

MASTERY OF LIFE



A M O R C



THE ROSICRUCIAN ORDER

PURPOSE AND WORK OF THE ORDER

The Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, is a philosophical and initiatic tradition. As students progress in their studies, they are initiated into the next level or degree.

Rosicrucians are men and women around the world who study the laws of nature in order to live in harmony with them. Individuals study the Rosicrucian lessons in the privacy of their own homes on subjects such as the nature of the soul, developing intuition, classical Greek philosophy, spiritual alchemy, energy centers in the body, and self-healing techniques.

The Rosicrucian tradition encourages each student to discover the wisdom, compassion, strength, and peace that already reside within each of us.

Rosicrucian Order, AMORC

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We welcome you and thank you for your interest in learning more about the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC. Your reading of this booklet indicates that you have felt an urge from within, a special something that drew you to the Rosicrucian Order. Perhaps you have already explored the vast sea of metaphysical and self-help books, programs, lectures, and seminars, and you may have found yourself wondering how to make sense of it all—how to put it all together in a way that is practical and truly relevant to you.

You can acquire a lot of information from books, lectures, and classes, and you may even discover some very useful techniques for improving certain aspects of your life. But this approach to self-improvement is always incomplete, because most books, seminars, and study groups have a limited focus, such as personal prosperity, improving relationships, meditation, spiritual attunement, or developing psychic abilities. And focusing on one area of study doesn't provide balanced development. The Rosicrucian system is unique—it provides a foundation that ties together all of the different aspects of metaphysical study, and demonstrates their interconnectedness. To our knowledge, it's the only system that does this. Understanding the natural laws that govern all realms—physical, mental, emotional, psychic, and spiritual—leads to true prosperity and peace of mind. This is exactly what the Rosicrucian Order provides—a systematic approach to the study of higher wisdom that empowers you to find the answers to your questions about the workings of the universe, the interconnectedness of all life, your higher purpose, and how it all fits together.

If you've already spent many years studying metaphysics, you'll find that the Rosicrucian system organizes this information in a

Is there a better treasure in life than to find one's place and in developing natural talents help harmony ring round our world? Four years ago I sent for the Mastery of Life with some skepticism and great hope. Skepticism has vanished; Rosicrucian practice works for me.

Maryrose Carroll, Sculptor

comprehensive way and acts as a unique catalyst of skills and accomplishment. The knowledge you've already acquired attains a higher dimension of meaning when you can place it in the context of a powerful whole. Further, this knowledge also translates into increasingly focused, skillful action and attainment in life.

If you're completely new to this area of study, you'll find that this comprehensive approach makes your learning easy. As you progress step-by-step through the Rosicrucian course of study you'll see how each subject relates to all the rest, giving you a sense of completeness and confidence in your understanding.

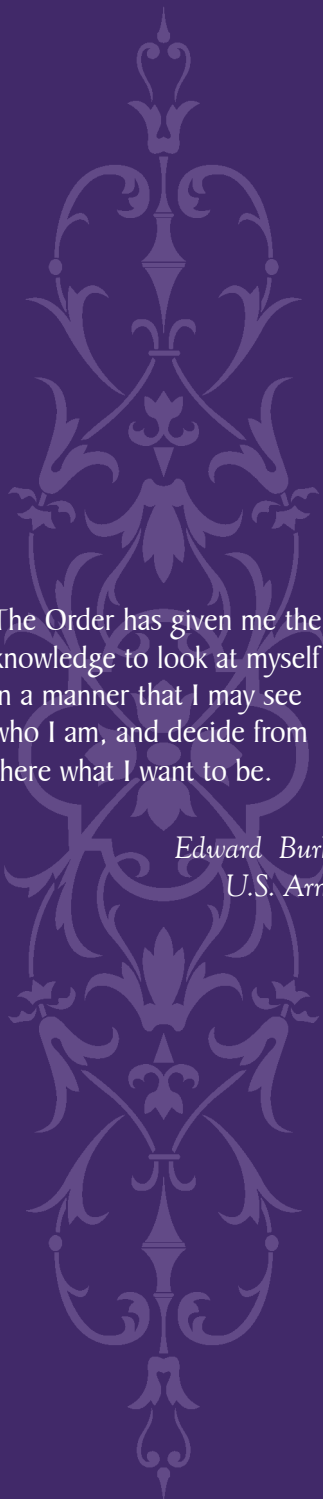
Through simple weekly lessons that you study at home, you'll have the opportunity to learn useful techniques which you can use on a daily basis to awaken your higher faculties, leading to improved health, better life situations, more harmonious personal relationships, and an increased sense of happiness and peace. You can achieve these goals through a process which Rosicrucian students call *self-mastery*.

What exactly does self-mastery mean? It means learning how to chart your own course through life. How to find the means to make the right choices and decisions. It means seeing your present circumstances as unlimited opportunities for growth, because you do have the ability to change your situation. It means being able to take charge of your life and help those around you to achieve a happier and a healthier existence.

The Rosicrucian teachings are not based on the ideas of any one individual. Unlike many New Age movements, the Rosicrucian philosophy has been developed over centuries from the combined efforts of many great minds. Ancient truths are incorporated into practical time-tested techniques which you can begin to use immediately. The lessons are structured in a sequential system to provide safe, gradual development of your natural psychic and spiritual abilities. This is a school of practical mysticism, which encourages you to be open-minded, questioning, and to test the value of the principles you are learning by actively using them in your daily life.

Is the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, a Religion?

No. AMORC, which stands for *Ancient and Mystical Order Rosae Crucis*, is not a religion and does not require a specific code of belief or conduct. Rosicrucian students come from a variety of cultural and religious backgrounds. Becoming a Rosicrucian student does



The Order has given me the knowledge to look at myself in a manner that I may see who I am, and decide from there what I want to be.

Edward Burke
U.S. Army

not in any way require you to leave your religion, join a religion, or change your religious beliefs. Some Rosicrucian members do not subscribe to any specific religious beliefs at all. For students who do, we encourage them to participate in the religion of their choice. As a result, Rosicrucian students come from every religious denomination, and through our teachings, many find a greater appreciation of the mystical principles underlying their individual religious and philosophical beliefs. Those who do not belong to any particular religion often discover a sense of connection with a higher intelligence that was missing in their lives before.

