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ROSICRUCIAN FELLOWSHIP

# The Rosicrucian Philosophy

## Student's Course

*Issued by*

THE ROSICRUCIAN FELLOWSHIP,  
OCEANSIDE, CALIFORNIA.



Dear Friend:

You are now starting the study of twelve preliminary lessons which are designed to give the student a working knowledge of the Rosicrucian Teachings. These will prepare you for advanced study of this sublime Philosophy. When you have become familiar with the subject matter of this lesson please write out the answers as briefly as possible, and send them to Headquarters. They will be examined, the necessary corrections made (if any), and returned to you with the correct printed answers, together with the next lesson.

Please do not fail to write your name and address plainly on each communication sent to Headquarters.

Sincerely your friends,

THE ROSICRUCIAN FELLOWSHIP,

*Philosophy Department.*



## The Rosicrucian Student's Course

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### LESSON NO. 1.

#### *THE VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE WORLDS.*

##### PREAMBLE

The first step in the study of the Rosicrucian Philosophy is to gain an understanding of the physical world and the unseen worlds that are correlated to it. To the majority of people there is but one world, the dense physical globe on which we live, the superphysical worlds not being visible to the average individual because of their etheric nature and the fact that he has not yet developed the higher and finer senses known as clairvoyance, clairaudience, and clairsentience which are necessary in order to contact them. However, these senses are latent, and sooner or later will be developed by all.

The wise men of all the ages have been considered seers because they had these latent faculties developed. A man born blind is not aware of light and color although they exist everywhere about him. Likewise the average individual is not cognizant of the existence of other worlds although they all interpenetrate this globe on which he lives. These higher worlds are the worlds of cause, the effects of which are the visible manifestations that we see around us everywhere in the physical world and for which we are unable to account.

##### GENERAL INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS.

###### 1.—THE SEVEN WORLDS:

In the Rosicrucian Teachings the universe is divided into seven different worlds or states of matter.

*Question:* Name these seven worlds. (See "Cosmo-Conception," pages 24 to 29.)

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### LESSON NO. 1.

#### 2.—THE SEVEN SUBDIVISIONS:

Each world is divided into seven regions or subdivisions of matter. These divisions are not arbitrary but necessary because the substance of each of them is amenable to laws which are practically inoperative in the others. For instance, in the Physical World matter is said to gravitate, contract, and expand. In the Desire World there is neither heat nor cold, distance nor time. The material of these worlds also varies in density, that of the Physical being the densest of the seven. In the Physical World these seven subdivisions are grouped under two general classifications or regions.

*Question:* (a) Name these regions. (b) What are the three subdivisions of the Chemical Region? ("Cosmo-Conception," page 30 and diagram page 54.) (c) Name the four subdivisions of the Etheric Region. ("Cosmo-Conception," pages 34 to 37.)

#### 3.—THE CHEMICAL ETHER:

The Chemical Ether has two poles and is both positive and negative in its manifestation. It is the only ether active in the minerals.

*Question:* What is the function of each pole? ("Cosmo-Conception," page 35.)

#### 4.—THE LIFE ETHER:

The Life Ether also has a positive and negative pole, and operates partially in the plant kingdom and fully in animal and man.

*Question:* What is the function of the forces which work along the positive and negative poles of the Life Ether? ("Cosmo-Conception," page 36.)



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#### 5.—THE LIGHT ETHER:

In winter when the Light Ether is not charged with sufficient sunlight the sap of the plant ceases to flow. This ether is responsible for the color found in all the kingdoms of nature.

*Question:* What is the function of the forces which work along the positive and negative poles of this ether? ("Cosmo-Conception," page 36.)

#### 6.—THE REFLECTING ETHER:

Everything that has ever happened has left a picture in the Reflecting Ether. All thoughts and acts are recorded here, and the trained seer may read their story. This ether is also the medium through which thought makes an impression upon the human brain.

*Question:* Why is this ether called "reflecting"? ("Cosmo-Conception," page 37.)

*NOTE:*—Please do not fail to read and reread the pages in which you find the answers to these questions. After carefully studying the subject matter, strive to condense your answer as much as possible, taking into consideration the principal points.

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### LESSON NO. 2.

#### THE VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE WORLDS

##### THE DESIRE WORLD

###### 1.—NATURE OF THE DESIRE WORLD:

The Desire World is a realm of light and ever changing color, the source of feelings, desires, emotions, passions, and wishes, and from it comes the incentive for all action. The Desire World, with its innumerable inhabitants, permeates the Physical World, and though invisible is everywhere present; it also extends out into space for a considerable distance.

Please keep in mind that the worlds other than the dense physical one are not worlds of form but are of an ethereal nature interpenetrating one another and also the dense world as a fog penetrates our atmosphere. The Desire World is composed of a more rarefied substance than that of the Physical. It is the realm of desires, therefore it is spoken of as the Desire World. Like the Physical World, the Desire World is divided into seven divisions or regions.

*Question:* Name these seven regions. ("Cosmo-Conception," pages 44 to 47, and diagram, page 54.)

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#### 2.—THE LAW OF INERTIA :

The law of inertia governs the Physical World. It takes a certain amount of force to overcome inertia, that is, to cause a body at rest to move, or to stop one which is in motion. Not so with the Desire World, which is composed of desire substance that is almost living and in constant motion.

