

Rosecrucian Order  
A.M.O.R.C.

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



Prepared under the Supervision of  
Christian Bernard, F.R.C.

# ROSICRUCIAN ORDER AMORC

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Translation from the French by Earle de Motte

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*The traditional origin of the Rosicrucian Order goes back to the mystery schools of ancient Egypt. In this long-ago era, candidates for initiation took their oath in front of the Sphinx.*



*From Egypt, knowledge regarding the Mysteries spread to Greece and gave rise to schools of philosophy attended by the greatest ages of antiquity.*



*Gnostic teachings in Greek temples spread as far as the sanctuaries of ancient Rome, where the Mithraic Mysteries predominated at the time.*

# PREFACE

**A**T THE BEGINNING of the 20th century only a few esoteric movements could claim to have authentic ties to the Primordial Tradition. Due to its origin, nature, and purpose, the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC—also known as the Ancient and Mystical Order Rosae Crucis—is one of the most prestigious. Unfortunately, in recent decades, a number of sects have come into being that receive their inspiration from gurus motivated for the most part by commercial interests or by the need for adulation. The proliferation of such sects has cast a certain degree of discredit upon esotericism, which constitutes nonetheless a fundamental aspect of *knowledge*, in the most sacred sense of this word. The time has now come for AMORC to make itself known for what it truly is.

For centuries the Rosicrucian Order has perpetuated the teachings that have been transmitted through the ages by initiates of the past. For a considerable period, it has kept this knowledge under the seal of extreme secrecy, so as to avoid the persecution often inflicted upon those individuals who possessed a knowledge that was deemed unacceptable or dangerous by religious or political authorities. In this day and age, the Order conducts its activities in a discreet way, its sole purpose being to transmit a knowledge of the mysteries to those who diligently seek it. Such work is now made public only because humanity is at a crossroads in its destiny and needs, more than ever, to renew its connection with true spirituality.

As you will note, this book is composed of a series of questions. They have been chosen from among those most often asked at lectures presented regularly to inform the public about what the Order is or is not. You will observe that a number of these questions overlap. This has been done deliberately, so that the responses can be given from differing and complementary angles, thus facilitating a fuller understanding of the issues raised. By reading them carefully, you

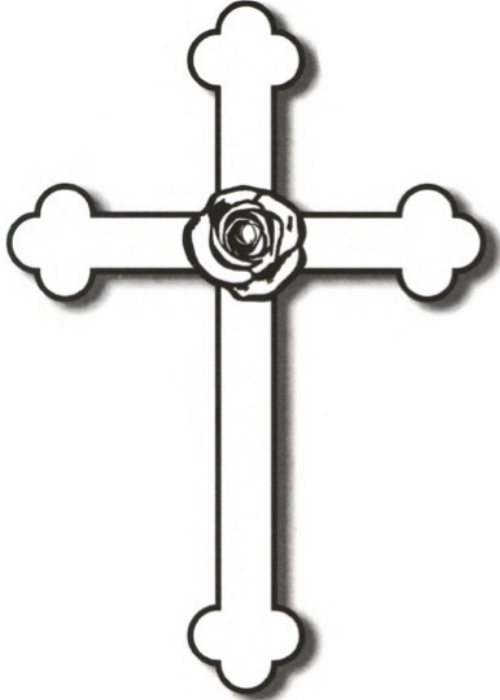


will be able to familiarize yourself with Rosicrucianism and discover to what extent the Rosicrucian Tradition espouses an exceptional philosophy and learning.

This book may have been offered or lent to you by a member of AMORC who feels that you are worthy of discovering or acquiring a better understanding of Rosicrucian philosophy. Or perhaps it was mere “chance” that led you to find it on the shelves of a library or bookshop. But does chance really exist? However you came by this book, I sincerely hope that reading these pages will open the portals to a new life or will partly lift the veil on any questions you may have about the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC.

Sincerely yours,

Christian Bernard  
Imperator



*The official symbol of AMORC is the Rose Cross. In this symbol which has no religious connotations, the cross represents our physical body, and the rose, our evolving soul.*



*At the dawn of the Christian era, the highest initiates were to be found among the Essenes, who have become more well known since the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947. The Rosicrucian teachings have always stated that Jesus Lived for several years in the Essenian community of Qumran.*

## Chapter 1

# WHAT IS AMORC?

### **What do the initials A.M.O.R.C. stand for?**

The initials A.M.O.R.C. are an abbreviation of the Order's complete name—the *Ancient and Mystical Order Rosae Crucis*. In certain texts and documents it is also designated by the Latin expression *Antiquus Mysticusque Ordo Rosae Crucis*, and sometimes even *Antiquus Arcanus Ordo Rosae Rubeae et Aureae Crucis*.

In current use, the letters A.M.O.R.C. (or AMORC) often follow the title of the Order, so as to associate its traditional name with the initials by which it is known throughout the world. In other words, it is now known as the *Rosicrucian Order, AMORC*.

### **What is the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC?**

The Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, is a philosophical, initiatic, and traditional organization perpetuating knowledge that initiates have transmitted through the centuries. Its overall aim is to make people familiar with cosmic laws and to teach them how to live in harmony with these laws so as to achieve happiness and to acquire mastery of life, on both the material and spiritual planes. Being neither a sect nor a religion, nor a socio-political movement, the Order includes in its membership men and women of all religious faiths and all stations in life.

### **What is the purpose of the Rosicrucian Order?**

People seek happiness in the very depths of their beings, yet often they do not know where to find it. Most of the time they look for it in

the pleasures provided by their material environment, yet their day-to-day reality shows that such pleasures are ephemeral and always leave a great void to be filled. In most individuals, this void assumes the dimension of an abyss separating the soul and the body. It is precisely to achieve a reconciliation within the individual that AMORC offers its teachings to those who seek knowledge and aspire to bring their lives into conformity with their hopes.

### **In what special ways can AMORC claim to be a traditional organization?**

AMORC meets several criteria for helping humanity in its spiritual evolution: it is international in scope; it does not involve itself in political or religious affairs; it does not engage in racial segregation; it is open to both men and women; it is accessible to persons of all stations in life; and it possesses an authentic tradition—namely, a cultural and spiritual heritage going back to the dawn of human civilization.

### **Is AMORC a sect?**

AMORC has nothing in common with any sect. First of all, sects characteristically compel their adherents to sever all ties with their family and acquaintances, leading to all kinds of conflict. In the case of the Rosicrucian Order, on the other hand, its members are asked to become actively involved in society and to do their best fulfill their role as citizens. Moreover, the Order considers the family to be so precious that its unity and harmony must be preserved at all costs.

Secondly, sects are directed by gurus who appoint themselves for life as supreme directors. By contrast, the Grand Masters of AMORC are elected for a period of five years. At the end of this term their appointment may be renewed if they are judged to have served their office well. If deemed otherwise, they may be replaced by more competent individuals.

Thirdly, the adherents of sects are always asked to transfer a large part of their material possessions, most often with the intent of financing the leaders' extravagant lifestyle. Rosicrucians, for their part, only need to make a modest annual remittance so as to receive the written teachings of the Order.

Finally, sects attempt to indoctrinate their followers and make certain that they can never leave. AMORC, by contrast, makes freedom of conscience the foundation of its philosophy and encourages personal reflection. We must also mention that Rosicrucians may end their affiliation with the Order at any time, without having to justify their decision in doing so. Therefore, AMORC has nothing to do with any sect. Moreover, it has never been described as such in various official reports published on sects.

### **Is AMORC a religion?**

Its origin, nature, and purpose would indicate that AMORC has never been, nor ever will be, a religion. The fact that some of its members are Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, or belong to some other faith, is sufficient proof that it is not a religion, because its eclectic character and tolerance towards all beliefs is amply demonstrated. As revealed by its tradition and history, it is not a creation of some messiah or prophet, but the work of a college of initiates who are dedicated to perpetuating its knowledge through the ages—and this has been done since earliest antiquity.

Furthermore, the Order imposes no dogma, allowing each Rosicrucian complete freedom in respect to the instruction he or she receives. In such matters, there is not one path of belief, but one path of understanding, based on personal research and a sincere desire for personal improvement. In short, faith is not and never has been the prerogative of any one religion, whatever it might be, nor indeed that of any mystical organization. It characterizes all individuals who are interested in spiritual values and who make these values the basis of their personal philosophy.

### **Is the Rosicrucian Order a secret organization?**

Although the Rosicrucian Order is identified by some contemporary historians and authors as a secret society, it does not describe itself in this way. What is secret is what is deliberately hidden so that the public may not know of its existence. However, AMORC is an organization whose existence is known and it proclaims this fact by means of public lectures. It is therefore not secret but somewhat discreet.

Certainly the teachings of AMORC and some of its activities are intended exclusively for its members and are of a private nature. But this is the case with numerous other organizations without their being characterized as “secret societies.” In the final analysis, every individual and every group has the right to a private life, this right being inherent in the very notion of freedom.

### **How is the Order administratively structured?**

The Order presently is spread throughout the world and consists of several jurisdictions, each one extending beyond national frontiers so as to encompass countries where the same language is spoken. The headquarters of each jurisdiction, traditionally designated as a *Grand Lodge*, is placed under the authority of a Grand Master.

On the international level, AMORC is directed by a Supreme Council formed by the Grand Masters from all the jurisdictions. This Supreme Council is presided over by the Emperor, the Order’s highest ranking officer. As such, this individual is the guardian of the Rosicrucian Tradition and holds office for a term that is renewable every five years.

### **What does the title Emperor mean?**

In everyday usage in ancient Rome, this was a title given to its generals and of course to its emperors. Among Rosicrucians, it has been for centuries the title accorded to the Orders executive director.

In the Orders modern constitution, the Emperor is the legally appointed President of the Administrative Council of the Supreme Grand Lodge, which includes all the Grand Lodges of the Order. The Emperor is also the guardian of the Rosicrucian Tradition, as expressed through the teachings and rituals of AMORC. This person is elected to this office for a term that is renewable every five years, upon the approval of a majority of Supreme Council members.

### **What does the title Grand Master mean?**

The title *Grand Master* goes back to earliest antiquity and is part of the language specific to initiatic orders. In AMORC it designates the officer responsible for a given jurisdiction. This individual is elected for

a term that is renewable every five years. Thus, the title corresponds to a specific office, and it does not mean that the person assuming such a position is a perfect being possessing supreme wisdom and to whom absolute obedience or veneration is due.

### **What is AMORC's motto?**

The motto of AMORC is “the greatest tolerance within the strictest independence.” Such is its position in respect to all movements working towards the cultural and spiritual elevation of humanity. In addition, it discourages all discussion and all activity of a political nature, and this explains why it attracts people from every station in society.

The Order's motto is found in all its teachings, which are nonsectarian and undogmatic. In this regard the aim of Rosicrucianism is primarily to have each member ask questions that will provide him or her with implicit answers in the subjects studied. Such a step cultivates a tolerant mind while building the foundation for a balanced personality, free and independent in the choice of his or her philosophical convictions.

### **In the Order's motto, “the greatest tolerance within the strictest independence,” in what exact sense do you use the words tolerance and independence?**

As the word indicates, *tolerance* means that the Order—and by extension, the entirety of its membership—exhibits tolerance for all cultural, religious, and philosophical movements. In other words, it never judges or criticizes them, as its primary goal is to transmit its own teachings to those who seek truth.

As for the *independence* of the Order, it is explained by the fact that it does not depend on any other organization and is completely autonomous. Furthermore, each Rosicrucian is free to belong to any other movement but, in applying this very independence, the member cannot let it interfere with his or her Rosicrucian affiliation.

### **What is the symbol of AMORC and what is its meaning?**

AMORC's symbol is a Rose Cross—that is, a cross with a rose at its center.



Contrary to what many people think, the cross is not a symbol of Christian origin. In fact, this symbol existed for centuries before the appearance of Christianity, in such places as Egypt, Israel, India, and other countries of the Great Tradition. Confusion has arisen from the fact that the Christian religion has made the cross its official emblem. The symbol of the early Christians was a fish, indicated by the Greek word *ichthys*. In fact it was only in the 4th century C.E. that the cross became the official symbol of Christianity. So, as you can see, the cross was a traditional symbol long before its adoption as a religious symbol.

In any case, the cross has no religious connotation among Rosicrucians. The Rosicrucian cross represents our physical body, while the rose symbolizes the unfolding of the soul. Together, the Rose Cross stands for the dual nature of the human being and the process of spiritual evolution for each person.

### **What is the meaning of the term Rose Cross?**

First of all, the term *Rose Cross* denotes the symbol of AMORC. Secondly, it relates to the state of perfection that every Rosicrucian seeks to attain by study and the application of the Order's teachings. Naturally, the attainment of such a state demands much time and necessitates constant work on oneself.

### **Are Rosicrucian symbols universal?**

Most Rosicrucian symbols are indeed universal, in the sense that they are common to all mystical traditions. Such is the case, for instance, with such symbols as the dot, the triangle, the square, and the circle. However, we must also point out that the Order uses numerous symbols which are distinctive to the Rosicrucian Tradition and which are protected by law throughout the world.



*In the Middle Ages alchemists inherited the true wisdom and, while devoting themselves to the Great Work, were entrusted with its transmission to sincere students.*

## Chapter 2

# ROSICRUCIAN HISTORY

### What are the traditional origins of AMORC?

The traditional origins of AMORC go back to the *mystery schools* of ancient Egypt. In these schools, enlightened mystics gathered together to study the mysteries of the universe, nature, and humanity—hence the expression mystery schools. About 1500 B.C.E., Pharaoh Thutmose III combined these schools into a single order bound by a single set of rules. About a century later, Amenhotep IV—known more commonly as Akhnaton—created a unique body of teachings for all members of this order. During his reign he also founded the first monotheistic religion in historical record.

From Egypt the Order spread to Greece, an event in which Pythagoras played a singular role, and it then spread to medieval Europe, with the alchemists and Templars being agents of this Tradition. In the following centuries, the philosophers of the Renaissance and spiritually minded students of the modern period contributed to its expansion, both in the East and West. Since freedom of conscience was often lacking in past societies, the Order concealed its identity under various names during its history. But it never ceased to perpetuate its teachings among those individuals seeking the Light. Today, AMORC is the trustee of this cultural and spiritual heritage.

