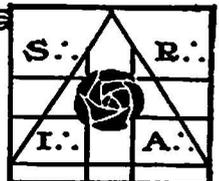


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No. 14

College Notes.

The very gratifying attendance at the last Convocation was an evidence of the interest with which so many of our members have been looking forward to the resumption of labor for the fall and winter terms. Your officers appreciate this manifestation and will do everything possible to make the forthcoming season as pleasant and profitable as the first half of the college year proved to be.

Members are especially requested to be prompt in their attendance at the forthcoming Convocation, as the Opening will begin at 8:00 o'clock precisely, in order that we may close at 10:30 sharp. This is necessitated by the fact that the Theoricus Degree will be conferred at midnight in full ceremonial form, ON THOSE WHO RECEIVED THE ZELATOR DEGREE IN 1918.

On Sunday, September 28th, the Degree of Magister Templi will be conferred in full ceremonial form upon three candidates. Altho this Consistory should have been held on the Equinox, in view of the long distance which two of the candidates will have to travel, it was decided to bring it close to the day of the nearest Regular Convocation, in order that our visiting friends and fraters might have the opportunity of visiting the Mother College while at work.

At the last Convocation, by unanimous vote of the College Mr. F. H. S. (formerly Fr. Servinus) was expelled from Metropolitan College and the Order, and the Secretary was instructed to send due notification to other Colleges of this obedience.

Members of the Neophyte's Class (and others) who have not already done so, are advised to secure copies of the Anthroposophic Chart. This invaluable diagrammatic compilation gives the whole Involutionary and Evolutionary Journey of Virgin Spirit at a glance.

It was a great pleasure to welcome back to our midst Frater GALLE (G.W.B.) who returns from long and active service "over there."

The Spirit of Occultism in the Letter of Theology.

By Fr. Firmus, IX°.

It is interesting for the Rosicrucian to note the persistence of occult ideas in Theology, though the usage is a matter of "observing the letter" only. For instance it is easy to trace the parallel of our Mass of the Four Elements in both the High Anglican and Catholic Churches. The latter obscures this heritage both in practice and symbol. The first act of the Catholic upon entering is to make the sign of the cross with holy Water. The numerous lights on the altar, together with the prayer candles lighted by devotees show how prominently the element Fire persists. As a ceremonial incident to the highest occasions, the element Air is symbolized and served by incense. And as the concretion, the visible form or corpus of the Solar Christ Spirit (and the human Christ Spirit), the Earth element is symbolized by the wafer.

Not only does the original Mass of the Four Elements persist in observances, but in the cathedrals are retained the more occult symbols, the Lion, Eagle, Ox and Man. One exoteric step from our true astrological symbols Ω , ♁ ♂ and ♃ .

Sayings of Elbert Hubbard, No. 10.

"If you would get Justice, do not be too anxious about it."

Societas Rosicruciana In America.

By Fr. K. X°.

Authorized Instruction in Rosicrucian Philosophy.

Number Five.

Reincarnation. (Continued)

The Life Cycle, Consciousness, Purgatory, Panorama, Rebirth.

