

RAYS 86

from the
Rose Cross

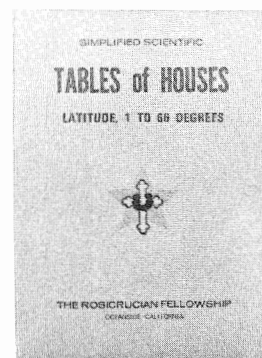
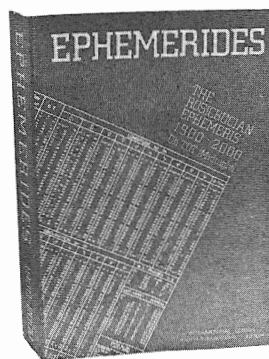
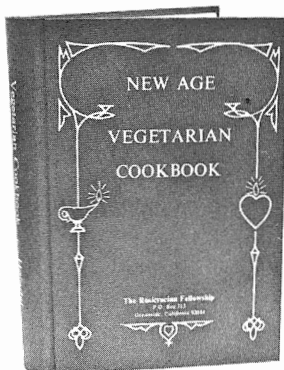
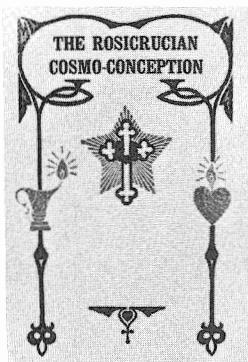
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*"A Sane Mind,
A Soft Heart,
A Sound Body"*



Feature

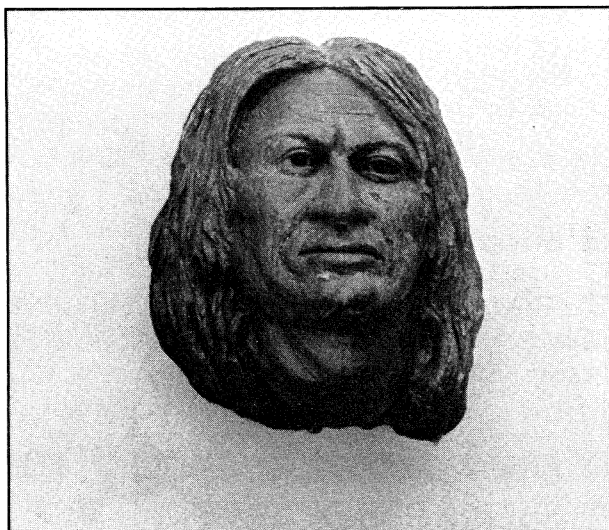
The Complex Being

Each life leaves its mark
As a guide for the future.
Building a foundation;
A structure of personal evaluation
Where-by one makes decisions, chooses friends
Appreciates this or that social level
Goes through each day
Different from his neighbor.

Today's attitude was yesterday's decision.
Today's hurt—yesterday's anger
Today's happiness is
The warmth you shared yesterday.
The law of Karma marks our physical path.
We travel at our own speed.
Time is non existent.
The goal is eternal.

As we advance we find
The complex nature easier to understand.
Instead of a "hit and miss" process
We are able to see our over-all purpose
Each segment put into perspective
Is helping to build a complete, substantial being;
An intricate part of humanity
Working toward the perfection of the whole.

—F.J. Houk



I Am What Men Call God

*I am not lonesome nor a part,
That you must think, lo there!
I am the All, emerged in all,
Be-hold me ev'ry-where.
I am the morning zephyr soft
While skipping o'er the lea;
I am the music of the brook
That flows on to the sea.*

*I am the kisses of the Sun,
I am the tears of rain;
I am the welcome breath of spring,
That brings new life again.
I am the sprouting of a seed,
The budding of a flower;
I am the beauty that you see,
Unfolding ev'ry hour.*

*I am the singing of the birds,
The rustling of the leaves;
I am the holy force of life,
In ev'rything that breathes.
I am the thrill of harmony,
You feel but cannot tell;
I am the firm, unchanging law
That worketh all things well.*

*I am the light that never fails,
The pow'r that never dies;
I am the still, small voice within
That bids the soul arise.
I am the fruit of highest thought;
I am the iron rod,
That strengthens and supports the whole,
I am what men call God.*

—O. Z. Hanish

Discovering Western Wisdom

The universe is God's great training school. In our particular part of this vast school we now are witnessing momentous happenings and changes which are causing an increased demand for a better understanding of the reason for existence.

You are an Ego, a Spirit spark from God and within your spiritual being lies all divine possibilities. You are made in the image and uniqueness of God, but the powers of the Ego as yet are only potential. In The Rosicrucian Fellowship Teachings a path is pointed out which leads to the unfoldment of divine qualities in a normal, natural way, and at the same time attunes your consciousness to the spiritual and material planes so that more harmony will be expressed in every phase of your life.

The function of this Teaching is to create an enlarged horizon, greater breadth of vision, more mature judgment, and greater self-control. The use of this knowledge will bring confidence in action, giving faith and courage to face life and its problems with the peace, poise, and confidence that are born of knowledge and understanding.

To the majority of people there is but one world, the dense physical globe on which we live. The super-physical worlds are not visible to the average individual because he has not yet developed the higher and finer senses which are necessary to contact them. These higher worlds are the worlds of cause, and a study of The Rosicrucian Fellowship Teachings will enable one to account satisfactorily for the visible manifestations seen in the physical world as well as to regulate his or her life so that more harmony and fullness will be expressed on all planes.

Invisible forces called natural laws govern physical substance. One by one science is discovering and studying these forces and harnessing them in the service of the human race. The lower kingdoms are brought under control and developed by these natural laws. Man, however, is more complicated and needs a scientific explanation of these spiritual laws underlying evolution.

In presenting these laws it is the purpose of The Rosicrucian Philosophy to:

- 1) Explain the hidden forces in life. By knowing what forces are at work within himself, man can make the best use of his present faculties.
- 2) Teach the purpose of evolution. This enables man to work in harmony with God's plan and to develop still unrecognized possibilities.
- 3) Show why service is the most direct path to spiritual perfection.

Affiliation with The Rosicrucian Fellowship is acquired by completing the twelve lessons of the Preliminary Philosophy Course based on *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception* by Max Heindel. By doing this one becomes a "Regular Student" and receives a monthly letter and lesson from headquarters. This monthly course does not require written answers, for the Student is expected to live his or her lessons through

self-improvement and service to others.

One of the most important qualities to be developed by the spiritual aspirant is "self-reliance." Thus, the Western Wisdom Teachings seek, from the very beginning, to emancipate the student from dependence upon others. In order to develop this quality, the student should not accept everything he or she sees or reads as an established fact without first investigating the truth contained therein.

It is this ability of discrimination and discernment that fits the aspirant for greater service to mankind since it aids one to be able to stand alone when faced with tests, temptations, and tribulations. Without this ability, one easily can be swayed when it comes time to prove his dedication to "living the life" of the true aspirant to higher knowledge.

God will not make His wisdom and power manifest to cowards so it is the ultimate goal of students of the Western Wisdom Teachings to develop the quality of "self-reliance" in order to be free from dependence on the thoughts and ideas of others. This can become a lifetime goal and quest for truth since nothing worth having ever comes without persistent effort and dedication. Since truth is not found once and forever, this quest for truth must be an eternal path of discovery and self-realization. Even though there are certain basic truths, they can be viewed from many sides providing the spiritual aspirant with a continual source for inspiration, study, and contemplation. □

—Editor

Letters to the Editor

Thank you for your wonderful magazine. I have only been a subscriber for a little more than a year, and can truthfully say that it has changed my life.

Please continue to publish your magazine on a monthly basis. I look forward with relish to my monthly copy of Rays.

I believe advertising would be ok, but, I think it should be confined to its own section. This would not detract from the wonderful flow of ideas and illustrations that I believe is one of the most attractive aspects of the Rays.

One other suggestion I would make is perhaps a page of cartoons or wit of some type, humor being an important part of life.

Thank you over again!

—R. T., Dallas, Tx

I didn't fill out your questionnaire, but would like to read, and know about how we were influenced by the Luciferian Spirits that brought about the fall of our consciousness. I've never seen an article where the whole thing was explained. Only bits and pieces of the story here and there. I'm sure new readers would be interested.

—G. P., Sterling Heights, MI

I want to tell you that I think the "Rays" is better with each edition. I especially have been enjoying the series "Letters from a Rosicrucian." It is hard to pick just one or two articles as they are all so informative. I also enjoy the astrology articles. They are so informative and helpful. I hope it will bring in many new readers. I try to inform friends about it. Really there are still so few who are ready for the teachings. Some people still hold such prejudices about astrology and reincarnation. Takes so long before these souls are ready to investigate these things it seems. I am grateful for the work and all that it has taught me. Thank you all for your efforts in spreading the "work".

—I. B., Lacey, WA

I have enjoyed reading Rays Magazine. It has greatly impressed me with its new "modern dress." I believe it will attract public attention, and we will soon see it in the commercial magazine market.

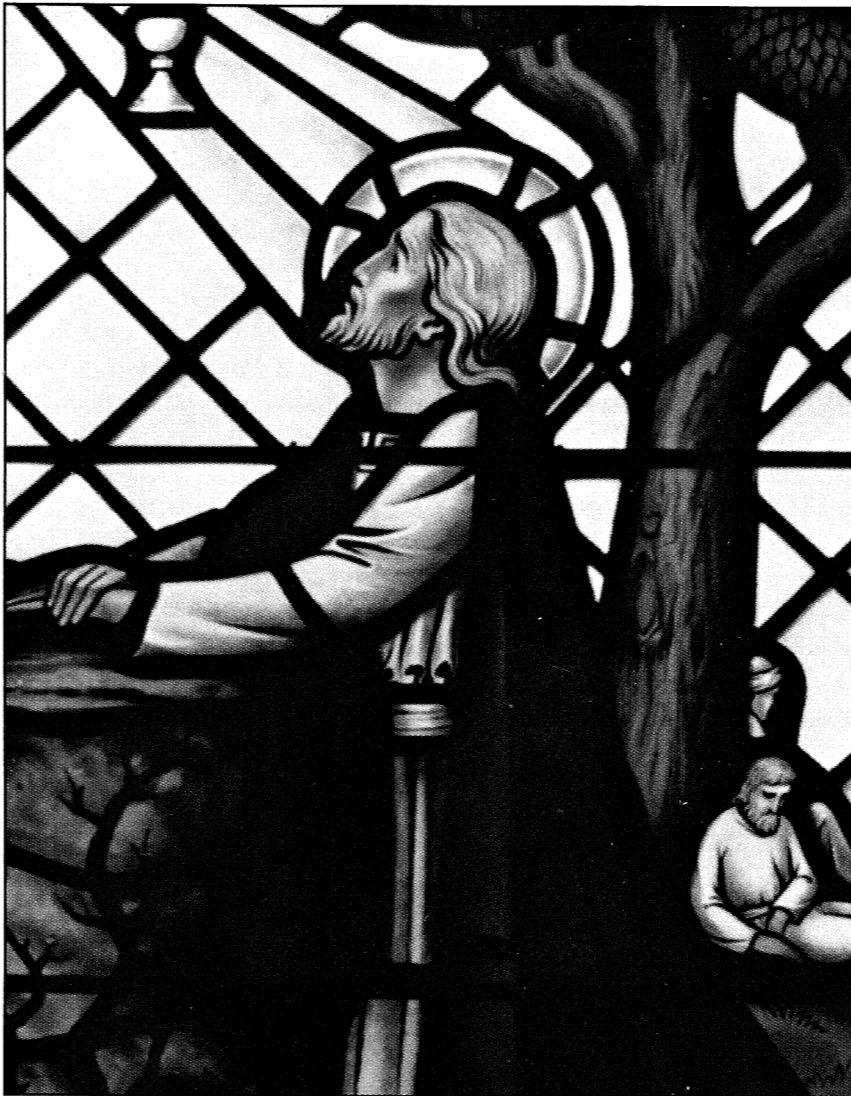
I love to read the articles, works which come from the personal experiences of students, members, and friends too. The articles are not only educational but also inspiring as personal thoughts and experiences of aspirants to the Christ life.

Rays Magazine is a most excellent means of informing readers about the teaching of the Elder Brothers of the Rose Cross.

Let us all cooperate toward its lasting success as it was designed by Max Heindel.

—M. K., Ann Arbor, MI

Mystic Light



Light

Excerpted from Max Heindel's Writings

The inspired apostle gave us a wonderful definition of Deity when he said that "God is Light," and therefore "Light" has been used to illustrate the nature of the Divine in the Rosicrucian Teachings, especially the mystery of the Trinity in Unity. It is clearly taught in the Holy Scriptures of all times that God is one and indivisible. At the same time, we find that as the one white light is refracted into three primary

colors—red, yellow, and blue—so God appears in a threefold role during manifestation by the exercise of the three divine functions of creation, preservation, and dissolution.

Volumes, or rather libraries, have been written to explain the nature of God, but it is probably a universal experience that the more we read of other people's explanations, the less we understand. However, the description given by John, "GOD IS LIGHT," is as illuminating as the others are befogging to the mind. Anyone who takes this passage for meditation occasionally will find a rich reward waiting, for no matter how many times we take up the subject, our own development during the passing years assures us that of a fuller and better understanding. Each time we sink ourselves in these words, we lave in a spiritual fountain of inexhaustible depth, and each succeeding time we sound more thoroughly the divine depths and draw more closely to our Father in heaven.

To get in touch with our subject, let us go back in time to get our bearing and the direction of our future line of progress. The first time our consciousness was directed towards the Light was shortly after we had become endowed with mind and had entered definitely upon our evolution as human beings in Atlantis. This was the land of the mist, deep down in the basins of the Earth, where the warm mist emitted from the cooling earth hung like a dense fog over the land. Then the starry heights of the universe were never seen, nor could the silvery light of the Moon penetrate the dense, foggy atmosphere which hung

over the ancient land. When we look in the Memory of Nature pertaining to this time, we see that even the fiery splendour of the Sun was extinguished almost totally, and appeared very much as an arc lamp on a high pole looks to us when it is foggy. It was exceedingly dim, and had an aura of various colors, very similar to those which we observe around an arc light.

But this light had a fascination. The ancient Atlanteans were taught by the divine Hierarchs who walked among them to aspire to the light, and as the spiritual sight was then already on the wane, they aspired all the more ardently to the new light, for they feared the darkness of which they had become conscious through the gift of mind.

Then came the inevitable flood, when the mist cooled and condensed. The atmosphere cleared, and the "chosen people" were saved. Those who had worked within themselves and learned to build the necessary organs required to breathe in an atmosphere such as we have today, survived and came to the light. It was not an arbitrary choice; the work of the past consisted of body building. Those who had only gill clefts, such as the foetus still uses in its prenatal development, were as unfit physiologically to enter the new era as the foetus would be to be born if it neglected to build lungs. It would die as those ancient people died when the rare atmosphere made gill clefts useless.

Our bodies have been practically complete since the day when we came out of Atlantis, that is to say, no new vehicles are to be added; but from that

time and from now on those who wish to follow the light must strive for soul growth. We are taught that the bodies which we have crystallized about us must be dissolved, and the quintessence of experience extracted, which as "soul" may be amalgamated with the Spirit to nourish it from impotence to omnipotence. Therefore, the Tabernacle in the Wilderness was given to the ancients, and the "Light" of God descended upon the Altar of Sacrifice. This is of great significance: The Ego had just descended into its tabernacle, the body. We all know the primitive instinct tended towards selfishness, and if we have studied the higher ethics we also know how subversive of good the indulgence of the egotistic tendency is; therefore, God immediately placed before mankind the Divine Light upon the Altar of Sacrifice.

Upon this altar they were forced by dire necessity to offer their cherished possessions for every transgression, God appearing to them as a hard taskmaster whose displeasure it was dangerous to incur. But still the Light drew them. They knew it was futile to attempt to escape from the hand of God. They had never heard the words of John, "God is Light," but they had already learned from the heavens in a measure the meaning of infinitude, as measured by the realm of light, for we hear David exclaim: "Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into Heaven, thou art there: If I make my bed in hell, thou art there. If I say, surely the darkness shall cover me, even the night shall be light about me.

Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee, but the light shineth as the day for the darkness and the light are both alike to thee."

Over the years, with the aid of the greatest telescopes which the ingenuity and mechanical skill of man have been able to construct to pierce the depths of space, it becomes more evident that the infinitude of light teaches us the infinitude of God. When we hear that "men loved darkness rather than Light because of their evil deeds," that also rings true to what we unfortunately know as present day facts, and illumines the nature of God for us. It is not that we always feel endangered in the dark, but that the light gives us a sense of safety which is akin to the feeling of a child who feels the protecting hand of its father.

To render permanent this condition of being in the Light was the next step in God's work with us. This culminated in the birth of Christ, who was the bodily presence of the Father. He bore about in Himself that Light, for the Light came into the world that whosoever should believe in Christ should not perish, but have everlasting life. He said, "I am the Light of the World." The altar in the Tabernacle had illustrated the principle of sacrifice as the medium of regeneration, so Christ said to His disciples: "Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

In *The Rosicrucian Philosophy*, in *Questions and Answers*, Vol. II, it is stated that "Light" is a property of matter in the Desire World (p. 193), and that light may be refracted into three primary colors—blue, yellow, and red (p. 488).

In *The Rosicrucian Christianity Lectures*, "Spiritual Sight—Spiritual Worlds; the Etheric Region of the Physical World," we see that the Rosicrucians, in harmony with other occult schools, divide each World into seven "regions" or states of matter. Our visible world comprises but three such regions, namely: Solid, Liquid, and Gaseous. The Invisible ether occupies the four remaining regions, known collectively as the Etheric Region. This region is the medium through which the solar energy flows into the dense bodies of plant, animal, and man, and thus it forms a basis for the manifestation of life and vitality. Of the four ethers in this region, the Light Ether is the medium of manifestation of the forces which produce heat, motion, and the circulation of the blood in man and animal and of the sap in plants. Through it the green chlorophyll is deposited on the leaves, and so is the coloring on flowers, animal, and man. In man and animal the forces of this ether are fully operative, but only partially in plant. In *The Cosmo-Conception* more detailed information of the Light ether is given on page 36.

In conclusion, we quote from *The Rosicrucian Mysteries*: "Truly, God is One and Undivided. He enfolds within His Being all that is, as the white light embraces all colors. But He appears threefold in manifestation, as the white light is refracted in three primary colors, blue, yellow, and red. Wherever we see these colors they are emblematical of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three primary rays of Divine Life are diffused or radiated through

the Sun and produce Life, Consciousness and Form upon each of the seven light bearers, the planets, which are called the 'Seven Spirits before the Throne.' Their names are, Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus. Bode's law proves that as yet Neptune does not belong to our solar system and the reader is referred to *Simplified, Scientific Astrology* by Max Heindel, for mathematical demonstration of this condition.

"Each of the seven planets receives the light of the Sun in a different measure, according to its proximity to the central orb and the constitution of its atmosphere, and the beings on each, according to their stage of development, have affinity for some of the solar rays. The planets absorb the color or colors congruous to them, and reflect the rest upon the other planets. This reflected ray bears with it an impulse of the nature of the beings with which it has been in contact.