*Question:* Name the two great forces that hold sway here. ("Cosmo-Conception," page 42, and diagram, page 54.)

#### 3.—PURGATORY :

Purgatory consists of the three lower divisions of the Desire World, and is the first region the Spirit enters after leaving the physical body at death. In order that we may enjoy the First Heaven that follows it is necessary that we be purified or purged of evil; thus the necessity of Purgatory.

*Question:* What force is dominant in these three lower regions? ("Cosmo-Conception," page 42, and diagram, page 54.)

#### 4.—THE FIRST HEAVEN :

The three higher divisions of the Desire World constitute what is known as the First Heaven. Between the First Heaven and Purgatory lies the fourth division, which is called the Borderland.

*Question:* (a) What forces hold sway in the Borderland? (b) What force holds sway in the First Heaven? ("Cosmo-Conception," page 42, and diagram, page 54.)



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LESSON NO. 3.

### THE VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE WORLDS

#### THE WORLD OF THOUGHT

##### 1.—NATURE OF THE THOUGHT WORLD:

The World of Thought is the highest world in which the human Ego functions while still bound to earthly existence. Through thought and the application of will man will ultimately rule his destiny. Nothing can manifest unless it first exists in thought. The material of this world is often referred to as mind substance or mind stuff.

*Question:* What are the two main regions of the World of Thought? ("Cosmo-Conception," page 48, and diagram, page 54.)

##### 2.—THOUGHT FORCE:

Thought force is the most powerful means of obtaining knowledge. If it is properly concentrated upon a subject, it will burn its way through any obstacle and solve any problem. If sufficient thought force is brought to bear, there is nothing beyond the power of human comprehension. So long as we scatter it, little can be accomplished. Thought existed before the brain. It built and is still building the brain for its expression. The four lower divisions of the World of



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Thought are known as the Region of Concrete Thought, and constitute what is termed the Second Heaven.

*Question:* Name these four regions. ("Cosmo-Conception," pages 49 and 50.)

#### 3.—THE ARCHETYPE:

In the Region of Concrete Thought, before birth, the Ego, with the help of the Creative Hierarchies, particularly the Lords of Mind, forms the archetype of its future dense body, which is really a thought form—a living vibrating mold. The creative archetypes fashion the forms of the Physical World in their own likeness, each archetype giving part of itself to build the required form.

*Question:* What archetypes are found in the four divisions of the Region of Concrete Thought? (See "Cosmo-Conception," diagram, page 54.)

#### 4.—THOUGHT FORMS:

The Region of Abstract Thought consists of the finest thought substance of the World of Thought. The ideas germinated in the Region of Abstract Thought clothe themselves as thought forms in the mind stuff substance of the Region of Concrete Thought. The three upper divisions of the World of Thought are known as the Region of Abstract Thought, and constitute the Third Heaven.

*Question:* What germinal ideas are found in these three regions? (See "Cosmo-Conception," diagram, page 54.)

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LESSON NO. 4.

THE FOUR KINGDOMS

### 1.—DIFFERENCES IN THE KINGDOMS:

The three worlds of our planet, Physical, Desire, and World of Thought, are at present the field of evolution for a number of different kingdoms of life at various stages of development. Only four of these concern us at present, namely, the mineral, plant, animal, and human kingdoms. These four kingdoms are related to the three worlds in different ways, but the dense bodies of all kingdoms are composed of the same chemical substance,—solids, liquids, and gases.

There are, however, several important differences in the kingdoms. For instance, man moves, grows, and propagates his species, while the mineral in its native state does not. Plants and man both have a dense body capable of growth and propagation, but man has faculties not possessed by the plant, as he feels, has power of motion, and perceives things exterior to himself. Comparing animals with man, we find both have the faculty of feeling, emotion, growth, propagation, and sense perception. In addition, man has the faculty of speech; he also has a mind and hands.

*Question:* (a) What is necessary in order to function in any world? ("Cosmo-Conception," page 57.)

(b) Name the four vehicles of man. ("Cosmo-Conception," page 57.)



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#### 2.—THE BASIS OF GROWTH:

Science has demonstrated the fact that no two atoms touch each other. Each is enclosed in an envelope of ether. Plants, animals, and man all have individual vital bodies, hence are capable of growth. The mineral, having no separate vital body, does not grow.

*Question:* Describe briefly the vital body of man. ("Cosmo-Conception," page 60.)

#### 3.—RELATION OF DENSE AND VITAL BODIES:

In the case of amputation of a limb the etheric or vital body disintegrates synchronously with the amputated member. The etheric limb, still being attached for some time, accounts for the assertion that feeling or pain is still present. All through life the vital body is the builder and restorer of the dense body. All the abuses to the dense body are counteracted as far as possible by the vital body.

*Question:* The dense body is built into the matrix of the vital body during antenatal life, and with one exception is an exact copy of the vital body. What is that exception? ("Cosmo-Conception," page 60.)