The Rosicrucian path incorporates both metaphysics and mysticism. Metaphysics is that which falls beyond the five physical senses; for example, intuition, visualization, and healing techniques. Mysticism is simply the process by which you may eventually experience direct, conscious union with the Absolute, Divine Mind, Universal Intelligence, or what some Rosicrucian students call the *God of their Hearts*. This is not done by adhering to specific tenets or beliefs, but by learning and applying natural laws which, over time, allow you to experience Divine or Cosmic Consciousness. The Rosicrucian Order does not attempt to define the nature of the deity. Rather, you will remain free to discover this through your own reflections. This same approach applies to everything that is presented through the Rosicrucian teachings.

We don't expect you to accept anything on faith. We want you to think for yourself, to learn how to draw upon the higher knowledge already within you. What we provide are simply the tools to enable you to accomplish this. The Rosicrucian teachings contain practical exercises and experiments that allow you to demonstrate for yourself the principles presented in the lessons and to access your own source of inner wisdom and guidance. As you do this, you'll begin developing natural abilities that may have been left dormant throughout your life. Almost immediately you'll begin to see your life in a different light.

How Is the Organization Structured?

The Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, is a public benefit, non-profit, educational charitable organization which is classified by the United States Internal Revenue Service under section 501(c)(3). Its activities and services are supported by dues and donations received from Rosicrucian students. After expenses are covered, all additional funds go back into the organization to further benefit its students, allowing us to expand our services, develop new programs and other projects that will help us accomplish our humanitarian goals.



Benefits of Membership

ON THE PHYSICAL LEVEL

Discover how to achieve vibrant health and increase your vitality. Experience more of the joy of life by acquiring specific techniques to reduce stress and speed up your body's natural healing processes.

ON THE MENTAL LEVEL

Learn how to bring into physical manifestation the life you've dreamed of, whether it's happiness and peace in your personal life, or success in your business. The Rosicrucian studies give you specific knowledge of metaphysics, mysticism, psychology, parapsychology, philosophy, and science not taught by conventional educational systems or traditional religions. Learn techniques for relaxation and meditation, how to use visualization as a tool to achieve your goals, and much more.

ON THE EMOTIONAL LEVEL

Develop a greater sense of confidence and inner peace that comes from knowing how to tap into your inner wisdom to find the answers to life's challenges. This inner peace helps you remain calm, centered, and focused in the midst of crisis, makes you a source of strength for others, and promotes more harmonious personal relationships with your friends and loved ones.

ON THE PSYCHIC LEVEL

Awaken your deeper psychic sense, a natural faculty which is dormant in most people and only needs to be developed. Enhance the strength and power of your inner being, bring it to a higher standard of operation, and open up a whole new resource for increased intuition, insight, creative inspiration, and innovative solutions to problems.

ON THE SPIRITUAL LEVEL

Achieve a gradual inner awakening, leading to a permanent awareness of the unity of all creation and your personal relationship with the "oneness" of the universe. This leads to an integration of all aspects of your being. From this spiritual foundation, from your connection with the greater whole, everything else flows. The Rosicrucian studies aid you in developing a workable and practical philosophy of life and the inner peace that comes from understanding the nature of the universe and your relationship to it.



I credit the teachings of the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, for increasing in me a sense of knowing confidence—confidence based on the results of practicing the teachings. My life so far is a testimony to the fact that AMORC's principles are effective in assisting individuals to bring into manifestation that which they envision for themselves. I have learned, and continue to learn, of the resourcefulness of listening to that inner voice within me. I credit this voice for assisting me to successfully make difficult decisions to save lives in my rural medical practice and in healing my clients. The decision to become a Rosicrucian is the single most important action I have taken to date.

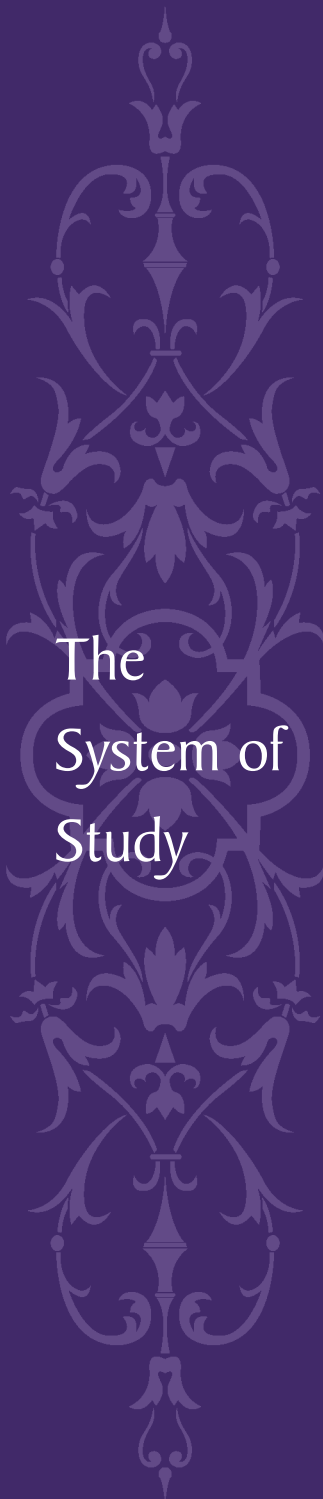
*Nosa Orobato, M.D., Ph.D.
Public Health Specialist*

Each month you will receive online weekly lessons, called *monographs*, to read in the privacy of your own home. The lessons, about six to eight pages each, introduce certain ideas and experiments in a straightforward and simple manner. We ask that you devote about one and a half hours once a week to study that week's lesson and perform any exercise or experiment given. For the remainder of the week we encourage you to periodically think about the important ideas contained in that lesson, and make repeated efforts at accomplishing the exercises. We ask you for this simple commitment because the lessons are not just a body of knowledge, but a way of life. If you only read them and don't attempt the experiments or practice the techniques, then you're only learning theory, just as you would be if you only read a book on how to play the piano, but never practiced playing one.

It takes a special sort of dedication to quest for the knowledge of the Universe. It's essential that you test the ideas and experiments, prove their validity to yourself, and then incorporate them into your life. As you do this, gradually mere theories will be replaced by real knowledge, solid skills, increased confidence, peace of mind, and an ability to successfully meet the experiences of life and to create the kind of life you want.