### **Is the Rosicrucian Order identical with its predecessors?**

It is obvious that the Order as we know it today is not identical with its predecessors. To be certain, the goal it pursues remains identical—namely, the transmission of knowledge that initiates have handed down through the centuries. The Rosicrucian ideal remains the same, because it is traditional and consequently unchangeable. But the structure of the Order and its teaching method have been adapted to the evolution of human consciousness and mentality. Before 1915, the date when AMORC's present cycle began, Rosicrucian teachings were communicated solely by word of mouth, and in secret locations. However, since the early part of the 20th century the written teachings have been sent by mail to the residence of each member.

### **Can the Order's archives help prove the antiquity of the Order?**

Yes and no. It would be incorrect to say that the Order possessed texts dating from ancient Egypt or Greece, especially since many inner archives of the Order have unfortunately disappeared over the centuries. Nevertheless, every expert in the subject could confirm that the traditional content of the Rosicrucian teachings points to Egyptian and Greek origins. On the historical level, the first documents referring directly to the Rosicrucians date from the beginning of the 17th century. We can cite in particular the *Fama Fraternitatis*, the *Confessio Fraternitatis*, and the *Chymical Wedding of Christian Rosenkreuz*. These treatises, which date respectively from 1614, 1615, and 1616, were the works of Rosicrucians of that period. However, before these years, we also have books in which mention is made of the existence of the “ancient mysteries.”

### **Who was Akhnaton?**

Amenhotep IV was born at the royal palace in Thebes, about 1378 B.C.E. On the exoteric level, he founded the first monotheistic religion known in history by proclaiming the existence of a sole god, Aton, symbolized by the Sun. Moreover, he changed his name to Akhnaton, which means “He who serves the Aton.” At the same time, he instigated a veritable revolution in art and culture.

On the esoteric level, Rosicrucian tradition relates that Akhnaton played a fundamental role in the history of the Order, because he instituted teachings and rituals common to all the mystery schools of Egypt. Upon Akhnaton's death, the Theban priesthood reinstated the cult of Amon, but his work remained a part of history.

### **Was Akhnaton the founder of monotheism?**

Akhnaton was not the founder of monotheism as such, because the initiates of the mystery schools of Egypt were monotheists. Let us say that he was the first to reveal it openly and make it a state religion. In other words, he officially instituted the belief in a sole god during an era when polytheism was widespread all over the Earth.

### **What was the nature of the mystery schools?**

The first mystery schools date back to ancient Egypt. As their name indicates, the mysteries of the universe, of nature, and of humanity were studied in these schools. Only those who gave proof of their worthiness and sincere desire for knowledge were admitted. Their work was done exclusively in temples constructed for this purpose. Rosicrucian tradition reports the Great Pyramids of Gizeh were deemed to be most sacred by the initiates. Thus, contrary to what most historians assert, these pyramids were not constructed to serve as tombs for some pharaoh. Rather, they were places of study and mystic initiation.

### **Is there a traditional link between the Rosicrucians and the Essenes?**

The Essenes lived in Israel on the shores of the Dead Sea. At the time of Jesus they were established in Qumran, where the famous Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947. An examination of the scrolls confirm that the Essenes possessed considerable knowledge of the mysteries. We also know that they were experts in metaphysical healing. Rosicrucian tradition has claimed over the centuries that Jesus lived for some years with the Essenian community at Qumran. Moreover, he was known to have healed many people. Apart from the methods that the Essenes used as healers, many of their most mystical

doctrines subsequently became part of the Rosicrucian teachings.

### **Who was Christian Rosenkreuz? Was he the founder of the Rosicrucian Order?**

In certain documents relating to Rosicrucian history, reference is made to an individual named Christian Rosenkreuz (1378-1484) as being the founder of the Order. This is a mistake. In truth, the Rosicrucian Order had previously existed for a number of centuries. Let us further declare that the Order has always operated in cycles of activity lasting 108 years, each cycle being followed by a cycle of silence of the same duration.

When the moment had arrived to begin a new cycle of the Order in some land, arrangements were made to publish a manifesto or a proclamation announcing the opening of a “tomb” in which the “body” of a “Grand Master, C.R.C.” had been found, along with rare jewels and manuscripts that would empower the authors of the discovery to activate the Order in a new cycle of activity. This announcement was allegorical and the initials C.R.C. did not point to any person who actually existed. They were a symbolic title. It is in the light of this explanation that we must consider the legendary Christian Rosenkreuz and his story.

### **Who was Harvey Spencer Lewis?**

Harvey Spencer Lewis was born at Frenchtown, New Jersey, on November 25, 1883. Of Welsh stock, with Methodist parents, he had a fine upbringing. For many years he was president of the Institute of Psychic Research, in New York, and was considered an authority in this field. In 1909, he made contact with French officers of the Rosicrucian Order. He gave proof of his integrity and knowledge in matters of philosophy and esotericism. On being initiated in Toulouse he received the mandate to reawaken the Order in North America and lay the foundations of that continent’s second cycle of Rosicrucian activity, which began in 1915.

Despite many frustrations and the opposition of many critics, Harvey Spencer Lewis brought honor to his mission and, in keeping with the instructions given him by the Rose Croix in France, he began

to commit its teachings to writing. To demonstrate the traditional and authentic character of the Order, he officially announced its title to be the *Ancient and Mystical Order Rosae Crucis*. After devoting his life to serving AMORC as its Emperor, Harvey Spencer Lewis passed through transition on August 2, 1939, in San Jose, California.

### **Were there any famous Rosicrucians in the past?**

Yes, but this is of no significance, because an organization cannot be judged by celebrities who were members in the past, but rather by the good it brings to people now. With this reservation in mind, we can mention some famous figures who have been members of the Order or have been in close contact with it: Roger Bacon, Leonardo da Vinci, Cornelius Heinrich Agrippa, Francois Rabelais, Francis Bacon, Rene Descartes, Baruch Spinoza, Isaac Newton, Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibnitz, Benjamin Franklin, Alessandro di Cagliostro, Michael Faraday, Jules Verne, Marie Corelli, Claude Debussy, Erik Satie, Nicholas Roerich, Francois Jollivet Castelot, and more recently Edith Piaf.

Today, AMORC includes famous people among its membership. However, they alone have the right to disclose or not disclose their Rosicrucian affiliation, since the Order is committed to maintaining confidentiality in this respect.

### **It is said that Descartes was a Rosicrucian, but he is known to have been a convinced materialist. What was he really?**

Descartes was not at all a convinced materialist. To prove this we only need to reread his major works, particularly the *Passions of the Soul*, in which he clearly expresses his belief in God. In point of fact, his reputation as a “materialist” and discussion about the “Cartesian mind” comes from the fact that his famous maxim *Cogito, ergo sum* (“I think, therefore I am”) has been interpreted in a materialistic way. But what this philosopher really meant was that our individuality is conferred by our ability to think, an ability that has its corollary in our self-awareness, which should be regarded as an attribute of soul. Moreover, certain texts confirm that Descartes was in close contact with the Rosicrucians of that time, and was possibly even a member.



*This illustration represents the paradigm of the Rosicrucian alchemists. As their most secret writings attest, particularly in the *Rosarium Philosophorum* (Rosary of the Philosophers), they used a red rose to symbolize the final phase of the Great Work.*



## Chapter 3

# MEMBERSHIP IN AMORC

### **How would you briefly describe a Rosicrucian?**

A Rosicrucian is a *philosopher*, “a lover of wisdom,” according to the literal translation of this ancient Greek word. The story goes that Pythagoras was the first to refuse the title of sage and asked to be called a *philosopher*—in other words, “a lover of wisdom.”

### **What are the advantages of joining the Rosicrucian Order?**

First of all, being a Rosicrucian is not an end in itself. However, there is so much misery, conflict, and war in this world because people lack spirituality and are prisoners of dogmatic beliefs—both in the realms of religion and politics. One of AMORC’s specific goals is to encourage people to become free-thinkers who are animated by the overpowering desire to participate in the creation of a more humanistic and spiritual future. The Rosicrucian teachings, because of their philosophical depth and cultural value, are a valuable foundation for teaching such objectives.

### **Does AMORC have a monopoly on truth?**

We must admit that the Order has never claimed to possess a monopoly on truth. It seems evident that any religious or political organization that makes such a claim demonstrates its dogmatism and intolerance. We simply state, therefore, that Rosicrucians have access to an inspiring body of knowledge and endeavor to change the world positively. How? By changing themselves, which implies a willingness to be informed. This reminds us of the famous proverb: “Know thyself, and thou shalt know the universe and the gods!”

### **How useful can Rosicrucian mysticism be in daily life?**

Rosicrucian mysticism relates to the study of divine laws and their application in daily life. As experience proves, it is respect for these laws which enables people to be happy and to have life experiences in keeping with their hopes. To be a Rosicrucian does not therefore mean being a dreamer or a person completely detached from material realities. On the contrary, it means that the individual lives in direct contact with the world and behaves towards others with all due respect—which implies cultivating a love of one’s brothers and sisters, and acting in conformity with the highest ideals.

### **Do Rosicrucians need to moderate their desires?**

In modern society, most people allow themselves to be controlled by their desires and to seek happiness in the pleasures offered them by the mundane world. As a general rule, this leads to excess in many areas and actually places greater distance between people and the happiness they seek. The best course for living happily is to pursue the golden mean in all matters and to lead a harmonious life. This implies turning to mysticism as the basis for one’s behavior. That is precisely what Rosicrucians do.

### **Do Rosicrucians need to adopt a special lifestyle?**

A special lifestyle such as vegetarianism, abstinence, or intensive meditation, is not required of Rosicrucians. Furthermore, they do not need to follow the orders and directions of some guru. On the contrary, from the moment of their affiliation, they are asked to listen to the voice of their own conscience and to regard it as being their only Master. Also, Rosicrucians are asked to be “walking question marks”—not accepting anything in the teachings that they cannot demonstrate to themselves.

As a whole, AMORC’s teachings are offered impersonally; they are never imposed. In this sense, the purpose of Rosicrucian instruction is to guide all members in asking questions so that they can provide themselves with explicit answers in the subjects studied. The teachings are therefore free from all forms of dogma and sectarianism.

### **Can people evolve spiritually without AMORC's help?**

Certainly they can. But we also maintain that AMORC is a particularly effective guide in leading us on our spiritual quest, as its teachings are complete and contain all the elements necessary for our inner evolverment. Speaking metaphorically, it is one of the most direct paths to the mountain of Illumination. Experience has shown that more rapid progress can be made by following this path than by journeying alone.

### **Does AMORC interfere with the familial, religious, political, social, or professional activities of its members?**

The Order never requires its members to do anything that may be considered an interference with their familial, religious, political, social, or professional activities or with any other aspect of their personal life. By taking this position, AMORC demonstrates its deep respect for the freedom of all individuals and for the established laws of their nations.

### **Is there any risk that the Order's teachings will separate its members from everyday reality?**

Many people think that mysticism relates to some ideal of living based on the rejection or negation of the material world. Nothing can be further from the truth. Rosicrucians feel that human evolution works on both the material and spiritual planes. For this reason, human beings cannot experience happiness if they orient their lives towards only one plane, to the exclusion of the other. However, the purpose of the Rosicrucian teachings is first and foremost to bring happiness to those people who apply its principles in their daily lives. That is why these teachings convey a knowledge that is both mystical and pragmatic, as its basic aim is to enable people to make their lives conform more fully to their aspirations.

### **What is the educational level required for admission into the Order?**

The sole requirement for understanding the Rosicrucian teachings is being able to read and write. Any man or woman with a basic education

can become a member of the Order. University or other academic training offers no special advantage in this respect.

The Rosicrucian teachings are written in ordinary language, and a further advantage is that the suggested experiments and exercises are easy to carry out so that no one may encounter any difficulty in putting them into practice.

### **Are women admitted into the Order?**

Of course, and they have always been. Considering that women are included among the Grand Masters of the Order, this shows that they have the same status and prerogatives as men.

### **At what age can one become a member of AMORC?**

The qualification required for admission to Rosicrucian membership is very simple: the individual should be interested in mysticism and must be of legal age in the country in which he or she resides. Minors, however, may be accepted for membership with the authorization of a parent or guardian.

### **Can elderly persons undertake Rosicrucian study?**

Many so-called elderly people are affiliated with AMORC and discover in its teachings a new and more serene life. It is not rare to find men and women in the Order who are over seventy years of age and who have been members for several years. As a general rule, their only regret is that they did not know about the Order years before. In any case, elderly people have no more difficulty in understanding and applying Rosicrucian teachings than those who are much younger.

### **Are all new members of the Order placed in the same degree, regardless of their previous studies, intellectual level, or spiritual advancement?**

All new members begin their Rosicrucian studies at the same level, as this is a traditional rule of the Order. Nevertheless, even though the monographs are identical for everyone, each student understands them differently according to his or her level of education, personal abilities,

previous experiences, and work background. Even though the same basic teachings are examined by all of the students, each individual's progress differs on the inner plane.

**Does membership in the Rosicrucian Order for about ten years make one a representative of Rosicrucian philosophy?**

The value of the Rosicrucian teachings rests essentially on their application, since an intellectual grasp of their content is not alone sufficient. Furthermore, each member is at a certain level of evolvment at the moment of his or her application for membership. The number of years spent in the Order has therefore only a relative value and does not necessarily guarantee a degree of spiritual evolvment attained by a member of AMORC.

**Is one committed by oath to be a member of AMORC for life?**

Because of the numerous benefits the Order brings to its members and the fascinating course of Rosicrucian study, many find that it was easier to become a member of AMORC than it is to leave or give up the Order. But there is no oath that binds a Rosicrucian for life. In fact, the only promise we require is the return of all the monographs should a member wish to leave the Order, as these lessons remain the legal and moral property of the Order.

**Can Rosicrucian affiliation be ended without a problem?**

A member of AMORC may certainly, at any moment and without any reservation, terminate his or her affiliation. In the event of this occurrence, the individual is simply asked to return all of the monographs to the appropriate Grand Lodge. From the moment of termination the officers of the Order request that the former member will keep strictly confidential all that was learned in private home study or in the affiliated groups. This is the only obligation that the Rosicrucian needs to undertake after having withdrawn from the Order.