#### 4.—DROWNING, FALLING, AND FREEZING:

The vital body contains millions of points which enter into the hollow centers of the dense atoms, embuing them with vital force. When a person is drowning, falling from a height, or freezing, the

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vital body leaves the dense body, but on resuscitation it reenters the dense body and the points are again inserted into the atoms which causes the prickly pain and tingling sensation experienced at such times. When a hand goes to sleep the vital body's hand hangs down like a glove. In hypnosis or as a result of an anesthetic the vital body is partly driven out.

*Question:* What is the source of our vital force, and how does it gain entrance to the dense body? ("Cosmo-Conception," pages 62 and 63.)



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### LESSON NO. 5.

#### THE FOUR KINGDOMS (*Continued*)

##### 1.—SUBSTANCE OF THE DESIRE WORLD:

We have previously studied about the Desire World, which is everywhere about us and whose substance interpenetrates everything. The animals and man have drawn to themselves a portion of this desire substance to form a desire body, and it gives them incentive for action and enables them to feel desire, emotion, and passion. The minerals and plants do not have an individual desire body; hence they are not capable of feeling, desire, or emotion.

With higher development the desire body grows in size, so that in a saint it is a glorious object to behold. The vital body and desire body both interpenetrate the dense body of animal and man.

*Question:* How does the shape of the desire body conform to that of the dense body before and after death? (“Cosmo-Conception,” pages 66 and 67.)

##### 2.—ORGANIZATION OF THE VEHICLES:

There are no organs in the desire body as in the dense and vital bodies. In the distant future man's desire body will become as def-

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initely organized, as are the physical and vital bodies. When that stage is reached we shall have the power to function in the desire body as we now do in the dense.

*Question:* Where is the seat of the desire body? ("Cosmo-Conception," page 68.)

#### 3.—DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ANIMAL AND MAN:

While the animal kingdom has not acquired the faculty of thought, some of the higher domestic animals do think by induction on the same principle that a highly charged wire will induce a weak current in another wire brought close to it. Animals are not individualized but are divided into species and all members of the same animal tribe act alike under similar conditions. Man is individualized, and each individual is a law unto himself, separate and apart from any other individual and as different from his fellow man as one species of the animal kingdom is from another. Before reaching individualization he was under a Group Spirit. Later he was placed under the guidance of a Race Spirit (Archangel), from which he is gradually freeing himself as he becomes more and more capable of self-government.

*Question:* What makes man an individual? ("Cosmo-Conception," page 72.)

#### 4.—THE GROUP SPIRIT:

While man is an individual and is guided by his own indwelling spirit which dictates his thoughts and actions, each species of the ani-



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mal kingdom is ruled by a Group Spirit. This is an Archangel that works from the outside, directing the animal's actions by means of the silver cord of the animal, which is attached to the Group Spirit. The directing of the animal by the Group Spirit is commonly called instinct. It is the Group Spirit that gathers its flocks and compels them to migrate south in the fall. The Group Spirit directs the proper building of the dam by the beaver. It also directs the building of the hexagonal cells in the hives of the bee.

*Question:* (a) If the animal Group Spirit is so wise, why does man not display greater wisdom?

(b) What is the purpose of man's evolution? ("Cosmo-Conception," pages 79 to 81.)

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LESSON NO. 6.

*MAN AND HIS BODIES.*

THE VITAL BODY

### 1.—THE POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE POLES:

Many may not be aware of the fact that man possesses more bodies than the dense physical one which is visible to all. The Rosicrucian Philosophy reveals the fact, however, that the physical body could not exist alone. We know that the dense body is not only alive but grows and develops, and when death overtakes us our physical bodies lose their vitality and life. That something which imparts vitality and makes growth possible is called the vital body because it is the source of vitality.

The occult scientist knows there is no empty or void space. Space is spirit in its attenuated form, while matter is crystallized space or spirit. There is but one spirit pervading all space, but it is dual in its manifestation. We know that electricity is used for power, and it also manifests as light. Similarly the spirit manifests as life, which is its positive pole, while form, crystallized and inert, is its negative pole.

The ethers, of which the vital body is composed, are also positive and negative in their manifestation. The negative pole is active at birth, while the positive pole develops later in life.



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*Question:* Name these four ethers. ("Cosmo-Conception," pages 34 to 38.)

#### 2.—BUILDING OF THE VITAL BODY:

The vital body is built by the inhabitants of the heaven world under the direction of the Recording Angels, but the Ego incorporates the quintessence of its former vital bodies and does some additional original work.

*Question:* What is the function of the vital body? ("Cosmo-Conception," page 60.)

#### 3.—THE LIFE FORCE:

The vital body is the seat of sense perception and the memory, both conscious and subconscious, and it also furnishes life force to the dense body.

*Question:* (a) What is the source of this life force? (b) In what way does it gain entrance to the dense body, and how is it distributed? ("Cosmo-Conception," pages 62 to 64.)

#### 4.—RESTORATION DURING SLEEP:

The vital body rebuilds and restores the dense body during sleep through the medium of the solar energy and the chemical and life

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ethers. During sleep the first and second ethers work on the dense body to harmonize and revive it, while the third and fourth ethers, which are the vehicles of sense perception and memory, are taken with the Ego and the sheath of mind into the Desire World. The healthier one is, the more easily is this restoration process accomplished.