"Thus the divine Light and Life comes to each planet, either directly from the Sun, or reflected from its six sister planets, and, as the summer breeze which has been wafted over blooming fields carries upon its silent, invisible wings the blended fragrances from The Garden of God, bring to us the commingled impulses of all the Planetary Spirits and in that varicolored light we live and move and have our being.

"The rays which come directly from the Sun are productive of Spiritual illumination; the reflected rays from other planets make for added consciousness and moral development, and the rays reflected from the Moon

give physical growth.

"But as each planet can absorb only a certain quantity of one or more colors according to the general stage of evolution there, so each being upon Earth—mineral, plant, and man—can only absorb and thrive upon a certain quantity of the various rays projected upon the Earth. The remainder do not affect it or produce sensation any more than the blind are conscious of light and color which exist everywhere around them. Therefore each being is affected differently by the stellar rays, and the science of Astrology, a fundamental truth in nature, is of enormous benefit in the attainment of spiritual growth.

"When Light unveiled her radiant face, and wrapped the world in her embrace, when into space the planets swung - this song the Heavenly Choir sung: 'O sacred pulse! O law divine! All purpose and all power are thine, for Life goes on forever.' (*The Musical Scale and the Scheme of Evolution*).

"In Him was Life; and the Life was the Light of men. And the Light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." *John 1* □

—Dorothy Hilton

References:

Max Heindel: *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*, *Gleanings of A Mystic*, *The Rosicrucian Philosophy in Questions and Answers Vol I and II*, *The Rosicrucian Christianity Lectures*, *The Message of the Stars*, *Simplified Scientific Astrology*

The Musical Scale and The Scheme of Evolution (compiled by a Student of Max Heindel)

The Bible: King James Version.

Mystic Light



Missing the Mark

We have all heard it said that we are sinners and that we stand in need of salvation. The Bible states, in *Romans 3*: "For we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."

Why are we considered sinners? The orthodox answer to this question is clear. Our sin came through Adam and our salvation is through Christ. How do the Rosicrucian Teachings answer this question? We, as students of the Western Wisdom Teachings, study the hidden mysteries of life. We study Astrology, Rebirth, and Philosophy. It may be surprising to learn that even though we are students of occult subjects, our basic answer is the same. Sin came through Adam and salvation through Christ. From the orthodox point of

view, we are asked to accept Christ and salvation through faith. Many have been able to do so. Their lives have been transformed. They now enjoy a peace that surpasses all understanding. But, just as some people have been able to accept Christ through Faith, others have not been able to do so. Their minds rebelled against the idea. Their minds were filled with too many unanswered questions. One of these questions must be, "Why are we considered sinners?"

The word which is translated as "sin" in both the Old and New Testaments means to *miss the mark* or *not to hit*. Understanding this, we now see that the term *sin* presents the idea that we have failed to achieve a goal or complete a task. We now have a better understanding of: "For we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."

What was the task or goal that we failed to complete? To understand this we will go back to a time when we had not yet sinned—a time when there was peace, unity, harmony and love—a time when we were at one with our Father in Heaven, our spiritual home.

Eventually, in accordance with God's divine Plan, we left our spiritual home and descended into this material world. God, our Father, placed the Angels over us to be our guides during this period. Soon, however, we turned from the guidance and strayed from the Path. We chose not to follow the Light that our Father provided, but instead chose to follow a false light. We soon strayed so far from the Path that it became impossible for us to find our way back on our own.

In the Teachings we read: "If someone had stood for thousands of years upon a distant planet and looked clairvoyantly at our little Earth, he would have seen a gradual change from bad to worse in its Desire World and World of Thought. It was getting more and more filled up with murky and bad vibrations, because man, in the days of his earliest childhood, was not able to control his impulse. He was controlled mostly by the Mind and the Desire Body, and therefore after death he had to stay in purgatory almost all of the time between Earth lives: there was almost no progress. The second Heaven life, where he learned to do creative work was almost barren. The Desire World of the Earth must be cleansed to give man a new start. Thus was Christ's mission." So our Father sent his Son, the Christ, to cleanse the world and lead us back to the divine Path. Through Him we have our salvation. For He is the Light of the World, the Truth, and the Way.

What caused us to stray from the Path? What was Christ's role in bringing us back to it? We will answer the first question from the Rosicrucian point of view by tracing the spiritual elements fire, earth, air and water as they were introduced in our spiritual evolution. (We must understand that when we talk about the spiritual elements fire, earth, air and water we are not talking about the chemical elements.)

We are all Sparks of the divine Fire which is the Father. We all were created in His likeness. This is the key to our spiritual unity, each with all.

The first and ever-present element in creation is fire. It is an invisible fire which is the Father.

We are all Sparks of that invisible fire. Max Heindel tells us to "ponder well the relationship of fire and flame: the former lies sleeping, invisible in everything, and is kindled into light in various ways: by the blow of a hammer upon a stone, by friction of wood against wood and by chemical action, etc. This gives us a clue to the identity of the Father. 'Whom no man hath seen at anytime, but who is revealed in the Light of the World,' the Son."

Thus, in the beginning, before we strayed from God, there was but one element, that invisible fire, manifesting as heat. This was at the dawn of creation, esoterically known as the Saturn Period. It is referred to in the first verses of *Genesis*: "in the beginning...there was darkness."

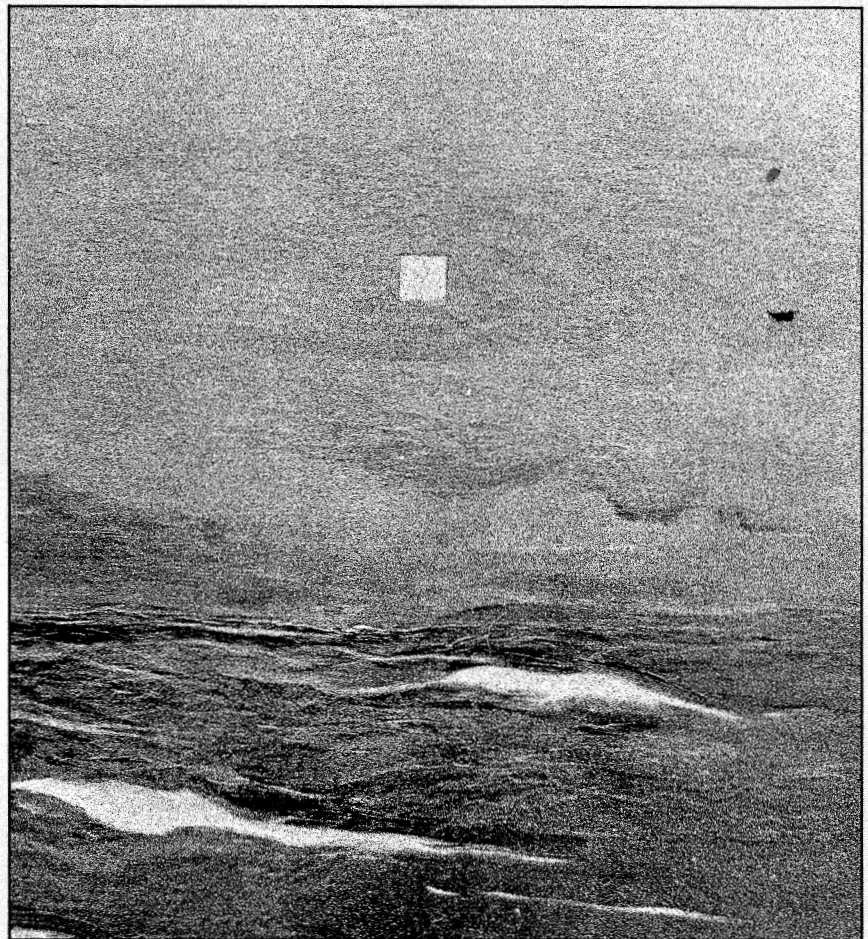
Air

The second element is air. The air coalesced with the true fire and burst into flames, giving us Light. This took place in the second period, known as the Sun Period. In *Genesis* it is referred to as: "Let there be Light."

Water

Water was the third element introduced into our scheme of evolution. It is referred to in *Genesis*: "the waters were divided from the waters."

The introduction of water as a new element marked the turning point in our scheme of evolution. What occurred after this element was introduced and the sequence of events which followed are of vital importance to us if we are to understand



why we are considered sinners and why we have missed the mark.

Our present day Angels were the humanity of the Moon Period, when the element was introduced. (In each of the periods of our development a new element is added. In the Saturn Period it was fire, in the Sun Period it was air, in the Moon Period it was water.) In order for all the beings in this scheme of evolution to progress, they need to gain the spiritual experience represented by each of these elements. They need to work with and master the elements.

During the Moon Period, not all of the Spirits were willing to

work with the new element, water. Some abhorred water and instead worked exclusively with fire. Thus they did not gain the needed experience. They fell behind in their development; they "missed the mark." They became stragglers of their life wave. These rebel Spirits were led by *Lucifer*. The other Spirits, who learned to work with the new element water and thus obtained their needed experience were led by the Highest Initiate of their life-wave, Jehovah. These Spirits are our present Angels.

Earth

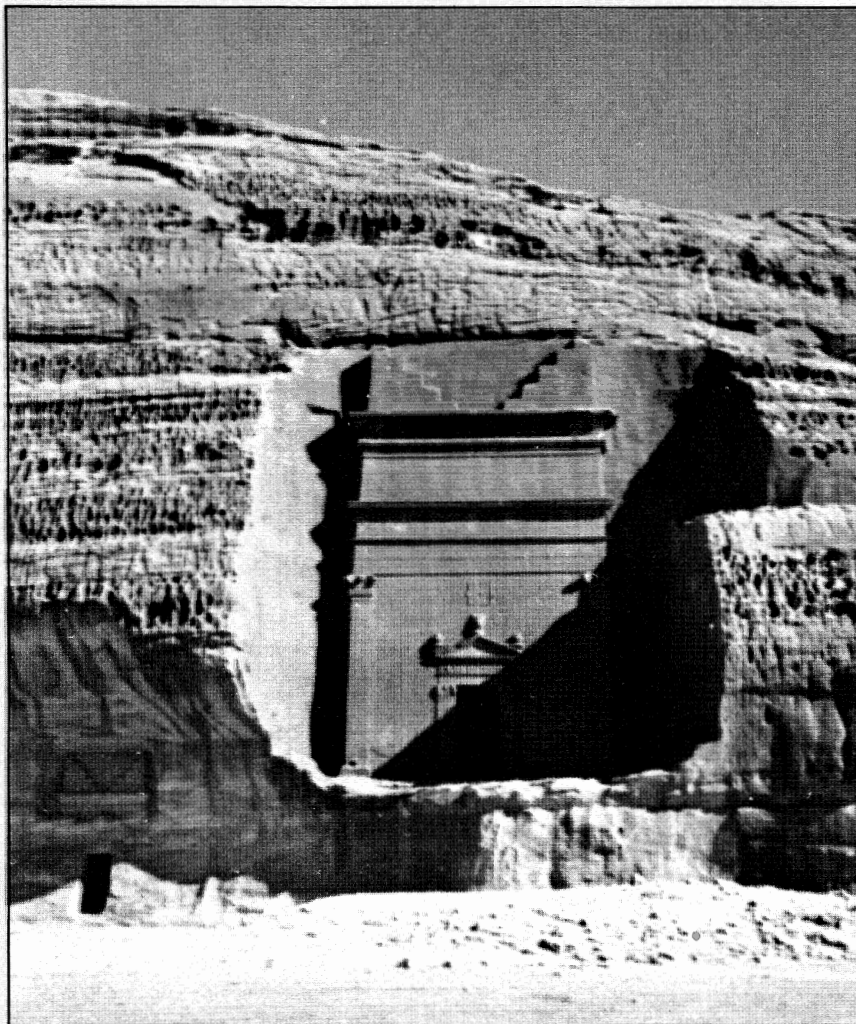
At the dawn of our present Earth Period, the fourth element

was added. When this element was added, Jehovah and His Angels were ordered to create forms from the elements fire, air, water and earth for our use. "Against this plan a minority of the Angels rebelled. They had too great an affinity for fire to bear contact with water, and refused to create the forms as ordered: but thereby they at the same time deprived themselves of an opportunity of evolution along the conventional lines, and thus became an anomaly in Nature."

Jehovah and His Angels were obedient to the divine Plan. We, as Virgin Spirits, were thus clothed in vehicles of fire, air, water, and earth. (Dense body, vital body, desire body, and mind.) We also were placed under the direct guidance of Jehovah and His Angels. This was part of the divine Plan—to raise us in stages from unconsciousness to create consciousness. All would have proceeded according to plan if it had not been for the interference of the Lucifer Spirits. The Lucifer Spirits now realized that they had to make up the experiences that they had lost out on through their refusal to work with water.

We are told that "This (divine) Plan was frustrated by the Lucifer Spirits....they needed a physical field of action, but were unable to create one for themselves hence for *selfish* reasons they taught humanity how by the co-operation of the sexes a new body could be created at any time: and in order to give an incentive they instilled into mankind the animalistic passionate nature which we now possess."

Jehovah and His Angels had



been guiding us along the path of evolution. Lucifer and his Angels caused us to stray. Thus we *missed the mark*, we *did not hit* the mark, we sinned. This is the origin of sin. Sin is our rebellious nature. We rebelled against God. We were tempted by the Lucifers, and we gave in. This is the sin of which we are all guilty.

Murder, covetousness, greed, lying, dishonor, fornication, drunkenness, stealing, etc., are but the products of our sinful natures. They are the evidence which proves us guilty.

Thus, the Lucifers caused us to stray by introducing a passionate animalistic element into our natures. This caused our desire bodies to coalesce with our minds and thus join to act as our motivating force. As time passed, our desire bodies became stronger and stronger. It became more and more difficult for us to make any spiritual progress. If we had continued in that state of being, we would have been lost.

"Therefore did Christ come, 'to seek and save that which was lost.' He took away the sin of the world by His cleansed Blood... He purified the conditions and we owe it to Him that we are able to gather for our desire body purer desire stuff than formerly, and He continues working to help us, by making our external environment purer."

The Christ impulse counteracted the influence of the Lucifer Spirits. In the truest sense, our sins have been forgiven. All we need to do now is to recognize our sinful natures and accept the Christ's supreme sacrifice for us.

The Rosicrucian Teachings concerning our spiritual evolu-

tion run parallel to the biblical information outlined in the opening chapters of *Genesis*. In *Genesis*, we read that God created Adam and placed him in the Garden of Eden. Later, from one of Adam's ribs, He created Eve. As long as Adam and Eve followed God's instructions, there was peace and harmony. Adam and Eve were told that they could eat from any of the trees in the Garden except from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Everything seemed to be fine until a serpent (Lucifer) caused Adam and Eve to go against God's instructions. As a result, Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden (spiritual regions). Where there had been no pain and suffering before, there was now pain and suffering. Not so much as the result of the curse, but more the nat-

ural outcome resulting from the breaking of one of God's Laws.

As we can see, the biblical account runs parallel to the Rosicrucian Teachings. We were at one with God, but due to the interference of the Lucifers (serpent), we turned from God. We lost our spiritual estate; we were turned out of the Garden of Eden.

Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel. Cain was a tiller of the ground and Abel was a keeper of sheep. Both Cain and Abel brought gifts to the Lord. Cain's gift was rejected. Abel's gift was accepted. Cain in anger slew Abel. Cain was cursed. Later Eve gave birth to Seth.

The story of Cain and Abel represents the warring factions within each and every one of us. Cain represents the mind. Abel represents the heart. One lives by reason, the other by faith.



Due to the interference of the Lucifers, the mind was able to gain control over the heart. That is to say (biblically), Cain slew Abel. Remember, however, that Christ came to save us: Seth represents the ever present power of Faith. The mind's victory over the heart is only temporary, for in time the heart will be set free.

If our minds will not allow us to believe, how can we be saved? Some people wished that they could believe, but their minds would not allow them to. In these people, Cain has slain Abel.

The Rosicrucian Fellowship

It was due to the need to conquer the rebellious mind that the Rosicrucian Order was founded. Its mission was to reveal to mankind the mystery of life in order to satisfy the mind so that the heart might be freed to believe. This mission primarily is directed towards the Sons of Cain.

Max Heindel commented on the difficulty of achieving this goal. The following is from *Letter to Students*, March 1912, *Necessity for Devotion*:

"*The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception* has met with such phenomenal success and called forth so much gratitude and admiration all over the world that I ought to be flattered at the attention it is commanding everywhere. But, on the contrary, I am beginning to feel more and more afraid that the book may miss the mark at which our Elder Brothers have aimed. Its purpose, designated on pages 17 and 18, is to satisfy the mind by intellectually explaining the

world mystery, so that the devotional side of the student's nature may be allowed to develop along a line which the intellect has approved. *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*, I believe, has won its way because of this appeal to the intellect and the satisfaction it has given to the inquiring mind. Hundreds, yes thousands, of letters have testified that students who have searched in vain for years have found here what they sought. But few have seemed able, as yet, to transcend the intellectual conception, and unless the book gives the student an earnest desire to transcend the path of knowledge and pursue the path of devotion it is a failure, in my estimation."

We should take a moment to ask ourselves: Am I still treading the path of knowledge, or have I transcended the intellectual conception and pursued the path of devotion? We may be experts in astrology, philosophy, or the Bible. We may have all knowledge and all understanding of the mysteries, but unless we have love, unless we are on that path of devotion, we are but as tinkling cymbals.

The path of the intellect cannot save us, nor can the path of pure faith, for faith without works is dead! What we must do is balance the two. Balance the heart and the mind—fire and water. We must develop the sane mind, sound body and soft heart.

We have seen, from the Rosicrucian point of view, how the Lucifer Spirits caused us to go astray. They led away from the divine Path by instilling in us our passionate natures. Our selfish desires coalesced with our

minds and caused us to rebel against divine Rule.

We have seen how the Rosicrucian explanation of sin is in harmony with the biblical explanation—how Adam and Eve were tempted by the Serpent and were thus expelled from the Garden of Eden.

From the Rosicrucian viewpoint Christ came to cleanse the Earth's desire body, thus giving us the opportunity once again to make spiritual progress—progress that would have been impossible had He not come. He is in the truest sense our salvation.

We can see how this is in harmony with the biblical teachings best summed up in *John*: "for God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should have eternal life."

We must understand that Christ died and was resurrected for all of us, and that without Him none of us could have been saved. Nothing, however, can be forced upon us. We have free will. "A man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still." Therefore, although Christ has already made the sacrifice for our sins, we must accept Him of our own free will. Outside of Christ there is nothing that can save us. There are not special works that we can perform to atone for our sins. All the money in the world could not buy our salvation.

In Christ, impulse counteracted the influence of the Lucifer Spirits. In the truest sense of the word, our sins have been forgiven. All we need to do now is to acknowledge our sinful natures and accept Christ's supreme sacrifice for us. □

—James Noel

Mystic Light

Chart Your Journey In Life

Once I heard a minister say that many people come to him for counseling, and he has noticed that most of them can tell him what they do not want in their lives, what they want to get rid of. When he has asked them what they do want, however, they cannot seem to tell him; they really do not have a clear idea of what they want. They are like people beginning a trip without having picked a destination.

Since we are made in the "image and likeness" of God, we have choice in regard to our life and responsibility for the choices we make, and God will not interfere with those choices.

