

# **Supplemental Lessons from the *Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine***

## **The Rosicrucian Fellowship**



By donald gomez - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=21850240>

**TRF Spiritual Temple: *The Ecclesia***

***Vol. 1: Lessons 1-25***

**by G. E. Carlin**

## **Other Books by Gary E Carlin Include:**

**Praying with St. Christopher: *Prayer Stories, Reflections, Journal Cards and Creating Up Your Shrine***

**Calling Upon the Powers of St. Christopher and the Holy Helpers**

**Preparing Your Child to be Successful in Their Science Education: *Describing the World We Live In, Vol. 1***

**St. Christopher's Holy Order of Kindness & Compassion  
Spiritual Exercises, Vol. 1: *The Tree Motif***

**Preparing Your Child to be Successful in Their Science Education  
Vol. 2: *Becoming an Active Science Learner***

**Prayer & the Rosicrucian Fellowship**

**St. Christopher's Holy Order of Kindness & Compassion  
Praying for Ourselves and Others, Vol. 2: *Burden Bearing***

**Concentration and *The Rosicrucian Fellowship***

**Contact Info: [garyc4948@gmail.com](mailto:garyc4948@gmail.com)**

## Introduction

*Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand. (Revelations 1:3 KJV)*

Hopefully, most of us have taken advantage of the *Rosicrucian Fellowship's Correspondence Courses* in Philosophy, Spiritual Astrology, and the Bible as they offer a wonderful opportunity to grow in the understanding of the school, its beliefs, practices, and how to grow spiritually. In addition, the *Rosicrucian Online University* offers *Study Guides* for ten of Max Heindel's books. These study guides have questions for each chapter of the corresponding book in which the answers are found within the text as well as *thought questions* that rely upon your own experiences and creative powers.

In addition to providing the Correspondence Courses and the Study Guides, the Rosicrucian Fellowship also published a bimonthly magazine first entitled *Echoes from Mt. Ecclesia* and then renamed to *Rays from the Rose Cross* to further support its students. Within each edition of the magazine are many excellent articles on a variety of esoteric subjects within Philosophy, Occultism, Mystic Masonry, Astrology, Christian Theology, and Healing written by many different authors including; *Max Heindel, Manley Palmer Hall, Corinne Helene, Ella Wheeler Wilcox, Charles Weber, Elman Bacher, Prentis Tucker*, etc.

In creating *Supplemental Lessons* from the *Rays from the Rosy Cross Magazine*, articles were selected from different editions of the magazine to act as the "body of the lesson". In addition, each lesson not only provides a specific magazine article it also includes additional texts taken from other sources such as the Bible and other spiritual books. Based upon the reading of the article and the additional text each lesson has a set of open-ended questions in which the answers can be found in either the article or the additional text source. Then there are six to twelve *Thought & Research Questions* that address either your thoughts, feelings, experiences, or an application of the topic presented and/or a topic to further explore and research on your own. It is *not* intended that you answer all the

questions, but you select one (or more) questions that you wish delve more deeply into. *No answers* are provided as the answers can found within the text or are of a personal nature in terms of how you connect to the topic and the research you choose to do for the Thought & Research Questions. There is a list of short statements or quotes from each article that can be used for your own personal *Meditation*. A variety of choices have been provided so you might select the ones that you are most interested in using in your meditation.

It is suggested that you *begin* and *conclude* each lesson with a prayer. Samples of both types of prayers are provided, however, you may use your own prayer if you prefer. In addition, as something from a lesson strikes you deep within yourself due to your thoughts, beliefs, or experiences you should stop and immediately offer a *prayer of thanksgiving*. Once again, a sample prayer of thanksgiving for “something meaningful to you” is provided. It is highly encouraged that you use *St. Alphonsus Liguori Five-Steps for Spiritual Reading* for each text you read in lesson. A full description of the five-step process is provided below as well as sample questions to ask yourself while reading and three *after reading* activities to: summarize, ask questions, and reflect.

*When we pray we speak to God; but when we read, God speaks to us.* - **St. Jerome**

Hopefully, you will not only enjoy these lessons but they will also build your powers of *concentration* so that the important ideas and concepts of the lessons can grow within you and help you in your continuing spiritual development!

*Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.*  
(1 Timothy 4:13)

# God is Love and God is Light

By Frances Ridley Havergal

*God is Love, His mercy brightens  
All the path in which we rove,  
Bliss He forms, and woe He lightens,  
God is Light and God is Love*

*Chance and change are busy ever,  
Worlds decay and ages move,  
But His mercy waneth never  
God is Light and God is Love.*

*Thine eyes shall see the King*

*Thine eyes shall see! Yes, thine, who, blind erewhile,  
Now trembling towards the new-found light dost flee,  
Leave doubting, and look up with trustful smile.  
Thine eyes shall see!*

*Thine eyes shall see the King! The very same  
Whose love shone forth upon the curseful tree,  
Who bore thy guilt, who calleth thee by name  
Thine eyes shall see!*

*Thine eyes shall see the King, the Mighty One,  
The many crowned, the light-enrobed, and He  
Shall bid thee share the kingdom He hath won  
Thine eyes shall see!*

**- Frances Ridley Havergal**

## ***Spiritual Reading***

In our everyday spiritual reading, we might choose to read spiritual classics such as *The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas a Kempis, *The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence or the *Philokalia*. However, we should not disregard magazine and online spiritual articles as being part of our spiritual reading.

Whatever we read as part of our spiritual reading, regardless of the source, accomplishes the same end within us and that is to help us grow in *divine love*.

In spiritual reading we read anything that reflects God's glory, speaks to a devout, spiritual, or holy life, helps us grow in our dedication to God, or teaches us how to live a life that is pure, righteous, or sacred in the eyes of God. Very common examples of traditional spiritual readings include autobiographies and legends on the lives of saints and the in-depth theological writings of the church Doctors. These books allow us to learn through the examples of others who have greatly pleased God or help us to better understand church doctrine and history.

*“When you immerse your mind and heart in spiritual books, you will always be filled, for spiritual reading gives you a foundation in God.” - St. John Chrysostom*

As with anything that we wish to include or add into our lives, we should start with a clear understanding of exactly what it is we will be doing and how we will do it. In terms of what spiritual reading is and how it is done we should consider how Henri J. M. Nouwen describe the process and its outcome.

*“Spiritual reading, therefore, is slow, deliberate, meditative reading in which we allow the words to penetrate our heart and question our spirit.” - Henri J.M. Nouwen*

So, whether we choose to go directly to the source of these writings or we take the time to read shorter articles about them and the ideas, thoughts, and concepts they address in magazines or online we are still providing the necessary food for our

spiritual growth! Many such as St. Athanasius have stressed the importance of spiritual reading in our lives.

*“You will not see anyone who is truly striving after his spiritual advancement who is not given to spiritual reading.”*

**- St. Athanasius**

While, St. Padre Pio goes even further to express the idea that the lack of spiritual reading is detrimental to our spiritual growth because of the great power that can be derived from our spiritual reading!

*"The harm that comes to souls from the lack of reading holy books makes me shudder... What power spiritual reading has to lead to a change of course, and to make even worldly people enter into the way of perfection."* **St. Padre Pio**

Now let us consider the *Five-Step Model of Spiritual Reading* designed by St. Alphonsus de Liguori to make the most of ALL of our spiritual reading.

### **Spiritual Reading and St. Alphonsus de Liguori**

In his book *The True Spouse of Jesus Christ*, St. Alphonsus de Liguori, the patron saint of lawyers, moralists, confessors, and moral theologians writes a section entitled “*On Spiritual Reading*” which he describes spiritual books as “not less useful than mental prayer”. It was his firm belief that “spiritual reading and prayer are the arms by which ... paradise is won.”. St Bernard expands upon this concept, that we should “seek” holy and devout thoughts by reading spiritual books then when we meditate upon what we have read we will find what we were seeking, as “reading puts into the mouth the food that is afterward masticated by meditation”.

In addition, spiritual books act as “shields” to protect us from our own negative thoughts. While they can also function as a “mirror” to help us identify our own areas of imperfections so we can work to improve them. Yet, perhaps the greatest

blessing of spiritual books is that God has the opportunity to speak to us through these books and if we intently listen with an open heart and open ears, we will hear God's voice as we read. In your mind the spiritual book you are reading can be your own Sermon on the Mount, epistles from Jesus or any saint on any range of spiritual topics, private instruction on healing, divine love, service, etc. In order to effectively receive the greatest benefit ("great fruit") from spiritual books St. Alphonsus Liguori proposed a five-step approach.

*St. Augustine writes that good books are, as it were, so many letters of love the Lord sends us; in them he warns us of our dangers, teaches us the way of salvation, animates us to suffer adversity, enlightens us, and inflames us with divine love. Whoever, then, desires to be saved and to acquire divine love, should often read these letters of paradise.*

**- St. Alphonsus Liguori, *The True Spouse of Jesus Christ***

## **St. Alphonsus Liguori Five-Steps for Spiritual Reading**

### **1. Start with a Prayer**

As God will speak to you through the reading of your spiritual book it is proper if you first let God know you are ready to hear His voice and to obey His commands. It is helpful to also God to open our minds so we fully understand His will during the course of our reading. St. Alphonsus Liguori recommends starting with the words of Samuel: "*Speak; for thy servant heareth*". And adding "O my Lord, for I wish to obey Thee in all that Thou wilt make known to me to be Thy will."

*And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth. (1 Samuel 3:10 KJV)*



## **2. Continue Slowly**

Spiritual reading differs in most reading in that its purpose is not to acquire knowledge but to open ourselves to new realities so that we may enrich ourselves in a greater wealth of divine love. Therefore, we need to slow down while reading and not read quickly just to finish because we are simply trying to satisfy our curiosity.

## **3. Meditate While Reading**

As you read your spiritual book *slowly* you should put your full *concentration* on what you are reading. For this St. Augustine makes the analogy that nutrients for your body only come from “well masticated food” or spiritual information that is read slowly and concentrated upon from the spiritual books so that your body can use it to “nourish your soul”. After a while as you read spiritual books, you may notice that the words themselves dictate the pace (tempo) at which you read them and they become less “static” and more dynamic in terms of what they are intended to present to the reader. Just as in music where there are rests, periods of silence, reading should also include times of silence when we begin to fully concentrate while reading.

Concentration during reading may mean going line-by-line or short paragraph-by short paragraph so that you are not only fully connected to what the words are saying but you are establishing connections with these words to other things or texts (past, present, and future), the symbolism they touch upon, chronology, theology, consider its application to your own life, etc. Remember, when we concentrate, we allow any of your other thoughts or emotions about the text to simply pass and not distract us so that we can stay in the present moment with the spiritual book. Ideally, what we read has to be read more than once!

## **4. Pause to Pray at Heartfelt Times**

There will be times when you are reading a spiritual book that something special or insightful touches you or “penetrates the heart”. So, stop reading and offer a heartfelt prayer of thanksgiving to God. Do not be concerned if you have only read a brief amount in your spiritual book before you stop to offer a pray to God.

It's not about finishing the book – it's about mining the *divine love* from the book and then remembering to thank God when you do find it. Also, allow your prayer to remain active and conclude of its own volition.

### **5. Take a Thought with You During Your Day**

After you have finished your spiritual reading, there should be some idea, concept, application, or practice that you can reflect upon throughout the day in terms of how it might apply to your life and how you want to interact with others. As you go throughout your day visualize this idea, concept, application, or practice, write some notes or thoughts about it, talk to a trusted friend/mentor about this, try a few simple attempts and notice the reactions of others, etc.

## ***Reading and Increasing Our Powers of Concentration***

Annie Besant in her book, *Thought Power: Its Control and Culture*, is emphatic that the real power of reading lies in taking the time to think about what we have read so that we have a real understanding of the author's thoughts and ideas and how he or she is using this information to create a connection with us so that we can take in his or her words and let them grow within us.

Her suggestion is to use a method by which one is “reading less and thinking more, by a ratio of 2:1.” This means that if we plan on spending for an hour, then we should be spending only *twenty* minutes in the reading the spiritual book and *forty* minutes in “strenuous thinking” about the reading.

In your thinking time you have set of questions you can ask yourself about any reading, examples might include:

- *What is the main idea or what idea/concept is the author trying to explain?*

- *How well does the author's examples or evidence support their ideas or position?*
- *What would help you to better understand the author's ideas or position?*
- *What questions do you have in terms of the author's ideas or position?*
- *How accepting or believable do you find the author's ideas or position?*
- *How would explain the author's ideas and position to someone else?*
- *How could you organize the author's ideas or position into a visual image?*

### **After Reading:**

Summarize the article or the section of the book you have read into the author's three to five main points.

Create a list of questions for things you would like further explanation, additional information, or things you are not completely sure of.

Finally, it is ESSENTIAL to *reflect* upon:

- what you enjoyed the most in your reading,
- what was “challenging” for you in the reading,
- what concepts, ideas, or practices you might consider or enrich within your life,
- and how you might be able to share your learning with others and how you would do it.