New students begin with a series of three introductory Degrees comprising an overview of the Rosicrucian course of study. This is followed by nine additional Degrees, each having its own particular emphasis. For instance, the Fifth Degree deals primarily with ancient philosophies, the Sixth with the health of the physical and psychic consciousness, the Seventh with the aura and the projection of the psychic body. The teachings are continuously updated to reflect our modern world, while keeping true to the traditions of the Order. Underlying this changing language and format is a code of natural law which forms the core of the Rosicrucian teachings and which remains constant over time.

The uniqueness of the Rosicrucian teachings doesn't come simply from the body of knowledge it offers, but also from the way in which it is organized and brought to life through practical exercises and experiments to produce a genuine evolution in consciousness. Each Degree covers an important step you need in order to benefit from the following Degree. Each exercise supports, reinforces, and builds upon the preceding exercises and techniques, leading to balanced, full development.



The System of Study



The Three Elements of Rosicrucian Membership

As a member of the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, you are not simply purchasing a course of study. In fact, we do not sell the Rosicrucian lessons at any price. In the true tradition of the ancient mystery schools, the teachings were never sold, but were extended to sincere seekers. In keeping with this tradition, the Rosicrucian teachings are made available to students as a benefit of their active membership. Your membership dues support all aspects of the organization's activities, not just the lessons.

The three main elements of Rosicrucian membership are the system of home study lessons, the Order's initiatic tradition, and the activities of local Rosicrucian Lodges. Additional benefits of membership are described later in this booklet.

The Rosicrucian Home Study Lessons

The teachings of the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, are presented in booklets called monographs, and the lessons are divided into two main sections, the Neophyte section and the Temple section. Following is a description of some of the subjects covered in the first five years of the Rosicrucian system.

Neophyte Section

In ancient times, if you wished to study the great mysteries, you would travel to a temple and petition for admittance as a student. Once accepted as a beginning student, you would be known as a *Neophyte*, and you would enter the Atrium, or reception chamber of the temple. In the Atrium, you would receive preliminary instructions before being allowed to enter the main temple itself and study the higher teachings. Following the analogy of the ancient temples, the early lessons of the Rosicrucian monographs are called Atrium lessons, and beginning Rosicrucian students are called Neophytes.

INTRODUCTORY LESSONS

Right from the start, the introductory monographs present basic Rosicrucian concepts that you can apply in practical ways. One of the first things you learn as a Neophyte is that you are a dual being. In addition to your five physical senses, you also have a psychic sense. The exercises in these introductory lessons are designed to gradually awaken and develop the psychic faculty. The exercises presented here and throughout the entire Rosicrucian system allow you to discover for yourself through direct experience how these principles work. Topics include:

- Illusory Nature of Time and Space
- Human Consciousness and Cosmic Consciousness
- Rosicrucian Technique of Meditation
- Development of the Intuition
- Introduction to: Human Aura, Telepathy, Metaphysical Healing, Mystical Sounds, Spiritual Alchemy

FIRST ATRIUM

In the introductory lessons you learned about fundamental principles of consciousness. The First Atrium goes further, exploring consciousness as the organizing principle of matter, and explaining the composition and structure of matter and its vibratory nature. You'll learn how the creative power of thought affects the material world. This power is demonstrated through exercises in the techniques of concentration, visualization, and mental creation. Topics include:

- Structure and Composition of Matter
- Power of Thought
- The Creative Power of Visualization
- Mental Projection and Telepathy
- Law of the Triangle



SECOND ATRIUM

Your understanding of the connection between mind and matter will now be expanded to include the connection between the mind and the physical body. The Second Atrium explores how your thoughts influence your health, the role of proper breathing in psychic development as well as health and vitality, and Rosicrucian healing techniques. As you develop your body's psychic centers, you gradually awaken your psychic faculties, such as the ability to perceive the aura. You will also experience the mystical effect of sounds on the psychic centers as well as on the physical body. Topics include:

- Origin of Diseases
- Influence of Thoughts on Health
- Mystical Art of Breathing
- Rosicrucian Healing Treatments
- Perception of the Aura
- Awakening the Psychic Consciousness
- Mystical Sounds

THIRD ATRIUM

The Third Atrium moves beyond the physical body and the psychic faculties into the realm of the mystical. As you become more attuned with your inner source of wisdom, you'll become more receptive to the subtle inner promptings of intuition, inspiration, and illumination. These lessons also explore the nature of soul and spiritual evolution, reincarnation and karma, and the cycles of the soul. Topics include:

- The Great Religious Movements
- The Nature of Soul
- Purpose of our Spiritual Evolution
- Reincarnation and Karma
- Good and Evil and Free Will
- Intuition, Inspiration, and Illumination

Temple Section

Having completed the lessons of the Neophyte section, you stand at an important milestone in your progress along the mystical path. No longer a Neophyte, you are now ready to leave the Atrium and enter the Temple. Your studies in the Neophyte section established the foundation for the lessons of the Temple Degrees. You have been introduced to the various elements of the Rosicrucian system and had the opportunity to practice many of the principles presented through simple experiments. Now the Temple Degrees will further develop these elements, providing additional depth and practical applications of the principles.

FIRST TEMPLE DEGREE

The First Temple Degree introduces the concept of polarity and its relationship to the subatomic world and its differing rates of vibration. It introduces the full spectrum of physical and non-physical manifestation. An understanding of these subjects gives you an appreciation for the system and order of the universe, the interconnectedness of all nature, and how everything is governed by natural law. Topics include:

- Structure of Matter
- Positive and Negative as Vibratory Polarities
- Rosicrucian Definitions of Electricity, Magnetism, and Electromagnetism
- Rosicrucian Classification of Elements
- Material Alchemy

SECOND TEMPLE DEGREE

The Second Temple Degree explores the workings of the mind. You'll learn how to use your various mental faculties to strengthen your will, eliminate bad habits and establish good ones, tap into the levels of your subconscious, reason more effectively, and integrate principles of psychology and mysticism to achieve your personal goals. Topics include:

- Cosmic Consciousness
- Our Objective and Subjective Consciousness
- Mental and Sensory Illusions
- Imagination and Memory
- Physical, Psychic, and Spiritual Influence of the Subconscious
- Memory and Reasoning of the Subconscious
- Psychology and Mysticism

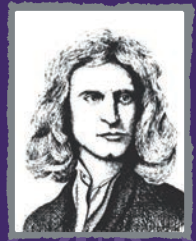
THIRD TEMPLE DEGREE

The Third Temple Degree explores the meaning of life on many levels, including living and “non-living” matter, life on the cellular level, the mysteries of death and rebirth, and the eternal nature of the soul. Topics include:

- Cosmic Purpose of Life
- Rosicrucian Definitions of Living and Non-living Matter
- Incarnation of the Soul
- Transition of the Soul
- Initiatic Aspect of Death

FOURTH TEMPLE DEGREE

The Fourth Temple Degree introduces Rosicrucian ontology (the study of the nature of being), and lays out the cosmological



Isaac Newton

English philosopher, mathematician, and Rosicrucian who discovered the law of gravity, and is renowned as one of the greatest scientists who ever lived.