We have a definite idea and desire for what we want to be, to do, and to have in life, and regularly affirm that these are our choices, rather than drift or wait for things to "happen" to us. In *James 4:2* it says, "Ye have not because ye ask not."

We also must believe that it is possible for us to be, to do, or to have the things we choose, for if there is a conflict between our desires and our belief that it is possible for us to have these choices, we block their manifestation in our lives.

And last, we must take action in the direction of what we choose, for faith without works is void. Thus desire, belief, and action are the three necessary ingredients for the manifestation of our choices.

I decided to use the twelve houses of the horoscope as a guide, taking a separate index card for each house. I made an affirmation as to what I wanted in my life in regard to these twelve departments of life. Each morning after my meditation period I go over these affirmations to keep a strong mental image of them.

The twelve departments of life are:

1. Physical body, temperament, personal interests, attitude toward life and people.

2. Possessions, outer assets, as in material possessions, and inner assets, as in talents, and attitude towards acquiring, thus having to do with what we value.

3. Capacity for communication, environment, neighborhood and neighbors, near relatives.

4. Homes, family, the end of life.

5. Creative self expression, children, pleasures, emotional expression.

6. Health, service, work and working conditions, co-workers.

7. Partnership and capacity for cooperation and team work.

8. Shared emotions and shared resources, regeneration, death of old conditions and birth of new.

9. Our aspirations, our philosophy of life, higher learning, publishing, teaching, travel.

10. Career, life work, vocation, and public recognition and attainment, relations with superiors or authority figures, boss, parent, etc.

11. Friends, hopes and wishes, fraternal organizations.

12. Things done in seclusion, solitude, creative work, to renew.

I end my affirmations by giving thanks that all my needs are met as they arise. My spiritual needs are God and consciousness. My mental needs are wisdom and understanding. My emotional needs are love, joy, and harmony. And my physical needs are health and opulence.

I am happy in the knowledge that God gave me Choice, and I want to exercise this choice consciously. "Ask and ye shall receive," and with God all things are possible. □

—F.S.

Mystic Light



Spiritual Alchemy

PART II

The Rosicrucians hold that the canal of the spinal column is filled with an ether, or gas. This luminous gas of the spinal canal is called the Spinal Spirit Fire by occultist. When the spinal column is observed by one who has the spiritual sight developed, the spinal gas appears like a tiny stream of light, the color of which differs according to the temperament and morals of the person. In the sensual person, this Spinal Spirit Fire is of a dull, brick red, intermingled with a slight coloring of blue. As the aspirations rise and the love for others awakens, this color becomes clearer, and the blue light, with a slight coloring of pink, is drawn upward. When one observes the spinal gas of the spiritually awakened man, who has purified his mind and body by high ideals and by a life of service—especially

if observed while he is in meditation or prayer—there is seen a most wonderful sight. The Spinal Spirit Fire is then of a most ethereal blue, which is difficult to describe. The nearest color to it would be that of a blue gas flame, with the softest tint of pink and yellow playing through it. From the lower part of the sacral region of the spine to the upper part of the lumbar region, the colors still are slightly clouded with red, but as the spinal gas rises upward, it becomes purer and more transparent. This Spinal Spirit Fire, during meditation and prayer, becomes more active, coursing more swiftly through the spine, and as it touches the spinal nerves, it emits a tiny spark at the beginning of each, until it reaches the medulla oblongata, which seems to act as a transformer or a separating station, where the color makes a change—the darker murky colors again descending while the lighter and purified gas is drawn upward.

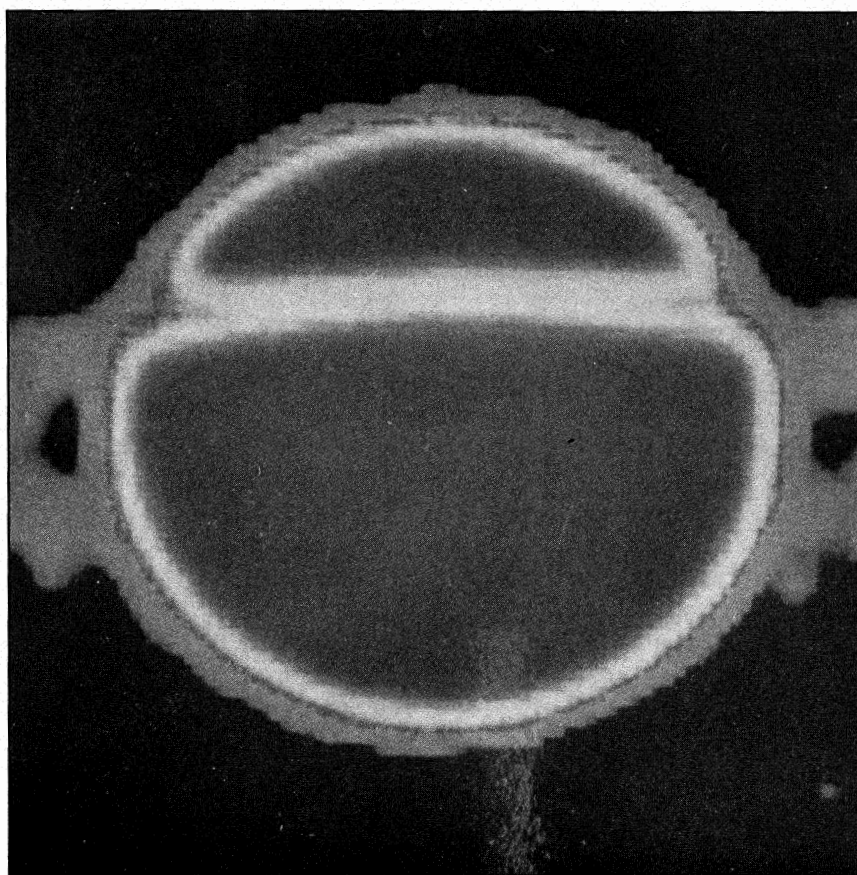
There is a sieve-like enclosure at the lower end of the fourth ventricle, which is connected with the medulla oblongata. In the latter, this gas seemingly goes through a purifying process; thence it passes through the fourth ventricle into the third, where it passes through a golden, furnace-like glow. It is then absorbed by the pineal gland.

The color of this flame, this spinal gas, however, is different in an adult who is earthy, filled with passions and desires, whose body is fed on the flesh of slaughtered animals, and is steeped in tobacco and liquor. This man's spinal gas is of a murky rose color and has a tendency to cling to the lower part

of the spinal column. It is with considerable effort that such a man may draw some of this gas to the brain for use in mental work; and its color is not the clear blue of that of the man with high aspirations.

It is impossible for science, with its material instruments, to investigate and clearly understand the functions of two such vital organs as the pineal gland and the pituitary body. Their inaccessibility makes it almost impossible to remove them without changing their shape. When the person with the developed faculty of spiritual sight, however, investigates their physiological functions, he does not need to remove the organs, but turns his X-ray sight upon them and observes their actions. Naturally, any part of the body may also be investigated by means of this spiritual sight.

To get an idea of these glands in action in a living person, let us observe someone in spiritual meditation, who has been living a pure and chaste life with high aspirations, and whose food for years has consisted of fruit, vegetables, and cereals. The pituitary body, through which these aspirations are first registered, is much enlarged. From the open end exudes gas of a soft rose color, slightly intermingled with yellow and blue of the palest pastel shades. The spinal column is filled with a pale blue ether, intermingled with soft pink and yellow. After this gas leaves the medulla oblongata and enters the pineal gland, it is of a wonderful blue color such as one sees clinging to the mountains after sundown. The pineal gland also is enlarged, with the point of the cone leaning forward toward the pituitary



body. This point of the cone emits a small flame similar to the blue flame of the gas jet. These two organs vibrate at a most rapid rate and lean toward each other over the third ventricle. This ventricle is an oblong cavity, and when the life of the aspirant has been pure, it appears to the occultist like a tiny furnace filled with a golden glow. The whole aura of the person then is scintillating and moving with beautiful colors, but chief is the golden aureole of the mind body which surrounds the head. It is said that an Adept, when observed using his spiritual powers, is a most wonderful and glorious sight to behold.

Therefore, we can see that we have the furnace, which was so important to the alchemists of old, within our own bodies, and, if we try, we can keep ablaze this fire within and in time burn away

the shackles of our physical prison and soar to the spiritual realms—citizens of two Worlds, the physical and spiritual.

The aura which we mentioned is one of our invisible vehicles, and it surrounds each individual. The spiritual vibrations generated within pass outward as radiant lines of force, and they color our invisible vehicles or finer bodies according to their vibratory pitch. Low vibrations are seen as red, the higher as yellow, and the highest as blue. While the color of each individual's aura differs from that of all others, there is nevertheless a basic or ground color, showing the status in the scale of evolution. In less advanced people, this basic color is dull red, like the color of a slow burning fire, indicating their passionate, emotional nature. When we examine people on a some-

what higher rung of the ladder of evolution, the basic color or vibration radiated by them is seen to be of an orange hue, which is the yellow of intellect mixed with the red of passion. By the spiritual alchemy which they unconsciously perform as they travel along the path of progress and learn to control the emotions and passions by the mind, and through many experiences in the school of life, they gradually are freeing themselves from bondage to the war God, Jehovah, whose colors are scarlet and red. Then, by obeying consciously or unconsciously the unifying altruistic Christ Spirit, they develop the yellow color, which thus mingles with the red and gradually will obliterate it. The yellow aureole or halo painted around holy men by artists gifted with spiritual sight is a physical representation of a spiritual promise which applies to humanity as a whole, though it has only been realized by a few who are called saints. After lives of battle with their passions, after patient persistence in well-doing, high aspirations, and steadfast adherence to lofty purposes, these people have raised themselves above the red ray and now are imbued entirely with the golden Christ Ray and its vibration. The golden aureole pictured as surrounding the saints indicates their emancipation from the power of the Lucifer Spirits of Mars who are the fallen Angels, as well as from Jehovah and His Angels, who belong to an earlier life-wave. The Lucifer Spirits find expression in the iron in our blood. Iron is a Mars metal difficult to start into high vibration—so difficult that it takes many lives of great effort to change the

product of its combustion to the golden color which designates the Saint. When that has been achieved, the greatest feat of spiritual alchemy has been performed: the base metal has been transmuted into gold. The natural golden color is the Christ Ray, and as we advance toward universal brotherhood, even those who are not professedly religious will acquire a tinge of gold in their auras due to the higher altruistic impulses common to the Western World. Paul speaks of this as “Christ being formed in you,” for when we vibrate to the same pitch as the Christ, we are Christ-like.

Classed with the process of spiritual alchemy and often mentioned in connection with it is the making of the Philosopher’s Stone. We are standing on the threshold of a new age where this precious jewel, with all its power, will be evolved and possessed by a considerable number of people. Therefore, all who wish to take the trouble involved—for it does involve arduous labor, nothing worth while having has ever been gained without cost—many know how to make for themselves this great gem.

We find that even Nature makes a certain species of Philosopher’s Stone. It is known that the great majority of mankind inhale during every moment of life the vitalizing oxygen contained in the surrounding atmosphere. At every breath we expel, we exhale a charge of carbon dioxide which is a deadly poison and which would certainly poison the air in time if the pure and chaste plant did not inhale this poison, use a part of it to build bodies that last sometimes for many centuries—as in-

stanced in the redwoods of California—and give us back the rest in the form of pure oxygen which we need for life on Earth. These plant bodies by certain other processes of Nature, have in the past become mineralized and turned to coal instead of disintegrating. We find them today as coal, the perishable Philosopher’s Stone, made by natural means in Nature’s laboratory. But the Philosopher’s Stone also may be made artificially by man from his own body. It should be understood once and for all that the Philosopher’s Stone is not made in an exterior chemical laboratory, but that the physical body is the workshop of the Spirit and contains all the elements necessary to produce this elixir of life. That the Philosopher’s Stone is not exterior to the body, but the alchemist or aspirant becomes the Philosopher’s Stone.

The alchemical process of kindling and elevating the creative force is accomplished in the spinal canal. It is raised to incandescence by high and noble thought, by pure and clean living, by meditation upon spiritual subjects, and by altruism and love expressed daily in our lives. The second half of the creative energy thus drawn upwards through the spinal canal is that brilliant and luminous Spinal Spirit Fire, the Serpent of Wisdom. Gradually, it is raised higher and higher, and when it reaches the pituitary body and the pineal gland in the brain it sets them to vibrating, opening up the spiritual worlds and enabling man to commune with the gods. Then this fire radiates in all directions and permeates the whole body and its auric atmosphere, and man has become

a living stone, whose lustre surpasses any jewel on Earth. He is then the Philosopher's Stone.

There are today two classes of people who are seeking God: the occultist, by way of the mind, and the mystic, by way of the heart. The spiritual awakening which starts the process of regeneration acts in different ways upon the occultist and the mystic. In the Christian Mystic the regenerative Spirit Fire is concentrated principally upon the lunar segment of the spinal cord, ruled by the Moon. Therefore, the mystic's spiritual growth is accomplished by faith as simple, childlike, and unquestioning as in the days of ancient Atlantis when man was mindless. The mystic, therefore, draws down the great white Light of Deity reflected through Jehovah, the Holy Spirit, and attains to the whole wisdom of the world without the necessity of laboring for it intellectually. This gradually transmutes his body into the white Philosopher's Stone, the diamond soul. In those, on the other hand, whose minds are strong and insistent on knowing the reason why and the wherefore of every dictum and dogma, the Spirit Fire of regeneration plays upon the segment of the red Mars and the colorless Mercury, endeavoring to infuse desire with reason, to purify desire of the primal passion, that it may become as chaste as the rose and thus transmute the body of the occultist into the ruby soul, the red Philosopher's Stone, tried by fire, purified, a creative, budding individuality.

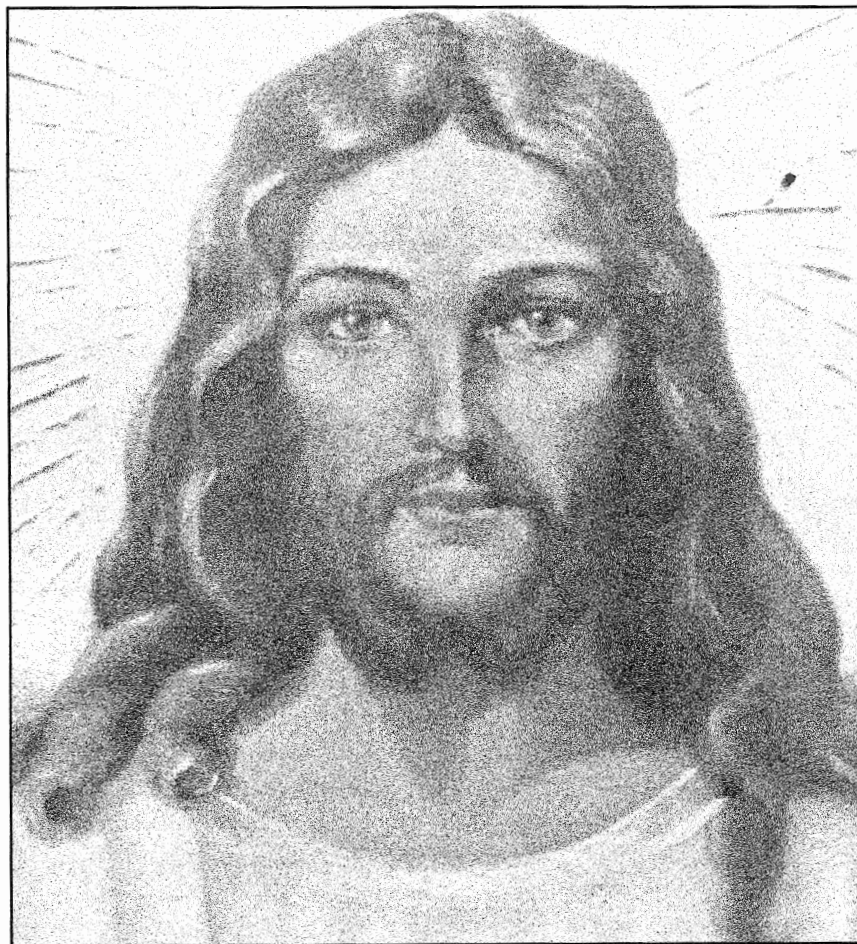
Just as, in the skilled hands of the lapidary, the shapeless stone is transformed into a sparkling gem from whose facets pour

various colored streams of light, so upon the lathe of the Divine Lapidary, is the soul of man ground and polished until it reflects the glory of its Creator from every atom.

There is nothing so rare and so precious as radium, the luminous extract of the black mineral called pitchblende, and there is nothing so rare and precious as that extract of our physical bodies the radiant Christ. At the present time, the light of the indwelling Spirit is darkened by our dense body, but when the inner Christ has grown to full stature, He will shine forth through our transparent bodies.

This work of spiritual alchemy is one which everyone who hopes and aspires to spiritual freedom must do. All who are

upon the Path are weaving that "golden wedding garment" which is made up of our finer invisible vehicles. This beautiful, shining garment is the one into which those who have developed it step at night and work on the invisible planes, becoming more efficient servants in the vineyard of the Master. It is not made by an inactive, dreamy state of study of the higher philosophy—it is made by service to mankind, by purity in life, thought, and action, and by love to our fellowmen, low or high. It is the result of regeneration and spiritual alchemy. This is the gold which we are seeking, the gold to weave into our "wedding garment" in which we will meet, at some future time, the coming Bridegroom, the great Christ Spirit. □



“Your Retirement is in Danger!”

This was the chilling message broadcast to the nation by an earnest activist on a cold Sunday morning earlier this year, as he fervently called on his listeners to do their part in defending legislative benefits inaugurated by his famous father while in the White House half a century ago.¹ Considering the magnitude of the threat depicted by him, some concerns regarding retirement are bound to resurface as an issue. Thus it might be fitting to set forth those facets of the problem which politicians, sociologists, and economists are not very likely to touch.²

Our first discovery is that the King James Bible nowhere mentions the word “retirement.” The verb form, “retire,” invariably is mentioned in connection with military activities.³ But the idea of someone withdrawing from an active life at a set age and seeking or getting financial support is utterly foreign to the letter and spirit of the Sacred Canon.

Though Scripture has omitted the word “retirement,” and that absence speaks volumes, yet the Book we call Life’s Compass undeniably has much to say about what might be called the retirement years. In *Matthew* 25: 14–29 we find the Parable of the Talents; we all have some, and we are to use them to the glory of God and thus to the very best of our ability. Surely if a person able to use some of his talents arbitrarily stops doing so, is he not burying them? Nowhere in the parable does it exempt any, for reasons of age, from doing the very best with what they have where they are. Doing one’s best is a lifelong obligation! We read: “The righteous... shall still bring forth fruit in old age.” *Psalms* 92: 12–14. This doesn’t mean necessarily that those in advanced years shall bear the same kind or amount of fruit they bore while younger, but the idea of total abstention from useful activity is ruled out!