**- Reflection Window for Each Spiritual Reading -**

<b>What did I enjoy the most about the reading?</b>	<b>What was “challenging” about the reading?</b>
<b>What Concepts, Ideas, or Practices will I know put into my life?</b>	<b>What will I share?, with you?, and how?</b>
<b>Favorite Quotes:</b>	
<b>Inspiring Visuals:</b>	
<b>My Feelings/Emotions:</b>	

# Prayer Before Spiritual Reading

## Sample Short Prayer to Open Your Mind to God's Words

*Lord, Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; and I shall observe it with my whole heart. Open my mind that I might understand your divine words from these spiritual books and apply them always to my life so I might glorify your name. Amen*

**- Based on Psalms 119:34 and Luke 24:45**

# Prayer After Spiritual Reading

## Sample Short Prayer to Thank God for His Words

*Lord, in this reading you have taught me your ways so I now might walk in your truth. Even though your thoughts are very deep I now begin to understand how great are your works through these blessed words. In our reading together you have satisfied my longing soul and filled it with good things. Amen*

**- Based on Psalm 86:11, Psalm 92:5, and Psalm 107:9**

# Prayer After Reading Something Meaningful to You

## Sample Short Prayer to Thank God for Touching You with His Words

*Lord, what you have just given me in this reading has grown the seeds within my mind to yield a fruitful harvest. Your wisdom and knowledge brightly shine around me and I now feel them richly dwelling in my heart. I thank you, My God, for the joy in my heart and praise your glorious name. Amen*

**- Based on Psalm 85:12, Colossians 3:16, and 1 Chronicles 29:13**

## **TWENTY-FIVE SUPPLEMENTAL LESSONS**

**Lesson #1:** *The Gospel in Pictures*

**Lesson #2:** *Spiritual Sacrifice*

**Lesson #3:** *The Key to All Cures*

**Lesson #4:** *Obedience, Faith and the Universal Healing Force*

**Lesson #5:** *The Temple of the Living God*

**Lesson #6:** *Christ-Reliance*

**Lesson #7:** *He Who Would Be the Greatest*

**Lesson #8:** *The Spiritual Significance of the New Moon*

**Lesson #9:** *Human Evolution and the Seven Planetary Rays*

**Lesson #10:** *Shakespeare – Lay Bible*

**Lesson #11:** *Shakespeare a Rosicrucian?*

**Lesson #12:** *On Prayer*

**Lesson #13:** *Samuel and the Power of Intuition*

**Lesson #14:** *Observation as a Factor in Health*

**Lesson #15:** *The Transmutation*

**Lesson #16:** *Magic — White and Black*

**Lesson #17:** *Justice and Judgment*

**Lesson #18:** *The Highest Human Privilege*

**Lesson #19:** *A Study in Values—Jonah and Peter*

**Lesson #20:** *Androgynous Man*

**Lesson #21:** *Grace*

**Lesson #22:** *The Challenge of Life*

**Lesson #23:** *Retrospection and Remorse*

**Lesson #24:** *The Seven Jewels and The Seven Stages of Initiation*

**Lesson #25:** *Prayer, Concentration, and Meditation*

## **- Learning -**

*“As there are people who are quite unable to understand that there must be and are higher Worlds, so there are some who, having become slightly acquainted with the higher realms, acquire the habit of undervaluing this Physical World. Such an attitude is as incorrect as that of the materialist. The great and wise Beings who carry out the will and design of God placed us in this physical environment to learn great and important lessons which could not be learned under other conditions, and it is our duty to use our knowledge of the higher Worlds in learning to the best of our ability the lessons which this material world has to teach us.”*

– **Max Heindel, *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception***

## **- Wisdom -**

*“To become wise you must desire wisdom with as great intensity as you just now desired air. You must struggle for it, to the exclusion of every other aim in life. It must be your one and only aspiration, by day and by night. If you seek wisdom with that fervor, my son, you will surely become wise.” That is the first and central requisite the aspirant to occult knowledge must possess—an unswerving desire, a burning thirst for knowledge a zeal that allows no obstacle to conquer it. ... Another prerequisite to this firsthand knowledge, however, is the study of occultism at second-hand. ... but no one need despair of acquiring information about this conditions because of undeveloped occult powers. As a man may know about Africa either by going there personally or by reading descriptions written by travelers who have been there, so may he visit the superphysical realms if he will but qualify himself therefor, or he may learn what others who have so qualified themselves report as a result of their investigations.”*

– **Max Heindel, *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception***

## Lesson #1: The Gospel in Pictures

*Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk. And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men. Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's. When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way.*

- (**Matthew 22:15-22 KJV**)

***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine, Nov/Dec 2004***

[https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays\\_archives/2004/Nov-Dec%202004%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf](https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays_archives/2004/Nov-Dec%202004%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf)

### ***The Gospel in Pictures***

Read the article in the ***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine*** on p.43-47

***The Gospel in Art*** by Albert Edward Bailey

<https://dn720004.ca.archive.org/0/items/gospelinart0000albe/gospelinart0000albe.pdf>

**1. Read: *The Gospel in Art*, p. 217-221**

What messages do you take from the painting, *St. Mary Magdalene* (p.43), by Timoteo Viti? Explain.

**2. Read: Matt. 22:15-22; Mark 12:13-17; Luke 20:20-26, *The Gospel in Art*, p. 291-293**

In view the painting, *The Tribute Money* (p.45), How did it so perfectly capture the moment of Christ's question, "*Whose is the image and superscription?*" - try to go beyond what the articles states (please view another image as this one is



cropped) and think about what you might have modified or added to the painting.

3. **Read:** *Luke 22:24-30; John 13:1-20, The Gospel in Art, p. 308-311*

How did Ford Maddox Brown in his painting, *Jesus Washes Peter's Feet* (p.46) capture what Jesus was trying to teach His disciples and their reactions and misunderstandings - try to go beyond what the articles states.

4. **Read:** *Matt. 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13, The Gospel in Art, p. 131-4*

a. In Georg Cornicelius' painting of *Christ Tempted by Satan* (p. 47) describe your emotional response from staring at the painting for a few moments and what you see outwardly and within Christ.

b. What is the effect of Satan on Christ and us the viewer in Georg Cornicelius' painting of *Christ Tempted by Satan* (p. 47)?

c. Is Satan an experience or as an external reality for you and how does it compare to what Christ probably felt?

### **Thought & Research Questions:**

1. How should we serve our penance to God?
2. Why do you think that views of atonement have changed over time?
3. What other proofs do we have that indicate we are slaves, explain?
4. How can we show humility and service in today's world without being exploited?
5. Why didn't the apostles often not understand Jesus?
6. What does Satan mean to you?

## Words for Meditation

*"She loved much."* (In reference to Mary Magdalene)

*Losing one's life for Christ's sake and the gospel's is finding it.*

*"Do you render to God the things that are God's?"*

*"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness"*

*"The Son of Man came not to be ministered unto but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."*

*It is whether to trust, without further proofs*

*I will never rule, but only love and help and teach.*

*"Yea, fear him who hath power to cast both soul and body into Hell."*



***Christ Tempted by the Devil - John Ritto Penniman***

## Lesson #2: Spiritual Sacrifice

*For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? - (Matthew 16:25-26 KJV)*

***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine, Nov/Dec 2004***

[https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays\\_archives/2004/Nov-Dec%202004%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf](https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays_archives/2004/Nov-Dec%202004%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf)

**Read:** *Matthew 16:25-26, 19:16-30*

***Spiritual Sacrifice* by Dagmar Fragme**

Read the article in the ***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine*** on p. 20-23

1. Describe a “*spiritual sacrifice*” and its purpose and how does it differ from a sacrifice in general?
2. How does our *self-sacrifice* aid in our spiritual development?
3. Explain what the author means by it is the “*one thing that can never be taken away*”.
4. How does doing service move us towards the *truth*?
5. Why must we let go of things in our lives for inward growth?
6. How do we make self-sacrifice an *active state* within ourselves?
7. When do our spiritual sacrifices become a *joy* for us and how does this change us?
8. How do we make sacrifices “*necessary to our spiritual growth*”?

9. What does Jesus mean when he says, “*With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible*” in the story of *The Rich Young Ruler*?

10. How does the painting by James Tissot of *The Rich Young Man Went Away Sorrowful* (p. 20) tell and symbolize the story of *Matthew 19:16-30*?

### **Thought & Research Questions:**

1. What are some examples we see today of spiritual sacrifices and why are you sure they are?
2. What are our responsibilities to the Christ within, why?
3. What is the balance between service enriching our lives and bringing loss?
4. How do you prevent the following of Christ at the expense of service?
5. What are the new attitudes and habits we need for spiritual growth?
6. How can we make sure we are accepting responsibility for *all* of our actions?

### **Words for Meditation**

*Self-sacrifice involves building the soul body, without which we will be unable to meet the Christ in the ethers when He comes again*

*As we advance on the Path, [we are asked] to surrender time*

*We are asked to exchange ... conditions, and attitudes which have outlived their usefulness for a new state of mind and of being-one*

*The joys of friendship as we know them now then will be dwarfed by the even greater blessings of universal brotherhood.*

*The more we do serve, the more we will follow Christ.*

*[In service] we are giving up nothing of permanent value.*

*Spiritual sacrifice means nothing more than the surrender of everything that we basically do not want, that clutters our lives, that is unnecessary, undesirable, evil, useless, or diverting from the objectives of our evolution.*

*Conscience tells us what must be given up and when*

*[Spiritual sacrifice] leaves the Higher Self with a sensation of relief and renewed ability to forge ahead unhindered by that which had obstructed it in the past.*

*[Most difficult is the] acceptance of ever-increasing responsibility for our actions and, in one sense, the actions of others.*

*Spiritual sacrifice [is] a joy.*

*[Spiritual sacrifice is an] avenue to evolutionary progress [that when] faithfully, devoutly, and lovingly made, hastens our ultimate development and the perfection of our Golden Wedding Garments.*



***Christ and the Young Rich Ruler - Heinrich Hofmann***

## Lesson #3: The Key to All Cures

*And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. (Matthew 4:23-25 KJV)*

***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine, Nov/Dec 2004***

[https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays\\_archives/2004/Nov-Dec%202004%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf](https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays_archives/2004/Nov-Dec%202004%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf)

**Read: *Occult Properties of Health and Healing*** by Max Heindel, p. 57, 99-101  
[https://rosicrucian.com/pdf\\_plaza/Occult%20Principles%20of%20Health%20and%20Healing.pdf](https://rosicrucian.com/pdf_plaza/Occult%20Principles%20of%20Health%20and%20Healing.pdf)

***The Key to All Cures*, by Max Heindel**

Read the article in the *Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine* on p. 59.

1. Why do Rosicrucians believe that believe a person is responsible for his condition and a cure must come principally as a result of his own efforts?
2. What is “sickness” and its cause?
3. What does Max Heindel mean when he says, “*We learn to build right by building wrong.*”?
4. How is the *Universal Law* related to sickness and health?
5. How is a *cure* made for an adult and an infant?
6. Why aren’t are all cures *permanent* cures?
7. How does the emblem of the Rose Cross symbolize the “*great ideal that we are striving*”?
8. What is the difference between a *cure* and a *healing*?

9. How did people *cooperate* with Jesus and prophets for their healing?

10. Explain the *three great factors* in healing.

### **Thought & Research Questions:**

1. What is our responsibility for consciously curing ourselves and staying healthy?

2. How can we stay healthy if we can't control what was done in our past lives?

3. How can we seek out our weaknesses so we can be cured?

4. How does astrology reveal inharmony to us?

5. Why do you think most people just medicines to produce a cure?

6. As humans who sin, how can we every find harmony within our lives?

7. What have your temptations taught you about Nature's laws?

### **Words for Meditation**

*A cure must come principally as a result [of one's] own efforts, either consciously or subconsciously put forth*

*Sickness of any nature is evidence of ... inharmony*

*We build our own bodies and build them according to our previous thoughts and ideas.*

*We learn to build right by building wrong.*

*In effecting a cure of any ailment, the most efficient means ... is to earnestly and prayerfully seek out our weaknesses and eradicate them.*

## **A Rose Plant in Jericho**

By Christina Rossetti

*At morn I plucked a rose and gave it Thee,  
A rose of joy and happy love and peace,  
A rose with scarce a thorn:  
But in the chillness of a second morn  
My rose bush drooped, and all its gay increase  
Was but one thorn that wounded me.*

*I plucked the thorn and offered it to Thee;  
And for my thorn Thou gavest love and peace,  
Not joy this mortal morn:  
If Thou hast given much treasure for a thorn,  
Wilt thou not give me for my rose increase  
Of gladness, and all sweets to me?*

*My thorny rose, my love and pain, to Thee  
I offer; and I set my heart in peace,  
And rest upon my thorn:  
For verily I think to-morrow morn  
Shall bring me Paradise, my gift's increase,  
Yea, give Thy very Self to me.*

**- Christina G. Rossetti**



## Lesson #4: Obedience, Faith and the Universal Healing Force

*Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. – (John 14:23 KJV)*

***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine, Sept/Oct 2004***

[https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays\\_archives/2004/Sep-Oct%202004%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf](https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays_archives/2004/Sep-Oct%202004%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf)

**Read: *Occult Properties of Health and Healing*** by Max Heindel, p. 102-110  
[https://rosicrucian.com/pdf\\_plaza/Occult%20Principles%20of%20Health%20and%20Healing.pdf](https://rosicrucian.com/pdf_plaza/Occult%20Principles%20of%20Health%20and%20Healing.pdf)

***Obedience, Faith and the Universal Healing Force, by Max Heindel***

Read the article in the *Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine* on p. 56-7.

1. What does Max Heindel mean when he says, “*disease is a manifestation of ignorance*”?
2. Why must we be *humble* and *obedient* to be healed?
3. What is *obedience* and why is it important?
4. What is the role of the *healer*?
5. Why is *knowledge* important in healing?
6. How is the *form of healing* determined?
7. How did Christ produce *immediate healings*?
8. Why do Rosicrucians heal?
9. How are patients healed *physically* and *spiritually* by the Rosicrucians?

10. What is “*spiritual panacea*” and how does it work?

**Thought & Research Questions:**

1. Why is disease called a “fire”, explain?
2. How do we bring our knowledge into practice and live the life that benefits us in terms of our health?
3. How do we use our spiritual forces to stay healthy?
4. How do planetary discords cause disease?
5. How can we manifest the power of Christ for the healing of others?
6. How should you concentrate on divine life and healing in the healing service?
7. What is the relationship between knowledge and health?

