

The Mystic Light

The Rosicrucian Fellowship

The Rosicrucian Fellowship is a movement for the dissemination of a definite, logical, and sequential teaching concerning the origin, evolution, and future development of the world and man, showing both the spiritual and scientific aspects. The Rosicrucian Philosophy gives a reasonable solution to all mysteries of life. It is entirely Christian, but presents the Christian teachings from a new viewpoint, giving new explanations of the truth which creeds may have obscured.

Our motto is: A SANE MIND, A SOFT HEART, A SOUND BODY.

The Bible in the Light of the Rosicrucian Teachings

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(IN TWO PARTS—PART ONE)



THESE are the days in which religion is being subjected to great stress and strain and critical examination by all classes of society. Therefore it is well to examine our religion to determine exactly what the proofs are which sustain it. The Rosicrucian Philosophy is a Christian Philosophy and in reality is esoteric Christianity. The Rosicrucians endorse every part of the Bible. In addition they are able to correlate the teachings of the Bible with the fundamentals of occult or metaphysical science and therefore adduce additional proof of the soundness and correctness of the Bible doctrines.

The age of faith seems to be passing to a certain extent and the age of knowledge is being ushered in. More and more people are becoming unable to accept religious doctrines from the standpoint of blind faith and more and more are demanding knowledge in support of those doctrines. One only has to observe the decreased church attendance in many parts of the country to have the proof of this. Therefore it is to our advantage to meet this condition and present all possible proof. The Rosicrucians have the key to the Christian Scriptures and therefore the Rosicrucian Philosophy

supports and supplements the doctrines of the Christian church.

How do the Rosicrucians arrive at their knowledge of these things? The answer is that man possesses a sixth sense which has been developed in the case of some but lies latent in the majority. This sixth sense in reality constitutes a form of modern seership. When we say seership we do not mean mediumship nor spiritualism. The Rosicrucians condemn mediumship as being a negative and dangerous form of development. There is a positive development of the sixth sense, however, which enables its possessor to penetrate the veil which separates the physical plane from the higher ethereal, spiritual planes and observe and hear what is going on there. This is true modern seership. This is the source of the esoteric information which the Rosicrucians are giving out today and which they have carefully preserved in their archives for centuries. There is such a thing as the Memory of Nature, called in some systems of philosophy the Akashic records. This Memory of Nature is inscribed in the substance of the higher or spiritual regions and by a properly qualified seer can be read exactly as is a book, or rather can be observed as in the case of a moving picture, because everything in the Memory of

Nature is inscribed by a series of pictures or impressions. This Memory of Nature is the record which the Rosicrucians consulted in obtaining the information which they are giving out today.

Let us examine some of the more prominent doctrines of the Christian church and compare them with the Rosicrucian version of the same subject in order that we may observe the parallel between the two and observe how the Rosicrucian doctrine reinforces and supplements those of the church.

The first subject which we will touch upon is that of evolution. This subject is a sore point with the church people in many places, because the statements of physical science on the subject of evolution so radically contradict the basic conceptions of religion, therefore the churchman is often unable to accept the scientific dictums on this subject. In beginning let us state that the scientific version of evolution is only one-half the truth. The other half depends upon superphysical vision which physical science does not possess; therefore the church is quite right in rejecting the deductions of physical science in totality.

The Rosicrucians endorse the stand of the church and also endorse the findings of physical science as far as that fifty per cent goes but no further. The facts of the case are these: Man is a spirit basically. He is a part of God and as a part of God he is eternal. He did not arise and take his origin from protoplasm or from any of the lower kingdoms. Man never was a monkey. He never was an ape; he never was a plant or an animal. Man has always been a spirit, differentiated within God, not created but differentiated, which is merely another way of saying the same thing.

Science, having no spiritual vision and observing only the material aspect of the problem has come to the conclusion

that man probably in the beginning was but protoplasm and gradually worked his way up through mineral, plant, and animal kingdoms, at least the animal kingdom, until he reached his present state. Science is wrong in this basic concept. It is right, however, as regards the evolving or evolution of man's form or body. Man's bodies or the series of bodies which he has inhabited during the long course of evolution have come up from protoplasm. They have passed through stages which were mineral-like, plant-like, and animal-like. But man himself, the spirit, has never been any of these things and never will be. Thus we see that the Rosicrucians are able to harmonize science with the church, showing that each has

half the truth and the two parts together constitute a harmonizing whole.

The spirit through aeons of time since the great day of manifestation has been slowly involving itself into matter, building for itself vehicles of increasing power and facility. Parallel with the involution of spirit into matter has gone the evolution of form or body, by

which the forms or bodies have gradually improved until we find man occupying the highly evolved physical body with which we are all familiar. When man started to involve into matter that is, to encase himself into matter, his first state of consciousness after it was dulled by the encasing material was that of the mineral, although he never was a mineral. Aeons later his consciousness advanced to the stage of the plant as we know plants today. Finally he reached the animal stage of consciousness, and still later the full human stage of consciousness, but throughout all these stages man has been at all times the eternal spirit, merely improving his vehicles and increasing his consciousness in them.