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- Ego enters First Heaven.** As the Ego continues to manifest outwardly through the sub-regions of the Division of Concrete Thought of the Thought World, the Seed Atom of the new Mental Sheath attracts to itself the essential conditions and principles of that World and the sub-regions; and in due time, when all such principles as will be necessary for use in the forthcoming material expression have been assimilated, the Seed Atom of the Astral Body is awakened into activity, "planted," as it were, in the Astral World or First Heaven.
- Etheric Seed Atom awakens.** Here the Astral Seed Atom attracts to itself all the necessary material of the Astral World from which to germinate the future Astral Body, and on the completion of this process, the combined strength of the Mental Sheath and Astral Body enable the Ego to awaken the Seed Atom of the Etheric Body-to-be, into activity.
- Reflecting Ether impresses new Etheric Body.** At this point the newly germinating Etheric Body is impressed through the functions of the Reflecting Ether with the panorama of the now closely approaching mortal expression. When so impressed, the Ego, with the nascent Mental Sheath, the Astral and Etheric Bodies, during this process of impression and germination are in the Etheric Region of the Physical World. In this Etheric Region they are guided step by step by the Hierarchies described in Instruction No. 3. These Hierarchies, the Recording Angels or Lords of Destiny, direct the actual placement of each individual in the allotted environment for incarnation, making sure that each individual is so placed as to be sure of participating in all the experience it is deemed advisable and necessary for it to contact therein.
- Lords of Destiny place the Newly Forming Human.** When the proper environment has been selected, the Etheric Body is moulded into a matrix which is then placed in the human womb of the female through whom entrance into mortal expression is to be made, and the Seed Atom of the future Physical Body is placed by the Hierarchies in the head of one of the spermatozoa in the semen of the male parent-to-be.
- How Male and Female co-operate.** Right here may be seen the cause why some apparently happy marriages are barren. It may not be the fault of either marriage partner, but simply that the Lords of Destiny do not find that a particular married couple are creating or making an environment which is at the time available or desirable for human incarnation.
- Why some Marriages are Barren.**
- Shapes of Ego and New Matter.** While the process of manifesting toward the exterior or outer has been in progress, it must not be assumed that the Ego and new material have been in human form. Instead, the Ego and its newly acquired bodies have assumed a semi-globular shape with the Mental stuff inside and the Astral matter outside. It is the Etheric Body that is moulded into future human form and placed as a matrix in the womb of the mother.
- How the Ego enters the Womb.** When the female has been impregnated, after a period of about three weeks, the Ego, with the Mental stuff and Astral Matter, which has been closely associated with the mother but outside her, enters, the globular structure envelops the head of the Etheric matrix, draws down over it, closes in upon it, and the process of germination of the foetus or future human begins, and continues until delivery.
- When Physical Birth occurs.** At the end of nine months, in some cases sooner, and in others later, the germination is complete. The Physical Body has developed in consonance with its Etheric Matrix, which now continues to enfold and interpenetrate it, but not as yet fully developed as a separate vehicle, ready to function in mortal life expression. That is reserved for its own individual birth as described in Instruction No. 3. With the completion of the germination of the foetus or future human, **PHYSICAL BIRTH TAKES PLACE.**
- Correspondence between Umbilicus and Silver Cord.** Immediately a notable correspondence occurs. After death of the Physical Body, the **SILVER CORD WAS SEVERED.** After birth of the Physical Body, **THE UMBILICUS IS SEVERED.** The umbilicus is the link which connects the Physical Body with the placenta in the maternal womb, and the Silver Cord is the spiritual counterpart which connects the Physical Body with the Spiritual Matrix or Etheric Body.
- Rationale of Re-incarnation.** In the foregoing instructions we have given only the actual process and the steps thereof, involved in rebirth or, as it is popularly called, **REINCARNATION.** We shall now consider the arguments advanced against it by the uninformed, and the proofs that may be given in its support. 1st, the arguments and objections advanced against it.
- Arguments against it.**
- 1 That it is a form of predestination or fatalism.
 - 2 That it is not taught by "the Church."
 - 3 That there is no proof of it as a *fact* in Nature or Science.
 - 4 That it is not in accord with the orthodox teachings regarding Heaven and Hell.
 - 5 That it would do away with Man's personal responsibility.

To be Spiritually Discerned.

It is of course difficult to bring those who have been reared in the ranks of orthodoxy to an immediate recognition of this great truth and for the very reason that confutes all the arguments that can be brought against it, and that is, that being a SPIRITUAL TRUTH OR FACT, IT MUST BE SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED, as Scripture teaches. To the truly spiritual, it presents not only no undesirable aspects, but on the contrary, the most desirable recognition of Divine Wisdom.

Man his own Judge.

A careful study of the foregoing instructions will suffice to show that no human being can possibly escape personal responsibility, and instead of the illogical judgment of a human life of brief duration, Man is judged by the actions, thought, and feelings of several mortal expressions until he has contacted ALL the experience that this planet can give him. Then and then only is he to be "FINALLY JUDGED" before he can progress further.

Nothing can be lost.

It is also manifest to the student that in the marvellous operations of Nature under Divine Wisdom, no modicum of here energy which is of the very substance of the Absolute itself can ever by any possibility be "Lost" or "Destroyed."

Jesus taught Reincarnation.

Reincarnation IS taught, not by the Church, although the early Christian Fathers DID teach it as evidenced as their writings, but by JESUS and the BIBLE from which the Christian Church derives whatever of authority it may possess. In Matthew xvii-12, 13, Jesus distinctly states the identity of John the Baptist as the reincarnate Elias, and other instances could be cited. As an instance of his knowledge of his own previous lives read John viii-56-58 wherein he says: "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day; and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am."