**Words for Meditation**

*[The] “Sun of Righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.”*

*“Disease is really a fire; the invisible fire which is the Father.”*

*Disease is a manifestation of ignorance, the only sin, and healing is a demonstration of applied knowledge, which is the only salvation.*

*Christ is an embodiment of the Wisdom Principle, and in proportion as the Christ is formed in us, we attain to health.*

*To be healed we must have faith; we must be humble to the point of obedience.*

*It is disobedience, or breaking the law of Nature, that brings disease.*

*A change of mind, [puts] the sufferer is therefore in a position to receive the healing balm.*

*The whole universe is pervaded with the power of the Father, always available to cure our ills, of whatever nature.*

*A truly spiritual healer will endeavor to instill the highest ideals in his patients, so they may eventually learn to conform to God's laws and thus attain permanent health in future lives, as well as now.*

*The study of the higher philosophy will always tend to better one's health, because "knowledge is power" and the more we know, the better we are able to cope with all conditions.*

*We [must] bring our knowledge into practice and live the life, that we be not merely hearers of the word but doers also.*

*The person who lives a clean and upright life, ... striving earnestly for truth and righteousness, will create thought forms about himself of a corresponding nature. [And] his mind will run in grooves that harmonize with [that] truth.*

*Whether we are healthy or sick; ... depends upon the way we use the spiritual force.*

*Christ, being the Lord of the Sun, embodied within Himself the synthesis of the stellar vibrations, as the octave embodies all of the tones of the scale, and He could therefore emit from Himself the true, corrective planetary influence required ... [for the] disease with which He was dealing.*

# **A Bruised Reed He Shall Not Break**

By Christina Rossetti

*I will accept thy will to do and be,  
Thy hatred and intolerance of sin,  
Thy will at least to love, that burns within  
And thirsteth after Me:  
So will I render fruitful, blessing still  
The germs and small beginnings in thy heart,  
Because thy will cleaves to the better part.--  
Alas, I cannot will.*

*Dost not thou will, poor soul? Yet I receive  
The inner unseen longings of the soul;  
I guide them turning towards Me; I control  
And charm hearts till they grieve:  
If thou desire, it yet shall come to pass,  
Though thou but wish indeed to choose My love;  
For I have power in earth and heaven above.--  
I cannot wish, alas!*

*What, neither choose nor wish to choose? and yet  
I still must strive to win thee and constrain:  
For thee I hung upon the cross in pain,  
How then can I forget?  
If thou as yet dost neither love, nor hate,  
Nor choose, nor wish,--resign thyself, be still  
Till I infuse love, hatred, longing, will.--  
I do not deprecate.*

**- Christina G. Rossetti**

## Lesson #5: The Temple of the Living God

*Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. (1 Corinthians 3:16-17 KJV)*

***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine, Sept/Oct 2004***

[https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays\\_archives/2004/Sep-Oct%202004%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf](https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays_archives/2004/Sep-Oct%202004%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf)

**Read: *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*** by Max Heindel, p. 88-91  
[https://rosicrucian.com/pdf\\_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf](https://rosicrucian.com/pdf_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf)

***The Temple of the Living God, by Max Heindel***

Read the article in the *Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine* on p. 30.

1. Why must we cultivate “*equipoise*” to advance spiritually?
2. Why must we take great care with our thoughts?
3. What is the role of the *Dense Body* and how can we attune it to produce habits helpful to our spiritual development?
4. What is the true *password* for entrance to a Rosicrucian Temple?
5. What does Paul mean when he says that we “*we are the temple of the living God* (our Higher Self)?
6. What happens when we project an idea through the mind?
7. What are the three directions that an idea can be projected by the mind?
8. Describe the three possible actions of the Desire Body with an idea (*Interest, Repulsion, and Indifference*)?

**Thought & Research Questions:**

1. How can the mind be a “brake on impulse”?
2. How do our thoughts *mold* our physical matter?
3. How should we hold the desire body down to any *definite lines*?
4. Why are fear and worry so destructive to us?
5. How do we attune ourselves to different vibrations?
6. What is *vital body* important for secret societies?
7. What improves our incentive to action in our spiritual lives?

**Words for Meditation**

*“None of these things move me.”* (Paul’s response to persecution and slander)

*Habitual thought has power to mold even physical matter*

*The power of thought is still greater in its potency to mold the finer vehicles.*

*Cultivating an optimistic frame of mind under all circumstances, we can attune our desire bodies to any key we wish.*

*We are the temple of the living God, our Higher Self.*

# **The Temple of God**

By George MacDonald

*In the desert by the bush,  
Moses to his heart said  
Hush*

*David on his bed did pray;  
God all night went not away.*

*From his heap of ashes foul  
Job to God did lift his soul,*

*God came down to see him there,  
And to answer all his prayer.*

*On a dark hill, in the wind,  
Jesus did his father find,*

*But while he on earth did fare,  
Every spot was place of prayer;*

*And where man is any day,  
God can not be far away.*

*But the place he loveth best,  
Place where he himself can rest,*

*Where alone he prayer doth seek,  
Is the spirit of the meek.*

*To the humble God doth come;  
In his heart he makes his home.*

**- George MacDonald**

## Lesson #6: Christ-Reliance

*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*  
(Proverbs 3:5-6 KJV)

***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine, Sept/Oct 2004***

[https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays\\_archives/2004/Sep-Oct%202004%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf](https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays_archives/2004/Sep-Oct%202004%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf)

**Read: *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*** by Max Heindel, p. 530-532  
[https://rosicrucian.com/pdf\\_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf](https://rosicrucian.com/pdf_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf)

***Christ-Reliance*, by C.W. (Charles Weber)**

Read the article in the *Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine* on p. 20-23.

1. What are the two meanings of “*self*” in self-reliance and how should it be applied to the precept of being “*Self-Reliant*” as described in the *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*?
2. Why might our common understanding of self-reliance be “*demonically possessed*”?
3. Why is the *inner Christ* more reliable than our common self?
4. Why does the author describe true self-reliance as “*as improbable as walking on water*”?
5. What are the different ways that the “*self-centered mortal man*” is symbolized?
6. Why can we consider self-sacrifice to really be *self-liberation*?
7. Why is humility a “*prerequisite for those who would be Christ-reliant*”?



8. How does the role of our individual *heart* compare to the role of Christ's heart?

9. How does *Christ-reliance* differ from self-reliance?

10. What does the author mean when he states, that we are “*Christ-reliant to the extent that we are Christ-centered and Christ-directed and, ultimately, radiating Christ*”?

### **Thought & Research Questions:**

1. What does the call of the human soul “*require*” of everyone, why?

2. What will our *new identity* be like as we are called?

3. Why do we need a long probation period for our soul when we are called?

4. What are the worldly roles that common self has played and why weren't they reliable?

5. How do we give over to the unseen and unknown?

6. How do we shift from arrogance to humility in terms of reliance?

7. How do we have interdependence in Christ in reliance?

8. How does our reliance on Christ free us?

### **Words for Meditation**

*When Christ calls the human soul ... it is charged to deny the former ways of its personal self and to follow a higher dictate ... deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow the caller—Christ.*

*We practice silence and serenity that we may more surely hear the inner voice.*

*The long probation of the soul is ... learning to distinguish between two voices  
the voice of the Paraclete, who speaks for the Christ Self; and the voice of the  
Pretender to the Light.*

*"Thou savorest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men"  
(Mark 8:32).*

*Only the inner Christ is reliable, for He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.*

*If the feet of mortal man are washed, his whole body is clean.*

*Self-sacrifice is really Self-liberation.*

*"It is by dying to [mortal] self that I am born [in Christ] to life eternal."*

*One's own effort must seem insignificant, but they can signal earnestness and  
piety and thus clear the channel for the operation of the Holy Spirit to teach and  
initiate the soul into communion with the immanent Christ.*

*Humility is the prerequisite for those who would be Christ-reliant.*

*We are all members of the mystical body of Christ, serving one another, diverse  
as we are, as an arm and a leg and an eye serve the whole human body.*

*The body's health and wholeness also depends on the billions of anonymous  
acts of "charity" and unremitting "selfless" service*

*Christ, the heart of humanity, radiates healing, regenerative love to each and  
all.*

*Some of Christ's last words may be taken as our first and frequent words:*

*"Father, into Thy hands I commit my spirit."*

# **The Love of God**

By William Cullen Bryant

*All things that are on earth shall wholly pass away,  
Except the love of God, which shall live and last for aye.*

*The forms of men shall be as they had never been;  
The blasted groves shall lose their fresh and tender green;*

*The birds of the thicket shall end their pleasant song,  
And the nightingale shall cease to chant the evening long;*

*The kine of the pasture shall feel the dart that kills,  
And all the fair white flocks shall perish from the hills.*

*The goat and antlered stag, the wolf and the fox,  
The wild-boar of the wood, and the chamois of the rocks,  
And the strong and fearless bear, in the trodden dust shall lie;  
And the dolphin of the sea, and the mighty whale, shall die.*

*And realms shall be dissolved, and empires be no more,  
And they shall bow to death, who ruled from shore to shore;  
And the great globe itself, so the holy writings tell,  
With the rolling firmament, where the starry armies dwell,  
Shall melt with fervent heat--they shall all pass away,  
Except the love of God, which shall live and last for aye.*

**- William Cullen Bryant**

## Lesson #7: He Who Would Be the Greatest

*For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. (Galatians 5:13 KJV)*

***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine, July/Aug 2004***

[https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays\\_archives/2004/Jul\\_Aug%2004%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf](https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays_archives/2004/Jul_Aug%2004%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf)

**Read: *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception* by Max Heindel, p. 486-489**  
[https://rosicrucian.com/pdf\\_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf](https://rosicrucian.com/pdf_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf)

***He Who Would Be the Greatest, by Elizabeth Ray***

Read the article in the *Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine* on p. 9-13.

*But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. (Luke 22:26 KJV)*

1. How are we instructed to concentrate on “*divine love and healing*”?
2. What is the *procedure* by which students, visible helpers, can help in the healing of the sick?
3. Why do we concentrate on “*service*” and *not divine love* for the Fellowship’s Temple Service and its Sunday Devotional Service?
4. What are the *definitions* of service and from them how is service best defined?
5. How can *astrology* be used to illustrate love and service and where is service found in an astrological chart?
6. What does *Emily Dickinson* tell us about service through her poem?
7. What does *Longfellow’s poem, "The Legend Beautiful,"* tell us about service?
8. Why is *prayer* not enough for our spiritual growth?

9. How can we show our *faith* and why does our *attitude* matter?
10. How can we help other have a “*better view of life*”?
11. Why is service better than *giving money*?
12. How does Man-son in the play, *Servant in the House*, describe the *love and service* that goes into building a Temple?

### **Thought & Research Questions:**

1. How can we maximize the *intensity* of our prayerful concentration to generate the healing panacea?
2. How confident can we be in "*All service is the same with God.*"?
3. How should a soft and tender heart be expressed?
4. Why do we need love to have a connection with the universe?
5. How can we connect to Plato's view of service?
6. How do we determine whether we genuinely have the Christly attribute?
7. What are the little things in life we need to be faithful to?
8. How do we make are whole life become a prayer?
9. How can we do everything for the glory of God?

### **Words for Meditation**

*“One coal will not make a fire, but where a number of coals are heaped together, the heat, which is latent in each, may be kindled into a flame.”*  
*"All service is the same with God."*

*Service as love in action, love "made flesh" ... service is the body, the incarnation of love.*

*God is Love, [and]when activity is permeated with God, it is action from the Ego, which is the Higher Self.*

*Service is not service unless it is permeated with love*

*Love ... is not an emotion. It is a commitment.*

*Venus, the planet of personal love, is exalted in the sign of sacrifice, Pisces, the fishes, a symbol of Christianity opposite from and on the same pole with Virgo, the sign of the Virgin.*

*There is no end to service because it is a way of life. It is a way of being in life, a way of living. It is unceasing diligence and resolution—and it requires a soft and a tender heart.*

*Do thy duty, that is best; Leave unto the Lord the rest.*

*To obtain results we must live in such a manner that our whole life becomes a prayer. It is not the words we speak, but the life we live that counts.*

*Whoever tries to cultivate this rare quality of spirituality must always begin by doing everything to the glory of God*

*The pouring out or anointing symbolizes an operation of the Holy Spirit. And this precious ointment comes at a high cost, at least in the view of the lower self.*

*The service which we perform and the earnest diligence by which we practice the Teachings and become living examples to the world of that brotherly love which Christ spoke of as the fulfillment of all commandments.*

*When faith flowers into work, we reach the highest ideal of expression and reveal a beauty of soul never discernible in those who soar in cloud- land*

*Sometimes in the silence of the night time one may hear the tiny hammerings of the comrades at work in the dome—the comrades that have gone aloft.*

# Hymn to Humility

By William Hayley

*Of all the Christian virtues chief  
With modest charms, and mild relief,  
Most apt to heal the wounds of pride, and spleen,  
To thee, humility; I bend;  
O let me feel, thou art my friend!  
Rule thou my bosom, as its gentle queen!*

*'Tis thine benignly to repress  
All proud conceit, all vain excess;  
To give the chasten'd mind its proper tone;  
To make it keep in sight  
The worth of others with delight,  
And never look too fondly on its own.*

*Teach me, with active zeal, to wake  
At nature's sigh, for pity's sake,  
When pride in dreams of apathy will nod!  
Still guided by thy Christian breath,  
Keep me, thro' scenes of life, and death,  
To mortals kind, and dutiful to God.*

- William Hayley

## Lesson #8: The Spiritual Significance of the New Moon

*And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord.*  
(Isaiah 66:23 KJV)

***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine, July/Aug 2004***

[https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays\\_archives/2004/Jul\\_Aug%202004%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf](https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays_archives/2004/Jul_Aug%202004%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf)

**Read:** *The Message of the Stars* by Max Heindel, p. 217-220

[https://rosicrucian.com/pdf\\_plaza/Message%20of%20the%20Stars.pdf](https://rosicrucian.com/pdf_plaza/Message%20of%20the%20Stars.pdf)

***The Spiritual Significance of the New Moon, by Corinne Heline***

Read the article in the *Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine* on p. 43-45.