To banish the shadows from the sunset years, there are three indispensables:

1) *A faith to live by.* Of course one always needs that, but especially “when the years draw nigh.” Perhaps the hymn writer Augustus M. Toplady—even though he died before his fortieth birthday—said it best: “Teach us in every state, to make Thy will our own, And when the joys of sense depart, to live by faith alone. But the wise man admonishes us not to wait until then to acquire that faith: “Remember

now thy Creator in the days of Thy youth.” *Ecclesiastes* 12:1. 2) *A cause to live for.* Now, isn’t that the exact opposite of idle inactivity? A certain man once eagerly looked forward to the last time he’d punch a time clock. Next day, with real zest, he started to clean the attic, the basement, the garage, and straighten out some personal effects—and then was bored the rest of his life, not knowing what to do with himself!

Two “retirees” were chatting. “I’m enjoying my meals,” said the one who spent his days in a rocking (or is it “rotting”?) chair. “I’m enjoying myself *between* meals too,” chuckled the other, who enthusiastically was pursuing a useful avocation.

Our little town has its share of retirees. Some of them we see sitting around, just staring into space. One old-timer takes walks, and woe unto those of his friends who cross his path, for they are almost forcefully constrained to stop and listen to a torrent of trivial! Is that kind of life anything to look forward to?

We’ve heard folks say that upon retirement they’d investigate all there was to learn, or words to that effect. One should be learning all the time; after all, one doesn’t *grow* old—one *gets* old by *not growing*—mentally and spiritually. But the idea of suddenly starting to study all day, without some constructive aim, is hardly fulfilling. An American educator, after returning from abroad where he had been hired to teach the children of millionaires, complained of their lack of motivation. “They’ve all the money they need for the rest of their lives; they see no need to study to prepare for anything!” Acquisi-

tion of knowledge only makes sense when intended to lead to activity.⁴ Who'd enjoy learning to swim or drive a car if he knew that such knowledge never could be used? Study without a goal soon loses its momentum—and so does playing shuffleboard for hours each day!

We're not urging that one stay in the same factory or office or store where one has labored for decades, though that's no crime. But one should do something constructive, purposeful, useful! Since the United States' "financial crunch" became a rampaging reality, there have been numerous calls for volunteers to take over certain community services. Opportunities for service abound; "seek and ye shall find," and the donor may well be more blessed than the recipient. Acts 20:35.

When the late Winston Churchill was seeking the office of prime minister for the last time, he asked for votes on the premise that, were he removed from office, he'd have no purpose for living and would soon die. Hardly a good reason to retain a man at the helm of his nation, but he had a point: Life needs a purpose, the chance to give! And if it is giving that's living, then surely *not* giving is *not* living—not *really* living!

We recall Robert Browning's great lines:

*Grow old along with me,
The best is yet to be,
The last of life, for which
the first was made.*

And what is that "best?" Surely, in light of *Proverbs* 8 and the rest of that book and the entire Bible, it must be "wisdom," the crystallized essence of experience. It is regrettable that our elder statesmen so often are

allowed to "fade away," as it were; their experience and wisdom are priceless; our wisest leaders have often called on their counsel. Surely other oldsters can contribute similarly in their respective spheres of competence.⁵

3) *A self fit to live with.* It is widely believed that old age inevitably brings decrepitude. It need not! We know of a nationally recognized fitness expert who for many years has celebrated his birthdays with ever more challenging feats of strength. We're not recommending efforts like that, but we do believe there's no such thing as disease of old age! Those up in years simply have had more opportunity to abuse their bodies; that's why they suffer more than while young! But they needn't! Moses was still going strong at 120 and Joshua at 85! *Deuteronomy* 34:7; *Joshua* 14:11. In famed Hunzaland it is normal for men to toil past the century mark; in other areas of the world this also is being done, even though by a smaller percentage of the population.

A famous entertainer, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday, was asked for the secret of his vibrant longevity. "Don't rehearse for old age," he replied. For that would be expecting it along with its imagined attending ills, dreading it, fearing it, and confirming the words of one who knew what trouble was: "That which I was afraid of is come unto me." *Job* 3:25.

Astrology throws light on this: Of the 12 astrological signs, the one most "favorable" for old age is also tied in with self-discipline. If all one's life one has lived by all the laws of God, the Divine Discipline, then old age is no

nemesis.

History teaches that those who support revolutions are generally better at revolting against the old than at building the new. "Retirement" is a type of revolution, a major change—all of a sudden there are 40 or so hours a week to fill. For many, it is a traumatic test. So the important thing is not so much what one retires *from*, but *to*. The foundations of "retirement"—health and creative outlets—can and should carefully be laid ahead of time. If it is wise to prepare for death and the hereafter, as it surely is, why not also prepare for that which immediately precedes it? □

—A Probationer

¹The idea originated in the 1880's, while Chancellor Bismarck was in a political life-and-death struggle. To squelch his foes, he inaugurated the first modern "welfare state," including subsidized retirement at 65. This act violated his own principles; he himself stayed in office until less than a month before his 75th birthday and "retired" only because he was pushed out. Shortly after his death, the opposition party took over anyway!

²Readers worried over the financial aspect of their retirement should read *Matthew* 6:33, *Luke* 6:38, and *Galatians* 6:7. If we work in harmony with cosmic law, it will work with us!

³*Judges* 20:39; 2 *Samuel* 11:15 and 20:22; *Jeremiah* 4:6.

⁴Max Heindel was tested on this point by the Elder Brothers who "asked" him not to share esoteric truth; see *The Birth of the Rosicrucian Fellowship*, by Mrs. Max Heindel, p. 6.

⁵All might well ponder the words of Dr. Albert Schweitzer, possessor of our doctorates, who could have lived in comfort and esteem anywhere but "retired" to the heart of Africa to offer his medical services:

"Whoever is spared personal pain must feel himself called to help in diminishing the pain of others. We must all carry our share of the misery which lies upon the world."

Max Heindel's Message

The Dweller on the Threshold

EARTH BOUND SPIRITS

In the great majority of mankind there is such a preponderance of selfishness and a desire to get the most out of life as they view that matter, that either they are busy keeping the wolf from the door or accumulating possessions and taking care of them, and hence they have very little time or inclination to undertake the soul culture so necessary to true success in life. The writer has often heard them contend that if they pay the minister to study the Bible during the six days and give them on the seventh an epitome of what he has found, that should be all that is required to get a ticket to heaven. They subscribe to the church and do the things ordinarily called for in life as honorable and upright; for the rest, they have "a good time." Therefore there is so little that persists in each life of the majority and evolution is so frightfully slow that until one is able to view the act of death from the higher regions of the World of Concrete Thought and, so to say, look downwards, it does not appear that anything is saved of the vital body. This body seems to return complete to the physical body and to hover over the grave, there to disintegrate simultaneously with the latter. As a matter of fact, an increasing part cleaves to the higher vehicles and goes with them into the desire world, there to be a basis of consciousness in, and to live through, the purgatorial and heaven lives, generally persisting until man enters the Second Heaven and unites with the nature forces there in his efforts to create for himself a new environment. By that time, it has been absorbed by the Spirit or almost so, and whatever may remain of a material nature will quickly fade away. Thus the personality of the past life has vanished and the Spirit will not meet with it in the future lives upon this Earth.

But there are some people who are of such an evil nature that they enjoy a life spent in vice and degenerate practices, a brutal life, and who delight in giving pain. Sometimes they even cultivate the occult arts for evil purposes so that they may have a greater power over their victims. Then their fiendish, immoral practices result in hardening their vital body.

In such extreme cases where the animal nature has been paramount, where there has been no soul expression in the preceding

Earth life, the division in the vital body spoken of before cannot take place at death, for there is no dividing line. In such a case, if the vital body should gravitate back to the dense body and there gradually disintegrate, the effect of a very evil life would not be so far-reaching, but unfortunately there is in such cases an interlocking grip of the vital and desire bodies which prevents separation. We have seen that where a man lives mostly in the higher nature, his spiritual vehicles are nourished to the detriment of the lower. Conversely, where his consciousness is centered in the lower vehicles, he strengthens them immeasurably. It should be understood that the life of the desire body is not terminated by the departure of the Spirit; it has a residual life and consciousness. The vital body is also able to sense things in a slight measure for a few days after death in ordinary cases (hence the suffering caused by embalming, post-mortem examinations, etc., immediately after death), but where a low life has hardened and endued it with great strength, it has a tenacious hold on life and an ability to feed on odors of foods and liquors. Sometimes, as a parasite, it even vampirizes people with whom it comes in contact.

Thus an evil man may live for many, many years unseen in our very midst, yet so close that he is nearer than hands and feet. He is far more dangerous than the physical criminal for he is able to prompt others of a similar bent to criminal or degenerate practices without fear of detection or punishment by law.

Such beings are therefore one of the greatest menaces to society imaginable. They have sent countless victims to prison, broken up homes and caused an unbelievable amount of unhappiness. They always leave their victims when the latter have come into the clutches of the law. They gloat over their victims' sorrow and distress, this being a part of their fiendish scheme. There are other classes which delight in posing as "angels" in spiritualistic seances. They also find victims there and teach them immoral practices. The so-called "Poltergeist" which enjoys breaking dishes, upsetting tables, knocking hats over the heads of the delighted audience, and similar horseplay, is also in this class. The strength and density of the vital body of such beings makes it easier for them to give physical manifestations than for those who have passed beyond into the Desire World; in fact, the vital bodies of this class of Spirits are so dense that they are nearly physical, and it has been a mystery to the writer that some of the people who are taken in by such entities cannot seem them. Were they once discovered, one look at their evil sneering faces would very soon dispel the delusion that they are angels.

There is another class of Spirits belonging to this same category who appeal to persons seeking spiritual development outside the spiritualistic line, by posing to them as *individual teachers* and giving them a lot of goody-goody nonsense. They also play upon the credulity of their victims in an almost unbelievable manner, and even though for years they may keep their intentions secret, sometime or other they will show themselves in their true colors. Therefore it cannot be reiterated too often that no one should accept from anyone else, either visible or invisible, teachings in the slightest degree contrary to his own highest conception of ethics. It is dangerous to trust absolutely to people in this world and admit them to our full confidence; we know this by experience and act accordingly. We ought, naturally, to be much more careful when the question comes to matters of the soul, and not trust that most important of all matters, our spiritual welfare, in the hands of someone we cannot at least see and judge accordingly. There are many Spirits, of course, who have not the wits to do anything very evil with their victims, and who just lead them around by the nose for years and years without any particularly harmful results. But *self reliance* is the most essential virtue to be cultivated by us at this stage of our evolution; the mystic maxim,

"If thou art Christ, help thyself," is always sounded in the ears of those who endeavor to tread the true path. Hence we ought to guide ourselves without fear or favor from any Spirit.

It is amazing when one searches the Memory of Nature of the past to find how prevalent this interlocking condition of the desire and vital bodies was in former centuries and millenniums. We realize, of course, in a sort of an abstract way, that the further we go back into the history of men the more savage we find them, but that in our own historical times this savagery should have been so common and so brutal and that might was the measure of right absolutely and beyond dispute, was, to say the least, quite a shock to the writer. It has been taught that selfishness and desire were purposely fostered under the regime of Jehovah to give incentive to action. This in the course of time had so hardened the desire body that when the advent of Christ took place, there was almost no heaven life among the people then living; but the writer, personally, never realized what this fact implied until the recent investigations of "The Web of Destiny" were commenced.

Nor were these ancient people content to do all the evil they could in life and then get away, but they must even have their war horses killed, their weapons laid down in their coffins, and everything else possible done to keep them here, for the ether in those things which had belonged to them during life had an attraction for them, and was a means to further keeping them within the Earth's sphere. It enabled them to haunt, for they actually did haunt, their castles for years and years, and of course it was not only the rich or the warrior classes but also others. In cases of blood feuds where people were slain, the ghosts incited their relatives to avenge them by remaining about and helping them to carry out the bloody deeds. Thus they perpetuated evil and kept the world in a turmoil of blood and strife; nor is this condition entirely broken in what we call modern days. Wherever a person dies who has fostered malice and hatred in his heart, these interlock the desire and vital bodies and make him a more serious menace to the community than anyone can imagine who has not investigated this subject. Therefore, if for no other reason, capital punishment should be abolished so that we may not let lose upon the community such dangerous characters to incite the morally weak to follow in their footsteps. □

—Max Heindel

Studies in the Cosmo-Conception

This department is devoted to a study of The Western Wisdom Philosophy by the Socratic Method, the material being taken from "The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception" by Max Heindel—the textbook used in the Western Wisdom Philosophy correspondence courses.

Animal Consciousness

Question: When do animal Group Spirits withdraw their influence?

Answer: When the animals become human the Group Spirits still influence them (although in decreasing degree), as race, tribe, community, or family Spirit, until each individual has become capable of acting in full harmony with cosmic law.

Question: What change then occurs?

Answer: Not until that time will the Ego be entirely free and independent of the Group Spirit, which will then enter a higher phase of evolution.

Question: What is the animal consciousness like?

Answer: The position occupied by the Group Spirit in the Desire World gives to the animal a consciousness different from that of man, who has a clear, definite waking consciousness.

Question: How do the two compare?

Answer: Man sees things outside of himself in sharp, distinct outlines. Owing to the spiral path of evolution, the higher domestic animals, particularly the dog, horse, cat, and elephant see objects in somewhat the same way, though perhaps not so clearly defined.

Question: What is the consciousness of other animals?

Answer: All other animals have an internal "picture consciousness" similar to the dream-state in man. When such an animal is confronted by an object, a picture is immediately perceived within, accompanied by a strong impression that the object is inimical or beneficial to its welfare.

Question: How does this affect the animal?

Answer. If the feeling is one of fear, it is associated with a suggestion from the Group Spirit

how to escape the threatened danger. This negative state of consciousness renders it easy for the Group Spirit to guide the dense bodies of its charges by suggestion, as the animals have no will of their own.

Question: Is man so easily managed from without?

Answer: No, neither with nor without his consent. As evolution progresses and man's will develops more and more, he will become non-amenable to outside suggestion and free to do as he pleases regardless of suggestions from others. This is the chief difference between man and the other kingdoms.

Question: What evidence do we have of this fact?

Answer: We do not ask the mineral whether or not it will crystallize, nor the flower whether it will bloom, nor the lion whether it will or will not cease to prey. They are all under the absolute domination of the Group Spirit, being without free will and initiative which, in some degree, are possessed by every human being.

Question: Why do all animals of the same species look nearly alike?

Answer: Because they emanate from the same Group Spirit. Among the fifteen hundred millions of human beings, however, who people the Earth, no two look exactly alike, not even twins when adolescent, because the stamp that is put upon each by the indwelling individual Ego makes the difference in appearance as well as in character.

—Reference: *Cosmo-Conception*, pp. 82-84

Western Wisdom Bible Study

To aid those interested in a deeper understanding of the scriptures, we offer a correspondence course of 28 lessons compiled from Max Heindel's writings. These lessons reveal the basic harmony of religion and science, and offer logical explanations for many misunderstood basic doctrines of the Church. This Western Wisdom Bible Course is available on a free-will offering basis.

Parable of the Leaven

Another parable spake he unto them: The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:

That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

—Matthew 13:33-35

Leaven is a substance which modifies or transforms that into which it is placed. To accomplish its object in the making of bread it must permeate every particle of the “meal,” flour, or dough, making it light and resilient—more readily digested and assimilated by the human being. These things of course were all well known by those who listened to Christ Jesus, so that He was again making use of their common knowledge in order to introduce a deeper truth. Here He is telling them, by means of parable, of the inner power residing in each one which could transform a sordid, limited life into one of beauty, joy, and glory.

The “three measures of meal” we may take to refer to the threefold constitution of man: Spirit, soul and body. Each of these, in turn, is threefold, and they constitute, together with the mind, the extremely complex mechanism of the human being. Truly indeed did David sing in the 139th Psalm: “I am fearfully and wonderfully made...My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and

curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the Earth.” In *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception* it is stated that in the fifth stratum of the Earth “is the primordial fount of life from which came the impetus that built all the forms on Earth. It corresponds to the Region of Abstract Thought.”

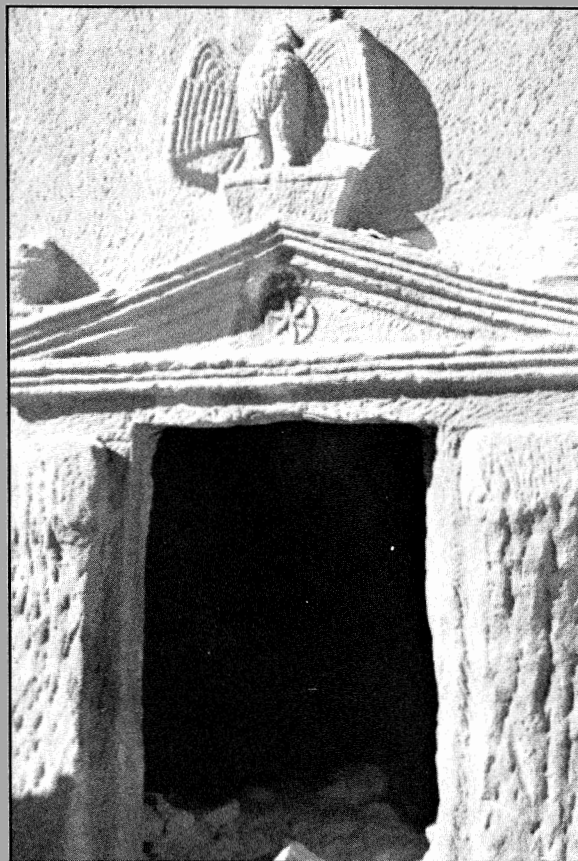
The human being is a crucible in which by means of the process of transmutation, the bodies are refined, the latent inner faculties developed into dynamic powers, and an increasing degree of consciousness evolved.

The threefold Spirit (Divine Spirit, Life Spirit, Human Spirit) emanates from itself the threefold body (dense body, vital body, desire body), extracting as food for the Spirit the threefold soul, (conscious soul, intellectual soul, emotional soul).

“The intellectual soul, as mediator between the other two, grows by the exercise of memory by which it links together past and present experiences and the feeling engendered thereby, thus creating ‘sympathy’ and ‘antipathy,’ which could not exist apart from memory, because the feelings resulting from experience alone would be evanescent.”

The Christ brought a powerful leaven to our Earth and its inhabitants, a Divine Impetus which is slowly bringing about a transformation of the planet as well as of humanity itself. Eventually, as we learn to think and act in accordance with the precepts given in the Sermon on the Mount, we will all “walk in the Light as He is in the Light” and “have fellowship one with another.” □

Astrology



Astrology and A Piscean Revolt in the Philippines

The late General Douglas MacArthur hailed him as a hero; President Ford had visited and praised him in 1975 and so, a few years later did Vice-President Bush; yet, when Ferdinand Marcos yielded to pressure and stepped down from the presidency on February 25, the U.S. government seemed to breathe a collective sigh of relief.

Why the change? On August 21, 1983, opposition leader Benigno Aquino, returning to Manila from the U.S. to challenge Marcos, was gunned down at the airport. The Marcos administration was blamed; and though the alleged "henchmen" were cleared in a state trial, relations between the U.S. and the Philippines never again

were the same. Little wonder, as we turn to astrology, beginning with a chart for the "birthday" of the Philippine Republic, set for July 4, 1946, high noon.

