the ego and the psychological past has taken place, when the clamour of the senses has ceased, only then occurs the full flowering of divine love, compassion and freedom.

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QUESTIONS

- 1) What is it that triggers an attack of anxiety?
- 2) Why is it important to understand how the mind works?
- 3) What is the real cause of unhappiness?
- 4) What is the effect of meditation?
- 5) Define "Real Meditation".

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ARE YOU AN AMBASSADOR OF THE LIGHT ?

The world is going through very trying times.

Please recall the aims and hopes of the F.U.D.O.S.I. as expressed by Emperor Hiéronymus and be an active Agent of the Light.

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Please try to lead them to the door of the College.

FRATERNITAS ROSÆ CRUCIS

Rome London
& New York



No 4

“SEED”

I had planted thee a noble vine, WHOLLY A RIGHT SEED: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me?

Jeremiah ii, 21.



IN the words of this text, the Most High is assumed to be speaking to Israel thru the mouth of his chosen Prophet Jeremiah, one of the major Prophets to whom religious and secular historians of all the intervening ages have agreed in ascribing or imputing the Divine Gift of Inspiration, and therefore the words are invested with a peculiar importance and authority.

Israel is being admonisht for having fallen far below the standard set by the original law-givers Moses and Aaron, and furthermore for having succumbed to the materialism even of that remote period.

The message is at once direct and indirect.

Directly it is to Israel. Indirectly it is to the whole human family of all ages and in this understanding it contains the explanation of many theological and even cosmic mysteries and uncertainties.

First, it contains the proof of the teaching, given in all due reverence, that even the God of our concepts is not perfect, for perfection would imply a state of finality, completeness, cessation of action and therefore the end of evolution and progress; a state in which the subject subsisted and existed solely within, upon, by and for itself, and this would mean but one thing—ultimate non-existence.

Second, it gives us an acceptable explanation of the traditions of ancient mythos, such as the Flood, wherein humanity was destroyed because of its imperfections, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the

destruction of races, continents and civilizations, and the fact that Humanity fosters races which are now known to occultists as physical forms of previous higher phases of evolution

Third, and above all, it is a demonstration to us direct, via the inspirational utterances of a Divinely chosen and commissioned Prophet, of the Rosicrucian teaching of the emanation and growth of Humanity from specific definite SEED, seed which was "wholly right" at the beginning, but for the improper cultivation of which, Humanity, as a faulty gardener, is being called to account.

It has been taught in our Hermetic series that the SOUL of Men and of Metals is IDENTICAL. And we are further taught by St. Paul (1 Cor. xv, 38) that "every seed has his own body." Previously we have called attention to this notable word "his" in this sentence, which has so been overlookt by scholars that much misunderstanding has resulted. Ordinarily the word to have used would have been "Its own body." The word "his", used instead means the Body of God, true to the teachings of Alchemy, in which St. Paul was undoubtedly well verst.

If, therefore, God gives HIS own body to every seed, then it is true that we are made in the Image of God and it is equally true that every living thing known to Man is also in the Image of God; in other words, God is incarnate in every department of the Kingdoms of Life and the words of our Creed are more fruitful of meaning to us when we affirm our belief in an Infinite Intelligence, "Omniscient ,Omnific and Omnipotent."

We cannot sow corn and reap wheat. We cannot plant daisies and gather lilies. If God gives to every seed His own Body, then we have a scientific demonstration that the Laws of Nature are of Divine Origin and foreintent, for it is the first Law of Nature that ALL species shall develop true to type, each subsequent developmental phase marking a distinct advance, and if it fails to make this advance while running true to type, it is because some condition has been permitted to interfere and frustrate the original Divine Plan, and, in the case of Humanity, we have previously found that such is possible by the erroneous exercise of what we assert is our own "Free-Will."

The flower pluckt must be the product of the species resultant from a given seed sown. Soul is the product of Man. Soul is the product extracted by the Threefold Spirit from the Threefold Body of Man. But if the SOUL of Men and of Metals is identical, then Men and Metals must have originated from one primal Seed, and the intervening Kingdoms and their multiform types of expression are not to be considered as departures from the purity of the original Seed but Variations expressing the differentiated steps of progress that lie between.