Benjamin Franklin

American statesperson, author, and celebrated inventor, Benjamin Franklin, like many of the United States' founders, was heavily influenced by Rosicrucian doctrines in charting the course for his new country.



Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibniz

German philosopher, mathematician, and Rosicrucian.



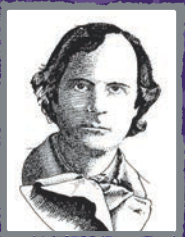
Michael Maier

Celebrated German alchemist who was the personal physician to Rudolph II.



Marie Corelli

English author and Rosicrucian Marie Corelli was the best-selling novelist of her generation, thrilling readers everywhere with her romantic tales of mystical intrigue.



Elbert Hubbard

Writer, editor, printer, and Rosicrucian

"The Adept only converses at his or her best with the Adept. Around them is a sacred circle, and within it only the Elect are allowed to enter. The Brotherhood of Consecrated Lives admits all who are worthy; and all who are excluded, exclude themselves."

framework for all creation. It explores the meaning, understanding, and use of symbols as the language of the subconscious. Topics include:

- Vital Life Force and the Living Soul
- Cycles of Life and Constant States of Flux
- Time, Space, Infinity, and Eternity
- Symbols—Natural, Artificial, and Mystical
- Sacred Architecture

FIFTH TEMPLE DEGREE

A mystic, by nature, is fundamentally a philosopher. In the Fifth Temple Degree, you will study excerpts from the works of classical philosophers. Your exploration of the ancient roots of Rosicrucian philosophy will demonstrate the timelessness of these principles. Thoughts of the following philosophers are presented: Thales, Solon, Pythagoras, Heraclitus, Democritus, Empedocles, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle.

SIXTH TEMPLE DEGREE

The Sixth Temple Degree presents the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual components of health and disease. In this Degree, you'll learn specific Rosicrucian healing techniques for restoring and maintaining vibrant physical health and psychic equilibrium. Topics include:

- Spiritual Dimension of Food
- Breathing and Respiratory Health
- Cell Consciousness and Cellular Health
- Rosicrucian Therapy and Self-healing
- Personal Treatment to Restore your Psychic Equilibrium
- Physical and Mental Prevention of Disease
- Emotional and Spiritual Prevention of Disease

SEVENTH TEMPLE DEGREE

The exercises and experiments of all the previous Degrees have contributed to your gradual development, providing you with the necessary foundation for the advanced techniques of the Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Degrees. In the Seventh Degree you will learn how to accomplish psychic projection, how to develop your personal aura and perceive other people's auras, and how to further develop your psychic centers and psychic perception. You will also receive a thorough explanation of the physiological, psychic, and spiritual influence of specific mystical sounds. Topics include:

- The Psychic Body and Psychic Centers
- Psychic Perception and Psychic Consciousness
- How to Accomplish Psychic Projection

Nature and Symbolism of Dreams
The Physical, Psychic, and Spiritual Auras
Mystical Power of Vowel Sounds and Mantras

EIGHTH TEMPLE DEGREE

The Eighth Temple Degree explores in depth the theme of immortality—the mysteries of birth and death, reincarnation and karma, and the evolution of the soul personality. Topics include:

Universal Soul and the Human Soul
Divine Consciousness and Self Consciousness
Spiritual Evolution of Humans
Mastery of Karma
Reincarnation of the Soul
Memory of Past Incarnations
The Mystery of Birth and Death
Help to the Dying, Before and After Death

NINTH TEMPLE DEGREE

If you have conscientiously studied and practiced the exercises and experiments of the earlier Degrees, these techniques will by now have become second nature, and you'll be well prepared to successfully undertake the advanced experiments of the Ninth Degree. This Degree gives you the opportunity to utilize the highest metaphysical powers in practical ways to affect positive conditions in your environment and your life in accordance with the greatest good. Topics include:

Macrocosm and Microcosm
The Four Principles: Earth, Water, Air, and Fire
Symbolism of the Cross, Triangle, Square, Circle, and Rose-Cross
Mental Alchemy
Telepathy, Telekinesis, and Vibroturgy
Cosmic Protection, Mystical Regeneration
Attunement with the Cosmic Consciousness

Beyond the Ninth Temple Degree

The Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, is not just a course of study, but a way of life. While the essential Rosicrucian teachings are covered in the first five years, the exploration of universal laws is truly a lifelong study. As long as we live, we never stop learning. Therefore, the Rosicrucian lessons continue for many years beyond the Ninth Degree, providing you with even greater insights and exploration of the Rosicrucian principles and techniques.



Michael Faraday

Considered the father of physics, had little formal schooling. His life and the lives of countless others were enriched through the inspiration of Rosicrucian instruction.



Ella Wheeler Wilcox

A writer and poet, she worked with H. Spencer Lewis to reestablish the Rosicrucian Order in America. Her profound insight into the spirituality and emotional nature of humanity was an inspiration to H. Spencer Lewis and Rosicrucians of that time.



Robert Fludd

English physician, mystical philosopher, father of freemasonry, and Rosicrucian defender.



The Initiatic Tradition

The Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, is a philosophical and initiatic tradition. As a member, you are not just taking a course of study. You are passing through Degrees of study, rituals, ceremonies, exercises, and demonstrations that have a long historical background with new information constantly being added.

Rosicrucian initiations are rituals designed to mark the milestones of a student's progress on the mystical path. In these beautiful rituals, mystical laws and principles are demonstrated in a dramatic form, in order to both inform and inspire the Rosicrucian student. All of the Degrees of Rosicrucian study are preceded by an initiation ceremony, written in an impressive and brief form that can easily be performed at home during your study period. You also have the option of receiving these initiations in a more elaborate form in the Order's affiliated Lodges. You'll find that these initiations, when conferred in the Temple of a Rosicrucian Lodge with all officers participating, are even more impressive to the psyche. Both the home ceremonies and the Lodge initiations are specially prepared to introduce to you in an impressive, symbolic, and dramatic way the importance of each new Degree into which you are entering.