*High officers of the Knights Templar Order were Rosicrucian initiates. Because of their mystical ideals, they were opposed to the conquering spirit of the Crusades and worked towards bringing together the East and West.*

## Chapter 4

# AMORC AS A COMMUNITY

### **What is the Rosicrucian conception of the term community?**

Being members of the Rosicrucian Order not only means that members enjoy the benefits of the traditional teachings; they also are part of a great worldwide community. Every human being needs to communicate with others and to tie the knots of friendship. That is why the Order promotes the creation of local affiliated bodies—Lodges, Chapters, Pronaoi, and Atrium Groups—places where members meet, exchange ideas, and study together, thus constituting AMORC’s social side.

Apart from these local groups, AMORC regularly holds regional, national, and international conventions. The conventions generally last several days and enable Rosicrucians in attendance to meet one another. At the same time, they serve as a framework for especially meaningful cultural and spiritual activities.

### **Do Rosicrucians meet together in groups?**

To assist Rosicrucians in meeting with one another, if they so desire, the Order has established local groups in many cities. Depending on the number of members who attend, the groups are categorized as Lodges, Chapters, Pronaoi, or Atrium Groups. In keeping with their constituted bylaws, they act as meeting places and provide the framework for mystical activities perpetuating the oral aspect of the Rosicrucian Tradition. Moreover, Lodges have the distinctive privilege of conferring Rosicrucian initiations in all their traditional purity.

**Does one have to attend a local Rosicrucian affiliated body to fully benefit from Rosicrucian teachings?**

To be a Rosicrucian is above all to be one who studies the teachings at home and puts them into practice in one's daily life. But we shall add here that attendance at a local affiliated body, although not obligatory, gives an added dimension to Rosicrucian membership. It enables the member to meet other Rosicrucians and to have access to the oral aspect of the Rosicrucian Tradition—that is, to come together with other members. During these meetings, members are invited to listen to philosophical discourses and follow these with an exchange of ideas on the subjects discussed—e.g., dreams, reincarnation, the symbolism of numbers, the cycles of life, metaphysical healing, the mystery of death, meditation, and so on. Furthermore, Rosicrucian Lodges are places where initiations are conferred in the presence of other candidates.

**Why are Rosicrucian rituals “secret”?**

The Order is not a religion but an esoteric movement, and that is why its teachings and rituals are intended only for its membership. If they were open to the public, they would lose their initiatic character. There are some ceremonies, however, that nonmembers may attend.

**Are there initiations in AMORC?**

Yes, there are. If there were no initiations in AMORC this would mean that it was not a truly traditional and initiatic organization. Let's make it perfectly clear that Rosicrucian initiations are in no way tainted by occult, superstitious, and fantastic practices. Without going into detail, we will mention that they consist of symbolic ceremonies having three primary objectives—first, to prepare Rosicrucian students for a new degree that they are about to study; second, to reveal to them a particular aspect of the Rosicrucian Tradition; and third, to make them listen for a few moments to the voice of the soul. Keep in mind that participation in these initiations is not mandatory, and that each member may complete these initiations alone at home or with other members in a Temple (i.e., a Lodge) of the Order.



**What do Rosicrucian initiations consist of?**

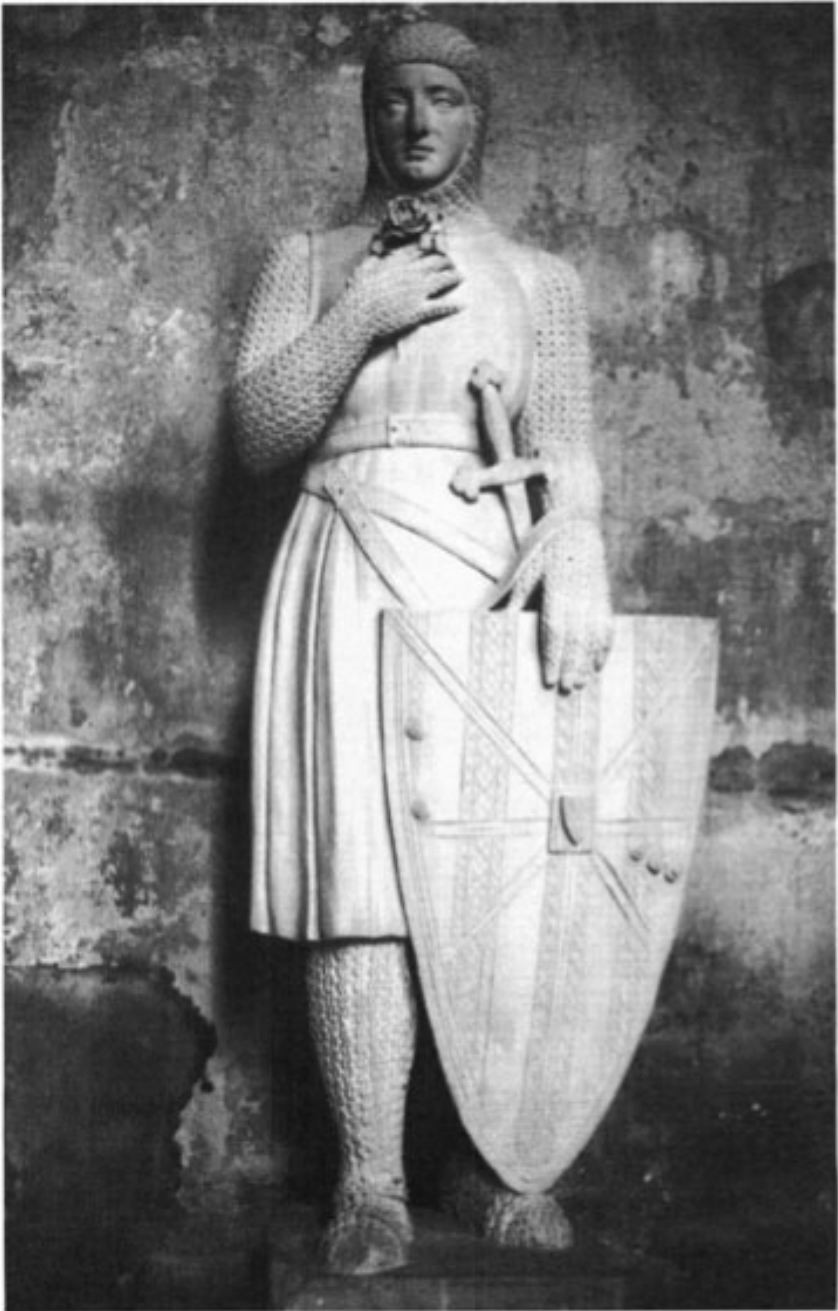
Every degree in the Rosicrucian teachings is preceded by a special monograph devoted to an initiation ritual which the member performs at home. In addition to the individual initiation, the member can have this initiation conferred in the presence of other candidates in a Rosicrucian Lodge. This collective ceremony is performed in all its traditional purity and takes its inspiration from the rites that were once practiced in ancient mystery schools. Its overall aim is to provide our affiliated members with the opportunity to become more fully aware of their spiritual dimension.

**Do Rosicrucian rituals have any connection with magical practices?**

Rosicrucian rituals have no connection with any magical practices, because AMORC has never taught nor approved of such practices. Moreover, the Order takes a firm stand against magic since magic is rooted in superstition which, in all its forms and aspects, engenders fanaticism and ignorance. However, the Order is a voice for freedom and knowledge. That is why all its teachings and rituals have only one aim: to give back to humanity what it truly deserves, which is an understanding of divine laws.

**Can we say that the aim of Rosicrucian initiation is the attainment of the Rose-Croix state?**

Rosicrucian initiation, as it occurs step by step through the various degrees of the Order, has the ultimate aim of attaining the Rose-Croix state. In the Christian tradition this is designated the *Christ state*, whereas in the Eastern traditions it may be described as the Buddhist state. Whoever reaches this state is an *Illuminatus*, in the traditional meaning of the term.



*The knight holding a rose in his hand symbolizes the mystical ideal that inspired Rosicrucians of the Middle Ages. This is the symbol that the Order perpetuates through its teachings.*

## Chapter 5

# AMORC AND OTHER GROUPS

### **What relationships exist between AMORC and other esoteric organizations?**

The relationships of AMORC with other esoteric organizations can be summarized in the Order's motto: "the greatest tolerance within the strictest independence." In other words, on its part the Order manifests the greatest respect for these organizations, while exercising care to preserve its special traditional and initiatic nature.

### **Compared to other present-day esoteric movements, what does AMORC have to offer?**

In our day and age there are numerous sects, a fact which AMORC deplors. This phenomenon is due to the fact that more and more people are interested in spirituality, either because of deep convictions or because they reject the excessive materialism in which modern society is presently immersed. In this context, many individuals have found esotericism to be a very lucrative commercial niche and have no hesitation in saying and writing most anything concerning philosophical and mystical matters. This has given rise to countless gurus, clairvoyants, mediums, parapsychologists, exorcists, hypnotists, chakra specialists, and so on. It is evident that the great majority of these individuals are charlatans who enrich themselves on the credulity of some people.

If these charlatans were to limit themselves to teaching false truths, or to creating an illusion of transmitting “powers” to their followers, this would not be too serious. But the problem is that a number of them lead sects that constitute a real danger to the mental and physical integrity of those who become involved in them. To add to the problem, these sects contribute to the denigration of genuine esoteric organizations such as AMORC. That is why the officers of the Order feel that governmental authorities should look closely into the activities of these sects.

As to whether AMORC delivers more than “New Age” sects or movements, all you need to do is glance at the contents of its teachings to be convinced that the Rosicrucian Order is the substructure of a true ontology, and not a commercial rehash of fashionable topics.

### **Are there any other Rosicrucian organizations?**

Yes, there are other organizations which use the word *Rosicrucian* or *Rose Cross*, since these words are in the public domain. However, none of these so-called Rosicrucian organizations—most of which are of recent creation—can claim any authentic ties to true Rosicrucian traditions. In our era, AMORC is the heir to this tradition, which is perpetuated in our rituals and teachings.

### **What is Rose-Croix University International?**

Rose-Croix University International—whose abbreviation is R.C.U.I.—was established at the beginning of the 20th century by the officers of AMORC. Composed and Other Groups exclusively of Rosicrucians, the university acts as a research body working in disciplines as diverse as astronomy, Egyptology, medicine, music, psychology, physical sciences, and the esoteric traditions. Generally speaking, the goal of this research is to prove the authenticity of the teachings that the Order has perpetuated through the centuries and to discover new applications of these teachings.

In principle, the results from the work undertaken by the members of RCUI are for the use of Rosicrucians only, and are communicated to these members in the form of booklets which supplement the regular monographs. However, the officers of AMORC are aware that these

works are often of considerable interest to spiritually inclined people in general, and so they have decided to reveal some of their contents to the public by means of seminars and lectures. Some of the papers have also been published as articles in the *Rosicrucian Digest*, a journal that anyone may obtain from the headquarters of any Grand Lodge.

### **What is the F.U.D.O.S.I.?**

The F.U.D.O.S.I.—that is, the *Fédération Universelle des Ordres et des Sociétés Initiatiques* (Universal Federation of Initiatic Orders and Societies)—is no longer in existence. Founded in 1934, it brought together most of the traditional initiatic orders existing at that time and had the goal of protecting them from the multiplicity of small groups falsely claiming to represent the Authentic Tradition. Naturally, the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, was part of this federation. The federation met for the last time in 1948, having decided that its mission had been accomplished. Indeed, modern means of communication had made it possible for each of these organizations to protect its own members—and, if necessary, the general public—from any impostors.

### **Is the Templar Order still in existence?**

If so, does it have any ties with the Rosicrucian Order? Historically, the Templar Order, which was founded in 1118 by Hugues de Payens and Geoffroi de Saint-Omer, disappeared in 1314, upon the death of its Grand Master, Jacques de Molay. In our day, hundreds of organizations, some of which are newly created sects, claim to possess and transmit the Templar heritage. In fact, as explained in detail in one of AMORC's highest degrees, the high officers of the Templar Order were members of the Rosicrucian Order and studied its teachings. Thus the Templar tradition has always been an integral part of the Rosicrucian tradition.

**Is there a connection between the Rosicrucians and Freemasonry?**

In the 18th century the Rosicrucian Order and Freemasonry had close ties, which explains why one of Freemasonry's highest degrees is that of the "Rose-Croix." Since that time, these organizations have been fully independent of one another and pursue their activities in their own ways. However, there are Rosicrucians who are Freemasons and vice versa, as there are no incompatibilities between these two movements.

## Chapter 6

# ROSICRUCIAN TEACHINGS

### **What is the origin of the Rosicrucian teachings?**

The source of the Rosicrucian teachings is the sacred heritage that the Order received from the mystery schools of ancient Egypt, particularly during the 18th Dynasty. This cultural and spiritual heritage has itself been enriched over the centuries. The laws and esoteric principles developed in the monographs, accordingly, are a result of the work mystics have also employed to penetrate the mysteries of the universe, nature, and humanity.

### **Have Rosicrucian teachings become frozen in time? To put it another way, have they remained the same as they were in ancient Egypt?**

The Rosicrucian teachings have never been and never will be frozen in time. Indeed, many centuries ago the concepts expressed by the philosophers of ancient Greece were added to the timeless knowledge perpetuated by the sages of ancient Egypt. Centuries later Neoplatonist ideas were included. In more recent centuries the secret gnosis was enriched by Rosicrucian alchemists of the Middle Ages, followed by the thinkers of the Renaissance and the mystics of the modern era.

Since the beginning of the 20th century, Rosicrucians who are authorities in various fields of knowledge have also contributed to the Order's teachings. Among them we find those individuals who work directly for its administration as well as those members who, as physicists, chemists, biologists, physicians, and philosophers, constantly strive for the cultural enrichment of Rosicrucian learning. We must

stress the word *cultural*, because the Initiatic Tradition of the Order is what it has always been and will remain forever.

### **Have the Rosicrucian teachings any cultural value?**

Apart from their spiritual content, Rosicrucian studies most certainly have a cultural value. That is why each member is introduced to the fundamental concepts of physics, chemistry, biology, psychology, astronomy, and other subjects, in the various degrees. Furthermore, a number of the subjects dealt with in the monographs come within the scope of human history and consequently refer to particular eras and countries. We can generally state that AMORC's teachings, while being devoid of intellectualism, do encompass most fields of knowledge. To many Rosicrucians, they are even a primary source of culture.