*Question:* What method does the vital body employ in combating disease? ("Cosmo-Conception," page 63.)



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LESSON NO. 7.

*MAN AND HIS BODIES*

THE DESIRE BODY

1.—INCENTIVE TO ACTION :

It is well known that both minerals and plants are incapable of feeling, desire, and passion. The reason for this is that they have no individual desire body, which in man comes into active manifestation at about the age of fourteen years. Hence they are stationary, there being no motive or incentive to action in the absence of a separate desire body, which is the vehicle that expresses desire and emotion.

*Question :* Describe the desire body. ("Cosmo-Conception," pages 66 and 67.)

2.—CENTERS OF PERCEPTION :

The desire body has its principal field of operation in the voluntary nervous system and muscles, through which all activity takes place. It has no sense organs, but has centers of perception through which the clairvoyant contacts and gains knowledge of the Desire World.

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*Question:* Give the location of the seven centers of the desire body. ("Cosmo-Conception," diagram opposite page 66.)

#### 3.—SIZE OF THE DESIRE BODY :

The desire body surrounds the physical body and extends out from twelve to sixteen inches beyond it; it is the seat of all our feelings and emotions. Everything we see is viewed through the atmosphere which we have created around ourselves, and this colors all we behold in others. If we see meanness and smallness in others we should look within ourselves to see if we have these undesirable qualities, and if so strive to remedy them.

*Question:* What is the result of the action of the desire body on the physical body during waking hours? ("Cosmo-Conception," pages 92 and 93.)

#### 4.—WITHDRAWAL OF THE DESIRE BODY :

The desire body is temporarily withdrawn during sleep, and is permanently extracted at death. At the time of death the higher vehicles—the vital body, desire body, and mind—are seen to leave the dense body with a spiral movement by way of the sutures between the parietal and occipital bones of the head.

*Question:* (a) Describe the result of sleep on the dense body. ("Cosmo-Conception," pages 93 and 94.)

(b) What is the difference between sleep and death? ("Cosmo-Conception," page 102.)



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### LESSON NO. 8.

#### MAN AND HIS BODIES

##### THE MIND

##### 1.—COMPOSITION OF THE MIND:

The mind is now in the first or mineral stage of its evolution. It is not yet termed a body, but is a luminous cloud composed of mind substance which surrounds and interpenetrates the head. It is the focusing point through which the Ego becomes aware of the material universe and uses it for the acquisition of knowledge of that realm.

*Question:* At what age is the mind said to be born? ("Cosmo-Conception," pages 142 and 143.)

##### 2.—IMPORTANCE OF THE MIND:

The personality is an inverted picture of the Spirit using the mind as a mirror or focus. While the mind is the youngest vehicle of the Spirit, still it is its most important instrument.

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*Question:* (a) Did thought exist before the creation of the brain?

(b) Which predominates in our present state of evolution, the brain or the heart? ("Cosmo-Conception," page 18.)

#### 3.—THE LINK OF MIND:

The mind is the link between the Spirit and the body, and is the path or bridge by means of which the Spirit acquires the essence of its earth experiences, which are essential to its development and unfoldment.

*Question:* What important unified action must take place before man can attain the highest state of development? ("Cosmo-Conception," page 18.)

#### 4.—OBJECT OF THE MIND:

Every thought breaks down tissue. The necessity and purpose of the mind is to make us aware and conscious of ourselves and the outside world.

*Question:* Name the three divisions of the memory. ("Cosmo-Conception," pages 91 and 92.)



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### LESSON NO. 9.

#### THE METHOD OF EVOLUTION

##### 1.—RELATION OF MAN TO THE DENSER WORLDS:

We have learned that there are seven worlds or states of matter, the highest being the World of God. The next highest is the World of Virgin Spirits, whence we as sparks from the Divine Flame began our evolutionary pilgrimage through the five denser worlds, namely, World of Divine Spirit, World of Life Spirit, World of Thought, the Desire World and the Physical World. The purpose of evolution is the development of man's latent potentialities into dynamic powers.

We will now consider how man is related to these five worlds by means of his various vehicles or bodies, remembering that two of these worlds, the Physical World and the World of Thought, are divided into two main divisions, and that man has a vehicle for each of them.

*Question:* Name man's four bodies and tell to what world or region each is correlated. ("Cosmo-Conception," diagram, page 88.)

##### 2.—DIVISIONS OF THE SPIRIT:

Man has potentially within himself three great powers, namely, the Human Spirit, Life Spirit, and Divine Spirit. These are not separate spirits but are names for different emanations or manifestations of the one great Spirit of man.

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*Question:* With what worlds are these three spiritual powers correlated? ("Cosmo-Conception," diagram, page 88.)

#### 3.—IMPRESSIONS ON THE VITAL BODY :

In addition to the conscious and subconscious mind or memory, we also have a superconscious memory. This is a storehouse of all knowledge acquired in previous lives through the medium of the conscious and subconscious minds. The conscious and subconscious memories relate wholly to the experiences of this life, and consist of impressions of events on the vital body.

*Question:* How are these impressions made upon the vital body? ("Cosmo-Conception," page 91.)