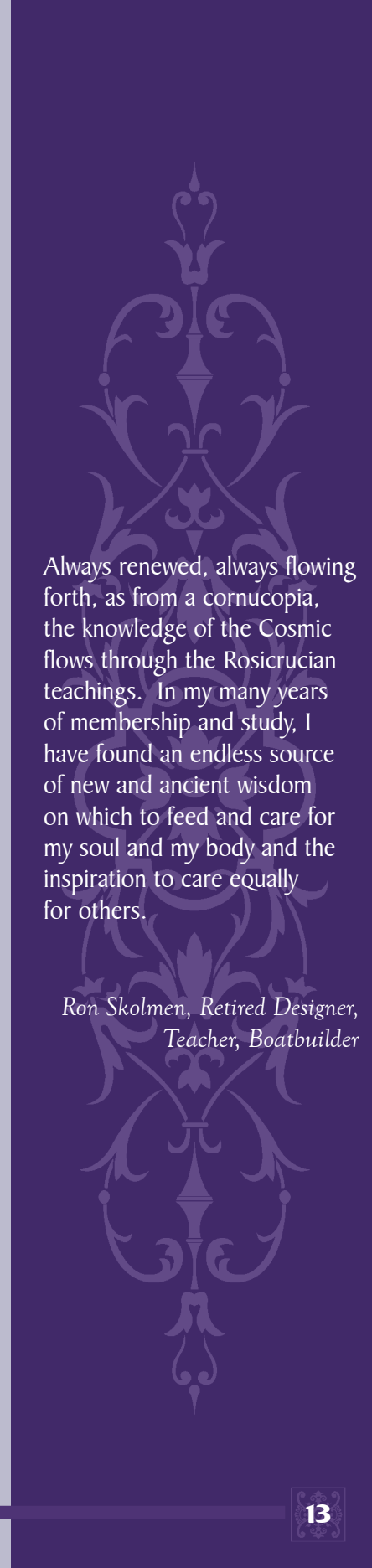
The origin of initiation is as old as the earliest civilizations. The ancient Egyptians learned that demonstrations, the performance of various acts, and the use of objects, help to facilitate instruction,

so that the lessons are more easily impressed upon the minds of the students. Dramas of impressive ceremonies consisting of music, spectacular lighting, processions, chanting, and colorful costumes become an unforgettable experience to the participant.

All true esoteric initiations are mystery-dramas. In these dramatizations, ancient people sought to reenact certain fundamental truths of nature which they had discovered. These mystery dramas were somewhat like the modern passion plays. In ancient times, the word *mystery* did not have the same connotation that it does now. It referred to a unique gnosis—that is, knowledge which was to be revealed to the candidate for initiation. In fact, in ancient Rome the mysteries were called *initia*. The initiates were called *mystae*. The Latin word *initiate* meant “to inspire,” and *initium* meant “beginning” or “training.” Thus, candidates for initiation were introduced to an inspiring knowledge that was to make an emotional or psychic impression upon their consciousness as well as to add to their knowledge. In a dramatic way, the initiation sheds illumination upon certain subjects which otherwise may not be thoroughly understood and appreciated. Further, the mystical aspect of initiation arouses your psychic and emotional response concerning the subjects you are about to study and produces an awareness, a state of consciousness which otherwise could not be achieved.

No rite or ceremony, however, no matter what its form or how it is conducted, is a true initiation if it does not do the following: (a) cause you to engage in introspection, that is, to turn your consciousness within, to look upon yourself; (b) engender within you a feeling of aspiration and idealism; and (c) exact from you a sacred obligation or promise which you make to yourself that you will try to fulfill your aspirations. The purpose of Rosicrucian initiation is for the same traditional and psychological reasons.

Participation in initiation rituals does not, in itself, make you a true initiate, and Rosicrucian students are not required to participate in rituals. You become a Rosicrucian initiate only through your own efforts, merits, and preparation. This means that as you progress along the Rosicrucian path, it is through your personal work that you will advance; and everything that you can become, you will become through your own patience and perseverance. Even in antiquity when seekers traveled thousands of miles to reach ancient temples so as to be initiated and receive instructions from the Masters, they understood that true initiation—meaning illumination of consciousness—would come only when they were prepared or ready on the inner plane, whether or not they were in a temple or proceeding through a ceremony or ritual at that particular time. What was true centuries ago is still true today. However, it is possible to accelerate this inner preparation, and this is the purpose of Rosicrucian initiations.



Always renewed, always flowing forth, as from a cornucopia, the knowledge of the Cosmic flows through the Rosicrucian teachings. In my many years of membership and study, I have found an endless source of new and ancient wisdom upon which to feed and care for my soul and my body and the inspiration to care equally for others.

*Ron Skolmen, Retired Designer,
Teacher, Boatbuilder*

Local Groups

The Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, maintains a system of local Rosicrucian groups to supplement the home study program. As a student of the Rosicrucian Order, you have the option and privilege of attending an affiliated Lodge, Chapter, Pronaos, or Atrium Group if there is one in your area. Here you can enjoy the company of other Rosicrucians, hear inspiring lectures, engage in mystical experiments with other students, and participate in beautiful ceremonies and stimulating discussions. In addition, you'll have the opportunity to attend a variety of special events, seminars, and conventions. No Rosicrucian member is obligated to associate with a local Rosicrucian group, but it is highly recommended. This is a special privilege offered to you, and provides a unique opportunity to enrich your membership experience.

You may visit a local group without obligation three consecutive times. After that, you will be invited to become a member of the group. Members of a Lodge, Chapter, Pronaos, or Atrium Group support the activities of their local group through nominal dues or donations which are separate from their regular Rosicrucian membership dues.

Many local groups offer regular Open Meetings, where members of the public can attend a brief presentation and meet Rosicrucian students in an informal setting. To find out if Open Meetings are offered in your area, please visit:

www.rosicrucian.org



The Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, has provided a bridge for me into a dimension of life that I had inwardly and innately longed for but could not find in all of my scientific and religious searches. Within the teachings I have found an understanding of all the so-called mysteries of life—bringing me inner peace and contentment and giving to me a higher appreciation of science and religion.

