

# The Mystery Schools and the Brotherhood of the Rosy-Cross

T244 The Inner Teachings 24th January 1956 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

## Invocation:

We look up to the golden heights. We look up to the dazzling golden light of the mountain tops. We behold the assembly of the Christ Circle, and our hearts open to worship, to adore the Source of the light, our Creator, our Father and our Mother-God and Christ, the Son of God. Holy, Holy, Holy Trinity of Love, Wisdom and Power, we who are Thy children draw close to love Thee, to remember all Thy goodness, and to learn wisdom from our worship of Thee and our service for Thee. We pray that every soul may be receptive to Thy love and may expand in the consciousness of Thee. May knowledge and, above all, wisdom flow to the waiting hearts of Thy children here tonight, and may the vision unfold of the Lord Christ, Jesus, and all the Brethren of the White circle.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

We would raise your thought and your vision above the earth. You come into this upper sanctuary from a noisy world, and it is not easy for you to listen immediately and to respond to the beauty of the heaven world. Nevertheless we ask you to make an effort tonight to leave worldly thoughts behind, remembering that you are composed of two parts, body and spirit. Earthly things can possess and rob you of the joy of the heavenly mysteries. You must make an effort to disentangle yourselves from earthly thoughts and to follow as children on the path of light which is being shown to you.

You all have your own favourite picture of the Master Jesus. Many painters have tried to portray his heavenly beauty and grace. Few of these pictures satisfy the soul. But if you can create your own picture of him in your higher mind, if you can picture the qualities of meekness, humility and love in his face, yours will be a heavenly image, and in so creating his picture you will find yourself being drawn right into his heart, and you will live in consciousness of him and of the spirit life. This in itself will help you to disentangle yourself from the noise and turmoil of the outer world.

Another image which will be helpful is that of the Divine Mother. On former occasions we have said that in the ancient days God was worshipped as the Mother. The ancients knew the woman as a symbol of eternal life because she demonstrated her power to give life and to prolong the race. Therefore the Mother was worshipped as the source of all life. The power of the matriarch was then very strong. Only later did the male element again dominate the scene and there was worship of the Father-God; however, let us at this moment picture in our mind the Divine Mother, the Life-giver, the wise Mother who folds all children to her breast.

In the past there were what are called mystery schools, where the inner life was revealed to pupils. There were reasons for establishing these mystery schools, for in those days life was exceedingly material. Man\* lived largely for the senses of the body, and had no thought, belief or regard for anything apart from the body. Religion in those days was very powerful and the priests were not always wise teachers, but dominant minds who did not want the people to be enlightened—for enlightenment means freedom from priestly domination. Others among the people were enlightened and had, through their own inner powers, brought themselves out of the Land of Egypt (Egypt being symbolical of the land of the flesh, of the

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physical body) and these studied in the mystery schools. They learnt to listen to their own inner voice and to the voices of those in spirit who were guiding and teaching them. These people we will call initiates. Initiation means an expansion of consciousness. An initiate is one who has advanced along the path of light and who has entered to a degree into the heavenly mysteries.

*[\*For editorial policy around gender, see the introduction.]*

In the days of which we have been speaking, there were initiates and there were materialists, just as there are today. You might be called an initiate, or you would not be here listening tonight. Of old, initiates might have been persecuted by the men of power and the materialists. Persecution is not unknown today, but takes a different form. Because of this possibility, the initiates, or the White Brotherhood, were forced to keep their meetings very secret. They dared not gather publicly. They dared not make themselves known, so there was a great deal of conflict in those days between the forces of illumination and those of ignorance.

In a sense the same thing is happening today, but not in quite the same way. You will admit there is some persecution of the initiate today by the ignorant; for if your opinions or your beliefs or your knowledge are not understood by those around you, you will be sneered at. So we see that in those days there was the need for initiates to have their own meeting places and to form what were called schools of the mysteries. The schools were prevalent in Greece; the great initiate Pythagoras drew many aspiring souls to his school. He taught his pupils by signs and symbols, and through the principles of mathematics, music, vibration and colour concerning the harmony of the spheres.