1. Why were early *Christian ceremonies* held on the nights of the New and Full Moon and then later warned against doing so?
2. What does the New Moon *signify* to the aspirant in the Mystery Temple and what is *asked* of students after each New Moon Festival?
3. Describe the process of using the *Cross* and the *Four Elements* in the early baptismal service?
  - a. Cross
  - b. Salt
  - c. Oil
  - d. Water
  - e. Fire (Light)



4. Describe how Pietro Perugino's painting of the *Baptism of Christ* (p. 44) speak to the New Moon's time of *beginning, consecration, and dedication* to the most exalted ideals to which one aspires?
5. Explain the Rosicrucian mantram: "*Loving, self-forgetting service is the shortest, the safest, and the most joyful road to God.*"
6. How do the *angels* use the forces of the Moon?
7. What are the Moon's *effects* on the earth?
8. How does the Moon *measure* periods of our lives?
9. What is the *function* of the Moon?
10. How is the Moon a "*time-marker*" of the universe?

**Thought & Research Questions:**

1. How do we think with the heart and love with the mind?
2. What evidence is there that John was the most advanced disciple of Christ?
3. How does man obtain purity within his consciousness?
4. What is the faith of a little child and a mustard seed?
5. What does "God is Light" mean?
6. Why are baptism and Holy Communion the two most important ceremonials?
7. What is the power of the New and Full Moon and how should the lunar calendar be used to help us spiritually?

## **Words for Meditation**

*The spiritual high points of each month [are] on the nights of the New and Full Moon [when] there is an added release of spiritual energies both upon and within the entire Earth planet.*

*True Moon Mysteries celebrated within the innermost sanctuaries of the Temple, which have always been a type of the highest and most sacred heavenly order.*

*The New Moon is a time of new beginnings. It is a time of consecration and dedication to the most exalted ideals to which he aspires.*

*At the end of each lunar month, ... carefully survey in retrospect all the works of the month just ending, and notes wherein [you have] failed to live true to those ideals and try to discover the reason for those failures.*

*The only real failure any one can ever know is ceasing to try, and so the disciple of the Mystery Temple has the opportunity to review his failures.*

*“Loving, self-forgetting service is the shortest, the safest, and the most joyful road to God.”*

*The Cross is a liturgical act of spiritual “magic” which seals man’s unity with the cosmos.*

*The crux of the Temple teaching has always been the unification of the forces of mind and heart.*

*We must learn to think with the heart as well as to love with the mind. When these two forces are established in equilibrium within the human being, he is “born” as an Initiate.*

*“If we walk in the Light as He is in the Light, we shall have fellowship one with another.”*

*“When purity is attained within the consciousness of man, it is known as great spiritual power. Of the servant of God it is said that his strength is as the strength of ten, whose heart is pure.”*

*“May the aspiration of your thought lift you always into harmonious attainment with the ideal of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man.”*

*“May the beautiful faith of a little child live always and blossom within your heart.”*

*“If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, all that ye ask shall be done unto you.”*

*“God is Light,” and “God is Love.”*

*“May this celestial Love-Light always shine in your heart and illumine your life and the life of all whom you meet.”*

*“May that mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”*

*“May you walk always in the Light as He is in the Light, and may you always live and move and have your being in Him.”*



***Christ on the Mount of Olives - Philippe de Champaigne***

## Lesson #9: Human Evolution and the Seven Planetary Rays

*And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew. (Genesis 4:25 KJV)*

***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine, July/Aug 2004***

[https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays\\_archives/2004/Jul\\_Aug%202004%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf](https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays_archives/2004/Jul_Aug%202004%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf)

**Read: *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*** by Max Heindel, p. 437-441  
[https://rosicrucian.com/pdf\\_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf](https://rosicrucian.com/pdf_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf)

***Human Evolution and the Seven Planetary Rays*, by Max Heindel**

Read the article in the *Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine* on p. 29-30.

1. Describes the *Sons of Seth*.
2. Describe the *Sons of Cain*.
3. In terms of the *horoscope*, how do we evolve?
4. How does our *Spirit* learn all things in order to become perfect and what factors influence this beyond the horoscope?
5. What ensures that you will join the right Mystery School?
6. Why is our *Christ-within* different for everyone?
7. What are the four different rays and what as each one governed by?
8. When is each ray revealed to us?
9. How can we explain a person's Father *Star* and their *individual Ray* in terms of colors and what determine the color of a Mystery School?

10. How do the *Elder Brothers* explain the relationship between the individual ray and the horoscope?

**Thought & Research Questions:**

1. What is the *Masonic Legend*?
2. What is *Freemasonry*?
3. Why are there *two steams* of humanity and how are they represented?
4. What *lessons* have we learned so that the locks on the path of evolution have become more complicated?
5. What are influences of each *planet and ruler* in a horoscope?
6. How do we *protect our aura* as we grow in life?
7. Why are occult schools such as The Rosicrucian Fellowship only *preparatory schools* for their respective occult orders?

**Words for Meditation**

*Our emotions are as unstable as water, which is governed in its periodical ebb and flow by the Moon.*

*All along the path of evolution, there are ... gates which lead to the path of initiation and which may be unlocked by anyone who has the proper key.*

*When a man or woman is ready to enter the gate or path which leads up to the Mystery School, he or she will feel the right spiritual attraction through the basic color vibration of the aura ... which is sure to guide him to the right place, where he will not be refused.*

*He shall come again under the sign Libra, the scales, which is opposite Aries, to judge all of the world.*

*We must learn to worship the Christ within, and this Christ is not the same for each one of us.*

*The individual ray is retained by the Spirit throughout its whole series of lives, and perfectly independent of the horoscopical rays which change according to its birth, environment, and the lessons to be learned in each life.*



**Cain Kills Abel – Bartolomeo Manfredi**

## Lesson #10: Shakespeare – Lay Bible

### Psalm 46 (Shakespeare: 4 vowels, 6 consonants)

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains **SHAKE** (46<sup>th</sup> word from beginning) with the swelling thereof. Selah. There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early. The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah. Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolations he hath made in the earth. He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the **SPEAR** (46<sup>th</sup> word from end excluding selah) in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire. Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.*

***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine, May/June 2004***

[https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays\\_archives/2003/May\\_Jun%202003%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf](https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays_archives/2003/May_Jun%202003%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf)

**Read: *Shakespeare's Sonnets* (#1, 2, 5, 17, 54, 130, 144, 153)**

[https://ia801907.us.archive.org/12/items/Shakespearesson01shak\\_201303/shakespearesson01shak.pdf](https://ia801907.us.archive.org/12/items/Shakespearesson01shak_201303/shakespearesson01shak.pdf)

***Shakespeare – Lay Bible*** by Rosicrucian Fellowship Staff Members

Read the article in the ***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine*** on p. 26-28.

1. What are the justifications for Shakespeare works as a *Lay Bible*?
2. Why do the Bible and Shakespeare *live on* even as time changes?
3. What do Shakespeare's plays deal with?

4. Give specific examples for Shakespeare in terms of dealing with the *occult, spiritual principles, and hermetic doctrines*.
5. Compare and contrast *sacred and secular literature* and why do some people feel that the distinction is arbitrary?
6. What is *Swedenborg* opinion on sacred and secular literature?
7. Describe the *two division of non-sacred literature*?
8. Why is Shakespeare's work referred to as a *Lay Bible*?
9. What is the role of the *Elder Brothers* in providing truth to the world?
10. Why is Shakespeare's writing for *esoteric* as well as *exoteric* reading?
11. Why is Shakespeare called the *Rosicrucian Mask*?
12. What happens when people read the works of Shakespeare?

**Thought & Research Question:**

1. Why can it be said that Shakespeare's plays constitute mankind's greatest study of man?
2. What supernatural elements does Shakespeare use in his writings, and why?
3. What hermetic elements are present in Shakespeare's Sonnets?
4. What human elements do some believe have crept into sacred scriptures and what sacred truths have been given superlative expression in secular literature?
5. What are other sources of sacred literature we should consider beyond the Scriptures?



6. What does the author mean when he says that the second division of secular literature is “rooted in the Mysteries and contains within its outer form a veiled body of clearly organized arcane wisdom”?
7. What is a “divine gnosis”?
8. Who are *illuminati* and what is their role?
9. How can a work of literature be both, esoteric as well as exoteric?
10. Describe the Rosicrucian connections in *Love's Labour Lost*.
11. Do you agree that Shakespeare's plays are “humanity's lay bible”. Explain?

### **Words for Meditation**

*"Shakespeare is the greatest creator of living beings. He created an entire humanity."*

*The Sonnets translate the Hermetic doctrines into poetry.*

*We have works like the dramas of Shakespeare by virtue of their double structure, enshrine a compendium of initiate wisdom comparable only to that which informs sacred scriptures*

*[There is a] company of exalted Beings we call our Elder Brothers, who release into the world, from time to time, through suitable and qualified human instrumentalities, revelations most needed for [our] development.*

*Shakespeare [is] a link in a chain of inspired mediators through whom the race of men has come into possession of an ever-increasing knowledge of the divine Mysteries.*

*The works of Shakespeare, are designed for esoteric as well as exoteric reading. They are direct communications from planetary centers of divine wisdom.*

# **The Secret of Prayer**

By Ella Wheeler Wilcox

*This is the secret of all prayers  
That in God's sight have worth,  
They must be uttered from the stairs  
That wind away from earth;  
And he who mounts to speak the word,  
He shall be heard. He shall be heard.*

*And he who will not leave himself,  
But stays down with his cares,  
Or with his thoughts of pride and pelf,  
Though loud and long his prayers,  
Beyond earth's dome of arching skies  
They shall not rise. They shall not rise.*

*Oh, ye who seek for strength and power  
Seek first some quiet spot,  
And fashion through a silent hour  
Your stairway, thought by thought;  
Then climb, and pray to God on high:  
He shall reply. He shall reply.*

- **Ella Wheeler Wilcox**

## Lesson #11: Shakespeare a Rosicrucian?

*“The philosophic ideals promulgated throughout the Shakespearian plays distinctly demonstrate their author to have been thoroughly familiar with certain doctrines and tenets peculiar to Rosicrucianism; in fact the profundity of the Shakespearian productions stamps their creator as one of the illuminati of the ages. ... who but a Platonist, a Qabbalist, or a Pythagorean could have written The Tempest, Macbeth, Hamlet, or The Tragedy of Cymbeline? Who but one deeply versed in Paracelsian lore could have conceived, A Midsummer Night's Dream?” – Bacon, Shakespeare, and the Rosicrucians*

***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine, May/June 2004***

[https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays\\_archives/2003/May\\_Jun%202003%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf](https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays_archives/2003/May_Jun%202003%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf)

**Read: *Shakespeare's Play: Love's Labour's Lost.***

<https://ia600906.us.archive.org/19/items/completeworksofw00shakrich/completeworksofw00shakrich.pdf>

**Shakespeare a Rosicrucian?** by Ben Finger, Jr.

Read the article in the ***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine*** on p. 28-30.

1. What is the “*Baconian controversy*” and why does the author believe the Baconian Theory to be “*unfortunate*”?
2. What is the strongest evidence that is used to support the “*Baconian controversy*”?
3. How does the author *challenge* the Baconians on their evidence?
4. Why is it believed that Shakespeare put *nonsensible words* into the mouths of the jesters and clowns in his plays?
5. Why might Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost* be considered his *weakest* and “*dullest*” works by many critics at the time?

6. What is a “*cryptogram*” and what were the different ways they were being modified in their use at the time of Shakespeare?
7. How is the symbolism of the “*Initiation of the Lamb*” also being modified in Shakespeare’s plays?
8. Describe the “*allusion to the Venus Initiation*” in Shakespeare’s works, the seven words it contains, and the final word it represents?
9. What is the significance of the seven words in which, “*Three of the seven words end on “I”, four on “S”*”?
10. What is the significance of the *number of letters* in the seven words?

**Thought & Research Questions:**

1. Who was *Francis Bacon* and why was he important?
2. Explain the significance of the word “*honorificabilitudinitatibus*.”
3. Explain the use of *passwords* in Mystery Schools.
4. How do two letters symbolize initiation and constitute the Caduceus, or staff of the Initiate?
5. How are the *signs of the zodiac* connected to the symbolism to initiation?
6. How does Shakespeare include many levels of understanding in his works?
7. Explain what it means to be “twice initiated” and why it is needed?
8. How have numbers been used to indicate the different stages of evolution?

**Words for Mediation: NA**

# Between the Gates

By John Greenleaf Whittier

*Between the gates of birth and death  
An old and saintly pilgrim passed,  
With look of one who witnesseth  
The long-sought goal at last.*

*O thou whose reverent feet have found  
The Master's footprints in thy way,  
And walked thereon as holy ground,  
A boon of thee I pray.*

*"My lack would borrow thy excess,  
My feeble faith the strength of thine;  
I need thy soul's white saintliness  
To hide the stains of mine.*

*"The grace and favor else denied  
May well be granted for thy sake."  
So, tempted, doubting, sorely tried,  
A younger pilgrim spake.*

*"Thy prayer, my son, transcends my gift;  
No power is mine," the sage replied,  
"The burden of a soul to lift  
Or stain of sin to hide.*

*"Howe'er the outward life may seem,  
For pardoning grace we all must pray;  
No man his brother can redeem  
Or a soul's ransom pay.*

*"Not always age is growth of good;  
Its years have losses with their gain;  
Against some evil youth withstood  
Weak hands may strive in vain.*

*"With deeper voice than any speech  
Of mortal lips from man to man,  
What earth's unwisdom may not teach  
The Spirit only can.*

*"Make thou that holy guide thine own,  
And following where it leads the way,  
The known shall lapse in the unknown  
As twilight into day.*

*"The best of earth shall still remain,  
And heaven's eternal years shall prove  
That life and death, and joy and pain,  
Are ministers of Love."*

- John Greenleaf Whittier

## Lesson #12: On Prayer

*But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. (Matthew 6:6 KJV)*

***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine, May/June 2004***

[https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays\\_archives/2003/May\\_Jun%202003%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf](https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays_archives/2003/May_Jun%202003%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf)

**Read: *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*** by Max Heindel, p. 462-463  
[https://rosicrucian.com/pdf\\_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf](https://rosicrucian.com/pdf_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf)

**On Prayer** by Max Heindel

Read the article in the *Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine* on p. 33-34.