### **Is AMORC interested in culture?**

Being convinced that the spiritual evolution of humanity cannot come about without cultural support, the Order maintains its own university, which is staffed by Rosicrucians who are authorities in certain fields of science and art. This university, known throughout the world as *Rose-Croix University International*, regularly organizes lectures and seminars which are open to the public, and deals with such profoundly cultural matters as the great theories of the universe; the mysteries of time and space; the ancient Egyptian civilization; the fundamentals of good health; the physical, psychic, and spiritual influence of music; the alchemy of dreams; sacred architecture; etc.

### **Who writes the Order's monographs?**

For centuries the Rosicrucian teachings were transmitted only by word of mouth in secret places. However, beginning in the early 20th century the teachings were put into writing, so that they could be mailed to the members. At that time, this responsibility was entrusted to Harvey Spencer Lewis, Emperor of the Order, who prepared the monographs from archives placed in his care by the RoseCroix of Europe. He was also assisted in this task by a team of advanced Rosicrucians. To remain current with the evolvement of consciousness, these monographs have been revised and updated. This work of



revising and updating is done by the Supreme Council of AMORC, a body composed of the Emperor and all the Grand Masters of the Order.

### **How are the Rosicrucian teachings presented?**

The monographs are divided into twelve degrees, each of which is devoted to the study of an important theme of Rosicrucian ontology. Let us mention a few of the many subjects discussed: the structure of matter, the various phases of human consciousness, the origin and manifestation of life, metaphysical healing, the human aura and psychic centers, the mystical influence of vowel sounds (called *mantras* in other traditions), the evolvment of the human soul, the stages of death, the afterlife, and reincarnation—as well as many other subjects connected with mysticism, philosophy, and spirituality in general.

Along with the subject matter treated in the monographs, AMORC's teachings contain in addition a large number of experiments designed to develop each members mental and psychic faculties, such as intuition, premonition, visualization, mental creation, thought projection, psychic projection, and meditation. From a Rosicrucian perspective, these faculties are quite important because they constitute an effective means for obtaining Mastery of Life and for contributing to the spiritual awakening of the personality.

### **What do the monographs consist of?**

Rosicrucian teachings are presented in the form of monographs which are sent to members from the Orders headquarters once a month. Each monthly shipment consists of four lessons, and each lesson generally consists of about five to ten pages. One lesson should be studied every week, if at all possible.

In keeping with the Orders initiatic method, the lessons are placed into four sections encompassing various degrees: the Postulant Section, the Neophyte Section, the Initiate Section, and the Illuminati Section. Without revealing the exact number of Rosicrucian monographs, we can state that about six years are required to complete the studies in the first three sections.

## **What subjects are covered in the Rosicrucian teachings?**

In the modern era the Rosicrucian teachings are presented in the form of monographs covering twelve degrees, with each degree dealing with an important topic of Rosicrucian ontology.

For example, the First Degree is devoted to the study of matter, as it was treated by such ancient Greek philosophers as Pythagoras, Thales, and Democritus, and also as it is described by modern-day physicists. At first glance, it may seem surprising that such a topic is included in the curriculum of a philosophical order, yet we feel it would be impossible for one to understand the metaphysical world without having a basic knowledge of the physical world. It can be said that Rosicrucians see themselves as people having their heads in the clouds and their feet firmly planted on earth.

In the Second Degree, different levels of human consciousness and the faculties dependent on them are studied. These faculties include memory, reason, visualization, auto suggestion, mental creation, and so on. On the practical level, experiments are suggested which aim to develop these faculties and to employ them usefully in daily life. This is a reflection of the pragmatic character of Rosicrucian philosophy, which is above all applicable to the problems of one's current life.

The Third 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. What subjects are covered in the Rosicrucian teachings?

The Fourth Degree involves an examination of an ancient manuscript of the Order, dating from Charlemagne's era, which synthesizes the laws and principles taught in the three previous degrees. This degree introduces Rosicrucian ontology (the study of the nature of being), and lays out the cosmological framework for all creation.

In the Fifth Degree, the life and work of the greatest philosophers of ancient Greece are studied. What is revealed regarding this subject comes directly from the Order's archives, and details and anecdotes are provided that are unknown even to historians.

The Sixth Degree is an exposition of Rosicrucian healing—in other words, the way in which Rosicrucians treat certain ailments. This therapy is the heritage of the Essenes, who, significantly, were known to the ancient Greeks as the Therapeutae. Keep in mind, however, that the Order has never intended to make its members into professional healers, nor are the Rosicrucian healing techniques meant to be a substitute for standard medical practices.

The Seventh Degree focuses on the human psychic centers, which other traditions sometimes refer to as the chakras. It also deals with the psychic properties of the aura, as well as the psychic and metaphysical effects of mantras. This degree is eminently practical, even in its study of the psychic centers, as their development is the basis for what is commonly called *extrasensory perception*.

The Eighth Degree deals with subjects touching upon the spiritual dimension of the world and of humans. For example, students learn more about the concept of God, the Universal Soul, Cosmic Consciousness, the human soul, the basics of evolvment, the mystery of birth, the stages of death, the afterlife, reincarnation, karma, free will, and so on.

The Ninth Degree surveys the field of universal symbolism and furthers the development of faculties transcending strictly mental and psychic abilities. It is therefore a degree of great mystical experiences.

The subjects of the final three degrees are, as a rule, not to be revealed to the general public. To learn about their contents, therefore, one must be a Rosicrucian.

### **Is Rosicrucian knowledge based on the intellect?**

Knowledge of the mysteries has not and never has been limited to those individuals who possess great intellectual prowess. Experience has proven that the mystic who is truly worthy of this title comes by it through the intelligence of the heart. This does not mean that AMORC's teachings lack an intellectual basis or cultural elements. It simply means that the studies favor those laws and principles which

every person must apply in his or her life to find happiness while making others happy. The application of such laws and principles depends more on the virtues of the soul than on the intelligence of the brain, powerful as it may be. This is why the Rosicrucian monographs are presented in language that can be perfectly understood, bereft of all intellectualism, which has little to do with the simplicity of the great truths of existence.

### **How does one know whether the Rosicrucian teachings are truly effective in promoting spiritual evolution?**

The Rosicrucian teachings are intended for all people, regardless of race, nationality, religion, or culture. Their effectiveness is due to the fact that they synthesize various forms of knowledge into a powerful whole which inspires the inner development of each person. The fundamental purpose of these teachings is to facilitate the harmonious opening up of the different levels of being. It is only after several years of affiliation that Rosicrucian members can make a valid comparison between who they were before joining the Order and who they have become through the work of the Order. However, we must emphasize that AMORC only provides the tools and that each member has the responsibility to employ them with diligence and constancy. In doing so, the member will experience greater happiness and an improvement in his or her life.

### **Are the Rosicrucian teachings theoretical and even speculative?**

The Order's monographs do not in any way convey knowledge limited to purely speculative theories or dogmas. The teachings transmitted have, on the contrary, a very practical character and are put together in such a way that they can be used as a basis for action in everyday life. Are the Rosicrucian teachings dogmatic? From the moment of affiliating with AMORC, each member is asked to become a "walking question mark" in respect to the Rosicrucian teachings. The teachings should simply be regarded as a basis for study and reflection because the Order is opposed to all dogma and favors the freedom of

conscience. Thus, Rosicrucians must serve as their own masters and only accept what they recognize as being true at any given moment of their spiritual evolution. Members are therefore free to reject any particular principle taught that goes against their personal convictions and does not have their whole-hearted support.

### **Do Rosicrucians study the teachings of an intellectual guide or guru?**

No, they do not. The monographs are impersonal and convey a knowledge that has been handed down through the centuries from mystery school to mystery school. Furthermore, Rosicrucian Tradition has always asserted that the greatest master is none other than one's own Inner Master, which is the God within.

### **What does the Order teach about Atlantis?**

Without revealing extensive details concerning the Order's teachings regarding Atlantis, we may simply state that Rosicrucian Tradition relates that in times past there existed a continent in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, whose inhabitants possessed a highly evolved material and spiritual culture. This continent was submerged about 9600 B.C.E., probably following a natural cataclysm. However, before this cataclysm occurred, some Atlanteans fled to other countries—Egypt in particular. According to the Rosicrucian teachings, the descendants of these Atlanteans constructed the Sphinx and the Pyramids, so that they could set in stone the prodigious knowledge they possessed in fields as diverse as geometry, architecture, astronomy, etc.

### **Does AMORC teach yoga?**

First of all, we need to state that yoga is a practice that concerns above all the peoples of the East, for it is tied to their religion, culture, and way of life. Of course, Westerners can also practice it, but that often necessitates adapting it to their nature, needs, and the rhythm of their life.

The general aim of yoga is to induce relaxation by means of specific breathing exercises which help to release tension physically and

mentally and to facilitate meditation. Although it is not taught as such in AMORC's curriculum, Rosicrucian members are provided with a number of exercises which incorporate the fundamental principles of yoga.

### **Does AMORC teach astrology?**

Although astrology is not included in the Order's curriculum, many Rosicrucians find it of interest because there is truth to the notion that astrology enables us to explain certain aspects of our personality and life. Nonetheless, the study of this subject is not indispensable for knowledge of self. It is therefore quite possible to develop harmoniously on all planes and to attain a highly advanced spiritual level without having the slightest knowledge of astrology.

Rosicrucians have always regarded astrology as an art and not as a science in that it relies considerably on interpretation. Yet it must never be forgotten that humans can always make use of their free will, in keeping with the famous adage, "the stars incline but do not compel."

### **What does the Order teach about the fourth dimension?**

As everyone knows, the mundane world and everything it contains can be described by three fundamental dimensions—length, width, and height or depth. However, Rosicrucians have always considered these dimensions to be inadequate for defining the nature of things. For example, knowing that a ruler is 30 cm long, 2 cm wide, and 2 mm thick does not enable us to say what it is made of. Is it made of wood, plastic, or steel? For this reason, Rosicrucians often refer to a fourth dimension, which is simply the vibratory frequency of objects and material bodies. In most situations, this frequency can be measured by using sophisticated scientific devices. At other times it can only be perceived by means of the soul's faculties, and it must then be regarded as a state of consciousness or an extrasensory phenomenon.

**What does AMORC teach on the subject of extraterrestrials?**

AMORC does not take an official position on this subject, however most Rosicrucians are convinced that life exists on planets other than Earth and that other beings populate the universe—some being more evolved and others less evolved than we are. The basic question is: How could extraterrestrials reach us, bearing in mind that considerable distances separate us from other solar systems? This presents a great riddle for scientists, but the fact that they are incapable of solving the problem does not mean that the numerous sightings of UFOs are false or fanciful.



*Portrait of Christian Rosenkreuz, traditionally regarded as the founder of the Rosicrucian Order. In reality, this allegorical figure symbolized a body of knowledge—the ancient Rosicrucian wisdom.*



## Chapter 7

# VIEWPOINTS REGARDING CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS

### **Are Rosicrucians opposed to contraception and abortion?**

First of all, let us state that AMORC takes no official position on these two issues, for every Rosicrucian must be free to have his or her own opinion regarding such matters.

It is evident that one of the great threats to the future of humanity is overpopulation, as it affects developing countries in particular and increases their poverty. Admittedly, humanity must learn to manage things better and share Earth's bounties more equitably. And, clearly, our natural resources are not inexhaustible. Contraception can then be seen as an effective means of regulating births. As for abortion, this is a matter requiring serious consideration. It is obvious that various circumstances may justify such a decision. Whatever the situation, it is not a decision to be made solely by reference to some religious dogma, but should be a matter of choice based on one's personal ethics.

### **What is AMORC's view of organ transplants?**

AMORC has no official position on the subject of organ transplants, because it involves personal choices that are based on ethical, philosophical, and religious convictions. We find, however, that those who oppose organ transplants often do so for unjustifiable religious reasons. Indeed, some people believe that if they donated one of their organs, they would "amputate" a part of their soul and suffer dire consequences in the afterlife—or even in their next life.

Such a belief is completely erroneous, and even superstitious, for any surgical operation on the human body can in no way alter its spiritual dimension. Furthermore, it cannot be denied that organ transplants allow human lives to be saved.

### **What is AMORC's position on the subject of suicide?**

AMORC has no official position concerning this matter, since the moral and religious conceptions of people come into play. Broadly speaking, we feel that those individuals who have resorted to this ultimate solution only carry over into their next incarnation the trials and tribulations they wanted to cut short by killing themselves. If this is the case, then it would be better for us to send them thoughts of love rather than judging them, for, by committing suicide, they do so most often out of utter desperation. We must therefore not reproach them but embrace them with all our compassion.

### **What is the Rosicrucian conception of death?**

Rosicrucians generally regard death as being a conscious interlude between two successive incarnations. In other words, when a person dies, the soul leaves the physical body according to a process consisting of several stages and then rejoins the plane of consciousness in the Cosmic which it attained at the close of its incarnation. After making a karmic inventory of the life just completed, the soul reincarnates and begins a new existence, so that it may continue its spiritual evolution and move closer to the state of perfection.

### **What position does AMORC take on the question of euthanasia?**

AMORC has no official position concerning euthanasia. However, many Rosicrucians are in favor of it, especially when a person's suffering is no longer bearable and when physicians have established that the patient's illness is terminal or will result in a vegetative existence. In other words, when an ill or critically injured person suffers terribly, and when the body can no longer perform its normal functions in serving the soul, prolonging such an existence is useless on both the physical and spiritual levels.

The fear of death and lack of an understanding of what death truly is explains why some people insist on maintaining the life of one who would be better served by going on to another plane. When those who have authority in this matter come to understand that death is simply a transition of the soul and not the finality they imagine, they will undoubtedly have the wisdom to help those who are suffering needlessly to die. Nonetheless, we must also caution that decisions regarding euthanasia must involve the choice of the persons concerned and must be applied in a strictly ethical context.