To start with, Venus, ruler of the chart, was retrograde on August 21, 1983; its Saturn in the tenth house was under close "challenging" squares from transiting Saturn and Pluto and the first house and a midpoint between Neptune and Jupiter. The Dragon's Tail, symbolic of destiny, by transit was conjunct its own place, thereby "setting off" unpredictable Uranus as well as the Moon and Part of Catastrophe. From this position it also opposed Mars in the U.S. chart, the co-ruler of the U.S. eleventh house of government—hence the negative attitude of the American administration.

Also at this time, some powerful primary progressions were in effect. The Sun in the July 4, 1946 chart was conjunct the Dragon's Tail in the U.S. chart: relations between the two nations were destined to be changed. The progressed MC was conjunct Venus, the ruler of the chart; progressed Uranus was conjunct Saturn; progressed Neptune was conjunct the cusp of the second house; progressed Part of Peril was conjunct Pluto; progressed Part of Catastrophe was square Saturn; progressed Mars was conjunct Saturn on the U.S. chart; progressed Pluto was conjunct Moon (which is conjunct the Part of Catastrophe) all negative aspects: Without doubt the murder of Benigno Aquino was the most important factor initiating the many changes in Philippine domestic affairs and relations with the U.S. during

the next 2 1/2 years.

Almost immediately, the U.S. began to criticize the authoritarianism of the Manila government, symbolized by the afflicted Saturn in the tenth house of its chart. Admittedly, even though Philippine rule was closely patterned after that of the U.S., there was less freedom there than in the old mother country. But considering the overall situation, not just the existence of a strong communist insurgency movement, this was inevitable and necessary if stability was to be preserved. Often liberty is the price of security; the Philippine Saturn is in Cancer, the sign preoccupied with security. But in mundane charts, unless Saturn in the tenth house is strongly fortified, it tends to act in ways leading to downfall. Hitler and Napoleon had this configuration in their charts.

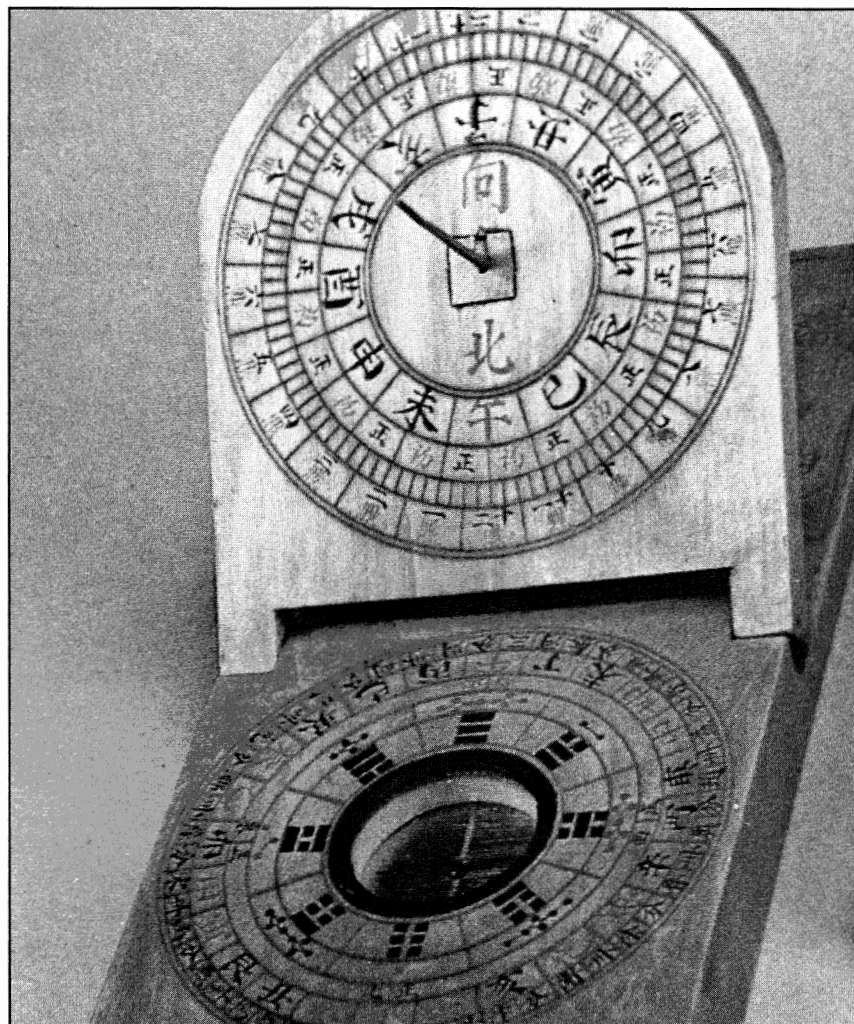
Accordingly, the Marcos government didn't handle the Aquino affair very adroitly. Too, it had all started in the summer, when the U.S. Congress is not in session and the press is hard up for news. The Aquino affair was "puffed": it was "just the thing" with which to attack this lack of news.

Eventually, pressure was put on the Philippine government to call for elections, and they were duly held on February 7, 1986. On that day, the most powerful planet in all the heavens was Pluto, the planet of change and revolt. It was stationary retrograde. This planet can produce results similar to what happens when a rug is pulled out from under someone. Pluto is just on the cusp of the Philippines Republic eleventh house of government.

And so, when two U.S. heli-

copters were flying to the Presidential Palace to take away Marcos, family, and belongings, the beginning of the end and the start of the new came at 9:30 P.M. February 2, 1986.¹ On that day, transiting Uranus was conjunct the North Node's position on the day Benigno was shot. Also on a chart set for 9:30 P.M., February 25, 1986, the Ascendant fell conjunct the position of Saturn and Pluto on August 21, 1983; the Pisces Stellium of February 25, 1986, was right atop Lilith's place August 21, 1986; the cause-and-effect relationship between the murder of Benigno Aquino and his widow's accession to the presidency is undeniable.

A closer look at a chart erected for 9:30 P.M., February 25, 1986 reveals other informative insights. It is a bowl formation, implying a deep scooping into experience. According to the media, the revolt had been a grass-roots effort by the people themselves. This gets further confirmation from the fact that the Moon is the "cutting planet";² and hence the most important in this chart. It symbolizes the people—all the more so since it is in Virgo, the sign analogous to the sixth house. Also, the Moon's position on February 25, 1986, 9:30 P.M., was at its own place of July 4, 1946 at high noon. This indicates a new start—domestic



changes.³ But let it not be forgotten, this also makes the Moon conjunct the Part of Catastrophe.

The fourfold Pisces Stellium is in the “weak” sixth house of both the July 4, 1946 and the February 25, 1986 charts—another indication that this is a revolt from below. The people were restless, as shown by the Mutable T-square of the Moon, Uranus, Venus and Mercury. Moreover, this T-square of February 25, 1986 produces a Grand Cross when superimposed on the July 4, 1946 chart—another indication of destiny. And speaking of a cross, the symbol for the degree of the Sun—which represents government—on the February 25, 1986 chart is a “a cross lying on rocks.”⁴ It doesn’t take genius to figure that one out.

We also find that on February 25, 1986, Neptune was exactly square its July 4, 1946 position, in close opposition to the July 4, 1946 Part of Peril and in wide opposition to that date’s chart MC and Sun. The February 25, 1986 Neptune was also trine the July 4, 1946 Mars, but this isn’t as good as it sounds. This Mars can’t deliver much; it has a twelfth house influence and is square negative Lilith. Neptune on February 25, 1986 was also sextile Pluto, but the latter was retrograde, conjunct the negative Dragon’s Tail, and opposite the Part of Misfortune. Transiting Neptune on February 25, 1986 also produced a temporary Yod or “Finger of God” configuration on the July 4, 1946 chart, with Lilith and Pluto, neither of which could be called a benefic. What occurred on February 25, 1986 was not just “another” change of

administration!

How does the Communist threat figure in all this? After all, in February 1986 there were some 16,000 guerrillas in the field. Jupiter and the Sun in the February 25, 1986 chart are opposite Russia’s Mars; Neptune in the February 25, 1986 chart is conjunct the Russian North Node and opposite its Pluto. Neptune, under whose aegis Communism acts, will transit the Philippines’ chart IC before the end of the decade, along with the rest of the upcoming major conjunction in Capricorn. Immediately upon taking office, Mrs. Aquino offered amnesty to the rebels, but it is very doubtful that they will suddenly abandon their longtime efforts. They have invested too much and are doing too well. The Aquino administration is not exactly one of great strength.⁵ Anyone still expecting an end to the current insurgency should read “The New Khmer Rouge,” by Russ H. Munro, in the November, 1985, *Commentary*.

What effect will the Philippine “Putsch”⁶ have on the U.S.? Let’s see what kind of a day February 25, 1986 was for this country astrologically. Saturn and Mars transited in opposition to the U.S. Ascendant: crisis, danger. The transiting Sun was square the U.S. Uranus, a tremor. The transiting Moon was conjunct the U.S. Neptune and square Mars inconjunct Moon and MC, and the Moon in the U.S. chart “rules” the second house of money. Add to this the fact that transiting Sun and Jupiter were trine the U.S. Venus and Jupiter on the cusp of the U.S. second house. On the very day after the new regime took over, there was

already talk on Capitol Hill of increasing financial aid to our former colony—even while the Congress was grappling with this nation’s own financial crisis. Undoubtedly the Philippine Republic will need a hefty infusion of cash, with Lilith, Saturn, and Mars in the second House of the February 25, 1986 chart and Saturn in its July 4, 1946 chart, and Saturn retrograde March 19 to August 7, 1986, and Mars retrograde from June 9 to August 12, 1986.

What advice do the heavens offer to the new housewife-president? Strive for genuine awareness of the situation (Pluto in the first house); use your resources prudently (Saturn in the second House); practice discriminating idealism (the solar-lunar configuration). And while she is still rejoicing in the “honeymoon” she has been promised, she might well ponder the words of Sacred Scripture: “Better is the *end* of a thing than the *beginning* thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.” *Ecclesiastes 7:8*.

—A Probationer

¹According to “Morning Edition,” National Public Radio, February 26, 1986.

²See *Predictive Astrology*, Sakoian and Acker, p. pp. 66-72.

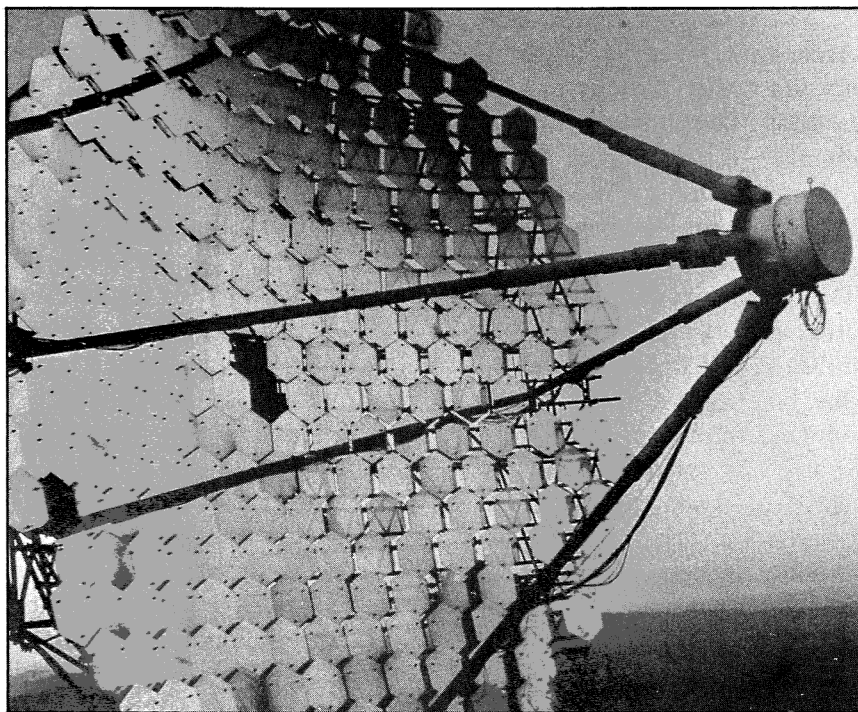
³See *Aspects and Their Meanings: Astrokinetics*. Vol. 3, E.W. Whitman, p. 152.

⁴See *The Sabeian Symbols in Astrology*, Marc Edmund Jones, p. 307.

⁵It came right after a Full Moon with emphasis on the sixth and twelfth houses: mutable signs, cadent houses.

⁶“German—a revolt or uprising, esp. one that depends upon suddenness and speed.”—*The Random House Dictionary of the English Language*, College Edition, p. 1075.

Astrology



The Night That Shook a Nation!

Forty-four years and five days after Japan's attack on Hawaii that produced the U.S. entry into World War II, the U.S. Congress produced what has been described as an "economic Pearl Harbor"—the Gramm-Rudman Bill,¹ intended to use "draconian" means to eliminate the huge annual federal deficits by 1991. The public is wondering if this will succeed. As students of astrology, we simply set a chart for the time and place the bill was enacted, and that way we know.

When an "event chart" like this has many "ties" with the corresponding "natal chart,"—in this case that of the U.S.—we can be sure that we're dealing with an important event. Here, the Venus of the event chart is in opposition to the Ascendant in the U.S. chart; the Sun and Uranus of the event chart are in opposition to Mars of the U.S. chart. We also find the extraordinarily strong tie of the Part of Fortune in the

event chart conjunct Neptune in the U.S. chart. Because *all* these ties are negative, we must sadly conclude that this event is not going to be helpful for the U.S. in the long run.

This most regrettable deduction is most amply confirmed by a study of the event chart itself. The Ascendant in Virgo 0.50 is invalid; its ruler, Mercury—which also rules its second house of finances and co-rules the tenth house of Fate—is in Sagittarius 0.25 and thus also invalid; it is intercepted, square the Ascendant, in wide opposition to the MC, which is conjunct Algol, the "most dangerous star in the heavens";² it is also conjunct obstructive Saturn!

The Moon rules "function." Here, she is conjunct Neptune of illusion and the fixed star Facies, an "area of blindness,"³ in the fifth house of risk-taking. The moon in this chart also rules the eleventh house of hopes, wishes—another indicator that we should not set them too high.

The Sun rules the vitality of a matter. In this chart, the solar orb is intercepted and conjunct upsetting Uranus, which has also been called the "lawless planet"; a lower court already has declared a major section of Gramm-Rudman unconstitutional. An appeal has been made to the Supreme Court; will the ruling be revised?

We strongly doubt it, based on a study of the ninth house of legalizing, or legality, of the event chart. Here we find Lilith: its location by house, if it afflicts the chart's ruler or Ascendant—in this case the former, by a wide quincunx, the aspect of reorganization—indicates where the major danger lurks! Confirm-

ing this, Lilith's Solstice Point is on the Ascendant!

The ninth house ruler is Mars, in Libra 28°58'. It makes no further aspect before leaving its sign, which symbolizes great independence, but it is about seven degrees from Pluto, which here rules the fourth house of endings. Because of its close conjunction to the Dragon's Tail, it is very fateful. Since applying Mars is in a cardinal sign in a cadent house and declination south,⁴ we judge that about seven months or a little later after the passage Gramm-Rudman, it will have a negative encounter with the U.S. Judiciary. At this writing,⁵ it is known already that the Supreme Court will rule on Gramm-Rudman sometime this summer which would be just about the time predicted by the stars!

And what kind of a summer will it be? From July 12 to November 8, Jupiter, ruler of law, will be retrograde in the U.S. tenth house of Fate. From June 9 to August 12, Mars will be retrograde in the U.S. eighth house of debts and deficits.

When there are retrograde transits in a given house, the matters it rules don't go "forward!"

Also, from July 10 til August 3, Mercury, ruler of the U.S. Ascendant, is retrograde, turning direct when conjunct its natal position. This presages a major change—a new start.

Can't anything good be said about Gramm-Rudman? Was it just another *March of Folly*?⁶ The bundle pattern of the event chart and its many conjunctions indicate that the effort behind this bill was energetic, hard-driven, ambitious. Those involved did their best, but the "best" just isn't good enough when not in step with the stars!

Some may casually dismiss all this, saying, Gramm-Rudman isn't just another bill; it's an effort to deal with American's foremost problem of the day. Readers of the *Rays* already know of the upcoming major conjunction in the U.S. chart's eighth house during all this year, Saturn will be transiting in opposition to the U.S. Ascendant. This indicates crisis. Also in 1986, the progressed solstice

point of the Moon in the U.S. chart, where it rules the second house of finances, will be astride the Ascendant, the most important point on a chart.

The progressed solstice point of Saturn, ruler of the U.S. eighth house, will conjunct Saturn. And the progressed solstice point of Pluto will be right on the cusp of the U.S. second house, on the midpoint between Venus and Jupiter. Not for another 360 years will these three important, ominous configurations again be in effect.

Just before the French National Convention, a revolutionary legislative body, adjourned in the fall of 1795, a member asked, "What time is it?" An answer boomed forth: "The hour of judgment!" When the U.S. Congress, also amid perilous times, passed Gramm-Rudman shortly before it adjourned for Christmas, the clock on the wall said 10:15 P.M.⁷ But the stellar clock in the sky said: "The hour of judgment!" □

A Probationer

¹It is interesting that the two chief sponsors of this bill come from states with the same Sun sign as on the cusps of the two money houses in the U.S. chart: Gramm hails from Capricorn, Texas, the sign on the U.S. eighth house cusp; Rudman comes from Cancer, New Hampshire, the same sign as on the U.S. second house cusp.

²Moore and Douglas, *Astrology, the Divine Science*, p. 736

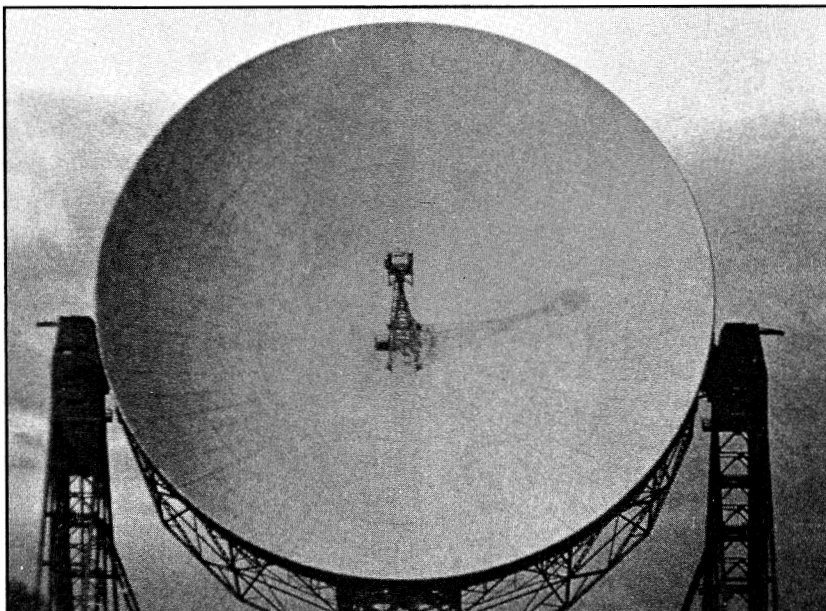
³Barbara H. Watters, *Horary Astrology and Judgment of events*, p. 107.