1. Why is a *habit-forming tendency* of the Vital Body considered both good and bad in terms of prayer by the author?
2. What is the *optimum position* for solitary and group prayer, why?
3. What should be one of our *most used prayers* and why?
4. What must be *aware* of in our prayers and why?
5. Why should we focus our prayers on *praise and adoration*?
6. What is the “*Final Climax*” in prayer and what is experienced in this state?
7. What does “*Prayer clears the path to the Water of Life*” mean?
8. How does Max Heindel describe the *Lord’s Prayer*?
9. What part of the Lord’s Prayer addresses the *Vital Body*, why?
10. How can we ensure the *victory of our Vital Body* over our Desire Body?

## **Early Christian Prayer**

*Lord, thou hast given us thy Word for a light to shine upon our path;  
grant us so to meditate on that Word, and to follow its teaching,  
that we may find in it the light that shines more and more until the perfect day;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Jerome, c 342 - 420)*

## **Thought & Research Questions:**

1. What is the function of our Vital Body?
2. Why must all spiritual development begin with the Vital Body?
3. Describe the “wings and power” needed to swiftly and surely to lift us up to the Father?
4. How do we create a *sanctuary* for ourselves?
5. Are *invocations* the same as prayers, explain?
6. What are the *spiritual gifts* and how do we acquire them?
7. Describe a prayer of adoration and how does it differ from a prayer of praise?
8. What does it mean to “cultivate the power of invocation along the scientific lines”?

## **Words for Meditation**

*The aspirant should carefully examine himself from time to time to see if he still has wings and power wherewith swiftly and surely to lift himself to his Father in Heaven.*

*"As the hind panteth for the water brook, so thirsteth my soul after Thee,"*

*"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."*

*Happy are we if we right the defect in our characters and learn the lesson of unfaltering faithfulness from the magnetic needle, which points to the pole without wavering, despite rain or storm clouds that hide its beloved star.*

*When we offer thanksgiving and praise we put ourselves in a favorable position to the law of attraction, a receptive state where we may receive a new down-pouring of the Spirit of Love and Light, and which thus brings us nearer to our adored ideal.*

*Nor is it necessary that the audible or inaudible invocation should continue during the whole time of prayer.*

*In the final climax when the soul rests in God, all desires satisfied by that feeling of at-one-ment expressed in the words of Christ, "My Father and I are One."*

*The love of God which passeth all understanding is a panacea for all.*

## **Morning Prayer**

By Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Let me to-day do something that shall take  
A little sadness from the world's vast store,  
And may I be so favoured as to make  
Of joy's too scanty sum a little more  
Let me not hurt, by any selfish deed  
Or thoughtless word, the heart of foe or friend;  
Nor would I pass, unseeing, worthy need,  
Or sin by silence when I should defend.  
However meagre be my worldly wealth,  
Let me give something that shall aid my kind -  
A word of courage, or a thought of health,  
Dropped as I pass for troubled hearts to find.  
Let me to-night look back across the span  
"Twixt dawn and dark, and to my conscience say -  
Because of some good act to beast or man -  
"The world is better that I lived to-day."



## Lesson #13: Samuel and the Power of Intuition

*Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? (1 Kings 3:9 KJV)*

***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine, May/June 2004***

[https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays\\_archives/2003/May\\_Jun%202003%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf](https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays_archives/2003/May_Jun%202003%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf)

**Read: *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*** by Max Heindel, p. 6, 18, 92, 99, 314-315, 398

[https://rosicrucian.com/pdf\\_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf](https://rosicrucian.com/pdf_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf)

***Samuel and the Power of Intuition*** by Max Heindel

Read the article in the ***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine*** on p. 37-38.

1. What are the different ways to describe *intuition*?
2. How did *Moses* help in the evolution of man's spirituality?
3. What was Samuels' *power* as a prophet?
4. How did Samuel's *mother* shape his future as prophet?
5. Why does Paul say what he says in *1 Corinthians 3:16* and how does this relate to Samuel's mother?
6. What did *Eli* the priest symbolize and how was he part of Samuel's prophecy?
7. What was Samuel's opinion on Israel wanting a *King* and what happened?
8. Why did the prophecy of Samuel come true for *Saul*?
9. How is the *reasoning mind* compared to a *mirror*?
10. What is a "*group temple*" and what will it cause to occur?

### **Thought & Research Questions:**

1. What does the quote “*Mind asks why; intuition knows. Mind sees Form; intuition sees Reality*” mean?
2. What are the *patterns and truths* that apply to every man?
3. How was man’s mind prepared so that it could be for *spiritualized* and how was it changed in the process?
4. How does Samuel represent our *intuitive powers* and how does his mother support his development?
5. How do we train to *active* our intuition?
6. What is the “*good and right way*” that Samuel taught the people and why is it effective?
7. What is the process of *anointing* and what does it symbolize?
8. How can each person *add strength* to a temple?
9. How do we *recognize wisdom* and discern correctly its *counselling*?

### **Words for Mediation**

*Mind asks why; intuition knows. Mind sees Form; intuition sees Reality.*

*The new intuitive power which is capable of bringing wisdom from the world of Spirit without the use of the reasoning mind.*

*The call of the “still small voice” within.*

*Every man is destined to become his own priest, prophet, and king—a “law unto himself”*

*Anointing is an outer symbol for the quickening of spiritual centers related to intuition.*

*Every man is a temple of the living God, the Divine Self. Humanity is a group temple and every member of the human family adds strength to this inner structure as group development progresses.*

*The reasoning mind can be compared to a mirror which can be turned on the activities of the personality or used as a focus for transmitting wisdom from Spirit.*

*Humanity will build a group temple—a temple “not made with hands and eternal in the heavens”*

*The Earth will become a shining star, contributing its share of light to the solar family. This will be the “new heaven and the new earth,”*

**\* \* \***

*And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ. (Philippians 1:9-10 KJV)*

*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6 KJV)*

*And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left. (Isaiah 30:21 KJV)*

## Lesson #14: Observation as a Factor in Health

*Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye. – (Matthew 7:1-5 KJV)*

***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine, May/June 2004***

[https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays\\_archives/2003/May\\_Jun%202003%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf](https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays_archives/2003/May_Jun%202003%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf)

**Read: *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*** by Max Heindel, p. 131-132, 492-493  
[https://rosicrucian.com/pdf\\_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf](https://rosicrucian.com/pdf_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf)

### ***Observation as a Factor in Health***

Read the article in the ***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine*** on p. 58.

1. Why do we have to habit of careful and accurate observation for our health?
2. How is our subconscious memory formed?
3. What happens when we don't accurately observe our environment?
4. What happens to our bodies when we sleep?
5. Why do our bodies become unfit and how we can counteract it?
6. Why should the aspirant observe everything in his environment?
7. What is the only thing observation should be used for, why?
8. What is the meaning of the parable of the *mote and the beam* (Matthew 7:1–5 KJV)?

9. What is the difference between observation and discrimination?

10. Why should the occult student learn by observation?

**Thought & Research Questions:**

1. Describe how *careful and accurate observations* are made of physical objects.

2. How does the process of observation relate to our ability to be *honest in understanding our motives and in fairly expressing them in our relationships*?

3. Describe how we can draw out our two higher vehicles while we are *awake*?

4. Why can our physical bodies *last forever* and what happens when we *die*?

5. Describe the symbolism of the *Rosicrucian Emblem* and how it is used in the healing service.

**Words for Meditation**

*The welfare of the physical body is definitely affected by the degree to which the pictures of the conscious mind coincide with the records of the subconscious mind.*

*The rhythm and harmony of the dense body is disturbed in proportion to the inaccuracy of our observation during the day.*

*As the harmonies of the Desire World pervade the desire body, wisdom and truth replace error.*

*In proportion as we learn to observe accurately, we shall gain in health and longevity, and we shall need less rest and sleep.*

# **A Prayer for Balm**

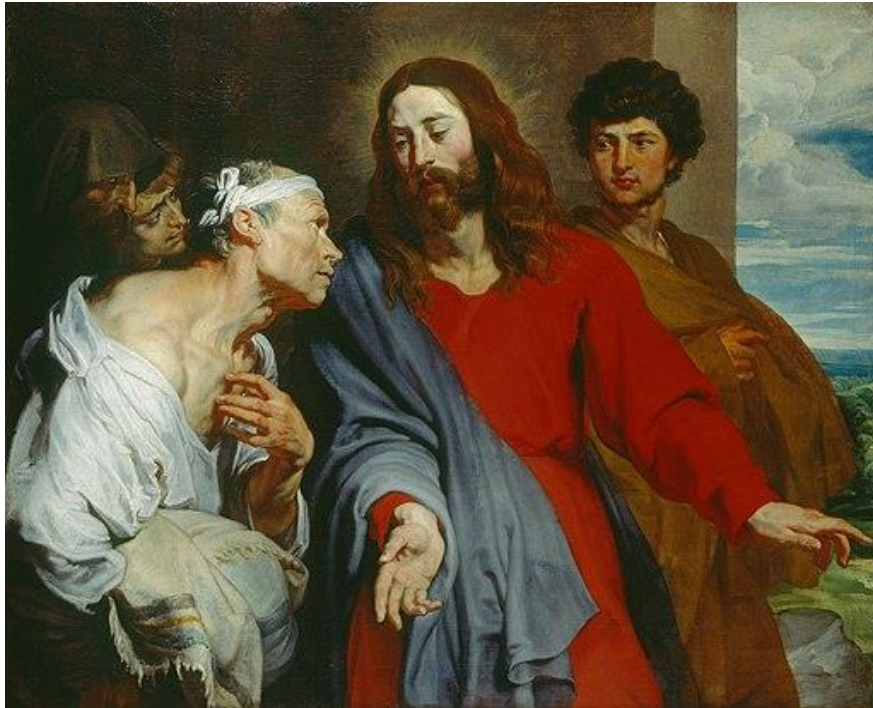
By Paul Laurence Dunbar

*O Lord, the hard-won miles  
Have worn my stumbling feet:  
Oh, soothe me with thy smiles,  
And make my life complete.*

*The thorns were thick and keen  
Where'er I trembling trod;  
The way was long between  
My wounded feet and God.*

*Where healing waters flow  
Do thou my footsteps lead.  
My heart is aching so;  
Thy gracious balm I need.*

**- Paul Laurence Dunbar**



***Christ Healing the Paralytic - Anthony van Dyck***

## Lesson #15: The Transmutation

*And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat. And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, and stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner. And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on. There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged. And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also? And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace. – (Luke 7:36-50 KJV)*

***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine, March/Apr 2004***

[https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays\\_archives/2003/Mar\\_Apr%2003%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf](https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays_archives/2003/Mar_Apr%2003%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf)

**Read: *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*** by Max Heindel, *Rosicrucian Symbolism*, p. 3-4

[https://rosicrucian.com/pdf\\_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf](https://rosicrucian.com/pdf_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf)

***The Transmutation*** by Reginald Oakley

Read the article in the ***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine*** on p. 8-11.

1. What happens in *transmutation* and how does this relate to *spring* time?
2. What happens to Christ at *Easter* time and how can we do the same?
3. Describe the *three branches* of the Wisdom of the *Magi*?
4. What happened to the “women” in *Magdala*?
5. What occurred with the “women” in *Tabor* and why was she disappointed?
6. What occurred with the women in the *house of a Pharisee* that changed her?
7. How did Jesus’ words, “*Thy sins are forgiven. Thy faith hath saved thee. Go in peace,*” change her life?
8. How did Mary of Magdala’s transmutation allow her to *serve* Jesus at the end of His life?
9. Describe all the symbolism of the *Emblem of the Western Mystery School of the Rosicrucians*.
10. What is the meaning of the poem line, “*A red rose turned to white*”?

**Thought & Research Questions:**

1. What is the spiritual significance of *Easter, the Moon, and the vernal equinox*?
2. How can we change our *vibrations* so we can go to the Father?
3. How was *Mary Magdalene* able to transmute herself and was her path more difficult than that of the apostles?



4. What do the *Zoroasters* believe and where does it differ from Christianity?
5. What does it mean to have the “*wisdom of the Serpent*”?
6. Why did the disciples fail to cast out the demons in Tabor and how prepared are you to cast out demons?
7. How did Mary find peace and what will you take from this in terms of your own life?
8. Why did Mary have greater courage than even the apostles and how have we shown courage in our own faith?
9. Why was Mary so willing to be a *martyr*, how can we be martyr within our own lives?
10. How does the drawing on p.11 capture the words, ““*Thy sins are forgiven. Thy faith hath saved thee. Go in peace*”?