### **Does AMORC prefer cremation to burial?**

Cremation and burial are the two most current means of returning to the earth after death. Generally, the first of these two ways involves a rapid disintegration of the body, and the second is a slow process. In either case, the means employed has no effect on the soul itself. AMORC is careful to respect the wishes of its members, and so each person is free to choose between cremation or burial, this choice being dependent upon the member's religious or philosophical conceptions.

### **What position does AMORC take on the issue of capital punishment?**

Although the Order takes no official position regarding this matter, its teachings nevertheless express opposition to the death penalty, and give three fundamental reasons for this stand. First of all, executing a condemned person cannot give life back to the victim, and so it simply satisfies the need for vengeance which, although understandable on the human level, is negative in itself. Secondly, experience has shown, contrary to current opinion, that capital punishment is not a deterrent and, in fact, it even produces the opposite effect. Thirdly, executed criminals leave the world stirred by the desire for vengeance after having been made to suffer the penalty. When they reincarnate, some of them remain in the same frame of mind and may sometimes resume a much more dangerous life as a criminal. In the final analysis, most Rosicrucians share the opinion of Louis Claude de Saint Martin, a great 18th century mystic, who expressed this opinion: "Man has no right to take from a criminal what cannot be given back to him."

### **What does AMORC think of mediums?**

By definition, mediums are persons whose psychic sensitivity is such that they are capable of contacting the invisible world and communicating with the souls of the dead. This does not mean that they are necessarily very evolved on the spiritual level. The gift of mediumship is by no means a criterion of inner evolvment.

As can be seen, AMORC acknowledges the existence of mediums, but it also advises that many are charlatans. Furthermore, contacts made by mediums can be problematical, because we can never be sure that the soul contacted in this way is truly the one we wanted to communicate with. Considerable caution should be exercised in this matter.

### **What does AMORC think of spiritualism?**

Before answering this question we must call attention to the existence of two spiritual traditions:

The first denies reincarnation as a fact and teaches that the “spirit” of the dead person enters the spiritual world after death and remains there for eternity. By virtue of this principle, the advocates of this form of thinking believe that one can, through collective conjuring or through the intercession of a medium, contact the “spirit” of those who lived centuries ago. But if one believes in reincarnation, this would not be possible, for these “spirits” have reincarnated since then. Contacting Julius Caesar, Cleopatra, Louis XVI, Marie Antoinette, and others, would be out of the question. It is also most curious that the contacts thus established are always with famous historical figures, leading one to think that millions of other people lacked a “spirit” or refused to engage in any contact.

The second spiritual tradition admits to a belief in reincarnation and teaches that spiritualist practices make it possible to contact the “spirits” of all those who are waiting to be reincarnated. In principle, such a possibility does exist, but most of the time the “spirits” contacted are less evolved entities which remain strongly attached to Earth and occupy the lowest planes in the invisible world. Therefore, they willingly lend themselves to this form of practice, for it allows

them to maintain some form of contact with the Earth plane. The problem is that such “spirits,” due to their lack of evolvment, do not hesitate to lie, trick, and pose as much more famous “spirits.”

As a general rule, AMORC advises strongly against spiritualism. In the final analysis, spiritualistic practices convey nothing authentic and can be dangerous on psychic and psychological levels. Nonetheless, it is possible to communicate with soul personalities who are no longer incarnated, especially with those loved ones who were well known to us. But such communication can only be made by raising ourselves towards them and not having them descend to us. Furthermore, it must be an individual act, and not a collective one. Let us state here that the means of establishing such contact is set out in the Rosicrucian teachings.

### **What does AMORC think of sorcery and black magic?**

AMORC has always stated that sorcery and black magic have no effect on those who do not believe in their efficacy. These evil practices are based on the fear they engender among gullible and superstitious people. Thus, people who are convinced that a spell has been cast on them will make negative suggestions to themselves and finish by creating conditions that result in misfortune, illness, or accident. But in this case, they are the victims of their own mental poisoning, and not that of a sorcerer or some other person.

From the Rosicrucian viewpoint, no individual has the power to harm another by means of thought. Those who claim to possess such power deceive themselves and play on the ignorance of others. Ultimately, only our own thoughts have any effect on us. If they are negative, they disturb our inner harmony and can attract various problems to us. If they are positive, they contribute to our happiness and well-being.



*The great thinkers of the Renaissance were interested in the ancient mysteries and undertook to perpetuate them, as their illustrious predecessors had done. Among these was Leonardo da Vinci, who was affiliated with the Rosicrucian organization during his lifetime.*

## Chapter 8

# SPIRITUALITY AND SCIENCE

### **What importance do Rosicrucians give to positive thinking?**

Whether we realize it or not, our thoughts are of a vibratory nature and constantly act upon us and our environment. When they are positive—that is, when they are based on constructive ideas and noble sentiments—they contribute to our general well-being and attract pleasant situations towards us, thus contributing to our happiness. Conversely, when they are negative—that is, when based upon pessimism, jealousy, or malice—they produce effects of a like nature, eventually resulting in worries, ordeals, or mishaps. To take this statement further, many diseases are the result of a negative mental and emotional state.

It is also important to state that thoughts released by human beings form vibrations that penetrate the Earth's atmosphere and affect the collective consciousness of all humanity. When the vibrations become too negative, tensions are generated between individuals and give rise to conflicts, or even wars. Knowing this, Rosicrucians direct positive thoughts towards the entire world everyday to neutralize the negative influences that burden it. This particular activity is part of the humanitarian work that the Order has accomplished for centuries on the spiritual plane.

**What is the Rosicrucian concept of morality?**

Generally, morality can be summarized in three parts: respect for oneself, respect for others, and respect for one’s environment.

**What importance does the Order attach to the development of psychic powers?**

Although the development of such psychic powers as telepathy, telekinesis, radiesthesia, clairvoyance, clairaudience, and psychic projection is included in the Order’s teachings, Rosicrucians attach a secondary importance to them and do not encourage their development as an end in itself. Furthermore, having such powers is not at all a criterion of spiritual evolution. From a Rosicrucian perspective, what is basically important is the awakening of our spiritual faculties—that is, the awakening of such virtues as generosity, humility, and tolerance, which belong to the soul.

**What importance do Rosicrucians attach to intuition?**

Intuition, which is commonly associated with the sixth sense, is the faculty which consists of sensing choices propitious to our well-being, or guessing events before they occur, which is tantamount to premonition. The awakening of this faculty is an integral part of Rosicrucian study, for its practical and philosophical interest is self-evident. We may say that it is an attribute of the soul and of the consciousness in which it operates.

**What are the merits of CDs or DVDs sold on the open market that offer exercises for developing the chakras or for recollecting past lives?**

At the risk of seeming unduly harsh, we feel that such methods are not only deceptive, but also dangerous. First of all, it seems obvious that any undertaking of this sort must be included in a comprehensive study program and must benefit from the protection of a powerful égrégore. Secondly, psychic development cannot come about haphazardly and must not be treated lightly. Thirdly, the fact that these



CDs and DVDs are so easily available on the open market proves that their motive is primarily commercial and that they are devoid of all altruistic objectives.

### **Is it possible to develop or open the chakras?**

Let us state first of all that the chakras of the human body are not psychic centers. Some of them are simply centers of psychic energy. This detail is quite important, because many writers or lecturers dealing with this subject mislead their readers or listeners. Furthermore, most of them have no mastery over the subject they claim to know so much about, and they use this mystical “gimmick” for purely commercial ends. Taking advantage of the New Age trend, a great many schools and movements now specialize in “opening of the chakras.”

As explained in one of AMORC’s degrees, each human possesses twelve psychic centers—each one being the psychic counterpart of a gland, plexus, or organ of the physical body. These centers do not therefore have any physiological substance and cannot be detected by any medical or technical procedure. Furthermore, by stating that they can be opened, we are saying in effect that they are shut in their natural state. Obviously this is nonsense, because such words as *open* and *shut* cannot be applied to the psychic dimension of our being. From a Rosicrucian viewpoint, the activity of the psychic centers can only be awakened or, if you prefer, stimulated. Let us say in passing that this awakening cannot come about overnight and necessitates long and proper preparation.

What seems to be both the most inconsistent and important fact in this matter is that certain persons claim to be able to “open” the chakras of others under the pretext that they have been invested with such power by some master. This is quite impossible, because the awakening of psychic centers is a skill that can be practiced only by people on themselves and for themselves. By way of analogy, the best sports coach cannot develop the potential of an athlete by being content with telling the athlete to run. If this athlete makes no effort to get into training, he or she will never become competent in this discipline. Likewise, by applying the exercises in the relevant monographs conscientiously, a Rosicrucian will obtain the best results

in this activity. We must therefore exercise caution in this matter and not let ourselves be deluded by these merchants of illusion.

**Are there any risks to astral travel? If so, what are they?**

First of all, let us state that Rosicrucians do not speak of *astral travel*, as it is inappropriate to use this expression in conjunction with the mystic laws concerned. Astral travel refers to the phenomenon of *psychic projection* which enables people to make their consciousness reach places distant from the place they may be physically, and to witness events taking place there. Obviously, such a technique is difficult to master and necessitates considerable preparation. For this reason, the subject is not studied in the Orders curriculum until a student has attained the Seventh Degree.

Over the past few years, astral travel and other similar practices have become excessively popularized, especially by the New Age movement. Rosicrucians deplore this situation, since the techniques suggested in books sold to the public are both false and dangerous. Not only do they fail to produce satisfactory results in the practice of psychic projection, they even give rise to physical and psychological disorders, some of which can be irreversible. We must therefore be very cautious in this matter and not play the part of the sorcerers apprentice.

**Is AMORC opposed to science?**

In remote antiquity, we will note that most philosophers were also scientists. A good example is Pythagoras, who was one of the greatest sages humanity has ever known and also a mathematical genius. Another is Democritus, who was celebrated in his time for his piety and who is now regarded as the father of atomic theory. To him we owe our concept of the atom, a Greek word meaning “indivisible.” Since that era, history abounds with mystics who were also noted scientists. A number of famous scientists, such as William Harvey, Robert Boyle, Isaac Newton, Gottfried Leibnitz, Benjamin Franklin, John Dalton, and Michael Faraday were associated with the Rosicrucians or were members of the Order. We could also add some contemporary scientists, but we shall remain silent about them.

As can be seen, AMORC has never been opposed to science. Indeed, science has a place in many of the topics discussed in the Rosicrucian monographs. It also figures prominently in several departments of Rose-Croix University International. In the final analysis, both mystics and scientists seek to understand the mysteries of the universe, of nature, and of humanity. Yet all of us know the adage that “science without conscience is only the ruin of the soul.” Guided by this well-grounded adage, scientists must make certain that they do not play the role of the sorcerer’s apprentice, but rather work in the service of the Good. This would point to their following a deeply humanist approach to life, if not necessarily a spiritual one.

### **Does the Order consider alchemy to be a science?**

From the Rosicrucian viewpoint, alchemy is an art and not a science, in the sense that it relates to a process largely made up of uncertainties, both in the methods employed and in the results obtained. As everyone knows, the aim of alchemy is to transform base metals into gold by means of a transmutation involving many stages. It would seem that this art, practiced extensively in the Middle Ages, is no longer practiced today. Modern-day Rosicrucians prefer to engage in spiritual alchemy.

### **What do Rosicrucians think about psychology?**

As its name indicates, psychology is the study of human psychological characteristics. It thus investigates such concepts as temperament, character, and personality. From the Rosicrucian point of view, it also includes the study of the soul and its attributes, including the study of consciousness.

Psychology is an integral part of the Rosicrucian teachings, however, within the Order it is approached from a deeply spiritual angle. Thus, what is expounded on the subject of consciousness, thought, and mind is always done in accordance with the spiritual dimension of the human—in this case, the soul.

Allgemeine und General  
**R e f o r m a t i o n**  
der ganzen weiten Welt.

Beneben der  
**Fama Fraternitatis,**  
Des löblichen Ordens des Rosenkreuzes, an  
alle Gelehrte vnd Häupter Europá ge-  
schrieben.

Jetzt öffentlich in Druck verfertigt, vnd allen  
trewen Herzen communiciret worden.



Bedruckt zuerst zu Cassel, durch Wilhelm Bessell,

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Anno M. DC. XIV.

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Der äußersten Seltenheit wegen wieder aufgelegt,  
und mit einem Anhangе verschiedener dahin gehör-  
igen Schrifften vermehret.

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*The Fama Fraternitatis, the Confessio Fraternitatis, and the Chymical Wedding of Christian Rosenkreuz; published respectively in 1614, 1615, and 1616, constitute the major works of the 17th century Rosicrucians.*

## Chapter 9

# RELIGIOUS MATTERS

**If AMORC is neither a sect nor a religion, how then is it different from them?**

By definition the Ancient and Mystical Order Rosae Crucis is a philosophical, initiatic, and traditional organization which perpetuates in the modern world the cultural and spiritual heritage that the initiates of the past have transmitted through the centuries from very remote antiquity.

**Is the Order opposed to religion?**

No, it is not. In fact it counts among its members those who profess all the current faiths. So there are Christians, Jews, Buddhists, Muslims, and individuals of other religious faiths who are also Rosicrucians. It is important to note that one of the articles of the Rosicrucian Code of Life stipulates: “If you believe in any faith, then support it and help it to accomplish its mission for humanity.”

Let us also add that the Rosicrucian teachings enable us to better understand the profound meaning of innumerable religious doctrines. This is the reason why some Rosicrucians who have abandoned their religion before crossing the portals of the Order have subsequently renewed their ties with their faith.

**If AMORC is not a religion, do Rosicrucians still believe in God?**

In the first place, we must agree upon the definition of God. If God is regarded as a superman seated on a throne situated somewhere in the heavens and behaving towards humans as a father behaves towards his children, then we can say that Rosicrucians do not believe in God. This is indeed a primitive conception of Divinity. Instead, Rosicrucians view God as a Universal Intelligence which has conceived, manifested, and animated the whole of creation according to immutable and perfect laws. God is traditionally called the “Great Architect of the Universe.” Let us state as well that Rosicrucians do not claim to know God, for the Divinity is incomprehensible and unknowable. Yet they study the laws through which God manifests in the universe, in nature, and in humanity.