*Lonnie C. Edwards, M.D.
Retired General Surgeon,
Former Commissioner of Health,
City of Chicago*

Other Benefits of Membership

Rosicrucian Publications

As a member of the Order, you will receive the following publications in addition to your lessons:

THE ROSICRUCIAN DIGEST

The official magazine of the Rosicrucian Order, the *Rosicrucian Digest*, published twice per year, contains fascinating and informative articles related to mysticism, philosophy, the sciences, and the arts and is of particular interest to Rosicrucians and their friends.

THE ROSICRUCIAN FORUM

The *Forum*, a semi-annual publication, supplements the Rosicrucian teachings and contains in-depth articles on aspects of the Rosicrucian studies. It is a private publication for Rosicrucian students only.

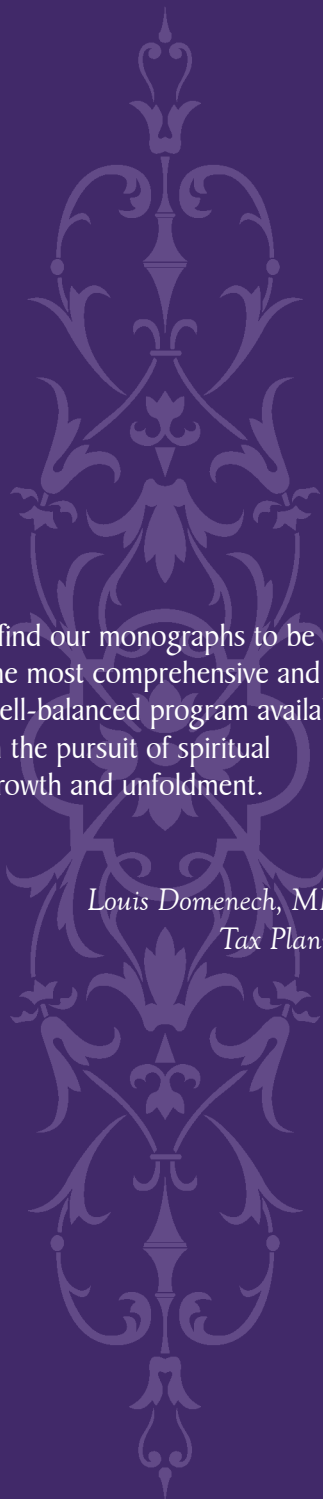
ROSE + CROIX JOURNAL

The *Rose+Croix Journal* is an international, peer-reviewed online Rosicrucian journal that is interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary in approach. The journal focuses on topics that are related to the sciences, history, the arts, mysticism, and spirituality—especially interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary inquiries that traverse and lie beyond the limits of different fields of study.

www.rosecroixjournal.org

Council of Solace

The Council of Solace is a group of Rosicrucians who meditate daily on behalf of others who are struggling with health, emotional, financial, or other challenges. The Council directs metaphysical assistance to those in need through a unique and mystical system of direct healing attunement. Rosicrucian students receive complete information about the services of the Council of Solace in their first packet of introductory materials. Anyone, whether or not they are members of the Rosicrucian Order, may request the aid of the Council of Solace. To request metaphysical assistance, send an email to: council@rosicrucian.org.



I find our monographs to be the most comprehensive and well-balanced program available in the pursuit of spiritual growth and unfoldment.

*Louis Domenech, MBA
Tax Planner*

Rosicrucian Park



The headquarters of the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, is beautiful Rosicrucian Park in San Jose, California. Fountains, exotic plants and trees, statuary, and Egyptian-style buildings add to the special ambience of Rosicrucian Park. In addition to our administrative offices, Rosicrucian Park also houses the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum and Planetarium, Rosicrucian Research Library, Rosicrucian Peace Garden, Rosicrucian Labyrinth, Rosicrucian Alchemy Exhibit, and our Egyptian-style Grand Temple. Rosicrucian members may attend convocations and other activities in the Grand Temple, including sessions of the Council of Solace healing meditation. Guests are welcome to stroll through the Park grounds, enjoying its beauty and tranquility.



*Sharon C. Wahl, Ed.D.
Professor of Nursing*

Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum and Planetarium



The museum offers an exciting chance to travel back in time to discover the mysteries of ancient Egypt. The Rosicrucian Order owns the largest collection of Egyptian artifacts on display in western North America. The museum, which is one of San Jose's most popular tourist attractions, allows guests to see the fascinating objects and ritual items the Egyptians used in everyday life. While at the planetarium, guests enjoy various astronomy programs. Rosicrucian members, along with one guest, receive free admission to the museum. The planetarium is complimentary to all.

Rosicrucian Peace Garden



The Rosicrucian Peace Garden is an educational garden dedicated to the Rosicrucian ideals of peace and tolerance. Based on examples of gardens from the city of Akhetaton (now called Amarna), the garden contains plants and architecture authentic to the Eighteenth Dynasty of ancient Egypt, including medicinal plants, beautiful flowers, a reflection pond for relaxation and contemplation, a small outdoor temple, and a grape arbor.

Having traveled many times to India to study first hand from the Eastern Meditation masters, and having spent a lifetime attending New Age, Metaphysical, and Spiritual Development, and Hypnosis seminars, I have NEVER come across a body of knowledge as deep and profound as that contained in the AMORC material.

*Dr. Donald Burton Schnell
Co-author of "Fitonics For Life"*

Rose-Croix University International



Rosicrucian students are eligible to enroll in classes sponsored by Rose-Croix University International. This optional program offers in-depth courses which expand on certain aspects of the Rosicrucian studies. Its purpose is to offer Rosicrucian students opportunities for personal development and spiritual growth in a classroom or online environment under the personal instruction of faculty members. The Rosicrucian faculty are qualified experts in their fields of instruction and members of our International Research Council.

Rosicrucian Research Library




The Research Library and its Rare Books Room contain a remarkable collection of books on most esoteric subjects, as well as cultural, scientific, and other fascinating material. Rosicrucian members living in or visiting the San Jose area are encouraged to visit the library. We also offer a special program of library membership to visiting scholars, researchers, and the general public.

Association with AMORC has been the best investment of my life.

