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# MASTERY OF LIFE

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*The most beautiful and most profound experience is the sensation of the mystical. It is the sower of all true science. He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead.*

*To know that what is impenetrable to us really exists, manifesting itself as the highest wisdom and the most radiant beauty which our dull faculties can comprehend only in their primitive forms ~ this knowledge, this feeling is at the centre of true religiousness.*

*Albert Einstein*

# Welcome



*The Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, is known internationally by its traditional and authentic title, the Ancient Mystical Order Rosae Crucis. Rosae Crucis from the Latin means "of the Rosy Cross". There is no religious connotation associated with this symbol; the Rosy Cross symbol predates Christianity. The cross symbolically represents the human body and the rose represents the individual's unfolding consciousness.*

**Thank you for your interest in the Rosicrucian Order AMORC and welcome to the Journey into Self. The fact that you are reading this book is a sign that you are a seeker, a person on a personal Quest. A journey of discovery that goes to the very essence of your being.**

*Who am I?*

*What is my purpose?*

*What can I accomplish in life?*

*How do I chart my own course in life?*

*Is there more to this wonderful*

*universe than I see around me?*

*What is Self?*

These are the great questions the brave and insightful have always sought answers to. Exactly what you are seeking, what you want to accomplish, what challenges you face or difficulties you want to conquer is, of course, only for you to judge.

But perhaps what you seek can be explained simply and generally as greater personal power, a more focused attunement with life, heightened spiritual awareness, and ultimately as the mystical experience of Cosmic Consciousness.

Rosicrucians call this ***Mastery of Life***. It embraces all aspects of who you are and all you can be ~ physically, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually. It is the greatest journey a human being can take. Perhaps it is the only one he or she must take.

Can the Rosicrucian Order help you on that Quest? Can being a Rosicrucian student give you Mastery of Life?

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# The Rosicrucian Order is Unique

*Much of the material in the Rosicrucian teachings cannot be found anywhere else. Much of it goes back to the mystery schools of ancient Egypt and Europe. Yet it is not frozen. It has moved and is still moving with the times.*

*It is not the thoughts of a single teacher or group but the development of some of the greatest mystical minds through the ages. It is not a religion or dogma or even a single philosophy.*

*It is knowledge. Not knowledge in the sense of acquiring information (although you will), but knowledge in the sense of Knowing.*

*Through our teachings you will gain specific knowledge of metaphysics, mysticism, philosophy, psychology, parapsychology and science not taught by conventional educational systems or traditional religions.*

## A Profound Wisdom Preserved

This profound wisdom, carefully preserved by mystery schools for centuries, is transmitted today through the Rosicrucian Order to every sincere person with an open mind and a positive motive. Its great power can be applied to the everyday affairs of your life with startling results.

Imagine having the ability to actualise your highest potential in all areas of life including family and social relationships, career, health, and personal development. Imagine developing greater creativity and discipline to overcome life's problems. Imagine setting a new course for your future; one that promises to be more in line with who you really are and more fulfilling than anything you've previously experienced!

## If you already know much...

Perhaps you have already swum in the vast sea of metaphysical and self help books, programmes, lectures, seminars, movements. You already have much information and insight. But this approach is almost always incomplete because most books, seminars and study groups have a limited focus, such as personal prosperity, improving relationships, meditation, spiritual attunement, or developing psychic abilities.

The Rosicrucian system of study provides a foundation that ties together all different aspects of metaphysical study and demonstrates their interconnectedness. You will understand the natural laws that govern all realms. You will understand Your Self.

## ...or a little

If you're completely new to this area of study, you'll find that this comprehensive approach makes your learning easy. As you progress step-by-step you'll see how each subject relates to the rest, giving you a sense of completeness and confidence.

This study of higher wisdom is designed to give you a complete knowledge plus a balanced and total personal development. To our knowledge, it is the only system that does this.

Whether you see your journey as one of personal development, or flowering of knowledge and accomplishment, or harnessing psychic ability, or of reaching the highest realms of spirituality and cosmic consciousness, the Rosicrucian Order's teachings are the keys to open the doors that will serve you.

# The Journey into Self and The Mystical Path



## The Lost Self

From childhood we begin hiding our inner self away. We learn to adapt and survive in the outside world. Our families and peers teach us socially acceptable behaviour. Our educational system teaches us the technical and social skills we need to sustain a material life. As adults we are thrust into a society geared towards materialism and maintaining the status quo.