**Are Rosicrucians free in their religious beliefs?**

All Rosicrucians are free in their religious beliefs and may follow the creed of their choice while affiliated, with AMORC for the simple reason that there is no incompatibility between Rosicrucianism and any existing religion. On the other hand, proselytizing on behalf of a particular religion is prohibited while participating in the Order’s activities, especially in Lodges, Chapters, Pronaoi, and Atrium Groups. Each member must therefore show restraint in this matter and avoid any activity or discussion serving to promote any particular religious faith.

**Does AMORC have a sacred book comparable to the Bible?**

It does not, because the concept of a sacred book is only characteristic of revealed religions. AMORC is not a religion nor is it guided by any particular messiah or prophet. Nonetheless, Rosicrucians are interested in spiritual matters and thus treat all the sacred books with the greatest respect, whether we are speaking of the Bible, Koran, Bhagavad Gita, Upanishads, or any other sacred work. Some of these are even discussed in some detail in the Rosicrucian teachings.

**Do Rosicrucians believe that someday there will be a universal religion?**

The purpose of humanity is to evolve to a unity of consciousness. When this goal has been achieved, people will no longer have reason to be members of a specific country, but will be citizens of the world. Certainly, it will take considerable time to reach that point, because races, peoples, ethnic groups, traditions, and cultures are still divisive forces, and they will probably remain so for decades or even centuries to come. Nonetheless, nations will eventually merge, and this will be paralleled on the spiritual plane with the coming of a universal religion, which will be a synthesis of present religions—or more precisely, a synthesis of their most mystical teachings.

**Does AMORC await the coming of a world master?**

No, it does not await the coming of a world master, whoever that may be. Its officers also state that no messiah will incarnate for the purpose of opening the Aquarian Age, as Jesus did for the Piscean Age. We feel that everything has been stated concerning spirituality, and that humanity has attained a level of consciousness that allows it to take its own destiny in hand. Therefore, it is up to us to make important choices and put into practice what Moses, Buddha, Jesus, Mohammed, and generally all the sages of the past have taught humanity. Furthermore, Rosicrucians have always felt that the greatest Master of all is none other than one's own inner Master, who is the incarnation of God in every individual.

**What is the Rosicrucian conception of God?**

From a Rosicrucian perspective, God is not an anthropomorphic being sitting on a throne in some part of Heaven, but is instead the Absolute Intelligence which created the universe and all that it contains. Although God is completely incomprehensible to us mortals, we can study the laws through which God manifests in Creation. These laws are discussed in the Order's teachings.

To symbolize the fact that God is incomprehensible and that each person has a different concept of Divinity, Rosicrucians often refer to the “God of Our Hearts,” or the “God of Our Realization.” These two expressions indicate fully how the Rosicrucian definition of God is not at all dogmatic.

**If God is perfect, how could God have created humanity so imperfect?**

God, the Intelligence that created the universe, is indeed perfect. To be convinced of this, we need only to observe how nature is the expression of incomparable beauty and harmony. Humans, on the other hand, are imperfect in their behavior, as they exercise free will and can therefore do evil, due to ignorance, at any time during their lives. Yet we should also remember that each human has a soul that aspires to goodness and which helps the individual evolve gradually towards perfection.

**Rosicrucian philosophy seems to have a number of points in common with Buddhism. Is this correct?**

Because of its origin, nature, and purpose, AMORC has not, and never has been, a religion. Nonetheless, some of its teachings have incorporated certain important doctrines of Buddhism, particularly those of karma and reincarnation. This similarity has arisen because Buddhism is more a philosophy than a religion and, much like Rosicrucianism, finds its origins in the Primordial Tradition.

**What is the Rosicrucian conception of Jesus?**

From a Rosicrucian perspective, Jesus is one of the Masters who have incarnated at different times to guide humanity and to provide an impetus for its spiritual evolution. Included in this group are Moses, Buddha, and Mohammed—to cite the most well known. Jesus is not treated as a special figure of worship in the Orders teachings. Nor is he presented as being the only Son of God, or even as the Divinity. To these comments let us add that Rosicrucians are free to regard Jesus as the Savior, especially if they are of the Christian faith.



**Some “New Age” writers refer to a Second Coming of Christ. What is the Order’s view of this?**

In most religions it is said that the Avatar to whom they are linked will reincarnate so as to give them a new spiritual impulse or to even save the world. With the development of New Age thinking, a number of authors have claimed that Christ, whom they sometimes call Maitreya, has reincarnated, and they even specify the date and country of his birth.

Without wanting to appear scornful, we need to say that such assertions are ill-founded and are mere fabrications. Moreover, it is rather curious that the so-called Avatars, and even the dates and places of their alleged reincarnations, vary from one author to another. This kind of revelation is typical of the New Age and conveys the sensational aspect of fuzzy pseudo-esotericism.

**Do Rosicrucians believe in the existence of Paradise or Hell?**

No. These two myths were created by various religions to encourage people to do good and to discourage them from doing evil. Rosicrucians view Hell as being simply the evil expressed by humans on Earth, particularly in the form of wars and violence. Conversely, Paradise is that condition where people do their utmost to promote goodness and peace.

**Do Rosicrucians believe in the Devil?**

No, they do not. If the Devil existed, it would mean that God, whom religions regard as being all Goodness and even Perfection, would have created a demoniacal entity having the power to oppose God and to tempt humanity to do evil—all of which is rather contradictory. In reality, the Devil is none other than the individual human when he or she applies free will in a negative way, to the point of committing violent, destructive, and barbarous acts.

### **What does the Order teach about the “Fall of Humanity”?**

From the Rosicrucian viewpoint, the Fall of Humanity is an allegory. In truth, if humans presently inhabit the Earth, it is not because of some punishment inflicted by God at the beginning of time on humanity for an act of disobedience. Without revealing what the Order’s teachings explain regarding this subject, we shall say simply that the Fall was a cosmic necessity and that it corresponds symbolically to the incarnation of the “collective soul of humanity” into the “human race,” identified respectively as Adam and Eve in the Bible. The Fall is therefore the cosmogonic basis of Universal Evolution.

### **Do Rosicrucians believe in miracles?**

In the strictly religious sense, the answer is “no.” Actually, what are called miracles may be understood in two ways. First, they may be allegories whose purpose is to deify the major founders of religions. These include Moses, who separated the waters of the Red Sea; Buddha, who saluted the East as soon as he was born; Jesus, who multiplied loaves of bread to feed a hungry crowd; and Mohammed who ascended to heaven after his death, mounted on horseback. Secondly, they may also describe the application of natural laws which cannot be understood or explained at a given moment by scientific knowledge, especially those healings described as being “miraculous.”



*Francis Bacon, English philosopher and statesman of the 17th century, was Imperator of the Rosicrucian Order and the author of several important philosophical works, including New Atlantis. Some authorities attribute Shakespeare's works to Bacon.*

## Chapter 10

# POLITICAL MATTERS

### What is the Order's attitude towards politics?

AMORC is completely apolitical and thus has no official position concerning this matter. However, we cannot deny that politics play an important role in human activities and therefore cannot be disregarded. What we do deplore, however, is the fact that politics divide people rather than bringing them together, as politics are often limited to defending corporate interests or to conveying dogmatic and partisan ideologies.

From a mystical perspective we may consider the highest form of politics to be none other than spirituality.

All evidence points to the fact that no nation or community can solve its problems on its own. We're all in this together. This is the first time in human history that such a situation has occurred. This has come about because the many national economies have become globalized, and henceforth the world economy will integrate the interests of all nations and communities. Despite what some people may feel about this matter, evolutionary change cannot be halted, because it is a natural or even spiritual law. And whether they like it or not, all people are gradually evolving towards the status of being "citizens of the world."

**Why does AMORC refuse to be involved in political matters?**

If AMORC became involved in political matters, this would inevitably create divisions among its members, because they come from all social backgrounds and do not necessarily hold the same opinions in political matters. Apart from that, we believe that politics cannot resolve all the problems that humanity faces, for politics is always partisan. Mysticism, on the other hand, provides solutions that surpass personal and corporate interests.

AMORC exists in countries whose governments are sometimes opposed to organizations such as ours precisely because our Order is apolitical and works for the establishment of a universal organization founded upon principles of spirituality and upon those ideals which take into account the well-being of all individuals and all people.

When they are not participating in the Orders activities, Rosicrucians are completely free to hold their own political opinions and to take on as many civic responsibilities as they choose. Moreover, some members, by virtue of their professional obligations, are directly involved in political matters in one or more countries. It is expected in these cases that they act according to their mystical conscience.

**Although AMORC is apolitical, it is said that some Rosicrucians assume positions of power in society. Is this true?**

It is true that at present some Rosicrucians exercise influence in the areas of politics, economics, medicine, science, religion, and art. However, all true Rosicrucians have the heartfelt desire to use their influence in the service of spirituality and the common good. In other words, their preoccupations are basically humanitarian in purpose. Furthermore, it is not the Order that has conferred such positions on these individuals. Rather, they have achieved their positions through their own efforts, through their own work and merit. Many of them even held these positions before becoming Rosicrucians.

**Why are Rosicrucians asked to comply with the laws of the country in which they live?**

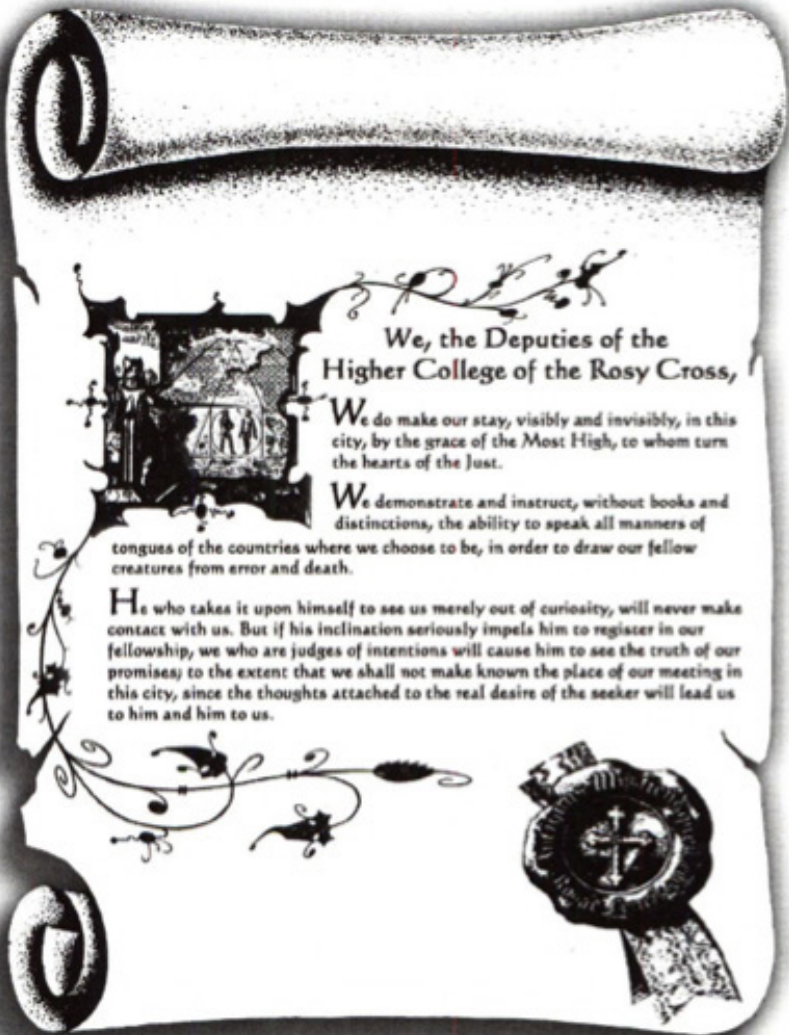
From the moment a particular country acknowledges the legal existence of AMORC within its boundaries, it is normal for Rosicrucian members to promise to respect the laws of that nation. But here again, it is a matter of individual conscience. By the same token, all Rosicrucians do their best to perform their duties as citizens.

**Why hasn't AMORC taken public positions on serious world problems such as racism, fanaticism, or famine?**

Because this is not its mission. AMORC's aim is not to change the world by taking sides on issues, which would inevitably lead to political complications. Rather, its aim is to sensitize its members to various humanitarian ideals they can defend or use in their daily lives. Indeed, the best means of overcoming the great problems that confront humanity is to resolve them on the individual level. For instance, if racism exists at the collective level, it is because the majority of individuals—though they may be unaware of it—are racist in their thinking. Similarly, if fanaticism ravages the world, it is because most people are still intolerant—even though they may be convinced otherwise. As for famine, if it is so widespread, it is because selfishness is still a very powerful factor on the individual level.

Rather than publicly denounce racism, fanaticism, famine, and the many other ills besetting the world, AMORC prefers to open the hearts of its members by encouraging them to be community-oriented, tolerant, and altruistic. From that moment on, it is each member's responsibility to act according to his or her ability to transform the desired ideals into tangible acts. And thus many Rosicrucians, of their own free will, support organizations which struggle against everything that imperils human dignity. Nonetheless, the Order, as a philosophical movement, cannot and should not take a public stand on various issues, nor tell its members what they must do individually to combat hate, misery, and injustice. It is up to them to decide their method of action and which challenge to take up, not as Rosicrucians, but as citizens.

To sum up: AMORC does not seek to denounce evil publicly because it counts on its members to act silently in the service of the Good.



*This notice (translated into English) was posted in the streets of Paris in 1623. It marked the beginning of a new cycle of public activity of the Rose-Croix in France.*

## Chapter 11

# HEALTH MATTERS

### **Is AMORC an organization of healers?**

It is a fact that AMORC's Sixth Degree is devoted to Rosicrucian healing—that is, to the methods used by Rosicrucians for centuries to relieve and heal many conditions. These methods, which are based upon the stimulation of the autonomic nervous system by means of the magnetic emanations of our hands, were transmitted to us by the Essenes. Nonetheless, the Order does not attempt to make its members into healers or even to impose upon them a strictly rigorous ethical framework in this matter. Moreover, it has always emphasized that Rosicrucian treatments do not in any way act as a substitute for official medicine or surgery, but are rather their complement. We may also mention in passing that many physicians and surgeons are Rosicrucians.

### **Does the Order ask its members to abstain from eating meat, from smoking, or from drinking alcohol?**

AMORC does not attempt to change the habits or lifestyles of its members through authoritarian measures or autocratic decrees. The teachings help Rosicrucian students determine, using a progressive program of instruction, what is good for their own health, so that they can decide to follow whatever regimen they choose. Personal experience and study are vital in this regard.