### **Words for Mediation**

*Easter ... is the season when Nature proves conclusively that “there is no death,”*

*As the light appears to come forth from the darkness, so life emerges from the apparent dead.*

*The ascension of the life force manifests as creation: thus we see myriads of new forms coming into existence at the season of spring.*

*We may come in touch with the Father through the Son by changing our vibrations, transmuting our life force, responding to the Divine call, placing ourselves in harmony with that wonderful tone*

*The power of love that irresistibly draws the child to the Father, the part to the whole, the spark to the flame.*

*The present is the outcome of the past, therefore, greater things can be done now than were previously accomplished.*

*Flooding the mentality with the radiance of the heart's love, the great transmuter, becomes our goal.*

*"If ye have faith, nothing is impossible."*

*"Thy sins are forgiven. Thy faith hath saved thee. Go in peace,"*

*From a child of darkness she had become a child of light; the serpent had become the angel; the follower of Lucifer had become the disciple of Christ.*

*"For Thee, dear Christ!" (The words of Mary Magdalene on her way to be martyred)*

*A woman burned at the stake was seen, A child of love and light; Behold! Mary the Magdalene, A red rose turned to white.*



***The Conversion of Mary Magdalene - Paolo Veronese***

## Lesson #16: Magic— White and Black

*There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch. (Deuteronomy 18:10 KJV)*

***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine, March/Apr 2004***

[https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays\\_archives/2003/Mar\\_Apr%2003%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf](https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays_archives/2003/Mar_Apr%2003%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf)

**Read:** *Ephesians 6:10-18, Isaiah 59:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:8*

**Read:** *How the Rosicrucians Heal the Sick, Effluvia Transmitted in Weekly Report* by Max Heindel  
<https://www.rosicrucian.com/zineen/magen501.htm>

***Magic — White and Black*** by Max Heindel

Read the article in the *Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine* on p. 27-29.

1. What is known about the *laws of magic*?
2. Explain the scientific axiom “*out of nothing nothing comes*”.
3. How did Christ multiple the *bread and fishes*?
4. What is *Black* and *White* magic?
5. What are *archetektons* and what do they require?
6. How can a Black Magician get the *requisite nucleus*?
7. What do the *Elder Brothers of the Rosicrucians* represent and what do they do at their midnight service?
8. How can we *protect* ourselves from the Black Brothers?

9. What does Paul mean when he states, “*the good that we would do, we do not, and the evil that we would shun, that we do*” and how does this relate to not attending events where Black Magic is practiced?

10. What is the “*whole armor of God*” that Paul speaks of?

**Thought & Research Questions:**

1. What is the spiritual significance of the drawing of *Faust in His Study, Watching a Magic Disk* on p. 27.

2. What are the *laws of magic*?

3. How did *Mary Eddy Baker* use the concept of “Malicious animal magnetism” and how does relate to Rosicrucian beliefs?

4. What is the *arche philosophy* and its relationship to chaos?

5. How was Christ able to perform the miracle of the loaves and fishes?

6. What is the role of the *Invisible Helpers* and how can one become one?

7. How do the Invisible Helpers provide *healings* for the sick?

8. What is the “Holy Grail” for the Rosicrucians?

9. What is the spiritual significance Stefan Lochner’s painting of *The Last Judgment* on p. 29.

10. How do the Black Brothers get access to our *nuclei*, how can we prevent this, and how can protect ourselves from *transmuted evil* and the *greater dynamic energy* the Black Brothers send out?

11. How does one create their *Golden Wedding Garment*?

## **Words for Mediation**

*Out of nothing nothing comes (ex nihil, nihil fit).*

*All things have come from arche, the infinite essence of chaos, used by God, the Grand Architect, for the building of our universe;*

*God is the Grand Architect of the Universe, and the Initiates of the White Schools are also archetektons, builders from the primordial essence in their beneficent work for humanity.*

*With the nucleus of a patient's vital body, we are able to draw upon virgin matter for whatever they need to restore health by building up and strengthening the organism.*

*The Elder Brothers of the Rosicrucians and kindred orders ... in their totality represent the Holy Grail,*

*Love and essence of the unselfish service is added to the luster of the Holy Grail, which in turn grows more lustrous and radiates a stronger influence upon all who are spiritually inclined, imbuing them with greater ardor, zeal, and zest in the good work*

*The Elder Brothers return to mankind the transmuted essence of evil as qualms of conscience along with the good in order that the world may grow better day by day.*

*When we live lives of purity, when our days are filled with service to God and to our fellowmen, and with thoughts and actions of the highest nobility, then we create for ourselves the Golden Wedding Garment, which is a radiant force for good.*

*Follow the advice of Paul and put on the whole armor of God. ... as "the good that we would do, we do not, and the evil that we would shun, that we do."*

# Who Shall Deliver Me

By Christina Rossetti

*God strengthen me to bear myself;  
That heaviest weight of all to bear,  
Inalienable weight of care.*

*All others are outside myself;  
I lock my door and bar them out,  
The turmoil, tedium, gad-about.*

*I lock my door upon myself,  
And bar them out; but who shall wall  
Self from myself, most loathed of all?*

*If I could once lay down myself,  
And start self-purged upon the race  
That all must run! Death runs apace.*

*If I could set aside myself,  
And start with lightened heart upon  
The road by all men overgone!*

*God harden me against myself,  
This coward with pathetic voice  
Who craves for ease and rest and joys:*

*Myself, arch-traitor to myself;  
My hollowest friend, my deadliest foe,  
My clog whatever road I go.*

*Yet One there is can curb myself,  
Can roll the strangling load from me.  
Break off the yoke and set me free.*

- Christina G. Rossetti

## Lesson #17: Justice and Judgment

*"I came not to judge the world but to save the world"* (John 12:47).

***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine, March/Apr 2004***

[https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays\\_archives/2003/Mar\\_Apr%202003%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf](https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays_archives/2003/Mar_Apr%202003%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf)

**Read: *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*** by Max Heindel, p. 84, 493-494  
[https://rosicrucian.com/pdf\\_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf](https://rosicrucian.com/pdf_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf)

***Justice and Judgment*** by Carl Weaver

Read the article in the ***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine*** on p. 15-16.

1. How should we improve our *faculty of judgement*?
2. What is the meaning of *Romans 14:13*?
3. Describe the *irony* of judgement?
4. If *none is without sin*, how does Christ tell us to live our lives?
5. What is the meaning of *projection* and its relation to the aura?
6. What is *spiritual seeing*?
7. What does it mean to live in *ignorance* and what was Christ's response?
8. Why are *all actions their own judgement*?
9. Why should we *not judge ourselves*?
10. How should we look to *raise our lower self*?

### Thought & Research Questions:

1. What is the difference between observation and discernment?

2. What does it mean when we say the “*science of Spirit describes it as seeing through the aura.*”?
3. What does it mean when we say the “*exoteric mind it is said, having eyes to see, they see not*”?
4. How do we “*let the negative be*” in our lives?
5. How are all sins and errors expressions of *ignorance*?
6. How can a *blameless* person take on the wrongs of others?
7. How do we learn to stop *criticizing* and judging ourselves and still acknowledge our wrongdoings?
8. Describe the evening exercise of *retrospection* and what it accomplishes.
9. How do we make our *lower vehicles* into clear vessels that they might fully reveal and magnify the Love, Light, and Life of the God within.
10. What are your thoughts on the poem, *Retrospect*, by A. Nolten on p. 16.

### **Words for Mediation**

*“Let us not therefore judge one another anymore: But judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother’s way” (Rom, 14:13)*

*To bring judgment against an action by punishing or persecuting the actor strengthens the injustice and makes the prosecutors equally, if not more, guilty of violation and negativity.*

*Life is holy and whole. ... An “eye for eye” would reduce human life to nothing, for there is none without sin.*



*“He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone” (John 8: 7).*

*There is nothing unclean of itself, but if we deem it to be, so is it. (Rom. 14:14)*

*Let us first attend to the beam in our own eye before we fault the other for the mote in his eye.*

*When our auras are bright and clear, when we exist in and express love, optimism, and harmony, then we see “face to face.”*

*When we discern the good, the noble, and the true in others, these qualities will condition our own being. Their high vibratory nature discloses similar vibrations and creates immunity to the influences of dark elements in our environment.*

*The greater effort we make to see spiritually, the more we shall understand what we see and have no need for judgment, condemnation, and alienation.*

*The solution is to comprehend all content of consciousness but to let the negative be, honoring it with no energy of denial or requital, although always affirming and reinforcing the positive content of awareness.*

*All sin and error are the expressions of ignorance.*

*The man who dies daily is more demanding of his conduct, speech, and interior life than is his harshest critic. He answers not to the judgment of men, but to that of God.*

*Much of what passes for pious self-criticism is a subtle form of self-love ... so that Self-judgment then becomes, in effect, self-justification.*

*Let our own persons be the sole objects of our judging, and that with a mind to self-improvement*

*Our moral eyes are focused on the mortal man, the lower self, in order to raise it, transmute it, and align it with our higher natures.*

*Our constructive self-analysis should be directed to reflecting and expressing our innate divinity in our lower vehicles, making of them clear vessels that they might fully reveal and magnify the Love, Light, and Life of the God within.*

*“I came not to judge the world but to save the world” (John 12:47).*

### **RETROSPECT**

*If words be crystal goblets,  
What have I served in mine?  
The milk of human kindness,  
Or gossip's giddy wine?*

*The bitter brew of satire,  
An acid sip of wit,  
Or did I seek with honey  
To flatter, just a bit?*

*And what of those left empty?  
With rash, unlovely sound  
They struck a golden moment  
And dashed it to the ground.*

**—A. Nolten**

## Lesson #18: The Highest Human Privilege

*Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

(Ephesians 4:31-32 KJV)

***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine, March/Apr 2004***

[https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays\\_archives/2003/Mar\\_Apr%2003%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf](https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays_archives/2003/Mar_Apr%2003%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf)

**Read: *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*** by Max Heindel, p. 86, 236, 269, 284, 364, 425, 439-440, 477

[https://rosicrucian.com/pdf\\_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf](https://rosicrucian.com/pdf_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf)

***The Highest Human Privilege*** by Perl Amelia Williams

Read the article in the ***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine*** on p. 12-14.

1. What does the following mean to you, “*The use of words to express thought is the highest human privilege and can be exercised only by a reasoning, thinking entity like man.*”
2. What does apostle James mean when he says: “*Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.*” (**James 3:9**)
3. How does *Iago* in Shakespeare’s tragic drama *Othello* misuse the spoken word? – give an example.
4. What does Max Heindel teach us about *criticism* and *gossip*?
5. What do we learn about language from the *Lemurians* and the *Atlanteans*?
6. Why do we work to *spiritualized and perfect larynx*?
7. How do we reveal our true *spiritual status* to the Higher One?

8. What happens to our *speech* in the Jupiter period?
9. How can you discipline yourself in terms of your speech?
10. How does the “*vigilant aspirant*” express himself in speech?

**Thought & Research Questions:**

1. How can our speech act as a *two-edged sword*?
2. How are we using the power of speech in our own lives?
3. What does Percy Bysshe Shelley, mean when she wrote, “*We know not what we do when we speak words.*”?
4. What are the *rules and principles* that an aspirant should use to guide their speech so that it is used constructively?
5. How can we shift from *destructive* criticism to *constructive* criticism in our lives and dealings with others?
6. How can our words have power over the things we name?
7. How do we use our words to *create*?
8. How and why were the *brain and larynx* built in our bodies?
9. How can our speech assists as in our process as “*gods-in-the-making*”?
10. Why is *silence* important to our spiritual lives?
11. What is the “*Spoken Word of Power*”?

## Words for Mediation

*“The use of words to express thought is the highest human privilege and can be exercised only by a reasoning, thinking entity like man.”*

*“Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.”*

*“Speech is power: speech is to persuade, to convert, to compel.”*

*“We know not what we do when we speak words.”*

*“Constructive criticism, which points out defects and the means of remedying them, is the basis of progress, but destructive criticism, which vandalistically demolishes good and bad alike without aiming at any higher attainment, is an ulcer on the character and must be eradicated.”*

*Language is holy, as the highest direst expression of the Spirit.*

*We should work to regain the word of power and use it consciously and independently to create.*

*Man’s spiritualized and perfected larynx will again speak “the lost word,” the “Creative Fiat,”*

*Man’s speech is thus a microcosmic manifestation of the same power that is expressed by the Macrocosm, God, in creating a universe. It is an expression of the divine Creative Power of God inherent in every human being.*

*We should choose our words carefully, and strive to speak only with altruistic purpose so that our words may be imbued with the power of the Christ—the Love- Wisdom power of God.*

*Speech dissipates energy, he disciplines himself to maintain moderation of speech, thereby conserving his energy. He particularly disciplines himself to be silent in the presence of harrowing circumstances.*

*Waste no time in verbal complaints and sorrowful demonstrations, but sends forth his love energy from the heart to those about him, ever striving to speak and do only that which is helpful. By expressing faith, confidence, and appreciation to others, he encourages them on the Way, and above all, he is cheerful and happy as he willingly serves, ignoring the criticism of others in forgetfulness of self and confidence in the God within.*

### **In Silence**

*A guide has entered this life in silence.  
His message is only heard in silence.*

*Take a sip of his precious wine  
And lose yourself.  
Don't insult the greatness of his love,  
For he helps all those who suffer, in silence.*

*Polish the mirror between the breaths.  
Go with him, beyond words.  
He knows your every deed.  
He is the one  
who moves the wheel of heaven, in silence.*

*Every thought is buried in your heart;  
He will reveal them one by one, in silence.*

*Turn each of your thoughts into a bird  
And let them fly to the other world.  
One is an owl, one is a falcon, one is a crow.  
Each one is different from the others  
But they are all the same in silence.*

*To see the Moon that cannot be seen  
Turn your eyes inward  
and look at yourself, in silence.*

*In this world and the next,  
Don't talk about this and that;*

*Let him show you everything,  
shining as one . . . in silence.*

**- Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi**

## Lesson #19: A Study in Values—Jonah and Peter

*On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending upon him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven. Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate, And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there. While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them. (Acts 10:9-20 KJV)*

***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine, March/Apr 2004***

[https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays\\_archives/2003/Mar\\_Apr%2003%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf](https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays_archives/2003/Mar_Apr%2003%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf)

**Read: *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception* by Max Heindel, p. 38-48.**

[https://rosicrucian.com/pdf\\_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf](https://rosicrucian.com/pdf_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf)

***A Study in Values—Jonah and Peter* by Perl Gene Sande**

Read the article in the ***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine*** on p. 32-34.