*Arthur Auclair
Chemical Engineer*

Our Traditional and Chronological History

he Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, is known internationally by its traditional and authentic title, the Ancient and Mystical Order Rosae Crucis, from which is derived the acronym “AMORC.” The Ancient and Mystical Order Rosae Crucis is the Latin form of the organization’s name, which literally translates into the Ancient Mystical Order of the Rose Cross. There is no religious connotation associated with this symbol; the Rose Cross symbol predates Christianity. The cross symbolically represents the human body and the rose represents the individual’s unfolding consciousness. Together, the rose and cross represent the experiences and challenges of a thoughtful life well lived. Thus, by our name and symbol we represent the ancient Rosicrucian Tradition, perpetuating the true traditions of Rosicrucian movements from centuries past to the present day.

The history of the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, may be divided into two general classifications: traditional and chronological. The traditional history consists of mystical allegories and fascinating legends that have been passed down for centuries by word of mouth. The Rosicrucian Order’s chronological accounts are based on specific dates and verifiable facts.

Our Roots in the Ancient World

The Rosicrucian movement, of which the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, is the most prominent modern representative, has its roots in the mystery traditions, philosophy, and myths of ancient Egypt dating back to approximately 1500 BCE. In antiquity the word “mystery” referred to a special gnosis, a secret wisdom. Thousands of years ago in ancient Egypt select bodies or schools were formed to explore the mysteries of life and learn the secrets of this hidden wisdom. Only sincere students, displaying a desire for knowledge and meeting certain tests were considered worthy of being inducted into these mysteries. Over the course of centuries these mystery schools added an initiatory dimension to the knowledge they transmitted.

It is further traditionally related that the Order’s first member-students met in secluded chambers in magnificent old temples, where, as candidates, they were initiated into the great mysteries. Their mystical studies then assumed a more closed character and were held exclusively in temples which had been built for that purpose. Rosicrucian tradition relates that the great pyramids of Giza were most sacred in the eyes of initiates. Contrary to what many historians believe, our tradition relates that the Giza pyramids were not built to be the tombs of pharaohs, but were actually places





of study and mystical initiation. The mystery schools, over centuries of time, gradually evolved into great centers of learning, attracting students from throughout the known world.

Pharaoh Thutmose III, who ruled Egypt from 1500 to 1447 BCE, organized the first esoteric school of initiates founded upon principles and methods similar to those perpetuated today by the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC. Decades later Pharaoh Amenhotep IV was initiated into the secret school. This most enlightened pharaoh—history’s first monotheist—was so inspired by the mystery teachings that he gave a completely new direction to Egypt’s religion and philosophy. He established a religion which recognized the Aton, the solar disk, as being the symbol of the sole deity—the foundation of life itself, the symbol of Light, Truth, and Joy—and changed his name to Akhnaton to reflect these new ideas. And although the earlier religion was later reestablished, the mystical idea was put forth in human consciousness, and its flame never died.

Centuries later, Greek philosophers such as Thales and Pythagoras, the Roman philosopher Plotinus, and others, journeyed to Egypt and were initiated into the mystery schools. They then brought their advanced learning and wisdom to the Western world. Their experiences are the first records of what eventually grew and blossomed into the Rosicrucian Order. The name of the Order, as it is now known, was to come much later. However, the Rosicrucian Order always perpetuated its heritage of ancient symbolism and principles.

Early European Beginnings

It was in the time of Charlemagne (742–814) that the French philosopher Arnaud introduced the mystical teachings into France, and from there they spread to much of Western Europe. Throughout medieval Europe mystical knowledge was often necessarily couched in symbolism or disguised and hidden in the love songs of Troubadours, the formularies of Alchemists, the symbolical system known as the Kabbalah, and the rituals of Orders of Knighthood.

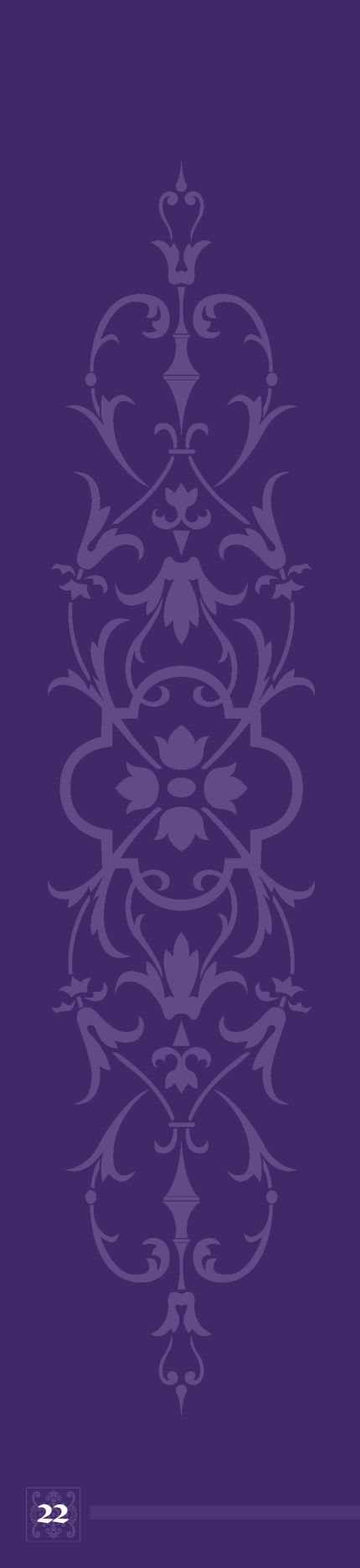
While much of medieval Europe lay in darkness, the highly advanced Arab civilization preserved a large body of the mystical teachings through texts translated directly from the great libraries of the ancient world, such as Egypt's Alexandria Library. Philosophy, medicine, mathematics, and alchemy were all important subjects preserved in these libraries and later transmitted to Europe by way of the Arabs.

Alchemy—the art of transmutation—came into prominence with the Alexandrian Greeks. It was then introduced to the Arabs, who then transmitted this art and forerunner of chemistry to Europe. The alchemists played a tremendous part in the early history of the Rosicrucian Order. While many alchemists were interested in making gold, some were more concerned with the transmutation of human character. European alchemists and Knights Templar, in contact with the Arab civilization at the time of the Crusades, brought much of this wisdom to the West. In Europe the transcendental alchemists—mystics and philosophers—sought to transmute the base elements of human character into the more noble virtues and to release the wisdom of the divine self within the individual. Some of the renowned alchemists who were also Rosicrucians or were closely associated with them were Albertus Magnus, Roger Bacon, Paracelsus, Cagliostro, Nicholas Flamel, and Robert Fludd.