As a FACT in Nature it is everywhere before us if we look for it. We sow the seed. It matures, shoots appear, grow, bud, bloom, bear fruit, and produce seed which is disseminated according to Natural Laws. With the approach of winter the sap runs down, leaves fall, snow covers it and to all intents and appearances it is dead. But behold, the following season it reappears, a newer and better, stronger plant, attaining greater growth and productivity, and yet *not* a "new" plant but the same plant from the same seed originally planted.

Man compared with plants.

Note how closely this follows the record of the human being, given in this Instruction. Born from the germinal seed, youth, maturity, old age, failing faculties corresponding to falling leaves, apparent death, covered by Mother Earth, and behold, a new man, born NOT from NEW seed but from the essences of the original cosmic seed of Virgin Spirit, a newer and better being with greater privileges, greater growth, greater opportunity and able to produce more and better fruitage of good deeds.

Evolution demonstrates it.

ALL EVOLUTION DEMONSTRATES REINCARNATION IF ONE WILL LAY ASIDE PREJUDICE AND STUDY IT FROM ITS SPIRITUAL VIEWPOINT, CO-RELATED WITH THE FACTS OF NATURE AND SCIENCE.

"Every seed his own body."

This is further set forth by St. Paul in 1st. Corinthians, xv, 38, wherein the Apostle says: "But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased Him, AND TO EVERY SEED (ATOM) HIS OWN BODY." Man's vehicles are *built* in Heaven, and *USED* on earth.

Man regarded as an Individual Creation by the orthodox.

Many orthodox churchgoers cannot get over the idea that each human birth is a separate, distinct, and individual act of Divine Creation, whereas the simple standpoint of mathematics applied to the matter of population would suffice to show that earth's resources would have been exhausted long ere this, if such were the case. Nature does not operate that way. The earth belongs to man, to use *over and over again* until the waves of humanity destined to exist upon this planet have run their course of evolution and passed on to higher planes of activity.

Cares for those who need to be "Saved" for not having lived A.D.

Reincarnation also solves one of theology's greatest problems, the destiny of those who lived before the so-called "New Dispensation." For applied to them, Evolution shows their places in the list of Races and evolutionary waves, and Reincarnation shows how each will in due course enjoy equal opportunities in comparison with those whose evolution began previously.

Classes at school.

The whole problem reduces to the concept of a day or a term or a course in school. Classes enter, students progress through varying grades, in each promotion stragglers are left behind. Always a new class is starting. In due course, the majority of THE SAME ENTERING CLASS graduate with collegiate degrees or honors. The stragglers will in due time have the same opportunity but their slower progress will take a longer period. But all through school life it is the *same class groups* that start and finish together. So in Life's school, Virgin Spirits enter upon the earth life in groups, or "races." They start and finish approximately together. But in due course ALL will have had the same, equal opportunities. New beings are not created at every individual birth. Births form the means of entering the advancing classes to which the newborn are promoted.

Greatest number of adherents.

This great truth of reincarnation has today, and ALWAYS HAS HAD, the greatest number of adherents of any religious or philosophical doctrine ever promulgated, a doctrine that antedates all organized religious systems and is coeval with Man's first appreciation of his essential individuality. It has been written that the greatest proof of immortality lies in Man's capacity to receive it and believe it and to conceive of it. So too, with reincarnation, the greatest of all proofs is the fact that the overwhelming majority of humankind not only conceive it, but apply it in their every day problems and lives.

Solves Life's inequalities

Reincarnation solves the problem of Life's apparent injustices and inequalities: the apparent discrepancies and incongruities between human creatures. It shows how ALL will in due course not only enjoy and experience all that every other human being ever has had, but will progress as ALL have done and are now doing.

Many hold back from FEAR.

A strong reason for the non-acceptance of the truth of reincarnation on the part of the orthodox lies in the FEAR of entertaining or even investigating ANY truth not previously received by them, lest it contravene, contradict, or alter some doctrine, dogma, or creed of their personal acceptance. Many such people refuse to

How the Modern Mind Accepts mechanically Formulated Creeds. The Western Mind.

study its rationale simply because, having never been taught it in any school or church, it is therefore something to be avoided.