1. How does life provide a way for man to learn his *true identity*?
2. How does the story of Jonah symbolic of the *guidance* that we receive in our lives?

3. Explain the symbolism of *water*.
4. What is the *Desire World* and the *soul*?
5. How did Jonah's *Inner Guidance* counsel him and how can it help everyone?
6. How do we learn the *values* that we need to be pleasing to God?
7. Explain "*Christ in Peter recognized Christ in Jesus*" and how the author developed this idea.
8. Explain why Peter's dream had the words, ""*What God hath cleansed, call thou not unclean*".
9. How are two stories, *Simon Bar-Jonah of the New Testament* was *Jonah of the Old Testament*, linked together?
10. How was Jonah's *unfinished business* was completed in the ministry of Simon Bar-Jonah?

**Thought & Research Questions:**

1. What is the *Divine Law of Balance* and why is it important in your spiritual life?
2. How has life provide ways for you to learn about yourself?
3. How is the *Desire World* essential in your spiritual growth?
4. What *divine assignments* have you seen others perform and what divine assignments have you been given acted upon and those you have ignored?
5. What is our "*Inner Guidance*" and how do we learn to hear it?



6. How will we know when we have *strayed from the path*?
7. If Peter was not a perfect man why did Jesus want to *build His church upon him*?
8. What is the spiritual significance of Christ asking Peter *three times* if he loved Him?
9. Why did the apostles not want to include the Gentiles in their work and who have you exclude in your life, why?
10. What other connections do you see from the Old and New Testament in terms of revealing spiritual laws?
11. What does the zodiac sign of Pisces represent and what unfinished business do you need to work on and/or complete in your now in your life?

### **Words for Meditation**

*The great fish that swallowed Jonah was prophetic of the Fish-Wisdom (of the Piscean Age) centuries ahead.*

*The soul is the storehouse of virtues developed during many incarnations, qualities such as honesty, thoughtfulness, kindness, patience, humility and love.*

*Divine assignments cannot be ignored*

*Straying, errant action, is itself part of the path.*

*Christ in Peter recognized Christ in Jesus.*

*“What God hath cleansed, call that not unclean.”*

*Spiritual law provides opportunities for guiding the pilgrim back to the direct path to leads to divine Being.*

*Pisces, is the twelfth in the zodiacal plan as it is related to the Laws of Cause and Effect, also known as Karma, the law that balances all “unfinished business” to make ready for a new beginning.*

*Past debts and misunderstandings are brought to attention to be balanced at a given time.*

*Jonah’s unfinished business was completed in the ministry of Simon Bar-Jonah.*



**Jonah and Whale (above) and Peter’s Vision of Animals in a Blanket**

# **Tis The Set Of The Sail**

By Ella Wheeler Wilcox

*But to every mind there openeth,  
A way, and way, and away,  
A high soul climbs the highway,  
And the low soul gropes the low,  
And in between on the misty flats,  
The rest drift to and fro.*

*But to every man there openeth,  
A high way and a low,  
And every mind decideth,  
The way his soul shall go.*

*One ship sails East,  
And another West,  
By the self-same winds that blow,  
'Tis the set of the sails  
And not the gales,  
That tells the way we go.*

*Like the winds of the sea  
Are the waves of time,  
As we journey along through life,  
'Tis the set of the soul,  
That determines the goal,  
And not the calm or the strife.*

**- Ella Wheeler Wilcox**

## Lesson #20: Androgynous Man

### *The First Material*

*I am the dragon because I drive  
The deadly poison from the body.  
The red lion always loves me,  
And the green gives me pleasure.  
By many I am recognized  
And called the egg of nature.  
I fly away unless  
One binds me with measure.  
I have many forms and colors,  
And carry within me manly and womanly powers.  
I recreate the human body  
And all metals.*

***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine, March/Apr 2004***

[https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays\\_archives/2003/Mar\\_Apr%2003%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf](https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays_archives/2003/Mar_Apr%2003%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf)

**Read: *Message of the Stars* by Max Heindel, p. 112-116.**

[https://rosicrucian.com/pdf\\_plaza/Message%20of%20the%20Stars.pdf](https://rosicrucian.com/pdf_plaza/Message%20of%20the%20Stars.pdf)

***Androgynous Man* by Corinne Heline**

Read the article in the ***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine*** on p. 49-50.

1. Describe the symbolic design of the *Androgynous Man* (make sure to include information from the drawing on p. 50).
2. What does the symbol represent and how is it achieved?
3. What does each part of the drawing of the Androgynous Man represent?
4. What is the “*twofold Spirit*”?
5. What does the *fiery serpent* represent in the drawing of the Androgynous Man?

6. What is the effect of the *five planetary aspects* on the divine Androgyne?
7. What is the *Mystic marriage* and how does it relate to the Androgynous Man?
8. How does the planet *Venus* relate to the Androgynous Man?
9. How does the planet *Mars* relate to the Androgynous Man?
10. How does the planet *Jupiter* relate to the Androgynous Man?
11. How does the planet *Saturn* relate to the Androgynous Man?
12. How does the *winged circle or sphere* relate to the Androgynous Man?
13. What does the Latin word *Rebus*, “the divine consummation of all things”, symbolize in terms of the Androgynous Man?
14. Explain the symbolism represented in Stolcius’ verse, *The First Material*, for the illustration of the Androgynous Man (p. 50).

**Thought & Research Questions:**

1. What are the *masculine and feminine forces* in the world around us?
2. What is the relationship between the *Sun and Moon* in astrology?
3. What are basic principles of *kabalistic science*?
4. Describe the Seventh Race and its importance in spiritual development.
5. How are all the phases of materiality and sexuality, and all other attributes of the mortal man, lifted up and transmuted into spirit?

6. What are the positive and negative aspects of the original five planets of our solar system?
7. What are the high *spiritual influences* emanating from the planetary intelligences?
8. Describe how man obtains the *Mystical Marriage*?
9. What does it mean when the article states, “*the supreme ideal of Saturn is the Christ Man*” and how does it realized?
10. What does the *Aquarian Age* symbolize for our spiritual development
11. Explain the *Divine Plan* for humankind.

## ***Words for Meditation***

*The Androgynous Man, a human figure which possesses two heads—one masculine, the other feminine. These represent the perfect balance or equilibrium between the masculine and feminine forces which are operative within the human organism. When this equilibrium has been attained, it will be possible for man to think with the heart and to love with the mind.*

*The spiritual Androgyne becomes such not in the way of mortal flesh but through the developed powers of the twofold Spirit, which has its seat in the brain.*

*The two heads of Androgyne signify the complete or full flowering of both hemispheres of the brain. Creation is through the Mind, Love, and the Word.*

*All phases of materiality and sexuality, and all other attributes of the mortal man, need to be lifted up and transmuted into spirit.*

*All planetary forces are good, regardless of their aspect to the earth, and when man has become the divine Androgyne he will experience only high spiritual influences emanating from the planetary intelligences, because he will have learned to attune himself to cosmic harmonies, and there is nothing in him which can respond negatively to squares and oppositions.*

*The perfect union of the masculine and feminine cosmic powers, or principles, constitutes, in biblical terms, the Mystic Marriage. When man achieves this Marriage, he will possess the true spiritual wisdom, which is the essence and keynote of the planet Mercury.*

*Love-as-a-power is the highest expression of Venus. In the Mystic Marriage, Love becomes the fulfilling of the Law.*

*No activity is possible anywhere in the universe without that dynamic energy which is focused, for our own solar system, in the planet Mars and represents pure blind force which must be used for constructive ends, under the direction of the wise Mercury.*

*Saturn represents Cosmic Law. The supreme ideal of Saturn is the Christ Man. Its biblical key word is "Let the Christ be formed in you."*

*Jupiter signifies the Fatherhood of God, the Great Benefactor, the giver of all good things in super-abundance. He betokens the brotherhood of man, one day to*



*pre- vail throughout the earth when men have come to know themselves as truly  
the Sons of God.*

*Glorious Destiny has lain hid in the Divine Plan for humankind since the  
beginning of time.*



**The Androgenous Man**



## Lesson #21: Grace

*And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink. (Acts 9:3-9 KJV)*

***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine, Jan/Feb 2004***

[https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays\\_archives/2004/Jan\\_Feb%2004%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf](https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays_archives/2004/Jan_Feb%2004%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf)

**Read: *Grace and Truth* (The Life of Joseph) by William McEwen, p. 43-48.**  
<https://ia802902.us.archive.org/35/items/gracetruthorglor00mcew/gracetruthorglor00mcew.pdf>

***Grace*** by Allyce C. Bothmann

Read the article in the ***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine*** on p. 20-22.

1. What does Paul mean when he says, “*it is not what we put into our body but what comes out of it that harms us.*”
2. How does *grace* come to us?
3. How did *Mary Magdalene* and *Paul of Tarsus* come to grace?
4. How were some of the great men of history *gracious*?
5. What does “*there is grace in gratitude*” mean?
6. What factors are often associated with being *blessed with grace*?

7. Why is it important that we *stick to our principles* while living our lives?

8. “What are the *lessons of grace* to be learned on a daily basis?”

9. How can *graciousness* solve problems?

10. How do the principles of Christ’s teachings yielded *happiness and grace* to our lives?

11. What teachings of grace are given in the Scriptures such as in the life of *Joseph (Genesis 37:1–36)*?

### **Thought & Research Questions:**

1. Explain the symbolism in William Blakes’s watercolor painting, *The Conversion of the Soul* p. 20.

2. Why does the author say that grace “*operates subtly*”?

3. In what ways has *grace or a lack of grace* affected our history as a nation and you as an individual person?

4. How do you *practice gratitude* in all things?

5. How have *unseen helpers* sent you grace?

6. “What are the *lessons of grace* to be learned on a daily basis” in your life?

7. What teachings of grace from the Scriptures resonate with you, why?

8. How have the “unseen Guardians” tested your integrity and patience?

9. When we have ever had our hand surely and quickly falls on what we need and then shown a beautiful way of living in time?

## Words for Mediation

*Grace operates subtly. It is not subject to power leverages or selfish implorings. It is seemingly an uncontingent favor. It comes unexpectedly. We can- not directly initiate it.*

*Grace comes in such a way that it can often lead to mercy and forgiveness, as in the case of Mary Magdalene.*

*Grace may come with the glory but seems more a factor in achievement if the achiever is himself gracious in bearing the notoriety and significance of his accomplishments.*

*There is grace in gratitude.*

*Grace is, in a sense, gratuitous, not at our beck and call, if we do not strive to be virtuous, just, and self-effacing, grace will far more likely be a stranger.*

*If we stick to our principles, unseen helpers send us grace. We can neither predict nor prescribe it, but it comes in ways that are as generous and unexpected as our learning experiences are trying of our patience and persistence*

*Grace finds a way around any negativity.*

*Graciousness can mollify many irritations, and if it does not solve a problem outright, we are ever afforded chances to discipline ourselves.*

*The principles of Christ's teachings yielded happiness and grace to life.*

*When we have actually passed some tests of our integrity and patience, there can be at times a state of grace when we come across something that would otherwise have been lost, or when a person speaks words that are cheering and complimentary; our hand surely and quickly falls on what we need and we are shown a beautiful way of living in time.*

# Prayer

By George Herbert

*Prayer the church's banquet, angel's age,  
God's breath in man returning to his birth,  
The soul in paraphrase, heart in pilgrimage,  
The Christian plummet sounding heav'n and earth  
Engine against th' Almighty, sinner's tow'r,  
Reversed thunder, Christ-side-piercing spear,  
The six-days world transposing in an hour,  
A kind of tune, which all things hear and fear;  
Softness, and peace, and joy, and love, and bliss,  
Exalted manna, gladness of the best,  
Heaven in ordinary, man well drest,  
The milky way, the bird of Paradise,  
Church-bells beyond the stars heard, the soul's blood,  
The land of spices; something understood.*

- **George Herbert**



*The Conversion of Paul* - Bartolomé Esteban Murillo

## Lesson #22: The Challenge of Life

*Unless a grain of wheat fall to the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it will bringeth forth much fruit (John 12:24 KJV)*

***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine, Jan/Feb 2004***

[https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays\\_archives/2004/Jan\\_Feb%202004%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf](https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays_archives/2004/Jan_Feb%202004%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf)

**Read: *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*** by Max Heindel, p. 5-7, 223-225.  
[https://rosicrucian.com/pdf\\_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf](https://rosicrucian.com/pdf_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf)

***The Challenge of Life*** by Edith Wilkinson

Read the article in the ***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine*** on p. 23-25.

1. How can you ensure yourself of a *successful incarnation*?
2. Why must we endure difficulties, sorrows, and suffering in our lives?
3. How are the *Spirit* and the *ego* connected?
4. Why should parents not *take the struggle out* of their child's life?
5. Why should we take great care in not *taking on the challenges of others*?
6. What should we *teach* our children about handling problems?
7. Describe how *adaptability* is key to our advancement.
8. How does adaptability also apply to *religions and philosophies*?
9. How is the *progress* of the occult student judged?
10. Why does the development and use of our *talents* represents another challenge for us?

11. What caution must we take in our thoughts and actions regarding *initiation* and *service*?

**Thought & Research Question:**

1. How are you preparing yourself to be “*powerhouse of radiating love, a constant receiving station of the LIGHT which needs only “to be” in order to serve humanity.*”

2. What is Jesus asking of us in the paradox of *John 12:24*?

3. Why does human Spirit it is born on Earth in a physical body deliberately place itself in a situation where *dissatisfaction and discontent are the rule*?