⁴Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson, *Simplified Horary Astrology*, pp. 70, 71.

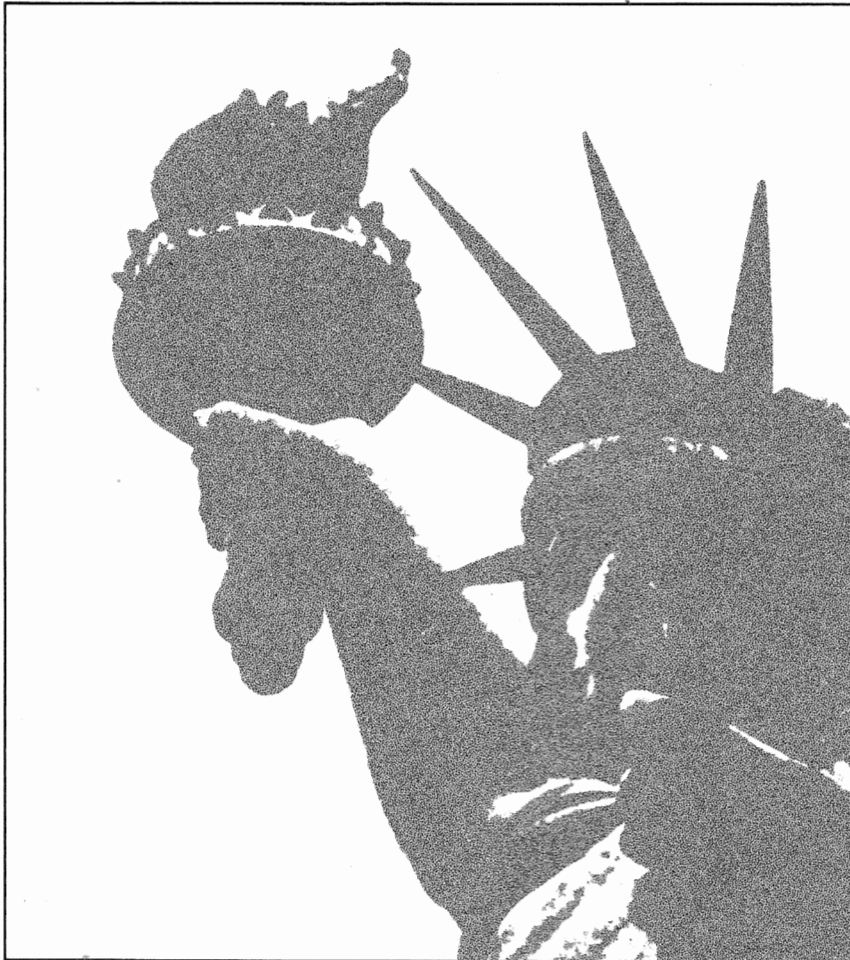
⁵March, 1986.

⁶A book by Barbara Tuchman, best-selling writer on history, who chronicled therein some of the major blunders of the past.

⁷*Time*, 2/3/86, p. 82.



Astrology



The Lady with the Lamp... Will Her Light Flicker?

In mid-summer of 1914, when the nations of Europe were plunging in to what became World War I, England's foreign secretary, Lord Grey, sadly remarked: "The lights are going out all over Europe." At this Centennial Celebration of the Statute of Liberty, which welcomed to these shores so many of the sons and daughters of the Old World, the question might well be asked, "Will the lamp in New York harbor keep burning, or will freedom's holy light go out?" Many are saying, "It could happen here."

We'll examine freedom's fate on the shores of the U.S.A. by turning to astronomy, astrology, the Bible, and history. Let's start out by stating

a thesis:¹ Freedom is an Aquarian trait.² America is free to the extent that she responds to these Aquarian vibrations.³ To be able to respond to these Aquarian vibrations, one must master discipline.

Here are the facts behind this: astronomy teaches that the Solar System is arranged thus: Sun; Earth; Moon; Mercury; Venus; Mars; Jupiter; Saturn; Uranus; Neptune; Pluto.

Astrology teaches that to be able to respond to the vibrations of a given planet, one must have mastered, to some extent, the vibrations of the planet preceding it in distance from the Sun. For instance, Venus is the planet of affection or mundane love. To direct one's affections aright, one must have encountered Mercury, the planet of mind for obviously it is when we don't use our mental powers that we place our affections on the wrong thing or people. Now, the sign Aquarius has two rulers, Uranus and Saturn. Saturn precedes Uranus; Saturn is primarily the planet of *discipline*, and Uranus of *freedom*. Thus, astrology teaches that discipline precedes freedom.

Some of the best known words of Scripture are in *John* 8:32: "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." But there is a condition to this freedom, or liberty, in the previous verse: "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed." To continue in Christ's words requires discipline; those who are disciplined are true disciples, and *they* are the ones who will enjoy freedom.¹

U.S. history confirms this. When the American Revolution "officially" ended with the Treaty

of Paris in 1783, there began an era known as the "Period of Confederation." Little is said about it nowadays because it was a gloomy time; the "noble experiment" of freedom had a shaky start. One verse of scripture sufficiently sums up what was going on then: "In those days there was no king (authority, discipline) . . . but every man did that which was right in his own eyes." (*Judges* 17:6) In at least two of the states, or colonies, there was civil war and none of the others were truly tranquil. Human property was

not safe. This is why the Constitutional Convention was called. Let it not be thought for a moment that the Founding Fathers were seized by the idea of extending "democracy," as one easily may conclude by listening to some things being said nowadays. Their real motive was to protect property, *their* property, from the mobs roaming the lands!

Pertinent is what the stars have to say about this. Uranus in Cancer was then opposite Saturn in Capricorn, squared by Neptune in Libra. Freedom

(Uranus) was at cross-purposes with discipline (Saturn), due to false idealism (Neptune). It was thought that freedom meant that one could do just about anything one wanted, but freedom never works that way. Others must be considered; *that* requires discipline.

Our Founding Fathers wisely realized that society—any society—has three choices: 1) self-discipline by its members; 2) discipline imposed from without; 3) chaos. They recognized that during the 1780's a *cancer* was eating colonial society. How? The difference between a healthy cell and cancerous one is simply this: the healthy cell contributes to the well-being of the entire body, whereas the malignant one lives only for itself, is undisciplined, and *that* brings death. And what holds true for the physical body is equally so in the case of a body politic.

Something somewhat similar to the events in America in the 1780's happened during the lifetime of all reading this article. There was unrest in Iran during the 1970's; the Shah tried to impose order and discipline; this received almost universal criticism.² A famous TV interviewer asked, "Your Majesty, why don't you rule like the King of Sweden?" His reply, "If my people behaved like the Swedes, I'd rule like the King of Sweden!" But under pressure of world opinion, he relaxed discipline chaos ensued, and from this emerged a regime which nobody would call a paradigm of freedom!

If one compares the Constitution of the United States, prepared because of the chaos of the period of confederation,



with the Articles of Confederation, the document which was the law of the land before, one immediately notes added restrictions. Freedom, to survive, had to be limited; that limit was discipline imposed from without.

Having seen the close tie between freedom and discipline in the light of the Bible, astrology and history, we are now ready to look ahead by considering the last time the planets Saturn and Uranus were in configuration. This will help us very clearly see what's ahead when they again, in the very near future, will align in the heavens.

During 1942/1943, Uranus and Saturn conjuncted Gemini. Since Saturn is an earthy planet and Uranus is one of fire, it isn't easy for them to work in tandem, but at that time they received a sextile from Pluto in Leo and a trine from Neptune in Libra. This helped; it injected a measure of idealism. Nobody truthfully can deny that America responded enthusiastically to the needs of the hour during World War II. Men volunteered before the draft reached them; women worked in the factories; rationing and scarcity cheerfully were borne, and savings bonds were selling well as America became the "Arsenal of Democracy."

But alas, even though the conjunction of Saturn and Uranus was reinforced so beautifully by Pluto and Neptune, not everything was perfect. After all, these *are* high octave planets (except Saturn) of exalted spiritual vibrations, planets "to whose vibrations this Earth finds it hard to respond—even when they form good aspects."³

The preceding was written about individuals; it is much more true about nations! And

so, even though things seemed to be progressing, some things had to be done—or so the government thought—to *keep* things progressing. The soldiers were given great promises of reward after victory: financial help for education, housing, etc. No one will deny that those who risked their lives are entitled to some recompense; they were heroes. But as parents with several children know, when you give to one, you've got to give to all. So, when it was seen how much Uncle Sam was doing for the ex-GI's, labor spoke up. Had it not disciplined itself during the war by pressing for higher wages? Other groups claimed their share of the pie of victory, too. Since government was asked to do more, it automatically became bigger and more expensive, and the huge debt incurred while fighting World War II, instead of being liquidated, increased. Lately, the U.S. debt and deficit have come at last to the front burner of public attention, and rightly so, for between 1988-93 Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune will come together in the eighth house of the U.S. astrological chart—the *money* sector. In other words, *the way this nation financially relates itself to discipline and idealism (Saturn and Neptune) will decide the survival of freedom (Uranus).*

If we take another look at the astrological chart of this nation, we find Taurus on the cusp of the twelfth house. Taurus is the money sign; the sign on the cusp of the twelfth house, positively, indicates "self-sustainment," negatively, it indicates "self-undoing." America's wealth has helped very much to make her a super power, but just as sure-

ly, it is possible through financial mismanagement to bring about "self-undoing."

History confirms this. The French Revolution of 1789 followed a protracted financial crises; Hitler assumed power to a large extent because Germany's debt after World War I caused such a mess that many of her people lost faith in the Weimar Republic; the Chinese Monarchy foundered on finances shortly before World War I and the government system that replaced it went the same way right after World War II. The message comes through loud and clear: that most precious *spiritual* commodity called liberty or freedom depends on the physical or *material* activities of the people. "Righteousness (that is, right doing, which must be based on discipline) exalteth a nation: but sin (lack of discipline) is a reproach to any people." *Proverbs* 14:34.

Several years ago, a former U.S. President reminisced about some other world leaders he had known. Concerning one he said, "He lived simply but dreamed grandly." To live simply implies discipline; to dream grandly implies idealism and victory. This is the winning combination; there is no other. □

¹The writer is well aware that there is a difference between freedom and liberty, as a reading of the dictionary will confirm. Nevertheless, because of popular usage, these terms have been used interchangeably.

²It is not the writer's purpose to praise or castigate any of the participants in recent Iranian events; they are referred to here only to reinforce the intimate relationship between freedom and discipline.

³*Astrology*, Else Parker, p. 121.

News Perspectives

New Life for Rosicrucian View of Solar System

The discoveries made by the Voyager 2 space craft in its recent fly-by of the planet Uranus have gone a long way toward vindicating the description of the formation of the solar system given by Max Heindel in *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception* over 75 years ago.

The Rosicrucian explanation parallels that of the French mathematician Laplace, who theorized in 1796, that the solar system began as a hot whirling cloud, which threw off rings of gas as it cooled and contracted. These rings were spun off at discrete intervals and eventually formed the planets, while the central mass of gas contracted further to become the Sun. This theory was still in vogue when Mr. Heindel was writing *The Cosmo-Conception*, though opposition to it had already begun.

By 1930 the Laplace notion had been displaced by the theory now widely accepted, which states that the planets were formed from a continuous disc of gas. Scientists could see no reason for the rings of gas to be thrown from the Sun which was known to spin too slowly for such an occurrence anyway, and the planets would have more mass. Although *The Rosicrucian Fellowship* has been promulgating something similar to the Laplacian concept ever since its inception, the scientific view has for the most part been at variance with the occultist.

In the early 1970's an Australian mathematician, Dr. Andrew Prentice, took an interest in the Laplacian theory. After many years of work he developed a "modern Laplacian" theory which explains why the rings of gas were spun off from the huge primeval Sun. He introduced a concept called "supersonic turbulence," first suggested by a Dutch physicist Dr. Ter Haar, which describes the movement of gas from the center of a whirling Sun out to its edge. This high velocity movement had been noticed on a particular type of star called T-tauri, but as the phenomena did not fit the theory it was neglected.

Prentice's work was neglected also—magazines such as "Science" and "Nature" refused to publish it. His first descriptions of Uranus finally were

published in 1977 by the Astronomical Society of Australia. He predicted two new satellites at orbital radii of 2.5 to 3.5, but later refined this to orbital radii of 2.6 to 3.4. He indicated the moons would be "black sticky tar balls" and that the core of Uranus would rotate on a different axis to the main atmospheric axis of rotation: "within the spinning top is another top."

When Voyager 2 reached Uranus, these predictions were each proved correct. There were the new satellites at 2.6 and 3.4 orbital radii. There were the black methane moons, and the poles of the planet's magnetic field were 55 degrees off the planet's rotational axis. Prentice was vindicated!

Not only was he vindicated, but suddenly the accepted disc theory of the origin of the solar system was threatened. With the modern Laplacian theory proven so dramatically, the Rosicrucian description of events once more came into line with scientific evidence.

Although few of us really are concerned with how the solar system was formed, the above illustrates an important point. Often the occult description of events will go out of fashion as science wends its sure but tedious way along the path of knowledge. But science, by its very nature, is always changing its ideas. This year's fact is last year's fiction. We, as aspiring souls, need to be aware of the explorative and therefore vagary path of science. While we must appreciate its support when it agrees with our discoveries, we must also refuse to be disconcerted when it disagrees. We must trust our inner light and always remember that the within is the only worthy tribunal of Truth.

—P. L.

Crisis at Chernobyl

"According to American scientists, the accident almost certainly began with a massive loss of coolant in the reactors core on Friday, April 25. No outsider knew exactly what had interfered with the flow of water. There could have been a loss of pressure during refueling or an electrical failure that stopped the pumps; one high-ranking Soviet official, Boris Yeltsin, said later that the accident was caused by 'human error.' In any case, fission continued within the nuclear fuel rods, and without water to cool them off, heat built up rapidly."

The world has lived in fear of nuclear disaster ever since the first "nuclear power plants" began operation some years ago. No matter how safe they

were considered to be, there was still a thread of doubt running through people's minds about the safety of having nuclear power plants near populated areas. This accident 80 miles north of Kiev astounded the world by the lack of information coming from the Soviet Union at a time when cooperation and communication was a matter of "life and death."

"Without any announcement from Moscow, residents were quietly evacuated from the Chernobyl region—close to 50,000 people, according to Western estimates. Kiev city busses apparently were commandeered for the job; Finnish construction workers based outside the city said they saw convoys of vehicles heading toward Chernobyl."

For the world outside of the Soviet Union, there was no sign of trouble until Monday morning when a worker at Sweden's Forsmark nuclear plant walked past a radiation detector and set off the alarm. Radiation had been detected on the blue covers of his shoes, but even though the plant was evacuated, officials soon determined there was nothing wrong there. Still, elsewhere in the country monitoring stations were reporting a sudden jump in radiation levels as high as 100 times the norm. The Americans were quickly alerted by the Swedes and the first thought was that somehow a Soviet underground nuclear test had vented into the atmosphere.

The Soviets finally acknowledged the Chernobyl disaster at 9:02 p.m. with a simple statement on the television news program "Vremya" ("Time") which said that one of the reactors at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant was damaged. There was no mention of casualties or technical details on how the disaster was being dealt with! "On Tuesday the Soviets released a little more information. They offered four short paragraphs revealing that two people had been killed 'during the accident,'"

At a time when the world is going through so many changes on both physical and spiritual levels, it is vital that there be more communication among the nations of the world, especially during a crisis of such a magnitude! We are in need of special handling during such incidents if the world is to be made safe at times when there is the threat of nuclear war or national disaster. With a spirit of sharing and mutual concern, much can be done to eliminate the unnecessary fears developing from lack of information.

— *Time Magazine*, "The Chernobyl Meltdown"
May 12, 1986

Plastics: Good and Bad

"At the Sixth International Ocean Disposal Symposium in Pacific Grove, California, last month, scientists reported that plastic trash is causing injury and death to countless marine animals that feast on it or become ensnared in it." One of the prime contributors to "plastic pollution" are the world's merchant ships. It is said that they dump approximately 6.6 million tons of trash overboard every year.

In addition to the merchant ships, commercial fishermen are also major offenders with an estimate of 150,000 tons of plastic fishing gear lost or discarded at sea yearly! Weekend boaters and beachgoers add to this marine litter with six-pack yokes, picnic utensils, sandwich bags and styrofoam cups. Many cities and industries are dumping waste directly into the water adding to the current dilemma.

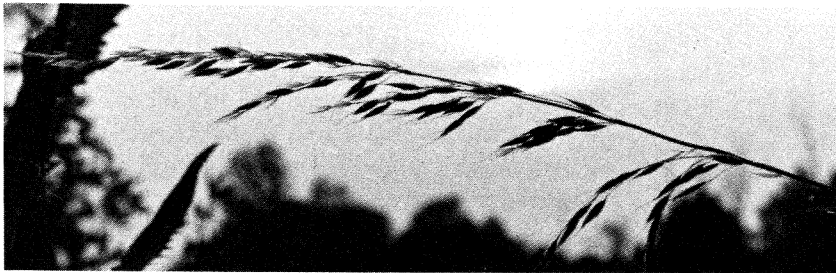
This plastic being dumped in our oceans and waterways now is taking a heavy toll on marine life, especially seals, sea lions, turtles and seabirds. As many as 50,000 northern fur seals are estimated to die each year after becoming enshrouded in fish netting. The smaller plastic items are mistaken for prey by birds and turtles and cause fatalities when eaten. "Leatherback turtles, which feast on jelly fish, are particularly attracted to plastic bags." Of the 50 albatrosses found ill or dead on the Midway Islands, approximately 45 had eaten some form of plastic.

Present efforts to reduce this large amount of "plastic pollution" have been largely unsuccessful even though the United States and 59 other nations agreed in 1972 to outlaw the dumping of plastics into the ocean. This treaty failed to take into consideration the discharge of regular "garbage" which often contains a large amount of plastic materials.

The concern for our younger brothers must be made more available to those who are perhaps unknowingly dumping plastics into oceans which will later cause fatalities among the marine and bird life in that particular area. Perhaps if there is more communication among groups interested in preserving "wildlife," the public can be made more aware of the current plight!

—*Time Magazine*, "The Perils of Plastic Pollution,"
June 2, 1986

Book Review



***The Christian Agnostic*, Leslie D. Weatherhead, Abingdon Press, New York, Nashville, 1965; 368 pages.**

I'm an angry old man! "That's how the author described himself when he stepped down in 1960 from 45 years in the Christian Ministry. During 22 of these years he occupied one of the most prestigious pulpits in all Christendom, London's City Temple, while also, for part of that time, holding the top executive spot in his denomination.¹

No doubt he was justified in calling himself "old"; not only was he now in his late 60's, having begun his ministry at 22, but as Kingsley Weatherhead tells in his father's biography, his health was impaired greatly by the exertions of his executive years. And as for justification for his being "angry": Protestantism had been established in Britain for 400 years, well supplied with men, resources, and state encouragement, yet it was relatively weak. Any other organization—and the author actually names a philosophy totally alien to the British temperament, which Protestantism is not—would have long ere this won the support of all the people.

And what might be the reason for this? "Excess baggage." British Christianity, including Catholicism, had been asking people to subscribe to beliefs and creeds which many found intellectually hard to accept; this has also tended to make the churches an irrelevant entity.