**Does AMORC propose any remedies for prolonging life?**

AMORC does not offer such remedies, as this is quite contrary to its ethics. Moreover, all those who claim that they can prolong life by means of elixirs, brews, substances, or any other mixtures are charlatans who deceive credulous people. What is favored instead is the awareness that the means of attaining longevity is to be found in leading a healthy life and applying mystical principles that favor longevity. These principles may be studied in the Rosicrucian teachings.

**Do Rosicrucians believe that illnesses are inevitable?**

Although it is a fact that death is inevitable, illness and suffering are not. Ideally, humans should live to an advanced age without illness or suffering, up to the moment they sink into slumber, never to awaken again. This is the proper end of earthly life and is the way in which many past initiates died. This implies, of course, living in complete harmony with natural laws and making spirituality the basis for one's existence.

**Would the use of certain drugs facilitate a more rapid change to mystical consciousness?**

The use of drugs does not facilitate such changes, as this form of consciousness can only be achieved by means of study and meditation. At best, drugs open the doors of illusion, and at their worst, the taking of drugs is a form of social suicide that usually brings about often irreversible physical and mental problems.



*In 1694 Rosicrucians coming together from various countries of Europe arrived in the New World and established themselves in Philadelphia, where they founded a community. Later, in 1732, Conrad Beissel established another Rosicrucian community near present-day Ephrata, Pennsylvania. Shown here are some of the buildings of the Ephrata Cloisters, now preserved as a state park.*

## Chapter 12

# FINANCIAL MATTERS

**Because of their philosophy, don't Rosicrucians tend to close their eyes to material realities?**

For Rosicrucians the material world is the framework in which every effort is made to apply the Orders teachings, so that they may labor in the service of the Good and make their daily lives conform to their desires. This world is the crucible in which Rosicrucians can encounter the experiences necessary for their spiritual evolvment. Rather than isolating themselves from it, they make the world of material reality one in which they constantly apply their philosophy.

**Rosicrucians are said to practice alchemy, which explains why AMORC is so affluent. Is this true?**

It is true that some Rosicrucians of the past practiced material or operative alchemy, which consisted of turning base metals, such as lead, into gold. However, we have no evidence that they really succeeded in doing so. Whatever the truth of this matter, we have seen no trace of any such legacy passed down to us. The financial means of the Order are derived from the remittances of its members. As far as modern-day Rosicrucians are concerned, they would rather involve themselves in spiritual alchemy, which consists of transmuting each of their failings into its opposite quality—for instance, pride into humility, selfishness into generosity, or intolerance into tolerance. Essentially, this means working with one's self which, in conjunction with the traditional teachings of AMORC, makes the Rosicrucian philosophy worthwhile and challenging.

**It is claimed that the Order is used as a springboard for making business deals. Is this true?**

It is false. AMORC's goal is to perpetuate cultural and spiritual teachings, which can be traced to the distant past. In addition to the fact that the Order is neither a sect nor a religion, it is completely apolitical. This explains why its members come from all stations in life and from all political backgrounds. As for using the Order to promote business deals, this is strictly forbidden within the context of Rosicrucian activities. Temporal power as such has never interested Rosicrucians, as their main preoccupation is their own spiritual advancement and, more generally, that of humanity.

**What are the financial resources of the Order?**

In every country in the world, AMORC is recognized as a nonprofit organization. It has no commercial character and will never have one. By virtue of this principle, the Order's teachings are not sold in the form of books and cannot be purchased in this kind of format. As is true of all other mystical and cultural organizations, the Order must live according to its means, and this is provided by the remittances of its members. Despite considerable expenses incurred in the preparation of individual monographs mailed to members—which include editorial work, processing, consignment, and printing—the annual fees are quite reasonable. These are among the most modest fees that have been established for a philosophical and traditional organization of its kind.



*In 1892, the Order of the Rose-Croix organized an exhibition in Paris that brought together the greatest painters of the time. Among these was Emile Bernard, a close friend of Toulouse-Lautrec and Gauguin. The exhibit's success marked the beginning of the public activity that AMORC continues today in their Rose-Croix Cultural Centers.*

## Chapter 13

# DEFINITIONS

### **What is the precise meaning of the word esotericism?**

By definition the word *esotericism* designates a knowledge of the Mysteries, in the traditional meaning of this expression. In other words, it refers to a study of those divine laws manifesting in the universe, in nature, and in humanity. As the opposite of *exotericism*—*which is concerned* with the beliefs and dogmas taught by religion to the masses—esotericism relates to the gnosis which initiates have transmitted without interruption throughout the ages.

AMORC deplores the fact that the word esotericism has become tarnished in recent years, particularly by numerous so-called esoteric sects that peddle only a dogmatic caricature of the true wisdom. It is also regrettable that the word *mysticism* has taken on a negative connotation. It comes from the Greek word *mystikos* which refers to the study of the mysteries of life. In the final analysis, mysticism is the best synonym for the word esotericism.

### **What does the word mysticism mean?**

The word mysticism, which is often given a negative meaning, is derived from the Greek word *mystikos*, which refers to the study of the mysteries of life. Thus, it has no religious or occult connotations. For Rosicrucians, it has both a theoretical and practical meaning. On the theoretical level, it relates to the study of those laws which regulate the universe, nature, and humanity. On the practical level it represents the application of such laws, so that one's life is made more pleasant and may expand fully on the physical, mental, and spiritual planes.

### **What is the difference between prayer and meditation?**

Prayer is most often the expression of an inner state. As a matter of fact, reasoning does not need to occur. Meditation, in contrast, requires a phase of reflection. In other words, when meditating for enlightenment concerning some matter, we must first engage in objective reflection before placing ourselves into a state of receptivity. This principle is clearly explained in AMORC's teachings.

In short, we meditate so as to obtain an answer to a given question, whereas we pray to express a soul state, which can be expressed in the form of confession, intercession, or gratitude. Apart from this, it can be said that the two practices are intimately connected to such an extent that Buddhists often speak of *meditative prayer*.

### **What is the difference between parapsychology and mysticism?**

By definition, parapsychology is concerned with the development of paranormal powers, which AMORC prefers to designate as *psychic faculties*. As for mysticism, it covers a much vaster dimension, as it includes not only an awakening of these powers, but also relates to the study of laws operating in the universe, nature, and humanity. In other words, it integrates a philosophical approach, which is the approach preferred in AMORC's teachings.

### **What meaning do Rosicrucians attach to the word Cosmic?**

Rosicrucians view the Cosmic as being the totality of all natural, *universal*, and spiritual laws—in short, the totality of all divine laws. It is therefore not a place, but a state of order, harmony, and permanence. When used as an adjective, this word is synonymous with the word universal.

### **What does the word égrégoire mean?**

The word *égrégoire* is a French word. Without going into detail—since this word's full meaning is studied in the Rosicrucian teachings—we shall simply say that AMORC's égrégoire results from the idea-force which unites Rosicrucians with one another and unites them all to the

Rosicrucian ideal. The latter consists of a field of cosmic energy which benefits all the Order's members.

**Rosicrucians often use the word ontology. What does it mean?**

Let us state, first of all, that the word *ontology* is of Greek origin and literally means the “science of being.” In the fullest sense of the word, this science corresponds to the wisdom of God, considered as being omniscient and omnipresent. When applied to humans, it designates the knowledge of those divine laws they must acquire in the course of their spiritual evolution. Generally speaking, only traditional orders such as AMORC possess a true ontology, because the teachings they perpetuate originate in a cultural and spiritual heritage that has been transmitted from mystery school to mystery school, according to an uninterrupted chain down through the ages. As for religions, they are primarily based upon a theology—in other words, upon the transmission of beliefs founded upon the interpretation of their sacred texts.

**As a philosophical, initiatic, and traditional order, AMORC possesses a specific ontology.**

This ontology is quite complete, because it brings together knowledge that initiates have passed down from remote antiquity. It has its source in the Primordial Tradition and consequently includes all wisdom accessible to incarnated humans. Over the centuries this wisdom—or, to be more precise, this gnosis—was passed on only by word of mouth from a time when secret meetings were held in temples consecrated for this purpose. Early in the 20th century, this body of knowledge was put into writing and presently constitutes the fundamentals of the Rosicrucian teachings which AMORC continues to disseminate.

**Rosicrucians make a distinction between the words soul and spirit. What is this distinction?**

As Rosicrucians see it, spirit is the energy which acts as the basis for matter and keeps electrons, protons, and neutrons in motion. Lacking this energy, not only would the material world not exist, but



we would also be incapable of perceiving it. The soul, on the other hand, corresponds to the spiritual part of our being. Throughout each incarnation, the soul uses the physical body and all of its faculties to evolve in its interactions with the physical world. This fundamental difference between spirit and soul is explained at the beginning of the Rosicrucian studies.

**AMORC advocates tolerance and altruism. In keeping with this, what is its conception of the “Law of Love” referred to by many mystics?**

The most beautiful example of the “Law of Love” is that given to children by their parents. This innate love is much more powerful when it is spontaneous, total, and unselfish. Nevertheless, it also includes firmness and guidance when necessary. In this sense, loving does not mean yielding to sentimentality or tolerating all things, as such would be tantamount to laxity or weakness. In the final analysis, the ideal for all mystics would be to learn to regard their fellow humans as an extension of themselves and to express in their behavior the ideal exemplifying Divine Love.

**What is the Rosicrucian definition of happiness?**

We may consider happiness to be a state of consciousness which results from a perfect balance between the satisfaction of the legitimate needs of the body and that of the purest aspirations of the soul. That is why we cannot be happy if we devote ourselves entirely to spirituality or, conversely, if we lead purely materialistic lives.

**What does the word Avatar mean?**

The word *Avatar* is of Sanskrit origin and means “an individual who has descended.” It corresponds to what Rosicrucians call a *Cosmic Master*. To put it another way, it designates a being who has attained perfection at the close of successive incarnations. As such, an avatar has a knowledge of divine laws and has mastered all aspects of human life. When this individual incarnates, it is always with the end of accomplishing some cosmic mission and of guiding people on the path of spiritual evolution. To take a classic example, Jesus is

regarded as one of the greatest avatars that humanity has ever known.

### **What meaning does AMORC give to the word evolution?**

In its Rosicrucian usage, the word *evolution* indicates that all living creatures progress toward an ideal archetype. Humans do not escape this cosmic law, as they evolve through successive incarnations towards perfection. Their presence here on Earth has only one purpose: that humans perfect themselves while in contact with others and learn to express their divine nature in all they think, say, and do.

### **What is the Rose-Croix state?**

It is the state of perfection to which all Rosicrucians aspire. The person who attains this state is worthy of the title *Master* in the most mystical sense of the word. In the Christian tradition, it corresponds to the Christ state. Let us emphasize that true Rose-Croix personalities never introduce themselves as such and they live their lives in the most complete anonymity. They are generally detached from the world and yet devote themselves to serving humanity in ways known to them alone.

### **What are the Rosicrucian Manifestos?**

These are three Rosicrucian documents of the 17th century: the *Fama Fratemitatis*, the *Confessio Fratemitatis*, and the *Nuptiae Chymicae* (i.e., *Chymical Wedding of Christian Rosenkreuz*), published respectively in 1614, 1615, and 1616. Together, they constitute the major works of the 17th century Rosicrucians.



*In 1909, Harvey Spencer Lewis came into contact with the Rose-Croix of France and was initiated in Toulouse, France. Along with this initiation, he received a mandate to organize the revival of the Rosicrucian Order on the American continent.*

## Chapter 14

# REINCARNATION AND KARMA

### **Do Rosicrucians believe in reincarnation?**

Reincarnation has always been part of the Order's teachings, but it is not at all a dogma. Thus, there are Rosicrucians who, for reasons of their own, do not embrace this doctrine. But this certainly does not hinder them from progressing inwardly, since it is not an individual's beliefs or convictions in this matter that are important, but rather the effort this person makes to attain perfection and to act as would a mystic who is worthy of this title.

From the Rosicrucian perspective, reincarnation is based on the fact that our goal is to attain perfection and that such a goal cannot be reached in a single lifetime. We must therefore be reincarnated as long as we are imperfect in our opinions and behavior. Once we become perfect, we are no longer obligated to remain any longer on Earth and we abide as souls in the invisible realm, participating directly in the Divine Plan.

### **What is the difference between reincarnation and metempsychosis?**

Reincarnation is based on the premise that the soul of every human being evolves from one lifetime to another whenever it is reborn in a baby's body. By virtue of this law, every individual reincarnates in the human kingdom as long as he or she has not attained perfection, which is the ultimate aim of spiritual evolution. As for metempsychosis, a

doctrine that is primarily found in Hinduism and Buddhism, it claims that the human soul may be reincarnated in an animal's body, primarily so that it may atone for some evil committed in a previous lifetime.

Rosicrucian philosophy considers metempsychosis to be an erroneous belief, because it gives the impression that human beings can regress to lower life forms, even though this contradicts the law of evolution. As the Order's teachings explain, the human soul can pause for a moment on the path leading to perfection, but it cannot go back to the point of reliving the experiences specific to animals, and even less those of plants.

### **Do animals have a soul?**

In general, AMORC teaches that animals possess a collective soul. For example, all foxes evolve under the impulse of a collective soul distinct to that species. When one of them dies, all of the experiences it lived and all of the new behavior it developed are transferred to this collective soul, which then benefits all foxes that are born afterwards. From the Rosicrucian perspective, this mystical process explains why animals can adapt more successfully to their particular environment and behave more intelligently towards members of their own species, as well as towards humans.

This rule being general, Rosicrucian teachings also explain that the most evolved animals, particularly those which live in direct contact with humans and benefit from their affection, possess an individual soul which has been generated through the influence of the collective soul of their species. From the moment that this soul was generated, they have exhibited a relatively developed self-consciousness and act with an intelligence which is characteristic of them. Such is the case with dogs, cats, and horses. Many Rosicrucians believe that these animals will cross the threshold into the human kingdom one day and experience their first incarnation as human beings. This means that they are not only our brothers and sisters, but also human beings in the making.