#### 4.—SEED ATOM :

Each body has one permanent seed atom from which a new body springs or grows in the next incarnation. At death the vital body, desire body, and mind leave the dense body, taking with them the record of the experiences passed through during life that have been impressed upon the seed atom of the dense body, located in the left ventricle of the heart near the apex.

During waking hours the desire body and mind are constantly destroying the dense body by their activities, while the vital body is ever striving to restore harmony and build up the physical body. Finally it is overcome, and one becomes drowsy.

*Question:* (a) What produces sleep? (b) Why does sleep not always rest the physical body? ("Cosmo-Conception," pages 92 and 94.)



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### LESSON NO. 10.

#### THE METHOD OF EVOLUTION (*Continued*)

##### 1.—THE SILVER CORD:

When the higher vehicles have left the dense body at death they are still connected with it by a slender, glistening, elastic silver cord shaped much like two figure sixes reversed. After passing out of the dense body the Ego reviews and transfers its life record from the vital body to the desire body, which accompanies the Ego into the purgatorial region.

*Question:* (a) Give a brief summary of what takes place in Purgatory. ("Cosmo-Conception," page 108.)

(b) Explain how we acquire conscience. ("Cosmo-Conception," page 120.)

##### 2.—THE BORDERLAND:

The region located between Purgatory and the First Heaven is called the Borderland, which is neither Heaven nor Hell. In this region we find people who were honest and upright, who wronged no

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one, but who were so deeply immersed in business that they thought nothing of the higher life. These people are usually beyond the reach of any help and are in the deepest despair, often suffering much longer than anyone else. When the purgatorial existence is over the purified spirit rises into the First Heaven, which is a place of joy without a single drop of bitterness. Here the students and philosophers have access to all the libraries of the world, and the painters' delight there is in the ever changing color combinations.

*Question:* (a) Where is the First Heaven, and what conditions exist there? ("Cosmo-Conception," pages 113 and 116.)

(b) What is said of children in the First Heaven? ("Cosmo-Conception," pages 117 and 118.)

### 3.—THE FIRST AND SECOND HEAVEN :

From the First Heaven the man, leaving behind the desire body, enters the Second Heaven, clad in the sheath of mind containing the three seed atoms with the quintessence of the three discarded vehicles, the dense, vital, and desire bodies. He is perfectly conscious and passes into a great stillness.

For a time everything seems to fade away. He has a feeling of standing in the "The Great Forever," standing utterly alone yet unafraid. His soul is filled with that wonderful peace that surpasses all understanding. This is called "The Great Silence." The Spirit is now in its home world—heaven,—and the music of the spheres is heard.

Life in the Second Heaven is exceedingly active. Here the Ego assimilates the fruits of its last earth life and prepares the environ-



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ment of a new one. It is also learning how to build a better vehicle in which to express itself in its next earth life. Having assimilated the fruits of the last life, the Spirit ascends into the Third Heaven for a period of rest.

After a time there comes a desire for new experience, and a new birth is contemplated. The Recording Angels assist in making the choice, and a panorama is shown of the different lives offered. This panorama also shows what part of our past debts we are to pay and what benefits we may reap in the coming life.

*Question:* What is the purpose of rebirth? ("Cosmo-Conception," pages 130 and 131.)

#### 4.—PREPARATIONS FOR REBIRTH:

Having considered the necessity of rebirth, we will now take up the method by which it is accomplished. After the Spirit has made its choice it descends into the Region of Concrete Thought, where it is instructed as to how to build an archetype of the body which it will later inhabit upon earth. Here it also attracts to itself the material for a new mind. It then descends into the Desire World, where it gathers material for a new desire body. From there it enters the Etheric Region, where it attracts a certain amount of ether for its new vital body.

*Question:* The birth of the dense body takes place when the Ego is released into the Physical World. At what ages are the vital body, the desire body, and the mind born? ("Cosmo-Conception," pages 141 to 143.)

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### LESSON NO. 11.

#### *REBIRTH AND CONSEQUENCE*

##### 1.—NECESSITY OF MANY LIVES :

As evolution is a process of growth or development which is the result of the experiences of man, one short span of life is not sufficient to bring him to a state of perfection where no further experiences are necessary. It requires many lives to reach this high state of attainment. Life is in reality a school of experience wherein some have made much more rapid progress than others, and this fact accounts for the inequality in people and their various stations in the world.

The fact that man does not remember his former life is not an argument against this theory. We are all aware that we can only remember the principal events in our present life. It is well known that many of the great thinkers and writers of all ages understood, accepted, and taught evolution through rebirth. A few examples of the works which illustrate this are as follows: Wordsworth's "Ode on Intimations of Immortality"; Goethe's "Faust"; John Masefield's (Poet Laureate of England) "My Creed"; Rossetti's "I Have Been Here Before"; Oliver Wendell Holmes' "The Chambered Nautilus." Bible references are found on pages 169 to 172 inclusive in the "Cosmo-Conception."



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*Question:* Give a brief summary of the three main theories brought forth to solve the riddle of life and death. ("Cosmo-Conception," page 148.)

#### 2.—ASSIMILATION OF EXPERIENCE:

There is nothing lost in nature. At certain stated intervals the plant kingdom brings forth its buds and blossoms, and bears fruit. After this season is over this kingdom goes into a state of apparent inactivity or rest. The same is true of man. After a life of activity and growth he, like the plants, passes into an invisible state where he is engaged in the subjective assimilation of the experiences of his past life.