The anthropoids are a good example of this matter. The spirits inhabiting the anthropoid apes were originally a

*And I will trust that He
who heeds
The life that hides in mead
and wold,
Who hangs yon alder's
crimson beads,
And stains these mosses
green and gold,
(Concluded on next page)*

part of the human life wave but some millions of years ago in that period of time spoken of as the Lemurian Epoch, the spirits which now ensoul the anthropoids began to straggle backward instead of keeping up with the human life wave. They continued to straggle and go backward in evolution, or at least not progress in evolution until they have finally reached their present status, that of the anthropoid. They are in reality a degenerate branch of humanity. They constitute a severe object lesson to the rest of humanity that we must perform our evolutionary work, otherwise we shall become stragglers and fall back into some state comparable with the anthropoids. Progress is forever onward and upward.

We must go forward or we shall retrograde and become stragglers.

The next subject which evolution naturally leads up to is that of rebirth. Is it not reasonable to suppose that man's progress up to his present status has been slow and gradual? Is it reasonable to believe that man was born originally into his present state and that there was no period of preparation and growth before? We know by looking around us that throughout all nature the processes of nature are gradual. There is nothing sudden to be found anywhere. The physical scientist knows this is true, therefore it is reasonable to suppose that man has had a long period of evolution behind him, far more than one earth life, or for that matter, a score of earth lives. The Rosicrucians affirm that this is the case. They affirm that the Memory of Nature shows this to be a fact. They tell us that this record shows that man has had hundreds of embodiments or incarnations on this earth. Rebirth is perfectly logical, perfectly natural, and it supplements all the other known facts of science and religion.

Moreover, the doctrine of rebirth is

not contrary to Bible doctrine. In fact it is supported by it in a few instances at least. For instance, in Matthew 11:14 Christ makes the statement that John the Baptist is Elias; that is, Elias reborn. Referring also to Matthew 16:14, Christ says, "Whom do men say I am?" His disciples replied, "Some say you are John the Baptist, some Elias, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." Christ did not contradict these statements. If they had been wrong as to the truth of rebirth it is reasonable to suppose that He would have straightened them out, but He let their statement stand, which is a reasonable proof that they were correct. In John 1:21, the Jewish priests who we know believed in rebirth said,

speaking to Christ, "Art Thou Elijah?" In another place in the Bible the passage occurs, "Be ye perfect even as your Father in Heaven is perfect." Christ would not have adjured humanity to be perfect as the Father in Heaven if He had not known it could be accomplished. It is ridiculous to suppose that a mere human being can be

perfect as the Father, therefore this presupposes a long period of evolution of many rebirths on earth before humanity can even remotely approach the spiritual status of the Father.

The person who has properly developed the sixth sense can prove this matter of rebirth for himself. He has the vision by which he can watch a child who dies before the age of fourteen. He can trace the passage of the spirit out of the body and into the spiritual region into which it goes. He can watch the spirit during the next few years and he can observe it being reborn again and reappearing upon the earth scene. When a child dies before the age of fourteen there is a provision in the economy of nature which requires that it shall be reborn within a few years in order to make up for the loss of experience which

*Will still, as He hath done,
incline
His gracious care to me
and mine;
Grant that we ask aright,
from wrong debar,
And, as the earth grows
dark, make brighter
every Star!*

—Whittier.

was caused by its dying so young. Thus a seer can watch a child in such a case as this and can prove for himself the reality of rebirth. Then he knows without a doubt that rebirth is a fact. The Rosicrucians affirm that it is.

Moreover, rebirth is the only fact which can account for the conditions of life as we see them around us. If it were not for rebirth it would be utterly impossible to account for the fact that some are born into conditions of wealth and luxury and affluence and others are born almost literally in the gutter. Such conditions would be utterly contrary to Christian principles of justice if there were no other factors in the case, but there are other factors in the case. These factors are that the individual who is born in the gutter, in a preceding life or lives has failed to live up to his possibilities. He may have lived a depraved life. He may have injured others. He may have failed to progress when he could and should have done so; thus he comes back into an environment, taking that which he has created for himself in preceding lives. Thus we see that the doctrine of rebirth is one of perfect justice. The individual who was born into a condition of affluence and luxury has earned those things by his preceding life or lives and therefore he now reaps what he has sown before. There is a basic law in nature, affirm the Rosicrucians, which says that no one can have or enjoy or keep anything in this universe which he does not create for himself, and the law of rebirth illustrates this perfectly.