This being assumed, we should expect to find in man not simply the common group of well-known metals and minerals ordinarily ascribed or accredited to him by physiology, but ALL those known at present to chemical science and ALL those that remain to be discovered as well. Rosicrucianism asserts that such is the case. Science is, step by step, confirming it, for while it is well known that iron is an essential constituent of the blood, it is only recently that in some animal types copper is found in considerable quantities instead, and this has been proved true even in the cases of some human examples.

Iodin has been found in the thyroid gland, manganese is widespread, and minute quantities of arsenic characterize the components of the organic tissues of several cases. Bromin and Chlorin are now also considered as constituents of normal tissue. So science proves what Alchemy has taught.

The Life Principle in all Seed is intensely virile. From a few microscopic cells of the living tissue of a chick's heart Dr. Carrel arranged nearly *two decades ago*, living connective tissue has reproduced itself thru hundreds of generations, each portion doubling itself in size every 24 hours.

From the primal incarnation of the Life Principle it goes on and on thru the ages expressing in multiform types, each family group true to type. Gold and Radium are but the higher polarities of the lower and basic metals. The giant Sequoias of California are but the vegetable analogies and correspondences to the dinosaurs and gigantic reptilia, Triassic and Jura Triassic in Mesozoic Time. Man is the highest polarity of the anthropoid and the monkey its lowest.

Man is the epitomized incarnation of all the preceding Kingdoms. Nowhere do we find the Divinity thru His chosen messengers condemning the types of the preceding Kingdoms. Each species therein runs true to type, but developing differentiations as indications of progress. It is with the Human Family that the questioning complaint is uttered, I PLANTED THEE A NOBLE VINE, A WHOLLY RIGHT SEED, WHEREFORE ART THOU TURNED INTO A DEGENERATE PLANT OF A STRANGE VINE UNTO ME? In other words, why has Humanity degenerated from its original lofty estate and status and become a *strange* type, i.e., something other and not as Divinity intended it should be?

The answer is also to be found in Hermetic Science in the Principle of Mentalism. The Hermetic teaching is that of the Absolute Unity. Separateness means error, diffusion, disintegration, scattering. So long as Man was content to remain in the perfect Unity with Divinity, he was incapable of his subsequent errors and departures. Man was originally a thought of God. He was a concrete idea in the Divine Mind. As long as he remained so he was essentially Divine and the Unity was unbroken. Humanity is Divinity thinking Itself into manifestation. But when Humanity grew restless in this Divine Unity and partook of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and gave itself up to sensuous existence, then it ceased temporarily to be WHOLLY Divine, WHOLLY A RIGHT SEED, and began to think for itself; assert the exercise of its own Free-will prerogative, and departed from its strict adherence to type and became a degenerate plant of a strange vine unto its Creator and Author.

This brings us directly to the point that concerns us most as occultists. The real issue is the *Thought Seed*, not the physical seed. Physically, in spite of its wide departure from the original laws as formulated after the *Exodus*, the seed of Israel remained and has remained intensely virile, as witness the activity of the Hebraic Race in all subsequent epochs of the world's history, even tho distributed and scattered all over the known world.

The Seed of Thought is what concerns Humanity principally. We all know what is meant by the term—"the germ of an idea." It is the Thought Seed regarding a specific impulse which may be concreted into any one of several distinct manifestations, either as an action, an invention, a theory, hypothesis, a doctrine or a law.

The Seed of an idea or thought implanted grows. We can and often do, watch it take root, grow and develop. It may bear good fruit or it may bear evil fruit; all depending upon the time, place and soil, mentally, in which it is implanted. The seed may be wholly right, but, implanted in the wrong soil it may bring forth fruits disastrous to the community.

Such we see in medical science and the science of bacterial organisms. For instance, take the dread scourge cancer; by some re-

searchers it is believed to be simply a case of misplaced seed, seed sown in the wrong place or soil, growing true to type but in the wrong environment. In this concept it is regarded as the transplantation or migration of perfectly good and normal cells, into foreign territory in the human organism, where they reproduce unrestrained by the environment of the proper location and so work confusion in the normal processes of the body.

So it is with the Seed of Thought. The seed of a perfectly brilliant and wonderful mathematical concept sown in the mind of a perverted mental genius may produce a Master Safe-breaker, while in the well balanced and equilibrated mentalism of another it may produce an Einstein.