How to remedy this? Dr. Weatherhead calls for a new approach to the Bible, and that is why he chose to call his book what he did.² He notes that an agnostic is not like an atheist, who rejects belief; an agnostic is one who doesn't know. Dr. Weatherhead admits having had many intellectual problems with Christianity; he's still searching and patiently waiting for answers, he writes, and asks others to do the same. He has no use for creeds and quotes a Vice Chancellor of Cambridge University: "Hold to Christ and for the rest be totally uncommitted." (p. 361.) He finds that the Christ calls others to follow Him in love and not to subscribe to some creed. The poem "Creed or Christ" in the opening pages of *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception* would fit well into this work!

Admittedly others have written in somewhat similar vein, but they have stripped away most of all of the so-called "supernatural" from the Bible. Not so Weatherhead. His faith in "miracles" is strong. He offers a good definition: "A law-abiding event by which God accom-

plishes his purposes through the release of energies which belong to a plane of being higher than man, at his present stage of development, has reached." (p. 107) By way of explanation, he tells of his Arab friends during his World War I days in the Middle East. At first they thought the electric telegraph was a miracle; eventually they learned to operate it. Training had enabled them to reach a higher "stage of development."

Some so-called "miracles" Dr. Weatherhead dismisses as not being that at all. For instance, there's the occasion of Christ telling Peter to catch a fish to get money to pay taxes. *Matthew 17:27*. Here in the West we don't know of aquatic life with built-in treasuries, but in the Levant, the *musht*, also now called "St. Peter's fish," loves to seize bright objects (including coins) and keep them in his jaw! Or take the stilling of the storm on the Sea of Galilee. *Mark 4:39*. Dr. Weatherhead tells us, from observation, that big storms there often suddenly subside on their own, without anyone's command. And as for the Feeding of the Five Thousand (*Matthew 14:17*; *Mark 6:38*; *Luke 9:13*), he believes that Christ, in so many words, told the assembled crowd that if they were as generous in sharing their food as was the lad with his, there'd be enough for all!

Weatherhead considers the Resurrection of Christ the greatest miracle and is very emphatic about accepting it. He is convinced that the apostles couldn't have preached about this fact so soon after the event and so near to where it happened, were it not so.

Writing about the Virgin Birth,

Dr. Weatherhead reminds us that the Jews considered every birth as "overshadowed by the Holy Spirit," even if an earthly father was present. His other speculation—a "sacred marriage" in the Temple with a priest, akin to Hindu practice—seems far-fetched; too bad Dr. Weatherhead didn't have access to the beautiful Western Wisdom Teaching on this matter.

Noteworthy is the author's discussion of Pentecost and the Speaking in Tongues: Peter didn't really speak in foreign tongues. Because of the story of the Tower of Babel, "tongues" were a sign of divine disapproval, not approval, to the Jews. (*Genesis 11:1-9*) Instead Peter, who habitually spoke with an accent (*Matthew 26:73*), now spoke clearly so all could understand. He was God intoxicated (*Acts 2:15*). Dr. Weatherhead tells of a Durham miner, normally hard to understand, who, under the emotional fervor of a prayer, meeting "poured forth a flood of beautiful language without a trace of dialect." p. 153.

Truly amazing is what the author relates concerning the survival of the soul after death. He describes at length an incident each from World War I and World War II in which leaders of men *continued being seen and giving orders after they physically had been killed in battle!* "The bond of love is stronger than the power of death and under certain circumstances can overcome the barrier which is caused by death....(which) itself does not necessarily mean the complete severance of tangible ties between men on Earth and their companions who are no longer there." (p. 134.)

In view of the foregoing, it is natural that the author rejects the idea of the resurrection of the body, and in addition to Scripture, offers some pertinent questions: How can there be a resurrection for one who has been eaten by several cannibals, or for one who has drowned, and been eaten by fishes, which in turn have been eaten by others?

On the nature of God, Dr. Weatherhead has an interesting thesis which, at risk of oversimplification; can be stated thus: 1. The Bible depicts a Deity projecting love and wrath. 2. They cannot both be true; this is contradictory. 3. Christ came to reveal God. He showed love; therefore, God is love.

It is here that the author makes what perhaps is his greatest practical contribution. In the chapter "Providence and Care," he tenderly appeals to the heart, not the head. After telling the reader that he lost "three of my dearest" to cancer and that he doesn't have all the answers, he offers this beautiful illustration of the Heavenly Parent: A mother would allow a child to stumble on a thick carpet at home, while learning to walk, but not on a rail line with an express train due. (p. 210) He concludes that surely there is also a "measure" to what God allows.

His chapter "Reincarnation and Renewed Chances" reads almost as though it were lifted from Rosicrucian literature. The justice of God demands it; there are many experiences that support it.

Lest we be accused of presenting an unbalanced or overly enthusiastic review, we should mention our disappointment

with his chapter "Prayer and Faith." While he acknowledges belief in both, he laments: "Prayer is not instinctive like eating. I wish it were, and that one really hungered for God." (p. 219) But one must respect his frankness and honesty in making this admission!

Like Max Heindel, he appeals in so many words to the reader to accept truth "according to his own discretion."⁴ Like mystics through the ages, he confides that the supreme proof he has had of the existence of a God of Love have been some of his own exalted, subjective experiences. (p. 363, 364.)

The book jacket states, "Traditionalists will be shocked by this book for he does not pull any punches." He offers new insights into old oversights. Surely he has left Egypt; regrettably, he has stopped short of the Promised Land!

Note: Readers unable to procure this book in their local bookstore or library might ask the latter to get it through the Inter-library Loan Service. □

¹Dr. Weatherhead also authored over 30 books before this one. In some, we find C.B.E., M.A., Ph.D., D.Litt., D.D. after his name. We mention this to indicate he was not "just another preacher!"

²To soften the shock of his readers, he recalls that John Wesley had no use for some of the Psalms "as highly improper for the mouths of a Christian Congregation." He specifically lists the 137th and 139th. (p. 193.)

³This material has been published separately as *The Case for Reincarnation*, by Leslie D. Weatherhead, by M.C. Peto, 16, Kingswood Road, Tadworth, Surrey, England. When the writer purchased his copy in the 1960's, it had gone through four editions and cost 20¢.

⁴*The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*, by Max Heindel, p. 9.

Readers' Questions

We welcome questions from our readers regarding the *Western Wisdom Teachings* and/or their application to our life and work in the world. Answers presented as space permits. Send questions to Editor, *Rays from the Rose Cross*, P. O. Box 713, Oceanside, CA 92054 USA.

Explanation of Miracles

Question:

Please explain the Rosicrucian position concerning miracles. Can they be understood in anything other than a supernatural frame of reference?

Answer:

A miracle is generally considered to be an unusual happening in the physical world which deviates from the known laws of Nature, and is, therefore, presumed to have been enacted by some sort of superhuman power. In point of fact, however, so-called "miracles" conform as much to natural law as do the prosaic events of earthy life which are familiar, predictable, and generate no surprise.

There are many laws of Nature about which mankind in general knows little or nothing. Under one such law, for instance, as the occult scientist knows, it is possible for an Adept who possesses even a minute amount of any element to materialize an indefinite quantity of the same element from the cosmic root substance. Naturally, he must be able to utilize both the Law of Attraction and his own will power properly in order to be able to perform such a feat. In this way, Christ Jesus was able to perform the "miracle" of the loaves and fishes, and change water into wine.

Furthermore, the occult scientist knows that each individual has a vital body as well as a physical vehicle, and that this vital body is composed of four interpenetrated but separate and distinct ethers. He also knows that the most advanced individuals of our race are learning how to separate the two higher from the two lower ethers, and form them into a vehicle in which they can function at will. This vehicle, which looks much like the physical body but is, of course, less dense, is capable of

levitation. In this way, it is possible for one who knows how to "walk upon the water."

Thus, we see that a so-called "miracle" is unnatural only insofar as those who observe it are unfamiliar with the natural laws on which it is based. Christ Jesus told His followers that they would eventually do the things He did, "and greater than these." When we have evolved sufficiently we, too, will be able to utilize the lesser-known laws of Nature as skillfully as we now work with recognized physical laws. Then the miracles which we now ascribe to the supernatural will be as commonplace as electricity is today.

The Prevalence of Guardian Angels

Question:

I am confused about references in the Rosicrucian literature to what appear to be various types of Guardian Angels. Do we each have a Guardian Angel at the present time, or are we deemed no longer to stand in need of such a guiding spirit?

Answer:

When the human life wave was first divided into races by the race God Jehovah, He gave each such group the guiding influence of a Race Spirit—an Archangel. In addition, He gave each individual Ego an Angel to act as guardian until that individual Ego became strong enough to become emancipated from all outside influence and was ready to stand on his own.

As each Ego progresses and becomes more aware of his spiritual responsibilities and duties toward his fellow men, his Higher Self begins to manifest. During progressive lifetimes, his good deeds become more frequent and intensified. Gradually they collectively take on a personified embodiment which remains ever with the Ego, impelling him continually toward increasing right action and the doing of more good. By this time, the

Ego has matured sufficiently that he is no longer under the protection of the Angel assigned as guardian under Jehovistic rule. Instead, the personified embodiment of his good deeds, which is not an entity from a higher evolution as was the Angel, but was created by the Ego himself, has assumed the functions of "Guardian Angel."

We believe that the majority of Egos in the Western World, and, no doubt, many Egos in other parts of the world also, no longer are under the guardianship of a member of the angelic life wave. They have evolved sufficiently that the personified embodiment of their collective good deeds now is able to exert an impelling influence toward right, and against wrong, action.

Less evolved Egos, however—particularly those presently incarnated as aborigines, pygmies, and members of other primitive tribes—almost certainly are still under the care of individual members of the angelic life wave. Their present state of both material and spiritual progress would seem to indicate that they have not yet progressed to the stage where they are able to dispense with personal angelic guardianship.

Clairvoyance at Death

Question:

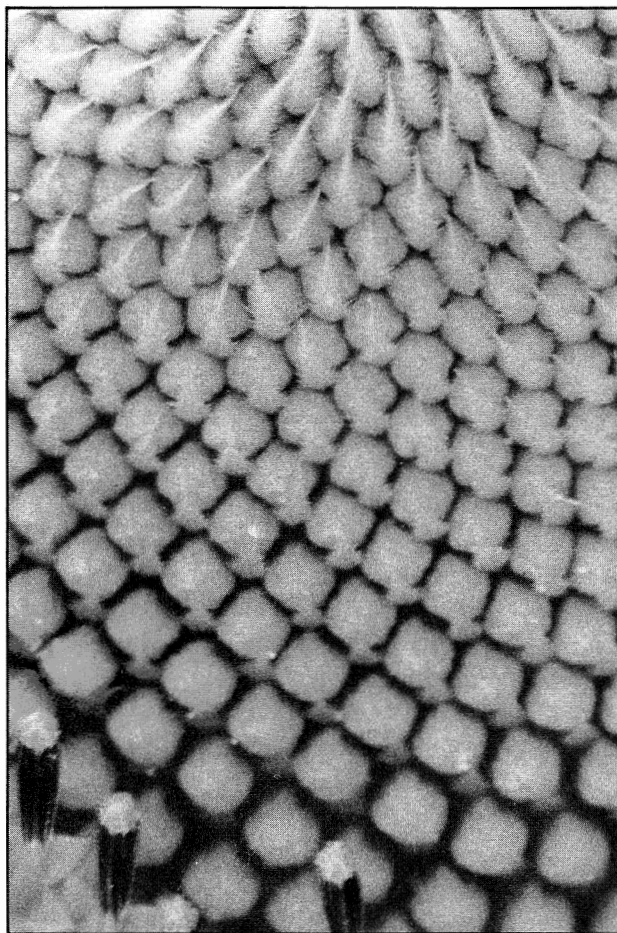
Do we become clairvoyant at death?

Answer:

We do not become clairvoyant at, or by virtue of, death. Clairvoyance is the ability to see into a higher world. Egos in material incarnation who develop negative clairvoyance, which enables them sporadically to see into higher worlds, retain this faculty only during their present lifetime. Negative clairvoyance is not under the control of the Ego concerned.

Those Egos who in material incarnation develop positive clairvoyance, which is acquired as a result of pure, spiritual, and selfless living, retain this attribute as a permanent faculty. Positive clairvoyance is entirely within the control of the Ego concerned, who can see into and investigate the higher worlds at will.

After death, every Ego takes up his work in the Desire World, and, since he is then residing in that world, he is empowered to see in it, just as we who are in the material world can see on the physical plane. This is not what we call clairvoyance, however. It is merely an ability which enables the Ego engaged in post-mortem experiences ade-



quately to function in his new world of residence. Unless he is already a positive clairvoyant, he will not retain the ability to see in the Desire World as he grows to maturity after his next rebirth in the physical world.

Seed Atoms and our Responsibility

Question:

Two statements from The Rosicrucian Fellowship literature appear to be contradictory: "The force in the Seed Atom, like the forces in all other atoms, is the undifferentiated life of God;" and "It is the quality of the Seed Atom that differentiates one person from another and it is this atom which the aspirant seeks to cleanse." How can we cleanse an atom that has been exclusively God's creation, imposed upon us without our choice? Or must we understand that this creation of God is not altogether perfect? In that case, how can we be held responsible for its imperfections?

Answer:

Basically, the answer to this question lies in the fact that although all life, including that in our own



seed atoms, comes from God and is, therefore, is itself innately perfect, it is what we do with the life thus given us that must be cleansed.

The undifferentiated life of God is pure and spiritual. When bestowed upon us it is perfect, just as God is perfect. If we, in our turn, were able to maintain the element of perfection in our conduct just as God maintains it in His, the quality of our seed atoms would remain untainted and not need cleansing.

At the present time, however, human beings are far from perfect in their attitudes and behavior. The selfish desires of the lower nature hold sway, and few members of the life-wave as yet have risen to the point where their Higher Selves are consistently dominant. Most of us, therefore, are guilty in greater or lesser degree of various infractions of natural law which make for imperfection. Our thoughts and deeds cause the essence of these unfavorable characteristics to be imprinted on our seed atoms, just as the essence of our good qualities, which contributes to the ultimate perfection of our natures, is also stamped thereon.

In this way, we now are differentiated one from another. Some of us are possessed of an abundance of favorable qualities, and others plainly are marked with unworthy traits. In neither case can we hold God responsible. The responsibility is solely ours. We are imbued with His Life, but we have the free will to do with it as we please. Before we can return to Him at the end of our evolutionary journey, however, we must root out all the imperfections which we have built into our characters. This is why it is particularly incumbent upon the spiritual aspirant to purify his nature and purge himself of all reprehensible attributes. Only he can

do this, and only when he does so will he be spiritually immaculate as was the innocent Virgin Spirit who first proceeded from God on his involutory and evolutionary journey through matter. Then, enriched by his experiences, he will be both pure and wise. He will have attained to his full potential of divinity. His acquired individuality, formed as a result of the totality of his evolutionary experiences, will then be perfect, as is the life, from God, which flows through him.

Natural and Chemical Foods

Question:

*What are the "higher plants" referred to on page 458 of *The Cosmo-Conception*? Also on this page is mentioned the fact that "our laboratories will some time supply us with chemical food of a quality far surpassing anything that we now have." Are such foods available at the present time?*

Answer:

The "higher plants," meaning those members of the plant life-wave which are farthest advanced, are the palm and fruit trees. Food from these plants decays more rapidly than food from the less advanced plants, and, as many housewives can attest, some fruits do have a tendency to decay more quickly than vegetables. Nevertheless, at this point in our evolution it is not only permissible, but desirable, that we eat fruit, which is rich in natural food essentials.

The fairly rapid rate of decay of some fruit is caused by the individual particles attempting to escape from the composite whole. Man, nevertheless, can assimilate these particles with relative ease. Even the highest plants do not yet have desire bodies. Particles of meat, on the other hand, have been inter-penetrated by the desire bodies of the animals and have thus been individualized to a much greater extent than those of any plants. For this reason, meat particles are much more difficult to assimilate when eaten by man.

It is true that some splendid nutritive supplements are now being manufactured in our laboratories, but they are regarded by nutritionists as supplements to, and not replacements for, natural foods. We do not believe that these supplements, excellent as they are, constitute that "chemical food of a quality far surpassing anything that we now have" to which Mr. Heindel referred. This type of food is still to be developed, and may be a product of the Aquarian Age. □

Nutrition and Health



Water:

Part II

Some people have the idea that if they boil their water, that will make it pure. On the contrary, however this increases the ash content. When we boil water, the pure water is escaping as steam. Therefore, we have less water left in the kettle than when we started. So the concentration of ash content has become greater. When we boil water, it's worse for us than if we took it straight out of the tap, as far as the ash content is concerned. Those of us who keep a tea kettle on the stove know that, over a period of months or years, we get a hard layer of solid chalk white substance in the bottom of the tea kettle. The fact that it is there, that the hard stuff is in the bottom of the tea kettle is tangible evidence that we have been increasing the ash content of the water we have used. It would be better if we could find a source of water from which the ash had been removed.

In some places such as the Southwest, the ash content of water is particularly high. When washing the car with the garden hose, have we ever tried to wash off the white spots that appear, after the water has dried? It's next to impossible to do this because when the water

has evaporated, the little white spots are the ash that was in the water. It's easy to imagine how much of that must be accumulating in our bodies, if so much accumulates on the car.

On the other hand, the ash content serves as a wonderful cleanser. It actually has an abrasive effect. We can get our skin cleaner by using tap water than we could by using soft water. If we've ever taken a shower with soft water, we know that it feels as though our hands are slimy, and no matter how much we wash, we can't get rid of that slick feeling. Soft water has its advantages: to wash our cloths, to wash our hair—but not our skin. The hard water, the ash, the alkaline water, is a much better cleanser. It's the best cleanser. Therefore, we make a mistake if we have a water softener put in our homes that softens the entire water supply. If we want to use soft water for the washing machine, we should have it installed so that it softens the water that goes only to that area. The water softener bill is probably cut one-tenth when we soften only that which is necessary for the household.

Some companies sell bottled water. In Los Angeles is a company that advertised water from Lake Arrowhead, about eighty miles from Los Angeles. What they didn't tell their customers was that, to transport it from Lake Arrowhead to Los Angeles, they de-chlorinated it. Then, when they got it to Los Angeles, they de-chlorinated it by running it through charcoal filters. Charcoal can be a carcinogen, a cancer-producing agent. Charcoal is a wonderful filter for bacteria or dirt, but to

put the chlorine in the water and then take it out again and sell it as spring water was unfair to the public.

The best water for low ash content is distilled water. If we understand what distilled water means, we see why at once. "Distilled" does not mean that the water has gone through an ion transfer method as has soft water; nor does it mean that it has gone through a series of filters. What it means is the water has been heated, turned to steam just like in a tea kettle; only, instead of using the portion that's left in the tea kettle, they collect the condensation of the steam. All the ash content has been left in the bottom of the boiler.

It would not be practical to put large distillers in our homes because this takes up a considerable amount of space. For example, space scientists had to figure out some method of purifying water because the astronauts obviously couldn't take enough water with them. So, they had to re-use their water. The purest water would be distilled water, but that wasn't practical, so they used a series of filters. They did come up with very pure water as compared to tap water, but the ash content wasn't nearly as low as that of distilled water.