These things of which we speak have a double meaning. While it is true that there were the outer places of worship and the inner mysteries, it was necessary to teach the pupils for their own sake by signs and symbols or by allegory. Much the same thing is happening today. A pupil has to learn through deep thought about God, through meditating and contemplating all life, all nature, and through spiritual revelation he has to learn to interpret the wisdom of God. These schools were held secretly, and sometimes underground. Pupils who attended those schools (and who still do) are not allowed to speak about what they learn; silence is the rule. Remember that a secret society means a sacred society. Heavenly truth must be secret and it must be sacred. Because it is sacred, it is secret, secret and sacred being synonymous. We must always preserve the secrecy of inner knowledge. There are things which cannot be spoken of; they are sacred to the soul of man. And so a system of allegory and symbolism was worked out, so that the secret things of the soul could only be imparted by sign and symbol, and thus the sacredness and secrecy were preserved.

Today, if you talked about these things to the 'man in the street', he would think that you were a little queer in your mind and would say it was dangerous. Why do people think these things dangerous? Because they instinctively know that there is an unknown power in them. It can certainly be dangerous to handle fire or electricity or atomic energy carelessly, but we also remember that these revelations of the secrets of nature are God's gifts to man, and it is

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intended that man should unveil these secrets when he knows how to do so without danger. If man had refused to handle the unknown quantity of electricity, you would be living in a very different world today. It is right for man to increase his knowledge, but to do so with care and to proceed wisely.

Thus it was that the mystery schools taught the pupils how to proceed by degrees and to advance very wisely and slowly, and at each step they had to pass a test or degree. Each degree was a form of initiation. Never were the pupils allowed to rush forward, and if they did, they came up against a sharp instrument. It is all very well to be eager for knowledge, but patience and caution must accompany the pupil on the path. Impatience can do much harm. At the same time you must not lag behind when the inner voice is gently urging you forward. Faith and trust in that inner voice will prove to you its constancy and its helpfulness as you tread the path of spiritual development and service. Man knows that within himself lie these spiritual forces. There is always an intuitive power which tells him that he is spirit, and that there are unknown, untried, undeveloped forces within himself.

Man is very blessed in these days, because he is standing on the shore looking out over a vast ocean, preparing to journey across that ocean to a wonderful life. In the old days you could not have met in a little room like this to listen to the voice of the spirit; you would have had no such opportunity. Today all the powers are leading man on and he is learning how to unfold magical powers within himself. Yes, there is danger if these powers are not used wisely; you must not only gain knowledge of how to use the powers, but knowledge of how to live properly—how to live wisely, and how to deal with the conditions in which you find yourself; how to use the opportunities which karma is placing before you; how to grip any situation, and even how to grasp your nettle when you have unpleasant tasks to tackle.

It may not occur to everybody that these sometimes perplexing human episodes are the very things which come to prepare you to unfold and use powers far more wonderful than any in manifestation or demonstration, such as the radio, television and electricity. These are comparatively simple, material demonstrations of a mighty force which pervades the universe. This force is to be used through man's own body, mind and will in the future. Yes, you are indeed blessed. You have been brought along the road by an all-wise, all-loving Creator, and you do not know the glories which await you.

A number of people are interested in the Rosicrucians. We touch on this subject for a reason. The Brotherhood of the Rose Cross has always been, but now we refer to the Rosicrucian Brotherhood which was one of the mystery schools reintroduced about the fourteenth century. At this time certain ideals were re-introduced to men and women who were sufficiently advanced to be able to understand and start putting them into practice. This group was established by a few initiates in the Middle Ages. Many of you know that one of the names associated with it was Francis Bacon. Another name was that of the Comte de St Germain. A good deal of mystery still surrounds these people and the alchemists of the Middle Ages. All Rosicrucian brethren were supposed to be able to transmute the dross, the heavy metal, into pure gold. That was their particular secret; and because of this they were accused of all manner of chicanery and malpractice by the ignorant. This society was

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established at a crucial time in the history of the western world. Those of you who are students will no doubt agree that these brethren released a wonderful white light for the illumination of mankind; they did much to advance learning. It was from that time that the true spiritual light in man for this age began to open out.