By proper chemical nutriment we can develop perfectly good and wholly right seeds into black roses, green carnations and chrysanthemums combining a veritable riot of color. It was the same with the case of the Safe-breaker previously mentioned. The seed was wholly right, the mental soil fertile, but the nourishment that soil afforded produced a degenerate plant of a strange vine, far from being true to type except in external manifestations and application.

If we seek to produce hybrid vegetation, that is wholly within the power of those who prefer the artificial and unnatural to the natural and comparatively perfect. But to guard against the implantation of the Seed of Thought in undesirable soil is not within our power, and the Master recognized this Himself when he said, "let the wheat and the tares grow together until the harvest", lest in uprooting the tares, we also uproot the wheat. And this is the rule we are bound to follow in our present stage of evolution, letting the Seed of Truth and the Seed of Thought grow alike in the prepared and the unprepared, until the time of harvest which will be the demands of Karma for closing accounts.

The question asked of Israel over two thousand years ago is equally applicable to ALL Humanity today. All humanity, is, to some extent, a degenerate plant of a strange vine, far different from what it was Divinely intended to be. It is undoubtedly passing thru phases of development which, under the conditions imposed by the Knowledge of Good and Evil, are absolutely necessary, but it is also for this reason that schools and cults exist for the purpose of guiding the steps of those who realize this condition, back to the Path that leads straight to attainment of the Unity lost long ago.

There is a very special mystery connected with this concept of Seed as inculcated by the Rosicrucian teachings. The mystery is of a dual nature.

1st, it has to do with what is called the "Birth of the Christ Within" or "Living the Christ Life."

2nd, it has to do with Death.

We will consider the latter aspect first.

St. Paul says,—(1 Cor. xv, 36) in answer to what some would consider a very natural inquiry,—"Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened EXCEPT IT DIE."

Herein is mystery. What is it that dies? If the life passes or could pass in the sense of being annihilated, then there could be no future existence, growth or development. But this cannot be, for we have learned, as Rosicrucian students, that all Life is the Activity of God and God is a static condition quantitatively. He cannot be added to nor taken from. Therefore there can be no annihilation of Life, even the smallest modicum.

It is the physical body or corpus of what we term the seed that dies, dying or death meaning simply the disintegration of the outer physical envelope of anything. But why is it necessary for this physical body of the seed to die or disintegrate? Many good people have an idea that in the physical body or substance of the seed are latent the potentialities of the future plant, vine or organism. If this were true, then by analysis, we could establish the exact quantitative and qualitative chemical components and relations and produce the ultimate results by laboratory method without awaiting the longer processes of Nature.

And if we could do this with the vegetable, we could do it with the organic tissue of animal life and generations of researchers to come undoubtedly could produce an automatic semblance of human species—souless of course.

The inability to do this has been the primal cause of the failure of scientists to produce life artificially by laboratory method thus far. They have indeed been able to fertilize artificially some low forms of organic matter, but they have not *produced life*, they have merely provided artificially a vehicle for the life already there to express itself.

The corpus of the physical seed then dies. Its individual substance has nothing to do with the substance, form and matter of the future growth resultant from it. In other words, the physical corpus or body of the seed is simply a matrix or mould which contains—not only Life itself—but the Life ensouling, vitalizing and vivifying **THE DIVINE IDEA OF THE PLANT OR ORGANISM TO BE.**

So no matter if the physical corpus of the seed does die, the **LIVELY IDEA** released therefrom will work its way upward thru the earth to the Light, assuming the form, developing the structure and producing blossom and fruit according to the Concreted Thought Form enshrined in the former matrix and stimulated into manifestation by the Life which ensouled it.

This concept is easy to understand. It is simply the analogy which every worker in plaster or metal can supply. After producing the masterpiece of art which was first formulated in the mind of its Creator, a matrix must be made, from which many casts or reproductions can be taken, each exactly like the original, true to type in every detail because made from the **WHOLLY RIGHT SEED** of the original idea manifested.

Man, by his superior development beyond the lower departments of Nature, is able to make many reproductions of the original idea from one matrix or corpus. Nature, by her slower methods can make but one structure from one seed, but each structure in compensation is prolific in producing seed. Yet, in the finer works of human artisanship, the original matrix must be broken away, disintegrated or caused to die before we can get at the fine result hidden away within its recesses.

So the body of the seed must die, whether it be the seed of men or of metals.