Some figures may be helpful here. Ordinary tap water contains about 114-123 parts per million to sodium. If we run water through filters such as are used in the space program, we get that 114 down to 12 to 14 parts per million of sodium. This is very good when compared with tap water. But just compare it to distilled water. The sodium content of distilled water is

.00006 parts per million. That's several thousand times less than 14 parts per million. That's how much purer distilled water is than filtered water, and it's just ridiculous to compare it to tap water.

If we get distilled water, you must read the label. Labels are the secret to getting what we want. We will find that in little tiny letters it says, "For all distilled purposes," and in big letters, "Distilled Water." The fine print tells us that the product is not distilled water; it is water for distilled purposes, which means the water was filtered. The filtering process is supposed to be efficient enough for the water to be usable in steam irons because there's not enough ash in it to clog up an iron. Furthermore the steam iron can be replaced. But remember, we're stuck with our bodies and we're not satisfied to just have less ash in our water.

We cannot over-emphasize the point that distilled water is man's greatest friend when taken internally and yet it can be his enemy used externally. It's not good to bathe in distilled water. We won't get clean. Distilled water doesn't have the abrasive effect our skin needs.

Much can be said about our city water supplies. Most of us are familiar with the fluoridation battles going on. It has been proven that 13-14 parts per million fluoride can produce molting of the teeth, can turn them black. Some people are fighting to put three to five parts per million in our drinking water because they believe that it prevents tooth decay. There's no way to control intake, because one person may drink ten times as much water as another. It

would be very easy for one person to get too much fluorine and another person not to get enough fluorine. If somebody wants to use fluorine, that's his prerogative. He can go to his dentist, and have fluoride treatments on his teeth. It's true that fluoride is beneficial to teeth, but not to the stomach. As a matter of fact, fluorine is a rat poison. In order to buy fluorine in the drugstore it is necessary to sign the poison book. Yet, some people want to put it in drinking water. Many cities also are reclaiming water—that is they're taking the water from the sewage treatment plant filtering it, and putting it back into the city water supply.

The amount of chlorine being used in our city water supplies is increasing, however; over seventy percent of public water supplies in the United States no longer meet the Public Health Department's standards. River water is becoming increasingly contaminated, and, to keep it at a safe drinking level, it is necessary to keep increasing the amount of chlorine put into it.

There are other methods of purifying a city water supply, but it happens that chlorine is the least expensive.

Soft water has gone through an ion exchange to remove the calcium and magnesium ions; this would be best for our clothes or hair. The plain old alkaline water would be best for bathing. And the distilled water is best for cooking, drinking, brushing teeth, and making beverages.

We need six to eight glasses of water a day to maintain optimum health. This does not mean that we actually have to drink that many glasses of water. It's safe to say that most

of us are getting that much water from other sources such as juice and fruit. When water is absorbed through the root system of a tree or a plant and goes up into the fruit that we eat, that is just as good as if it were distilled water. The purest water we can get is the water inside fruit. If our body weight is made up of almost two-thirds water, we know that we have to take in a large quantity of water each day to maintain it.

One of the common objections to distilled water is that if we use distilled water, we lose all the minerals. We lose the bad minerals with the good minerals. I contend that we should not look to water as our source of minerals. We should look to water as a source of H₂O, and nothing else. If we're not going to look to vegetables for all our vitamins, then we're going to take a vitamin pill because we know our vegetables do not contain all the vitamins that they should because the topsoil is depleted. It would take that same type of reasoning to decide not to rely on the water supply for minerals. If we're going to supplement our vitamins, a multiple form contains minerals anyhow. We can't buy a multiple vitamin without buying the minerals along with it, and there are mineral supplements available by themselves. Too, if we drink three cups of mixed herb tea a day, and if we make that tea with distilled water, we will get more minerals than does somebody who drinks eight glasses a day of tap water. Herbs are that high in minerals.

We hear people say that distilled water will leach the minerals out of the body because it doesn't contain any.

It's like taking in white sugar, which leaches out vitamins because it doesn't contain any. And that would be true if we had no other source of minerals. My point is, do not rely on the water supply as a source of minerals. Take a supplement that has minerals in it, or use herbs or cell salts. These are superior sources of minerals.

Another complaint we hear is that distilled water tastes funny. After we get used to it, chlorinated tap water is the one that will taste funny. In fact, if you have distilled water in your home, when you go to someone's home and drink a glass of water from the tap, it almost turns your stomach. The chlorine in it just reeks. People who drink it every day don't think anything about it. If you do mind the taste of distilled water, what you're minding is the taste of H₂O because that's all distilled water is, and that's what real water tastes like. If you think water should taste differently, then you have not been drinking pure water. You've been drinking water that has some additives in it and have been tasting the additives.

Recently, a new company has been selling a filter system that fits underneath the sink. This is much less expensive than bottled water, after several hundred dollars for installation. It's filter system that's patterned after the type used in the space program, and it does an excellent job of taking down the sodium a hundred percent, for example. It also does an excellent job of removing the bacteria, but it just doesn't hold a candle to distilled water. It is less expensive per gallon than bottled water, but it's many

thousand times higher in ash content than is distilled water.

A lot of things are happening today concerning water. The salmon industry is losing fifty percent of the eggs that are supposed to hatch and the problem has been traced to the DDT found in the water. In a survey conducted in Vermont, 79 different drinking water sources were sampled and out of these 76 of them contained pesticide residues. The federal government has established that the solids in water should not exceed 500 parts per million. It was found that the water systems coming from the Colorado River averaged 746 parts per million. The same water is allowed 250 parts per million of sulphates. Colorado River water was found to contain 307 parts per million of sulphates. This is before they chlorinate it, but the chlorination doesn't change the ash content. Chlorination just kills the bacteria.

Here's an interesting fact. Chlorination kills bacteria, but it does not touch viruses. Viruses even pass right through a filter, which means that no matter how well filtered the water is or how well chlorinated the water is, we still can pick up such virus diseases as influenza and polio. The most common diseases carried by water are typhoid fever, paratyphoid, cholera, and bacteria dysentery and amoebic dysentery. Another common thing found in a city water supply is parasites. People pick up roundworms, hookworms, and tapeworms, and wonder where they came from. Water is the most common carrier of these problems. So it is obvious that distilled water is worth using. □

—**Sheldon C. Deal, D.C.**

Healing



Living Artistically

To live artistically is possible only when one's consciousness is attuned to the divine laws governing art in human relationships. This attunement grows out of the constant application of spiritual principles to the daily experiences of life.

Before one can impart the artistic touch to his relations with others, or perceive artistry in the relations between those about him, he must have within himself love for and faith in human kind. He has faith in others because he has faith in himself—in the God within. If one knows within his own being how to contact a power greater than himself, he also knows it is possible for every other person to do the same thing.

Christ Jesus said: "Having eyes ye see not, ears ye hear not." He knew that in order to discover spiritual verities one has to discern more deeply than physical testimony can go. One who cultivates God-consciousness develops the ability to see and hear intuitively. In other

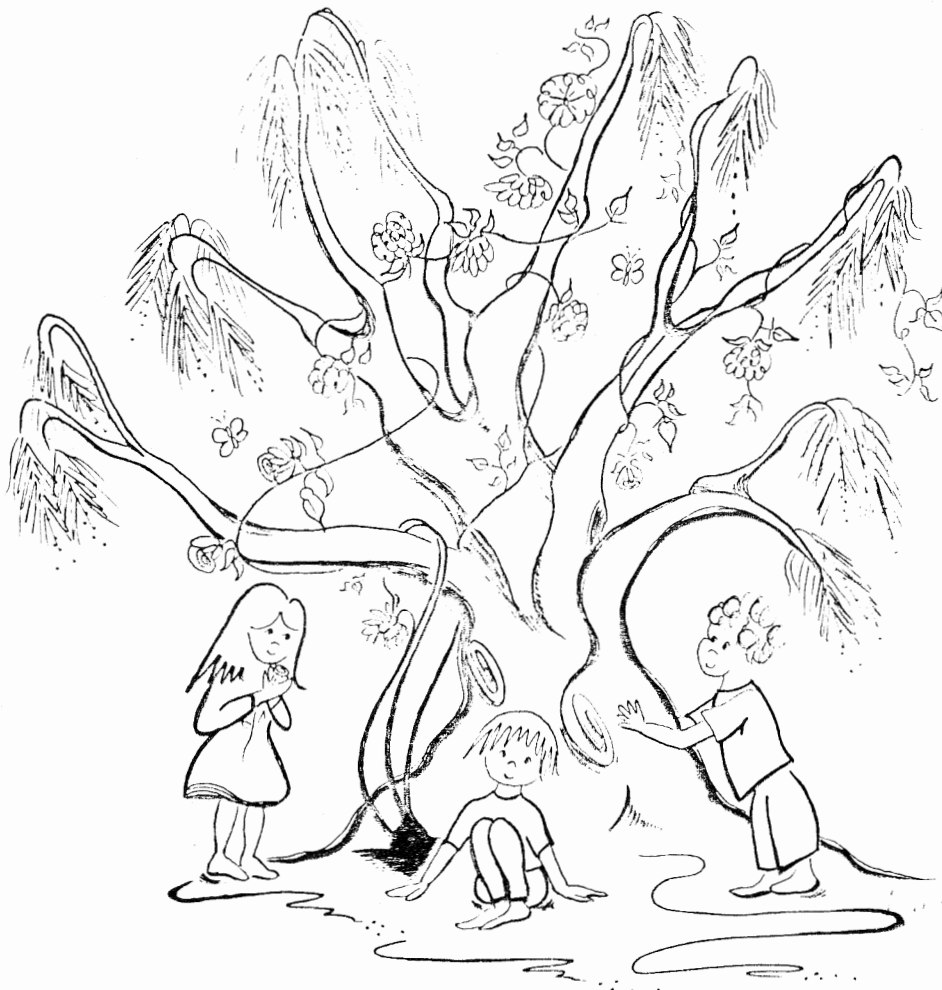
words, he sees and hears more acutely than he hitherto did. His relation to others takes on an artistic spiritual quality. He often-times blesses others without being conscious of it. He finds growing in his heart a willingness to see the best in his fellow man. A vital human need is seen in a gesture or an apparently careless remark. Then with artistic finesse he gently helps a fellow human being on Life's Way.

Every individual has a fundamental desire to come up out of ugliness into beauty—to grow and unfold. This desire may remain latent for a time, but eventually it will manifest, blossom, and bear fruit. The result is a beautiful work of art. Ours is ever the privilege of living artistically ourselves, and of helping others also to weave a life-tapestry glowing with the radiance of obedience to Divine Law. □

Relax, close your eyes, and make a mental picture of the pure white rose in the center of the Rosicrucian Emblem on the west wall of our Pro-Ecclesia, and concentrate on *Divine Love and Healing*.

Visible Helpers are just as necessary as Invisible Helpers, and our friends and patients may share in a high privilege, as well as add much to the power of liberated healing force, by joining us in prayer for the sick. Our Healing Service is held every evening in the Healing Temple at 6:30, and in the Pro-Ecclesia at 4:15 P.M. when the Moon is in a cardinal sign on the following dates:

August...2—10—16—22—30



Enjoying Nature with Children

“And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought.

And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking.

After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.” Mark 8:23

It is interesting to note that in the study of young children’s drawings, the first time a human being is represented it looks something like a tree. This, some analysts suggest, illustrates the child’s awareness of natural forces working within his or her own organism. The healing of the blind man shows a similar process seen in children’s drawings—a process of rapid growing consciousness.

It is especially important for growing children to have opportunities to enjoy nature in a variety of ways. Interesting experiences will increase their sensitivities, develop intuitive qualities, and further their knowledge

and understanding of the visible and invisible worlds in Nature.

Nature is always communicating with us; it is our teacher, helping us experience natural Laws on many levels—the Law of Cause and Effect, the changing seasons, rebirth and regeneration, to name a few; and providing healthy environments where we can grow and develop the gifts of our Higher Selves.

Playing outdoors in natural settings such as a park, discovery trips to the seashore, hikes of exploration in the woods, or an adventurous overnight camping trip, provide excellent opportunities for young people to share their thoughts and feelings about their experiences with Nature. Everyone can participate in these discussions and much can be learned in shared conversation.

Outdoor games and exercises adapted for different age levels and abilities will ensure dramatic, contrasting experiences that give new, deep personal contacts with Nature. Activities may be active or passive and include observation or reflection.

An enjoyable learning game for all ages is to choose a particular tree and learn more about it. Children can be encouraged to listen to the tree and ask questions concerning its nature. How does the tree communicate nonverbally? By identifying different parts, students will be able to observe the record growth during the changing seasons. Why are the leaves green or red or yellow? Is the tree in good health?

One exercise is to bury a child under the fallen leaves, making a small hole through which he

can look up and experience how it feels to be a tiny plant or animal sheltered beneath the leaves. What animals live in and around the tree; how do they depend on the tree for their survival? What about the roots; and how do the fallen leaves help the soil?

How does the tree help people? Are there medical properties within parts of the tree? How does the tree help us breathe air? Can the tree help make rain? If the tree is chopped down for wood to make paper and only the stump remains, what will be affected and what new life will come? In what ways are we like a tree and how are we different?

Children enjoy making chain necklaces or leis out of flower blossoms or even small seashells.

Trying to find a four-leaf clover blossom will keep everyone watching for bees in sunny weather.

Lying down with hands flat on the ground to feel the Earth's vibration will help us answer these questions: Is the Earth alive; does it breathe and move?

Imagination games are fun for children of every age. Imagine you are a little child sitting on a rock by the sea suddenly a giant green sea turtle surfaces and says "....."

Role playing is another exciting way in which to learn. Children may choose to act out or illustrate in writing, dance, or drawing, the characteristics of certain animals. We can take, for example, the little caterpillar who lives among the leaves and suddenly, at the appropriate time, spins into a cocoon and eventually metamorphosizes into a beautiful winged butterfly



fluttering among the flowers. Here children learn of the transforming powers in Nature.

Listening and meditation exercises are inspiring for everyone. They help us become more receptive and giving significant insights and realizations of our oneness with the world around us. Children can close their eyes for a moment and listen to the sounds of the wind, the river, a bird singing, or their own breath and heartbeat. Questions we might then ask are: How is our own breath like the wind? Can we hear music in silence?

An interesting way for children to learn about the four elements in Nature is to use, alphabet sounds such as: 'k' or 'c' sounds for fire; 'er' or 'om' sounds for earth; 'ha' or 'ah' sounds for air; and 's' or 'sh' sounds for water.

Sense games make enjoyable learning exercises: trying to identify different tree barks by touching and plants by their odor and experiencing different tasting foods. We can even sense warmth and cold through colors.

Often children will use colors as a means of expressing different moods and feelings in their art work. Rudolf Steiner, founder of the Waldorf School Movement, who's educational focus is on soul growth and strengthening the will of the individual child to align with goodness, truth, and beauty, said about color in Nature: "Colour is the soul of Nature and of the whole cosmos and we share in this soul when we experience color."

Reading stories about animals and how they live in different environments and stories about the Nature Spirits.

people, plants, and animals is an enjoyable and informative activity. The story of Johnny Appleseed is a favorite with children.

With our increased awareness of the Earth and its limited resources, science text books for young people through 12th grade include units on Ecology—the study of how all living things are influenced by one another and their environments. The requirements of Earth's population for more food, cultivated land, clean air, and fresh water are pressing us to use wiser conservation methods at home, in our communities, and on a global level. We can all do our share in picking up litter, planting new seeds, and learning to recycle materials.

Today there are many outstanding vegetable gardens worked by students of every age and ability in both public and private schools. Young people can be encouraged to plant seeds on days when the Moon is in one of the fertile signs of the Zodiac: Taurus, Cancer, Scorpio, Capricorn, or Libra, and also to plant by the light of the Moon. It is beneficial to plant vegetables that yield above the ground while the Moon is new and to plant vegetables that yield below the ground while the Moon is full.

On a fundamental level, large numbers of people today seek to commune with Nature for healing. With the stress and tensions of modern life styles and noisy, polluted urban environments, people everywhere go to the beach, drive to the country, participate in outdoor sports, and send their children to summer camps.

Too many children today are

confined and restricted in urban home and school environments that include concrete playing fields. There is a tremendous opportunity for children to grow healthier and learn in exciting, innovative ways by working and playing in natural environments where they are free to explore the wonders of creation, discover Nature for themselves and share it with others. Children gain confidence by learning survival skills in the wilderness, gathering a meal from the forest, learning how to build a fire for warmth, and finding their way by charting the stars in the night sky. In demonstrating the healing properties of certain plants we can help children see the friend we have in Nature.

The hope of all caring persons is for our children to live as healthy lives as possible and to share in loving, satisfying relationships with all living things. Think of the well-being and positive energy in a breath of fresh air, drinking pure water, walking barefoot in the sand, and swimming in a warm ocean.

How many beautiful thoughts and feelings come from enjoying new spring flowers, working in the garden, taking a quiet walk, and watching the clouds go by and the stars in the sky.

If we were to count our blessings, high among them would be our opportunities to share Nature with the children in enjoyable ways. □

—Lynne Ross

¹*Understanding Children's Drawings*, Michaela Strauss, Rudolf Steiner Press, London 1978.

²*Sharing Nature with Children*, Joseph Bharat Cornell, Ananda Publications, 1979.

**CONTACT PERSONS
THE ROSICRUCIAN FELLOWSHIP**

The following persons may be contacted for information on the Western Wisdom Teachings or the organization of meetings and informal Study Groups:

ALABAMA

Elsa M. Glover, Stillman College, Box 1430
Tuscaloosa, AL 35403, (205) 752-1349

CALIFORNIA

Nancy Lee Lane, 16701 Peale Lane, Huntington
Beach, CA 92649, (714) 846-3068

COLORADO

John Hempstead, 1777 Sims, Lakewood, CO 80215,
(303) 238-1513

FLORIDA

Susan Fidelman, 725 S. E. 25th Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale,
FL 33301, (305) 463-8004

ILLINOIS

Enrique A. Solis, 901 W. 19th Street, Chicago, IL
60608, (312) 666-8232

MICHIGAN

Virginia Schroeder, 3841 W. Michigan Ave, Battlecreek,
MI 49017, (616) 965-0302

MISSOURI

Dolores Bishop, 11305 E. 39th Street, Independence,
MO 64052, (816) 737-1429

NEW YORK

Elaine Daw, 1410 Jefferson Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11237,
(718)821-3518

OHIO

Jimmy Rose, 21 Williams Street, Niles OH 44446

OREGON

G. & J. Naslund, 8151 Upper Applegate Rd. Jacksonville,
OR 97530, (503) 899-8292

TEXAS

Patricia Foster, 6102 Mockingbird Ln #394, Dallas, TX
75214, (214) 528-6057

Laura Benavides, 2702 Stewart, Laredo, TX 78040,
(512) 722-4095

VIRGINIA

Robert C. Lewis, 2411 Spinaker Court, Virginia Beach,
VA 23451, (804) 496-0816

WASHINGTON

Gary E. Moser, 1225-144th S. E., Bellevue, WA
98007, (206) 747-1132

Vivian Swift, 5218 Rumac Street, S. E., Olympia, WA
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