*Question:* What is the difference between rebirth and the doctrine of transmigration? ("Cosmo-Conception," pages 157 and 158.)

#### 3.—THE TWO LAWS:

Associated with the Law of Rebirth is the Law of Consequence (often called Karma), which requires an exact adjustment of all our accounts, both good and evil. These two laws give a rational solution to the problems of life, explaining all its inequalities, making them harmonize with a just and loving Creator, the trail being always onward and upward.

*Question:* Why are we reborn into certain families and environments? ("Cosmo-Conception," pages 160 and 161.)

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#### 4.—*Heredity:*

Without occult science much must be attributed to heredity. The occultists have demonstrated, however, that heredity applies only to the physical body and not to the moral or intellectual attainments. These are acquired in proportion to the use we have made of our opportunities in previous lives.

*Question:* What is genius and how acquired? ("Cosmo-Conception," page 155.)



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### LESSON NO. 12.

#### *FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE*

##### 1.—EXTENSION OF THE SENSES:

In the beginning the Creator of our solar system differentiated within Himself a multitude of potential spiritual intelligences, now known as humanity, as sparks are emitted from a fire. These sparks were *potential* flames or fires, but not yet fires, requiring experience and self-consciousness for further development.

At the present stage of man's evolution he receives his knowledge of the outside world through his five senses, namely, sight, smelling, feeling, hearing, and tasting. In man's earlier career his sense of feeling was localized in the pineal gland as the sense of sight is now located in the eye. In the distant future the senses of sight and hearing will likewise be extended over his body, which will give him a much wider range for the acquisition of knowledge.

*Question:* For what class of people is the Rosicrucian Philosophy especially designed? ("Cosmo-Conception," page 439.)

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#### 2.—THE SIXTH SENSE:

We also have a sixth sense latent in our being, which when developed will enable us to view the invisible worlds as we now see the physical world. Some have already developed this sense and have told us of their travels in the land of the soul.

The religions of the world have always changed as man evolved. Their ideals have been slowly raised, and the flower of religion has always been given to the flower of humanity. There are always pioneers who demand a higher teaching, and to them a deeper doctrine is given through the Mystery School of their country. Therefore the Brothers of the Rose Cross gave the Rosicrucian Philosophy to the Western World to bring aspiring souls into contact with the Teacher in order to hasten their evolutionary progress and assist them in acquiring first-hand knowledge.

*Question:* What are the Ego's instruments for acquiring first-hand knowledge? ("Cosmo-Conception," page 430.)

#### 3.—THE PINEAL GLAND AND PITUITARY BODY:

In the past due to the negative action of the pineal gland and pituitary body mankind possessed a certain type of negative clairvoyance which puts them in touch with the invisible worlds, thus distracting their attention from the physical world. In order that man might learn the lessons of material existence it became necessary that he be made oblivious to the invisible worlds. For that reason these glands became temporarily dormant.

Material as well as occult scientists have agreed that the pituitary body is largely responsible for the growth of the physical body, its excessive development or lack of development accounting for the giants



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and the dwarfs respectively.

The pineal gland is said by physical science to be connected with the mind for the reason that it contains certain crystals after death, the amount varying in proportion to the mentality of the individual. The substance of the pineal gland when seen with spiritual sight is of a most intense brilliancy.

When these two glands are properly reawakened their positive poles will be brought into action, and this will open the door to the inner worlds in a sane and safe manner, producing positive clairvoyance which is under the control of the will.

*Question:* When and how is the gap bridged between the pituitary body and pineal gland, resulting in clairvoyance? ("Cosmo-Conception," pages 478 and 479.)

#### 4.—NATURE OF THE ROSICRUCIAN PHILOSOPHY:

The Rosicrucian Philosophy has been the guiding light for many of the seers and sages of all ages because they have found in it a safe method of development, free from the many pitfalls which so often leave a lasting scar on the struggling aspirant. This Philosophy has been found to be strictly scientific, making no statements that can not be supported both by reason and logic. It satisfies the mind by its clear and definite explanations, and evades no questions, offering a reasonable, intelligent, and satisfying solution to all problems of life.

Furthermore, it teaches a safe, sane, and approved method of acquiring first-hand knowledge.

*Question:* Give a brief description of the morning and evening exercises especially designed as an aid in developing the latent powers inherent in each individual. ("Cosmo-Conception," pages 697 to 720.)

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### ANSWERS TO LESSON NO. 1.

*Answer 1:*

The worlds in which our Universe is divided are: (1) World of God, (2) World of Virgin Spirits, (3) World of Divine Spirit, (4) World of Life Spirit, (5) World of Thought, (6) Desire World, (7) Physical World.

*Answer 2:*

(a) The two general classifications into which the Physical World is divided are: Chemical Region and Etheric Region.

(b) The three subdivisions of the Chemical World are: solids, liquids, and gases.

(c) The four subdivisions of the substance of the Etheric Region are: (1) Chemical Ether, (2) Life Ether, (3) Light Ether, (4) Reflecting Ether.

*Answer 3:*

The positive pole of the Chemical Ether manifests in assimilation.