Now this being a **FACT** in Nature, it must hold true all thru Nature's domain which includes the invisible worlds that are just as much a part of Nature's domain as the visible.

It is true therefore with the Seed of Thought. The body of the seed must die. This seems a strange paradox that Thought which seems a part of Life itself must experience any form or phase of death in order to take root, grow and flourish. What **IS** the body of a Thought?

The physical body or corpus of Thought is the vehicle by which Thought is conveyed. It may be speech, it may be a picture or it may

be a mental visualization stimulated or inspired from without or developed from within the individual receiving it.

This corpus of the Seed of Thought must die and DOES die. We can observe it any day of our lives. Conceive an idea. Formulate it carefully for expression. Then convey it to a chosen subject, properly clothed in the body of speech. Note;—the words will make a TEMPORARY IMPRESSION which will not be lasting. In a very short time thereafter few subjects would be able to repeat the exact words without variation.

But the IDEA or THOUGHT you desired to convey WILL STILL BE THERE. The Body of the Thought Seed,—speech—has died; disintegrated and passed from mind, BUT THE THOUGHT IS GROWING and in some cases the rapidity of its growth will amaze even the most experienced investigator.

We can all of us recall instantly the impression made and the IDEA gained from some picture or pictures which we may have seen years ago, tho we cannot place the artist or even remember where or when we saw the picture and in some cases we cannot even call to mind the picture itself, but WE KNOW THAT ONCE WE DID SEE SOMETHING THAT GAVE US SUCH AND SUCH AN IDEA.

To pursue this particular development of the concept farther, would necessitate an exegesis of the realm of the sub-conscious which is not our present purpose, for it is the sub-conscious mental powers that form the soil in which the germ ideas and thoughts take root, grow and develop into the fruitage which later expresses thru the conscious faculties.

To go back to our classifications, we noted that the 1st had to do with what is so often called the "Birth of the Christ Within".

In the same writing of St. Paul we find the lines (1 Cor. xv, 20) which read,—“But NOW is Christ RISEN FROM THE DEAD, and become the first fruits of them that slept”.

This passage is in use in nearly all funeral and requiem rituals and is undoubtedly most appropriate therefor and it is taken theologically as a proof of the material resurrection after the Tragedy on Golgotha.

Herein is the other mystery, altho it should not be one difficult to comprehend for Rosicrucian students in view of their earlier teachings in the Fundamentals of our Philosophy. Jesus and Christ were two distinctly separate individuals. One a Human, the other a purely Spiritual Being. In the first place, Jesus did not actually die on the Cross but is known to Initiates as having lived for several years thereafter as the Great Philosopher known as Simon Magus, and a study of the writings of this Sage will substantiate the teaching. In the second place, Christ, being pure Spirit, and the Highest Initiate of the World Periods to function upon our Earth, could not possibly die or be killed.

But something MUST have died, for it is explicitly stated that NOW is Christ RISEN FROM THE DEAD and become the firstfruits of *THEM THAT SLEPT*.

Who are they who slept? ALL HUMANITY, SINCE HUMANITY BECAME A DISTINCT SPECIES, made in the Image of God.

From the time since Mankind relinquish his purely spiritual existence and the companionship of the Gods and chose a completely material form of manifestation, IT HAS SLEPT AND FOR THE MOST PART IS *STILL SLEEPING* in the illusory existence of the senses AND SO IT HAS BECOME A DEGENERATE PLANT OF A *STRANGE VINE*, unto God.

But by the transmutation effected in the corpus of the Man Jesus, the Cosmic Seed of Materialistic and Sensuous Thought was destroyed or caused to die by the Christos which had ensouled it for this very purpose of death. Then did the Christos RISE from this dead seed to become the first fruits of them that slept in sensualism. This included all those members of the human family prior to the coming of the Christos because all of them have had and are having subsequent incarnations, enabling them to partake of the same great privilege.

The "Birth of the Christ Within" each individual takes place as soon as the Christ can Rise from the Dead in each; in other words rise from the dead body of material and sensuous illusion and crystallization, and there is no other way, either by ceremonial or magic to produce this result and blessing.

Every individual member of the human species will remain a degenerate plant of a strange vine until this inner death or disintegration of the illusion of sense takes place within and the Christ is born or rises from the corpus of wrong Thought and this is the esoteric meaning of the Rosicrucian symbol of the Phoenix, rising from the ashes.