The twin laws of rebirth and consequence, that is, cause and effect, are sufficient to explain all the conditions of life as we see them around us. We come back life after life, reaping through the law of consequence what we have sown in the past, and thus we are gradually working our way forward in evolution, to higher states of consciousness and spiritual power.

The next church doctrine we will examine in the light of the Rosicrucian teachings is the seven Bible days of crea-

tion. The question as to whether the earth was created in seven days or some other period of time has been the subject of thousands of arguments. The churchman says the Bible is literally true. Science says that each of these great days of creation actually was millions of years in length and that the Bible statement was not intended to be literal. What do the Rosicrucians say on this subject?

The Rosicrucians examine the records in the Memory of Nature and find that science in this case is correct. There were seven great periods of manifestation which the Bible has summarized and speaks of as days, but in this case the days are not those of twenty-four hours each, but are thousands or even millions of years in length. In the Rosicrucian terminology the first day of creation mentioned in Genesis is referred to as the Saturn Period. That is the period in which the earth as we know it was just beginning to arouse from a state of quiescence and to emerge from chaos preparatory to the regime of evolution which was to follow. The second day corresponds to the Sun Period, another period devoted to processes designed to carry the earth forward and bring it gradually to the point that it could be inhabited by human beings. Each of these periods covered millions of years. The third period is known as the Moon Period. The fourth day of creation corresponds to what the Rosicrucians call the Hyperborean Epoch of the Earth Period; the fifth day to the Lemurian Epoch; the sixth to the Atlantean and the seventh to the Aryan Epoch in which we are now living. The facts of geology are entirely in accordance with the record in the Memory of Nature, showing that these Biblical days of creation actually were something entirely different from twenty-four hours of duration. This is not contradicting the Bible at all; it is merely saying that the Bible was written in symbology and must be interpreted in the same sort of manner.

Adam and Eve we are told in the Bible were our first parents, and they lived

in the Garden of Eden. What do the Rosicrucians say about this? They say this was entirely true. That is, symbolically true. Adam and Eve according to the records in the Memory of Nature were not, however, just two single individuals. They represented collective humanity, male and female, as it has existed from the remote periods of evolution in the past. Moreover, there was a Garden of Eden. It was to be found in ancient Lemuria in which man lived in a state of adolescence, so to speak, experiencing great happiness and bliss as compared with the strenuous life of today. His consciousness at that time was focused in the spiritual realms which accounts for the fact that it was such an idyllic place.

In connection with Adam and Eve it was stated that Eve was taken from the rib of Adam and that she was created from the rib to be a helpmeet. The skeptics have found this a subject much to their liking. Is it true that woman was actually taken from a rib or is woman actually a reconstructed rib of man? The Memory of Nature or the Akashic records indicate that she was not taken from a rib but that she represents another side of man's nature. The ancient Hebrew language also confirms this. In the Hebrew language in which part of the Bible was written, the vowel points are frequently not put in, and according as they are inserted so does the meaning in many cases vary. The word for rib when the vowel points are inserted in a certain manner is *Tsad*. When the vowel points are inserted in a different way this word becomes *Tsal* which means "side" instead of "rib," and this latter interpretation is the correct one.

In ancient Lemuria at the time of the Garden of Eden it became necessary for man to begin the building of a brain and larynx because at that early stage he possessed neither, therefore at that time one-half of the creative force was turned upward. This necessitated the differentiation of the two sexes because previous to that time man had been bisexual;

hence one-half or one side of him was separated and incorporated in the female form in order that this matter of building a brain and larynx might proceed, and that was the origin of the rib theory. It is all quite reasonable when we know the occult or metaphysical facts.

Cain and Abel were Bible characters who were supposed to have lived a few thousand years ago according to some systems of Biblical chronology. It is stated that Cain killed Abel, and there is a long series of accounts in connection with these two characters. The skeptic is likely to question as to whether these two characters ever lived or not. What do the Rosicrucians say about this matter? They tell us that Cain and Abel were symbolic of two different classes of humanity and they do not represent two individuals. The Memory of Nature confirms this. Back in the beginning of human evolution when man was very primitive and simple compared with today humanity was divided into two basic groups or types and these are symbolized by Cain and Abel.

According to Rosicrucian tradition humanity originally was under the spiritual jurisdiction of Jehovah. At a certain stage (in Lemuria) Lucifer, the light bringer, together with his millions of Lucifer spirits, forced his way into the consciousness of primitive man and instilled the desire for a more rapid mental development than Jehovah had planned. Lucifer also instructed man in the use of the creative force in such a manner that it caused the rapid crystallization of man's vehicles.

Those members of the human race who remained loyal to the commands of Jehovah are now spoken of as the sons of Seth, who was traditionally born to Adam and Eve after the death of Abel. Those who became imbued with the spirit and surrendered to the influence of Lucifer are now spoken of as the sons of Cain. These two constitute the basic divisions of humanity and those divisions persist to the present day.

(To be concluded)