**What is the connection between reincarnation and the 144-year cycle often mentioned by AMORC?**

According to the Rosicrucian teachings, a period of 144 years elapses on Earth between two successive incarnations. This means that if a person dies at the age of 44 years, then 100 years (144-44) will pass before he or she reincarnates. If another person dies at the age of 60 years, his or her soul will wait 84 years (144-60) in the Cosmic before returning to the Earth plane. We must understand, however, that this 144-year cycle is really only an average, for many circumstances, including karmic ones, can make it possible for an individual to reincarnate before spending the predetermined time on the cosmic plane. For example, a child who dies at the age of three years need not spend 141 years in the Cosmic before incarnating. Rather, the child may return after only a few months, weeks, or days.

**Can we recall our past incarnations?**

Yes, but only with difficulty and with the help of a special and natural method taught by the Order. Once again, we can only deplore the fact that so many gurus, in return for money, assert that they can make anyone regress into his or her past lives. This is false, dishonest, and dangerous.

**Considering that the world's population does not cease to grow, where do the souls of the millions of human beings living presently on Earth come from?**

As the Order's teachings explain, all human souls, whether incarnated or not, come originally from the Universal Soul. This Universal Soul can generate by itself as many souls as are necessary to address the needs of humanity. Furthermore, many of those presently inhabiting the Earth are the reincarnations of men and women who lived previously on our planet. This is also true for those who originate in other solar systems, because it is obvious that life does exist on other worlds. It is important, therefore, to understand that evolution is a process which extends throughout the entire universe.

In summary, the souls presently incarnating on our planet come from individuals who previously lived in human form on Earth; who previously existed as beings living in other solar systems; or who were generated by the Universal Soul to respond to the needs of humanity.

### **What does the Order teach about karma?**

Karma, which is the “Law of Compensation,” is the doctrine which states that our daily existence is conditioned by the way we use our free will. In other words, it is the principle by which each one of us reaps what we sow. According to this principle, most of the problems and trials we encounter in life are due to errors of judgment that we committed in the past—or even previous lifetimes. Conversely, the experiences we know as happiness and good fortune result from the fact that we earn them karmically. It is therefore important to understand that karma can be both positive and negative.

### **Do all our experiences have a karmic origin?**

First of all, it is important to understand that karma is the basis for our spiritual evolverment, in the sense that life is a permanent series of causes and effects, most of which are connected with the application of our free will. It should be remembered, however, that even though every negative karmic act turns into an equivalent trial sooner or later, not every trial is necessarily of karmic origin. In fact, it is impossible to live on this earth plane without being confronted by various challenges, some of which could be painful without necessarily being the result of our past behavior.

In short, it matters little knowing whether a trial is karmic or not, since that could run the risk of creating unnecessary feelings of guilt. When we are dealing with some adversity, rather than speculating on its origin, it would be better for us to confront it wholeheartedly, with the inner conviction that it can be overcome. By so doing, we can turn our experience into an instrument for evolverment. In the final analysis, karma corresponds to an evolutionary law and is not a punitive principle. Its fundamental aim is to make us aware of our errors and to guide us on the path to Truth.

**One often hears that “there is no such thing as chance.” What do Rosicrucians think of this assertion?**

Rosicrucians believe this statement only to the extent that what happens to us is usually the effect of a cause that we ourselves have created. In other words, our existence is conditioned by circumstances which occur for the most part because of what we have thought, said, or done, either in our present life or in a previous one. To this we can add that certain acts of intervention occur at times which are traditionally called “Divine Providence.” A similar line of thought was expressed by Einstein who loved to say: “Chance is the path which God takes when [God] wishes to remain anonymous.”

**What do Rosicrucians think of suffering?**

First, let us emphasize that Rosicrucians do not regard suffering as being necessary for evolving spiritually or for approaching God. Although the ideal is to never experience suffering, this is practically impossible due to the present state of humanity. On the other hand, the act of suffering can often lead to a positive desire for spiritual evolution in the person concerned and causes the individual to reassess other problems in life, notably those that are of a material nature. In any case, everything must be done to comfort those who suffer, either physically or mentally.



Hôtel de Florence

16, Rue des Mathurins, 16

(The House of the Sun in London)

L. DAUMERIE, Prop<sup>r</sup>

CHAUFFAGE CENTRAL

English spoken

1909

My dear:-

Have arrived safely in Toulouse - way down South in France & so far all my hopes on the trip have been realized, but not without some very tests and trials, at every turn I meet those who seem me closely, question me closely or ask me to do foolish things to see if I will obey orders.

I hope you read my letter from Paris. However it may be delivered to you from some boat as this one.

Just the money left until you bill me out ok until my return. I will not see any of the funds

Paris  
Toulouse Aug 13, 1909

Bank which they gave me & I gave you, & passed the Florence in Paris. If I go to the Rhine, or London or elsewhere, it will be called.

At last I am in the R+C, thank God - but the bath & vows are severe. How many in America will I find to keep them with me.

Give my love to my wife & your mother & all. I must go & wish you could go with me through all the strange opinions.

Truly,  
Harvey  
Aug 13, 1909

X - a thousand of them  
I will never forget yesterday  
Thursday Aug 12, 1909. Hope  
we will live to see its great  
results in America.

This is a letter that Harvey Spencer Lewis sent to his wife on August 13, 1909, from Toulouse, France. He states clearly that he joined the Order of the Rose-Croix, thanked God, and added that the oaths and obligations he undertook were exacting.

## Chapter 15

# ERAS AND CYCLES

### What does the theory of eras consist of?

The evolution of humanity is regulated by eras or ages, each of which lasts 2,160 years. For instance, the preceding age was the Piscean Age (*Pisces*, Latin for “the fishes”). This age began with the appearance of the Master Jesus. In passing, let us recall that the symbol of the first Christians was not that of the cross, but that of the fish, the word for fish in ancient Greek being *ichthys*. Presently, we are approaching the Age of Aquarius. In this coming age, for the first time in the history of human civilization, we should expect to see the physical manifestation of the ideal of peace and the advent of true knowledge.

However, if we expect this to come about, it is imperative that humanity be given a spiritual direction, since the values which serve as the basis for modern society are too materialistic. The influence of the approaching Age of Aquarius is making itself felt among a growing number of individuals, causing them to call into question the excessive materialism of our times and helping them to aspire to more spiritual ideals. From this perspective, the statement of Andre Malraux is quite true: “The 21st century will be spiritual or it will not be.”

### What is the Golden Age which some mystics refer to?

The Golden Age is a traditional concept which refers to the fact that all the initiates of the past have taught that humanity was destined to evolve towards an ideal state characterized by peace, harmony, and understanding. All this leads us to think that the Aquarian Age, which the world is preparing to enter, will see the advent of the Golden Age.

Of course, such an eventuality will only be possible if all people act accordingly and make spirituality the basis of their behavior.

**Why did the Order operate in 108-year cycles of activity in times past?**

Since its inception, the Order has functioned according to periods of activity, each lasting 108 years, followed by periods of inactivity of the same duration. The purpose for operating in this way was to protect Rosicrucians from religious and political persecution. It also made it possible to regulate the degree of new knowledge that would be integrated into the Order's basic teachings.

At the symbolic level, the number 108 represents the idea of mastery and accomplishment. It is also the result of the product of 9, 4, 3, and 1. These numbers themselves correspond to four fundamental symbols—the circle (9), square (4), triangle (3), and dot (1). In days gone by, a complete cycle of the Order was actually 216 years ( $108 \times 2$ ), and 216 years is  $1/10$  of 2,160 years, which is equivalent to an era. And again,  $2,160 \times 12 = 23,920$  years, which corresponds to the Great Year of Plato.

**The present cycle of the Order began in 1915. Since  $1915 + 108 = 2023$ , does this mean that the Order will cease all activity in the year 2023?**

It is impossible to answer this question at present. Let us simply say that for the moment the danger of political and religious persecution seems remote, although we have the impression at times of seeing new forms of the inquisition reappear. Moreover, the revision and updating of the Rosicrucian teachings will continue to be made on a gradual basis. But when the moment comes, all the Grand Masters will gather together and make any necessary decisions.

**Has the Order withdrawn into itself?**

AMORC has not withdrawn into itself; rather it is open to the world and is integrated into society. For example, the people who work in the various Grand Lodges are not all members of the Order and are not

forced to affiliate. Furthermore, AMORC holds cultural activities on a regular basis that are open to the public and it publishes a magazine (*Rosicrucian Digest*) that can be read by all. Far from removing themselves from families and associates, Rosicrucians regard all human beings as being their brothers and sisters and constantly endeavor to be living examples of uprightness, balance, and harmony.

**Manifesto**

Au Nom et Sous les Auspices de la PUISSANCE SUPRÊME

**CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL  
des ORDRES ORIENTAUX**

PAIX — TOLÉRANCE — UNION !

**I**t is decreed that :

Since the A...M...O...R...C... with its S. S. and Sec in the Valley of San Jose, California, is the only authorized sector of the ancient Fraternity of Rosicrucians perpetuating the true traditions and principles of the M-C in North and South America, with authenticity recognized by all the ancient Initiatic Orders forming this Conseil International and Federation, therefore, the said S. S. and its Imperator *ful videtur* Mr. St. Frater H. Spencer Lewis, F.R.C. — 31° 46' 25" S. I., and his hereditary successors shall be the exclusive representatives and Sover. Officers for North and South America and their affiliated countries, of all the Initiatic Orders composing the F.U.D.O.S.I., with authority to establish and maintain such Orders in the aforesaid countries.

This decree was unanimously endorsed by vote of all the Sover. Officers and recognized delegates of the fourteen Orders composing the F.U.D.O.S.I. at its International Convention in Brussels, Belgium during the week of August 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> 1934 A.D., and attended by the following principle officers of the said fourteen Orders who were personally present:

*(List of names and signatures follows)*

The highest officers of the F.U.D.O.S.I (Universal Federation of Initiatic Orders and Societies) signed this manifesto in Brussels in 1934. It acknowledged A.M.O.R.C. to be the sole traditional and initiatic organization perpetuating the heritage of the authentic Rose Cross.

## Chapter 16

# AMORC AND THE 21ST CENTURY

### **What is the purpose of humanity on Earth?**

From the perspective of Rosicrucian philosophy, the purpose of humanity is to evolve toward a state of complete or relative perfection, as manifested on Earth by such exceptional beings as Zoroaster, Moses, Buddha, Jesus, and Mohammed, to cite only a few. By virtue of this principle, it is apparent that this purpose cannot be fulfilled in a single lifetime. That is why most Rosicrucians accept reincarnation as an obvious fact. In other words, many of them are convinced that every human being must reincarnate many times before attaining a state of perfection.

Let us note that the first Christians, and of course Jesus himself, believed in reincarnation. It was only in the time of the Council of Constantinople, held in the 6th century C.E., that the leaders of the Christian Church replaced this doctrine with the dogma of the “resurrection of the body.” But now, at the dawn of the third millennium, how can we conceive that a body turned into dust can reconstitute itself and live again? Apart from the fact that this is incompatible with natural laws, for what purpose would such a resurrection serve? Having considered these ideas, we leave it to the individual to follow his or her own beliefs on the subject.

**According to AMORC, the world today is experiencing an identity crisis. What is the cause of this?**

Generally speaking, it is clear that the evolution of technology has proceeded more rapidly than the evolution of consciousness. This discrepancy has given modern society an excessively materialistic character, which has contributed to an intensification of individual and collective selfishness. To some extent, we live in a decadent age, much like those which existed in the past. Nonetheless, Rosicrucians are not pessimistic about the future, since they are convinced that humanity has the means to pull itself out of the depression into which it has plunged.

In short, people are individually and collectively responsible for their destiny. All we need to do is live in peace and turn this Earth into a veritable paradise.

**Does the Order feel that humanity will experience the Aquarian Age?**

The Order advocates a philosophy that is opposed to the apocalyptic theory preached by certain modern-day sects. In fact, it has always considered life to be the most precious thing there is and also that humanity has the potential to create a veritable paradise on Earth—in other words, a world where all people will live in cooperation, solidarity, and spirituality. However, all of this depends on the individual and collective choices humans make, because we can exercise free will and are therefore the creators of our own destiny. In this sense, Rosicrucians feel that we humans will witness the Age of Aquarius by acting properly.

**What precisely is the New Age all about?**

From the Rosicrucian perspective, the New Age is more of a trend than a true current of thought. Unfortunately, this trend has tended to bring an overly commercial aspect to esoteric studies. In this context, a number of persons will write most anything on subjects of a mystical nature or they will misguide those who seek true understanding. Probably the main advantage of the New Age is that it highlights the

growing influence that the Aquarian Age is beginning to exercise on the general public and their growing interest in matters of spirituality.

**From a Rosicrucian perspective, how can today's world crisis be explained, and what philosophical solutions could be used to resolve it?**

History is an eternal series of beginnings in the sense that humanity periodically experiences crises which constitute evolutionary trials. We live in a world where materialism, with all its accompanying evils, predominates. From a Rosicrucian perspective it is obvious that the only way to overcome the present crisis is to return to the essential values of life: love, solidarity, cooperation, and, most of all, spirituality.

**What importance does the Order accord to ecology?**

Quite obviously, Earth is the basis for our existence. From a Rosicrucian perspective, it is also the body that the collective soul of humanity uses to evolve toward its own ideal of perfection. Earth is a masterpiece of creation and thus deserves our greatest respect and should stir our imagination. Unfortunately, we humans, through ignorance, neglect, or selfishness, never cease to harm Earth through our use of dangerous pollutants, excessive deforestation, or the wanton slaughter of animals. If nothing is done on a global scale to put an end to these activities, our planet will experience an agonizing death—and so will we—and we shall have to bear a heavy responsibility for this planetary crisis.

In the final analysis, ecology plays an integral part in mystical consciousness, because we cannot be interested in the mysteries of life without also being concerned with what is to become of Earth. That is why Rosicrucians are particularly sensitive to the problems of the environment, and we try to set an example of proper respect towards nature and all living creatures. From the moment we set out on the spiritual path, we cannot fail to be concerned with the future of our planet, as it is a wonderful expression of divine laws and will remain the mother of humanity forever.



# THE ROSICRUCIAN ORDER, AMORC

## *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, 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.

[www.rosicrucian.org](http://www.rosicrucian.org)