As we were speaking there came before our vision a rose. No doubt many of you here saw too this glorious flower unfolding its petals. We have explained that the rose is the symbol of the heart. It is supposed to be a love symbol; the lover sends a rose to his beloved; if you wish to convey the idea of affection for your friend, you will give roses. The rose indicates the opening of the heart centre. The heart centre is the Christ centre, for within the heart lies the Christ jewel, the permanent seed atom of the spirit. So the rose was adopted as the symbol of a secret society, the Rosicrucians, who transmuted much metal into gold.

You must understand that this is symbolism used to convey spiritual ideas. What can take place on the higher, on the spiritual planes, can take place on the lower, the material planes. This transmutation can really take place. Those who know the secret can transmute any metal into pure gold. Those whom you call masters have achieved this, not for any selfish purposes but only for the good of humanity.

Although this can take place in actual fact, it is also a symbol of the transmutation of the dross and crude metal in man's nature into a spiritual state. In the old Christian doctrine it would be called salvation. When you were children you were no doubt taught that the way to salvation was to love Jesus, and Jesus would save you. You were taught that Jesus gave himself to save the world; that Jesus Christ or the Christ, the Son of God, came down to this earth to save the souls of men. How does he save the souls of men? By creating in them love and the power to love. It is the love of Christ, Christ himself in the human heart, which is the saviour of mankind. That love is symbolised by the rose. Thus the Rosicrucian brethren took for their symbol the Christian cross, and upon the centre of the cross was placed the rose.

The Christian cross, the Roman cross we think it is called, is in the form of a man with arms outstretched; thus there comes the symbolism of the crucifixion, the man Jesus nailed upon the cross—a symbol that the lower, the dull metal, the material part of man, is nailed to a cross; man is fastened to materiality. But the Rosicrucian brethren added another symbol to that crucified saviour, the symbol of the rose placed upon the cross-piece. It is placed just where the human heart is, symbolising the truth that the rose of the Christ love has to bloom upon the cross of materiality. All that is dross in man has to be transmuted into pure gold. All the materiality has to be transmuted into purity, into spirituality, into love and complete selflessness. From selfishness man must develop to selflessness.

The Rosicrucian Brotherhood kept very secret all its meetings. It is not generally known where these meetings took place. But here and there, by the investigations of the sensitives and clairvoyants, there have been found certain centres in your country and in Europe where these brethren met secretly, and wherever they met secretly they established a centre of power

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which cannot be mistaken. If you are sensitive you will recognise these centres when you come upon them.

We would, however, make one point quite clear. The main body of the Rosicrucian brethren are in the invisible. You cannot become a Rosicrucian merely by joining any society on earth. You are not a Rosicrucian by reason of joining a society. You only become a brother of the Rosicrucian Order by your quiet, simple living. You only qualify for this brotherhood, you only pass your degrees into the higher levels, by unknown work on the inner planes of being. Only another brother will know and recognise you. None in the outer world will know you as a brother. In the old days there was the institution of the signs and the grips; by the handshake you recognised another, and by the action, the smile, the speech. This was a symbol; without any claims being made one brother can recognise another. The common level of all the work and the service of a true brother is the Christ-consciousness. Christ is the common denominator of life, the Grand Master of this Order. That is the simple truth.

The Brethren of the Rosy-Cross smile sweetly upon you all tonight. They are very simple, pure, gentle souls, both men and women. They make no claims but are ever ready to help humanity forward into the light.

## Benediction:

Now peace be with you all, dear ones, and as they say in their Order: 'May the rose bloom upon your cross.' God bless you all.

*The search matches with either words and phrases, which appear in the text, or the following 'key' words and phrases, which are similar in meaning to those in the document:*

*Humility, groups, history, misunderstanding, ignorance, intolerance*