4. How does the Ego must also *inaugurate something new* to insure its progress and advancement?

5. How does the search for peace and joy develops *wisdom*?

6. How do we not confuse *service* to accepting challenge from others?

7. How do you practice and develop *adaptability* in your own life?

8. Is it possible for established religions with a long history to avoid *crystallization and retrogression*, explain?

9. Where in the *Bible* and what *prayers* help you to understand your purpose?

10. What are the occult student *behaviors* in his daily contacts and his general attitude toward his fellowmen?

## Words for Meditation

*It is the ability to realize that life in the physical body presents a continuous challenge, and the ability to recognize and meet these challenges with poise and equanimity, which constitutes a successful incarnation.*

*The Ego must also inaugurate something new to insure its progress and advancement.*

*The search for peace and joy is a spur that brings about action and experience, which develops wisdom.*

*Those who must struggle for an education without help or encouragement from anyone are doubly blest*

*Some persons take on challenges that are not rightfully theirs, which is one way of "borrowing trouble." We must guard against assuming the karma of another, for this is an injury to both parties.*

*In the word adaptability we have the great secret of advancement or retardation. All progress depends on whether an evolving being is flexible, adaptable, and pliable, so as to be able to accommodate itself to new conditions or whether it is crystallized, set, and incapable of alteration. Adaptability is the quality that makes for progress, whether an entity is at a high or a low state of evolution. Lack of it is the cause of retardation of the Spirit and retrogression of the form. This applies to the past, present, and future; the division of the qualified and the unqualified thus being made with the exact and impersonal justice of the Law of Consequence*

*The sincere and serious student, who engages in honest self-analysis and personal discipline, will be led to the studies and contacts that are best for him.*

*"What you are speaks so loudly that I can't hear what you say." ... To profess without practice makes the life a meaningless farce.*

*We should find a means of self-expression that can be of genuine service to humanity and to use it with humility and selfless-ness.*

*Initiation is more likely to be achieved by someone who has forgotten all about his own desires in selfless service to others.*

*SERVICE is the battle-cry of the Rosicrucian Fellowship student. ... May the student learn to polarize himself with spirit so that he is a powerhouse of radiating love, a constant receiving station of the LIGHT which needs only "to be" in order to serve humanity.*

## **Evening of Life**

by William Hayley

*Since the Evening of Life will soon close,  
While I live, may I justly incline  
To diffuse peace of heart among those,  
Whose lives may be guided by mine!*

*To Christ may I lead them to own  
The charms of his tender controul,  
And with gratitude gaze on His throne.  
Whom to serve is the joy of the soul!*

**- William Hayley**



## Lesson #23: Retrospection and Remorse

*Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. (Isaiah 1:18 KJV)*

***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine, Jan/Feb 2004***

[https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays\\_archives/2004/Jan\\_Feb%2004%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf](https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays_archives/2004/Jan_Feb%2004%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf)

**Read: *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*** by Max Heindel, p. 110-112, 701-702.  
[https://rosicrucian.com/pdf\\_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf](https://rosicrucian.com/pdf_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf)

**Retrospection and Remorse** by Max Heindel

Read the article in the *Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine* on p. 27.

1. Describe how the evening exercise of *retrospection* is performed.
2. How do we make the *cleansing* of retrospection as thorough as possible?
3. What must be done upon the *conclusion* of the retrospection exercise?
4. What should our *attitude* be upon the conclusion of the retrospection exercise?
5. What are the effects of *continuous* remorse and regret?
6. Why do feelings of regret hinder the *recently departed*?
7. Why does regret hinder our *spiritual growth*?
8. What is the mission of *purgatory*?
9. How do repentance and reform shorten the *purgatorial existence*?
10. How does retrospection lead to *soul growth*?

### **Thought & Research Question:**

1. How are the feelings of *regret and remorse* different?
2. How effectively are you *renewing* your Desire Body and ready to serve a higher aim in life?
3. How should you use *discrimination* in feelings of regret and remorse?
4. Have you entered the Path yet, if no why not and if yes then how so?
5. How do you show an attitude of *unfailing optimism* even in difficult times?
6. How is regret connected to our *thoughts*?
7. How do you *drive regrets out* of your mental habitation?

### **Words for Meditation**

*When we perform the exercise of retrospection, we should give ourselves over to the feelings of regret and remorse with our whole soul; we should endeavor to shed tears of fire that may burn into our very innermost being; we should make the cleansing process as thorough as possible, to the end that we may grow in grace thereby to the utmost.*

*"Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."*

*"If God be for us, who can be against us?" By that attitude we die daily to the old life and we are born each day to walk in the newness of the spiritual life, for our desire bodies are thus renewed and ready to serve a higher aim in life than the day before*

*It is our duty to drive vain regrets out of our mental habitation as we would eject a vulture from our physical abode were it to seek entrance.*

# Let Me Lean Hard

By Ella Wheeler Wilcox

*Let me lean hard upon the Eternal Breast:  
In all earth's devious ways I sought for rest  
And found it not. I will be strong, said I,  
And lean upon myself. I will not cry  
And importune all heaven with my complaint.  
But now my strength fails, and I fall, I faint:  
Let me lean hard.*

*Let me lean hard upon the unfailing Arm.  
I said I will walk on, I fear no harm,  
The spark divine within my soul will show  
The upward pathway where my feet should go.  
But now the heights to which I most aspire  
Are lost in clouds. I stumble and I tire:  
Let me lean hard.*

*Let me lean harder yet. That swerveless force  
Which speeds the solar systems on their course  
Can take, unfelt, the burden of my woe,  
Which bears me to the dust and hurts me so.  
I thought my strength enough for any fate,  
But lo! I sink beneath my sorrow's weight:  
Let me lean hard.*

- Ella Wheeler Wilcox

## **Lesson #24: The Seven Jewels and The Seven Stages of Initiation**

*And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of. And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first. And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God: And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee. (Genesis 28:10-22 KJV)*

***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine, Jan/Feb 2004***

[https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays\\_archives/2004/Jan\\_Feb%202004%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf](https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays_archives/2004/Jan_Feb%202004%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf)

**Read: *Occult Anatomy and the Bible* by Corinne Helene, p. 12-19.**

[http://iapsop.com/ssoc/1944\\_\\_helene\\_\\_\\_occult\\_anatomy\\_and\\_the\\_bible\\_v12.pdf](http://iapsop.com/ssoc/1944__helene___occult_anatomy_and_the_bible_v12.pdf)

**The Seven Jewels and The Seven Stages of Initiation** by Corinne Helene

Read the article in the ***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine*** on p. 27.

1. What are the *seven Golden Keys*?
2. Describe the *School of Lower Mysteries*.
3. Describe a *Great Mystery School*.
4. What does it mean that all of the Mystery Orders are “*formed on cosmic lines*.”
5. What is the “*Liberator*” and how is it organized?
6. What is the symbolism of the numbers: *12, 13, 7, and 5*?
7. Describe the vision that *Jacob* had of the *mystic ladder* in the Bible.
8. What are the *spheres* that lie above the physical sphere of the earth?
9. Describe the *ascension and recapitulation* of a candidate.
10. What does it mean to enter the *heart of the earth*?
11. What is embryological recapitulation and how is it similar/different to *Fourth Degree initiation*?
12. What is the *mental world* and what happens here?
13. What occurs in the *Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth, and Seventh-Degree* Initiations?
14. What occurs in the *final two Degrees of initiation* and what does the *crown* represent?

## Thought & Research Questions:

1. Explain the *key for advancing more rapidly on the spiral path of initiation is given by the injunction to adopt and live out of the Mind of Christ.*
2. What does *Paracelsus* mean by the *two heavens* in man?
3. What does the *Book of Golden Precepts* (or *The Voice of Silence*) teach about the Portals and Keys?
4. What is the etheric structure of the *New Jerusalem* describe by St. John?
5. Why have so few have advanced in spiritual work *beyond the first seven of the Temple Rites*?
6. What does it mean when it is said that “... *comes to such a marvelous place where he sees much mystery and attains the transmutation of all natural things.*”
7. How did Jacob see the *degrees of the sevenfold system*?
8. Describe the aura which surrounds and interpenetrates our physical bodies?
9. What is a “*super instinct*”?
10. What does it mean to be a *blend of a red and white rose*?
11. Describe the *king and queen* in the alchemical marriage of C. R. C.

## Words for Meditation

“*In the heart of man is the true micro-cosmic heaven.*” —**Paracelsus**

“*The heart of man is the true heaven of an immortal being, ... [the] Heaven Christ Jesus has chosen for His dwelling place in man.*”—**Paracelsus**

“*Man know Thyself.*”

*God is All and All is God.*

## **The Faith We Need**

By Ella Wheeler Wilcox

*Too tall our structures, and too swift our pace;  
Not so we mount, not so we gain the race.  
Too loud the voice of commerce in the land;  
Not so truth speaks, not so we understand.  
Too vast our conquests, and too large our gains;  
Not so comes peace, not so the soul attains.*

*But the need of the world is a faith that will live anywhere;  
In the still dark depths of the woods, or out in the sun's full glare.  
A faith that can hear God's voice, alike in the quiet glen,  
Or in the roar of the street, and over the noises of men.*

*And the need of the world is a creed that is founded on joy;  
A creed with the turrets of hope and trust, no winds can destroy;  
A creed where the soul finds rest, whatever this life bestows,  
And dwells undoubting and unafraid, because it knows, it knows.*

*And the need of the world is love that burns in the heart like flame;  
A love for the Giver of Life, in sorrow or joy the same;  
A love that blazes a trail to Go through the dark and the cold,  
Or keeps the pathway that leads to Him clean, through glory and gold.*

*For the faith that can only thrive or grow in the solitude,  
And droops and dies in the marts of men, where sights and sounds are rude;  
That is not a faith at all, but a dream of a mystic's heart;  
Our faith should point as the compass points, whatever be the chart.*

*Our faith must find its centre of peace in a babel of noise;  
In the changing ways of the world of men it must keep its poise;  
And over the sorrowing sounds of earth it must hear God's call;  
And the faith that cannot do all this, that is not faith at all.*

- Ella Wheeler Wilcox

*After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*

- (Matthew 6:9-13 KJV)

***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine, Nov/Dec 2003***

[https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays\\_archives/2003/Nov\\_Dec%202003%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf](https://www.rosicrucianfellowship.org/rays_archives/2003/Nov_Dec%202003%20Rays%20from%20the%20Rose%20Cross.pdf)

**Read: *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*** by Max Heindel, p. 462-467.

[https://rosicrucian.com/pdf\\_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf](https://rosicrucian.com/pdf_plaza/Rosicrucian%20Cosmo-Conception.pdf)

***Prayer, Concentration, and Meditation*** by Max Heindel

Read the article in the ***Rays from the Rose Cross Magazine*** on p. 36-37.

1. What is the pattern of the *Lord's Prayer*?
2. What should every prayer *contain*, why?
3. What is the *main objective* of prayer?
4. Why can prayer never take the place of *work*?
5. What is the relationship between *thoughts and prayers*?
6. How should we *prayer for others*?
7. What is the one *essential requirement* of prayer?
8. What is the relation of *prayer to concentration and meditation*?
9. What is the *counterpart* for each part of the Lord's Prayer?



10. What *vehicle* is for each part of the Lord's Prayer for?

### **Thought & Research Questions:**

1. How do you transmute *Love, Wealth, Power, and Fame* into something higher?
2. How does the Lord's Prayer address your *higher and lower natures*?
3. Describe the pattern of the *Lord's Prayer* and how it sets a "standard" for all of our prayers.
4. Select a common prayer and show how it does or does not contain an overwhelming measure *adoration, praise, and recognition of our unworthiness*.
5. How do put our *whole heart and soul* into our petitions?
6. How does "Our Father in Heaven" will take care of our *material needs*?
7. Describe "thought power" and its uses in our spiritual growth.
8. Compare and contrast concentration and prayer.
9. Describe the process of meditation as put forth in *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception* by Max Heindel.

### **Words for Meditation**

*[When in] close communication with God ... the Divine Life and Light may flow into and illumine us so that we may grow in His image and His likeness.*

*Prayer, no matter how earnest and sincere, can never take the place of work.*

*Noble, unselfish, and altruistic, [ prayers] vibrate to the higher pitch of the regions of soul-light, soul-life, and soul-power. They clothe themselves in this material, giving added life and light to our spiritual nature.*

*"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness"*

*Unless our whole life is a prayer we cannot be pleasing to God*

## **Prayer**

By Ella Wheeler Wilcox

*I do not undertake to say  
That literal answers come from Heaven,  
But I know this--that when I pray  
A comfort, a support is given  
That helps me rise o'er earthly things  
As larks soar up on airy wings.*

*In vain the wise philosopher  
Points out to me my fabric's flaws,  
In vain the scientists aver  
That "all things are controlled by laws."  
My life has taught me day by day  
That it availeth much to pray.*

*I do not stop to reason out  
The why and how. I do not care,  
Since I know this, that when I doubt,  
Life seems a blackness of despair,*

*The world a tomb; and when I trust,  
Sweet blossoms spring up in the dust.*

*Since I know in the darkest hour,  
If I lift up my soul in prayer,  
Some sympathetic, loving Power  
Sends hope and comfort to me there.  
Since balm is sent to ease my pain,  
What need to argue or explain?*

*Prayer has a sweet, refining grace,  
It educates the soul and heart.  
It lends a lustre to the face,  
And by its elevating art  
It gives the mind an inner sight  
That brings it near the Infinite.*

*From our gross selves it helps us rise  
To something which we yet may be.  
And so I ask not to be wise,  
If thus my faith is lost to me.  
Faith, that with angel's voice and touch  
Says, "Pray, for prayer availeth much."*

**- Ella Wheeler Wilcox**

## **Student Prayer**

*"O God, increase my love for Thee so that I may serve Thee better from day to day." "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, My strength and my Redeemer."*