The negative pole manifests in excretion.

*Answer 4:*

The forces which work along the positive pole of the Life Ether enable the female to bring forth a new being.

The forces working along the negative pole of this ether enable the male to produce semen.

*Answer 5:*

The forces working along the positive pole of the Light Ether generate blood heat in the higher species of animal and man.

The forces working along the negative pole operate through the senses of sight, feeling, hearing, tasting, and smelling.

*Answer 6:*

This ether is called reflecting because it contains only a reflection of the true pictures in the real Memory of Nature.

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### ANSWERS TO LESSON NO. 2.

*Answer 1:*

The seven regions of the Desire World are:

- 1.—Region of Passion and Low Desire.
- 2.—Region of Impressionability.
- 3.—Region of Wishes.
- 4.—Region of Feeling.
- 5.—Region of Soul Life.
- 6.—Region of Soul Light.
- 7.—Region of Soul Power.

*Answer 2:*

The two great forces that hold sway in the Desire World are Attraction and Repulsion.

*Answer 3:*

The force dominant in the three lower regions of the Desire World is Repulsion.

*Answer 4:*

- (a) The forces that hold sway in the Borderland are Interest and Indifference.
- (b) The force that holds sway in the First Heaven is Attraction.



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### ANSWERS TO LESSON NO. 3.

*Answer 1:*

The two main regions of the World of Thought are: Region of Concrete Thought and Region of Abstract Thought.

*Answer 2:*

The four divisions of the Region of Concrete Thought are:

- 1.—Continental Region.
- 2.—Oceanic Region.
- 3.—Aerial Region.
- 4.—Archetypal Region.

*Answer 3:*

The archetypes and forces found in these four regions are:

- 1.—Archetypes of form.
- 2.—Archetypes of universal vitality.
- 3.—Archetypes of desires and emotions.
- 4.—Archetypal forces and the human mind.

*Answer 4:*

The germinal ideas found in these three regions are those of desire and emotion, of life, and of form.



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### ANSWERS TO LESSON NO. 4.

*Answer 1:*

(a) To function in any world it is necessary to have a vehicle composed of the material of that world.

(b) The four vehicles of man are: dense body, vital body, desire body, and mind or mental body.

*Answer 2:*

The vital body permeates the dense body and extends out beyond it about one and one-half inches. The part outside of the dense body is very luminous, and is about the color of a new-blown peach blossom.

*Answer 3:*

The exception is that the vital body of man is female or negative, while that of woman is male or positive.

*Answer 4:*

The source of our vital force is the sun, and it gains entrance to the dense body through the etheric counterpart of the spleen.

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### ANSWERS TO LESSON NO. 5.

*Answer 1:*

The desire body during life is not shaped like the dense body but has the appearance of a luminous ovoid. After death it assumes the shape of the dense body.

*Answer 2:*

The seat of the desire body is in the liver.

*Answer 3:*

Man becomes an individual when his own Spirit, freed from the Group Spirit, enters his body and begins to assume command of his thoughts and actions.

*Answer 4:*

(a) The animal Group Spirit is wise because it is an Archangel and is not confined in a cumbersome body. Man, since being released from the guidance of the Group Spirit, has not yet learned to properly control and function through his dense body.

(b) The purpose of man's evolution is to acquire perfection. This perfection is attained through his experiences in the Physical World.



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### ANSWERS TO LESSON 6.

*Answer 1:*

These four ethers are known as chemical ether, life ether, light ether, and reflecting ether.

*Answer 2:*

The function of the vital body is to build and restore the dense body.

*Answer 3:*

- (a) The source of the life force is the sun.
- (b) It enters the dense body by way of the spleen and is distributed by means of the nervous system.

*Answer 4:*

The vital body during health specializes a superabundance of vital energy which radiates from the dense body with great force, carrying with it disease germs and microbes. In sickness the vital energy being weak does not readily eliminate disease germs.

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### ANSWERS TO LESSON NO. 7.

*Answer 1:*

The desire body, which is in constant motion, is a luminous ovoid interpenetrating and extending from twelve to sixteen inches beyond the dense body. It contains a number of sense centers latent in the majority of people. These centers when awakened furnish man with the means for perception of things in the Desire World.

*Answer 2:*

The seven centers of the desire body are located as follows: One at the pineal gland of the physical body, one at the pituitary body, one at the larynx, one at the liver, one at the organs of generation, and one at each knee.

*Answer 3:*

During waking hours the desire body is constantly breaking down and destroying the physical body.

*Answer 4:*

(a) During sleep the poisons resulting from mental and physical activities are eliminated and the rhythmic harmony of the dense body is restored.

(b) The difference between sleep and death is as follows: During sleep the Ego with its higher vehicles is outside of but still attached to the dense body by means of the silver cord; in death also the Ego and the higher vehicles are outside of the dense body the same as in sleep, and in addition they are permanently released from it by the severing of the silver cord.



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### ANSWERS TO LESSON No. 8.

*Answer 1:*

The mind is born at the age of twenty-one.

*Answer 2:*

(a) Thought existed before the brain. Thought created the brain and is still building it for its expression.

(b) At the present time the heart is shackled by the dominant mind.