As the saying goes, “The truth shall make you free.” Consequently, those who sought Truth and attempted to expound it to their fellow humans became the objects of persecution by tyrannical rulers or narrow religious systems. For several centuries, due to the lack of freedom of thought, the Order had to conceal itself under various names. However, in all times and places the Order never ceased its activities, perpetuating its ideals and its teachings, participating directly or indirectly in the advancement of the arts, sciences, and civilization in general, and always emphasizing the equality of men and women and the true solidarity of all humanity.

As the Renaissance burst upon Europe with a flash of new interest in the arts and sciences, a mysterious publication printed in seventeenth century Germany and called the *Fama Fraternitatis* heralded a renewed interest in Rosicrucianism throughout Europe.





The *Fama* introduces Christian Rosenkreuz, a mythical character who was said to have traveled to centers of learning in the Near East and who personified the revived interest in esoteric studies and mystical learning.

As part of this great renewal, the renowned Sir Francis Bacon (1561–1626), English philosopher, essayist, and statesperson, directed the Rosicrucian Order and its activities both in England and on the continent.

Crossing the Atlantic

In the late seventeenth century, following a plan originally proposed by Francis Bacon in *The New Atlantis*, a colony of Rosicrucian leaders was organized to establish the Rosicrucian arts and sciences in America. In 1694 Rosicrucian settlers made the perilous journey across the Atlantic Ocean in a specially chartered vessel, the *Sarah Maria*, under the leadership of Johannes Kelpius, master of a Rosicrucian Lodge in Europe. Landing in Philadelphia, the colonists established their first settlement and later moved further west in Pennsylvania. These Rosicrucian communities made valuable contributions to the newly emerging American culture in the fields of printing, philosophy, the sciences, and arts. Later, such eminent Americans as Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and Thomas Paine were intimately connected with the Rosicrucian community. In fact, many Rosicrucians played an important role in the great alchemical and social process leading to the founding of a new nation.

Throughout history, there have been periods of greater and lesser activity of Rosicrucianism around the world. While inactive in the Americas during the nineteenth century, the Order was very active in France, Germany, Switzerland, Russia, Spain, and other lands during this time.

In 1909 the American businessperson and philosopher H. Spencer Lewis journeyed to France, where he was duly initiated into the Rosicrucian Order and chartered with the responsibility of renewing Rosicrucian activity in America. With H. Spencer Lewis as its president, the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, was incorporated in 1915 in New York City. In 1927 the Order moved its headquarters to San Jose, California—the site of present-day Rosicrucian Park.

Over the past century hundreds of thousands of people have been students of the Rosicrucian teachings. From the beginning, both men and women have played an equal role in the Rosicrucian Order, without regard to religion or race.



Throughout history a number of prominent persons in the fields of science and the arts have been associated with the Rosicrucian movement, such as Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519), Cornelius Heinrich Agrippa (1486–1535), Paracelsus (1493–1541), Francois Rabelais (1494–1553), Theresa of Avila (1515–1582), John of the Cross (1542–1591), Francis Bacon (1561–1626), Robert Fludd (1574–1637), Jacob Boehme (1575–1624), Rene Descartes (1596–1650), Blaise Pascal (1623–1662), Baruch Spinoza (1632–1677), Isaac Newton (1642–1727), Gottfried Wilhelm Leibnitz (1646–1716), Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790), Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826), Michael Faraday (1791–1867), Ella Wheeler Wilcox (1850–1919), Marie Corelli (1855–1924), Claude Debussy (1862–1918), Erik Satie (1866–1925), and Edith Piaf (1916–1963).

Today’s Rosicrucian legacy consists of a vast collection of knowledge which has come down to us through many centuries to enrich the cultural and spiritual heritage of AMORC. To the knowledge passed on by the sages of ancient Egypt were added philosophical concepts expressed by the great thinkers of ancient Greece, India, and the Arab world. Then, a few centuries later, the mystical precepts of Rosicrucian alchemists of the Middle Ages were formulated, followed by the vast expansion of knowledge which occurred from the Renaissance to the present day.

The New Frontier

As you can see, Rosicrucian ideas and our unique process and method of inner development have been developed over many centuries. Thus, a large number of mystical laws and principles which are explained in our monographs are the product of the ongoing studies and experimentation which mystics of the past have performed to pierce the mysteries of nature and the universe.

In the twenty-first century we feel strongly that these teachings will play an increasingly important role in humanity's evolution. With fast-paced technological advancement and its effects upon the environment and the human psyche, people are searching for an inner, ever-reliable source of strength and balance. Perhaps now, more than ever, we are reaching out for understanding, for mystical illumination, for spiritual guidance, for harmony and peace. Through its unique system of instruction and its humanitarian ideals, the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, offers a beacon of light to all who seek the answers to life's questions by following this inner path to wisdom.

Every man or woman who is capable of the average words of the languages in which the instructions are presented can easily master and succeed in the application of the principles taught in the Rosicrucian teachings. The work becomes so fascinating, the study so tempting and attractive in its revelations and applications, that men and women who have little time for other studies or who cannot devote evenings to unnecessary things are happy to set aside a part of one evening each week for the study of the monographs so that in spare moments during the other days of the week, the principles can be applied and benefits can be derived in every one of their daily affairs.

H. Spencer Lewis



We cordially invite you to join us as we explore the marvelous frontier of self and the universal laws of nature. By accepting this invitation, you will become part of a worldwide order of mystics – men and women who share your spiritual interests, zest for higher knowledge, and humanitarian ideals.

To apply for membership in the Rosicrucian Order, please visit www.rosicrucian.org where you will find our online membership application and dues rates. Aside from your dues, no other fees are required, nor must you purchase any books or other supplemental materials in order to advance through the studies.

We welcome you to a lifetime of learning that will enable you to experience real, practical benefits on a daily basis.

How to Contact Us

We thank you for taking the time to learn more about the Rosicrucian Order and the benefits we have to offer. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us at info@rosicrucian.org.

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How to Become a Rosicrucian Student



Conscience never deceives us and is the true guide of humanity. She is to the soul what instinct is to the body; whoever follows her pursues the direct path of nature and need not fear being misled.

Jean Jacques Rousseau
French philosopher