How can we as occult students bring this ecstatic state to pass in our individual lives?

First of all, by keeping in mind that it is our duty to seek only the higher things and then to seek equally in earnest the invisible cause of all visible effects, for such a search will take us into the inner realms of being and Nature. The best way to kill off a plant or any kind of growth is to deprive it of the nourishment on which it thrives.

If that nourishment in our individual lives is material gain, physical pleasure and the satisfaction of the senses alone, then we can cause the death of the Seed of illusory thought by relinquishing them. If our only contact with the other side of life or our guidance therefrom is sought by running to mediums, soothsayers, fortune tellers and the materialistic class of astrologers, then we shall make little advance indeed and no TRUE advance in any sense of the word. Seekers and worshippers of phenomena must depend upon the superficial satisfaction afforded thereby and will always be conscious of an interior disappointment and lack of the real sense of comfort and happiness that comes only from the exercise of their own inherent powers; powers that can be developed ONLY by hard, personal, individual, conscientious effort, despite the claims of charlatans to the contrary and we await a single instance of proof to the contrary.

When we have caused the death of this Seed of Illusory Thought, we shall realize the sublime truth contained in the lines—

"So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.

Mankind, when he became mankind instead of a purely spiritual being came under the laws of Nature and was therefore at first a Natural Man. On his awakening, he will regain his lost estate and become a Spiritual Man, and this is the esoteric truth of the saying that is written;—

Howbeit, that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which IS spiritual."

By cultivating the Seed of Illusory Thought we have corruption, dishonour, weakness and the unrestrained exercise of the purely natural

faculties, and to effect some degree of control over that which man KNOWS to be erroneous and a wrongful estate, he has attempted all thru the ages to control his fellow men by the formulation of laws which are based on an attempt to execute justice, but which every one knows fail of their purpose because fundamentally they are formulated by minds deeply embedded in error.

Mankind at present is a degenerate plant of a strange vine, because, altho grown from a WHOLLY RIGHT SEED, he has nourisht his spiritual faculties on the illusions of Matter and material conditions. Mankind therefore, is at present a hybrid growth, not true to type; an anachronism in Nature. Like some of the strange creations of horticulturists, he still bears the *Image* of his Creator but has departed from the Law of Conformity to type and consequently bears a fruitage not in accordance with the Seed from which he sprung.

Mankind is at present the Black Rose of Cosmos. The Red Rose with the beautiful symbolism known to Rosicrucian students, epitomizes the Creative Activity on the true lines of conformity to perfect spiritual type and Obedience to the Laws of Nature which are the Laws of God in manifestation. But, like the rose, nourisht and cultured under false, unnatural and artificial conditions to produce the rarity so highly prized by those who are ever unsatisfied with Nature's own products, mankind has nourisht his spiritual perceptions and inner vehicles with sense illusion until instead of the Red Rose of Comparative Perfection, he is the Black Rose of artificial and erroneous culture.

We CAN regain the status of the Red Rose, our time honored symbol, if we eschew the illusions of sense, and cultivate the perception of Reality; strive for At-One-ness with the Over-Soul and by constant and unflinching effort to attain the inner spheres of knowledge, put ourselves in touch with the Great *Original* of the Picture of Life, instead of being content with the evanescent shadow and reflected image thereof, highly colored and apparently pleasing tho it may be.

The best guide to this process is the incomparable Sermon on the Mount, than which no better guide for the spiritual progress and development of Man has ever been given in any age. It applies to all creeds, cults or schools of thought. It is the code by which the Master Himself was governed while he was the special vehicle of the Christos and it is so simple that a child can put it in practice. We can safely relegate all subsequent systems of philosophy if we devote ourselves with singleness of purpose to this one brief but all inclusive teaching, a teaching which is the essence of our Rosicrucian system and the surest guide to the attainment of the Philosopher's Stone.

Some cults teach that tho we must incarnate, nevertheless each life is something to be lived as rapidly as possible so that the end of incarnation can be more quickly reached. We do not need to expedite our mortal lives for any such purpose. The end of involuntary incarnation will come when we cause the death of the Seed of Illusory Thought within us, and permit the Christos to Rise from the Dead and become our individual first fruit, after the sleep of ages of spiritual darkness.