*Answer 3:*

The highest state of development can be attained only by the unified action of the head and the heart.

*Answer 4:*

The three divisions of the memory are: Conscious, subconscious, and superconscious.

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### ANSWERS TO LESSON NO. 9.

#### Answer 1:

The names of man's four bodies are: Dense or physical body, vital body, desire body, and mind or mental body.

The dense body is correlated to the chemical region of the Physical World.

The vital body is correlated to the etheric region of the Physical World.

The desire body is correlated to the Desire World.

The mind or mental body is correlated to the concrete thought region of the World of Thought.

#### Answer 2:

The Human Spirit power is correlated to the abstract thought region of the World of Thought.

The Life Spirit power is correlated to the World of Life Spirit.

The Divine Spirit power is correlated to the World of Divine Spirit.

#### Answer 3:

Impressions are made upon the vital body in the following manner. The ether in the air which we breathe into our lungs carries an accurate picture not only of our surroundings but also of our thoughts, feelings, and emotions. These pictures are injected into the blood, and the blood impresses them on the negative atoms of the vital body, which is the seat of the subconscious mind.

#### Answer 4:

(a) Sleep is produced by the collapse of the vital body on account of its not being able to further withstand the activities of the desire body and mind.

(b) Sleep does not always rest the physical body because the higher vehicles do not always *entirely* withdraw into the Desire World. As a result the scenes and actions of the Desire World are brought into the physical consciousness, which interferes with the restoration of the physical body.



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### ANSWERS TO LESSON NO. 10.

#### *Answer 1:*

(a) In Purgatory every incident of the preceding life is lived over again in reverse order. When a point is reached where a man injured someone, he himself feels the pain as the injured person felt it; but his suffering is much keener, as he has no dense body to dull the pain. He experiences all the sorrow and suffering he has caused others. He learns how painful is the hurt and how difficult it is to bear the sorrow he has caused. Life in Purgatory of the average person is about one-third as long as his previous earth life.

(b) Conscience is acquired as the result of suffering in Purgatory, together with the joy extracted from good actions of the past life.

#### *Answer 2: ●*

(a) The First Heaven is located in the three highest regions of the Desire World. It is a place of joy without a single drop of bitterness.

(b) As the children have no purgatorial existence, going directly to the First Heaven, they lead a particularly beautiful life. They remain in the First Heaven from one to twenty years, and are taught the influence of good and evil by object lessons.

#### *Answer 3:*

The purpose of rebirth is to obtain the experience necessary to further our evolution.

#### *Answer 4:*

The vital body is born at approximately the age of seven, the desire body at fourteen, and the mind at twenty-one.

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### ANSWERS TO LESSON NO. 11.

*Answer 1:*

(a) The Materialistic Theory holds that life is a journey from the womb to the tomb; that mind is the result of certain correlations of matter; that man is the highest intelligence in the cosmos; and that his intelligence perishes when the body disintegrates at death.

(b) The Theory of Theology asserts that at each birth a newly-created soul enters the arena of life fresh from the hand of God, passing from an invisible state through the gate of birth into visible existence; that at the end of one short span of life in the material world it passes out through the gate of death into the invisible beyond, whence it returns no more; that its happiness or misery there is determined for all eternity by its actions during the infinitesimal period intervening between birth and death.

(c) The Theory of Rebirth teaches that each soul is an integral part of God, enfolding all divine possibilities as the seed enfolds the plant; that by means of repeated existences in an earthly body of gradually improving quality the latent possibilities are slowly developed into dynamic powers; that none are lost by this process but that all mankind will ultimately attain the goal of perfection and reunion with God.

*Answer 2:*

The doctrine of rebirth teaches that the Spirit of man can be reborn only in a human body. According to transmigration the



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**ANSWERS TO LESSON NO. 11**

Spirit of man could be reborn in the body of an animal. When a Spirit becomes individualized it can not turn back and be reborn in the vehicle of an animal or plant.

*Answer 3:*

We are reborn into certain families and environments to obtain the necessary experiences to further our evolution.

*Answer 4:*

Genius is extraordinary talent beyond what is possessed by the ordinary individual, and was acquired by close application and hard work in many previous lives.

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### ANSWERS TO LESSON NO. 12.

*Answer 1:*

The Rosicrucian Philosophy was designed particularly for those whose high degree of intellectual development caused them to reject the promptings of the heart. Therefore it proposes to convince the aspirant for knowledge that everything in the universe is reasonable, thus satisfying the demands of the intellect.

*Answer 2:*

The instruments used by the Ego in acquiring first-hand knowledge are: a dense body, a vital body, a desire body, and a mind.

*Answer 3:*

When the candidate has lived for a time in accordance with the Rosicrucian Philosophy he establishes a current of spiritual force and is taught certain exercises, outlined in the following question, which set the pituitary body into vibration. When the increased vibration of this body reaches the pineal gland, the gap between these two organs has been bridged, producing positive clairvoyance.

*Answer 4:*

The evening exercise, known as Retrospection, consists in reviewing the events of the day in reverse order, blaming oneself where blame is due and praising oneself where praise is due.

The morning exercise, known as Concentration, consists in focusing the mind on one particular subject and holding it there for a definite length of time.