In modern times, and in the mediaeval as well, the chief function of the Ministry was to think for *all* the people, instead of permitting or encouraging the people to think for themselves. As a result, doctrines essential to Man's salvation, on which the future safety of his soul was supposed to depend, were formulated by Oecumenical Councils, Synods, and even political Acts of Parliament, or by the decisions of Royal laymen who had not the slightest notion of the essential spiritual conditions involved.

Among western minds, some refuse to accept the truth of reincarnation because their evolutionary status mentally and spiritually has not yet reached the requisite degree of receptivity. Also, the teachings regarding reincarnation taught by adherents of the far eastern schools of thought do not appeal to the western mind. Reincarnation, when taught as an endless series of lives, covering millions of expressions, wearies the mind before it can comprehend the subject. Also, reincarnation that after all ends in Nirvana and absorption into Brahm is simply annihilation, no matter how sophistically its devoted exponents may try to disguise and interpret it otherwise.

How often the Ego re-incarnates, and when.

The Rosicrucian system, which is the Egyptian School of the Hidden Wisdom, teaches that the number of incarnations of a given Virgin Spirit is twenty-four, measured by the passage of the Sun in the "Precession of the Equinoxes" through the twelve Signs of the Zodiac. In this series of expressions the individual alternates its sex, as the functions of each sex are so widely variant as to necessitate this alternation in order that complete experience and knowledge of both natures may become assimilated. The Ego incarnates twice while the Sun is in each sign, which brings each mortal expression about 1000 years apart. As evolution progresses and the end of involuntary incarnations approaches, this time is somewhat lessened, and in the case of children it is not confined to this measurement of time, they returning to another life expression sometimes almost immediately. Also the Ego does not always keep the strict alternation as male and female in each succeeding incarnation, often continuing in the same sex until work begun by it as of that particular sex is completed. As a rule however, until the Ego has reached an advanced status of evolution, it is obedient to the general law of average, and keeps to the regular alternation.

Alternation of Sex.

Summarizing the matter, we may say that Reincarnation—,

Arguments FOR Reincarnation.

- 1 IS a FACT in Nature.
- 2 IS taught by Jesus and the Bible and was formerly taught by the Church.
- 3 IS a solvent of all the apparent incongruities of life.
- 4 IS the logical solution of theological discrepancies.
- 5 IS the truth with the greatest number of adherents.
- 6 IS the logical and scientific sequence of evolution.
- 7 IS the only logical evidence of Divine mercy and Wisdom, in the care of Humanity.
- 8 IS NOT a doctrine of fatalism or predestination.
- 9 IS NOT antagonistic to the teachings of ANY TRUE Church.
- 10 IS the logical explanation of prodigies of genius in all branches of art, science and literature.

Many do not quite understand how the fact of the Ego desiring another life or mortal experience actually brings it about. In conclusion of this instruction therefore, we would point out that this is where the real value of desire operates. For while the Ego clad with its Mental Stuff and new matter draws into the Astral World, and germinates a new Astral Body, we must remember that the Astral World is the home of desire, and that the Astral Body is particularly and specially the vehicle OF desire. So when newly formed, the Astral Body "CRAVES" an outer etheric and physical Body (Outlines of Occult Sci. p. 88) and this craving, operating through the force of Attraction, makes the further "dip into matter" possible, and continues the crystallizing process until Etheric and Physical vehicles are provided.

Directory.

The One Hundred and Seventh Stated Convocation of Metropolitan College S. R. I. A., will be held in the Adytum, 310 Lenox Avenue Between 125th. and 126th. Streets, opposite 125th. Street station, Lenox Ave. Subway. Friday Evening, September 26, 1919, at 8.00 P. M. precisely

Work:

Neophytes' Class Instructor Rt. Wor. Fr. Reficio IX°
Elementary Rosicrucian Philosophy, No. 5.
Subject: "Re-Incarnation."

Elementary Hermetic Class.....Instructor, Rt. Wor. Fr. Paracelsus IX°
Elementary Hermetic Instruction, No. 8.
Subject: "The Hermetic Principle of Vibration."

Senior Hermetic Class.Instructor, Fr. K.
Senior Hermetic Instruction, No. 4.
Subject: "Poenitentia, Unctio Extrema."

Astrological Class.

Sr. Progressia 9°-2°.
1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays. 712 West 180th Street.