Rarely, especially in the early formative years, are we taught inner development; with an emphasis on intuition, the subconscious mind, independent thinking, self esteem, self-confidence, psychic or inner spiritual growth. Is it any wonder the inner self becomes lost in the business of the outer world?

Yet despite all this the inner self does remain alive in everyone, and many are ready to heed its call. That is why the Rosicrucian Order is in existence today and has been for

centuries, offering people a way to realise their own infinitely powerful and divine nature.

## Life is Difficult

Life is a constant challenge of overcoming obstacles that stand in the way of creating a better family life, developing a successful career, securing material needs, maintaining one's health and even coping with death. This eternal struggle should not be cause for despair because it is through successfully overcoming challenges in life that you evolve.

The purpose of the Rosicrucian teachings is to learn how to find the answers within yourself. Inspiration, energy, and even specific answers to all challenges of life are available when one learns the proper techniques.

## The Path of the Mystic

As a Rosicrucian student, you will be walking along the path of the mystic. It is a path travelled by a relative few at any one time. Yet, it is the path that has given us many of our greatest minds, enriching the world with their physical inventions, scientific discoveries, beautiful works of art, music and books, but most importantly, their personal approach to life.

And it is the path each must travel in their own time if they are to reach their ultimate personal evolution.

## Mysticism Demystified

Just what is meant when we use the word 'mysticism'. A proper definition has always been elusive or vague. For the record, mysticism can be defined as an experience where one personally knows, through direct knowledge, the Source of all Being. Many call this source God; others, the Cosmic. The point is, the experience is noetic. We know, not believe through faith, or know only through scientific observation, but we simply and truly know.

The art of mysticism can be learned. The work of the Rosicrucian Order is to initiate the student to the techniques where mystical knowledge can be readily attained. This knowledge when properly accessed is ultimately rational.

In the end mysticism isn't a belief. It is simply an art of knowing. The mystical experience transcends nature. Often the person will receive a feeling that far surpasses anything which could be conveyed by words. Furthermore, this insight, devoid of ego, is thoroughly comprehended as truthful.

# Developing your Highest Potential

*A goal of the Rosicrucian Order has been to develop a system of study for those who walk upon the path, enabling them to achieve their highest potential on all levels of being: the physical, mental, psychic and spiritual. It is in this attainment that one secures the deepest and most all-embracing sense of peace and harmony with self and all of creation.*

*The Rosicrucian teachings help you to accomplish this through numerous exercises and experiments designed to discipline your five physical senses and awaken the deeper psychic sense, often left dormant within you.*

**On the Physical level** you can discover how to achieve vibrant health and increase your vitality. Experience more of the joy of life by acquiring specific techniques to reduce stress and speed up your body's natural healing processes.

**On the Emotional level** you can develop a greater sense of confidence and inner peace that comes from knowing how to tap into your inner wisdom to find the answers to life's challenges. This inner peace helps you remain calm, centred, and focused in the

midst of crises, makes you a source of strength for others, and promotes more harmonious personal relationships with your friends and loved ones.

**On the Mental level** we clarify the various levels of your consciousness, their functions and possibilities. You can learn how to bring into physical manifestation the life you've dreamed of, whether it's happiness and peace in your personal life, or success in your business. The Rosicrucian studies give you specific knowledge of metaphysics, mysticism, psychology, parapsychology, philosophy and science not taught by conventional educational systems or traditional religions. You will learn techniques for relaxation and meditation, how to use visualisation as a tool to achieve your goals, and much more.

**On the Psychic level** you can awaken your deeper psychic sense ~ a natural faculty which is dormant in most people and only needs to be developed. You can enhance the strength and power of your inner being, bring it to a higher standard of operation, opening up a whole new resource for increased intuition,

insight, creative inspiration, and innovative solutions to problems.

**On the Spiritual level** achieve a gradual inner awakening, leading to a permanent awareness of the unity of all creation and your personal relationship with the "oneness" of the universe. This leads to an integration of all aspects of your being. From this spiritual foundation, from your connection with the greater whole, everything else flows.

The Rosicrucian studies aid you in developing a workable and practical philosophy of life and the inner peace that comes from understanding the nature of the universe and your relationship to it. You can attain what is called Cosmic Consciousness.

*We shall not cease from exploration,  
 and the end of all our exploration  
 will be to arrive where we started,  
 and know the place for the first time.*

*T.S. Eliot*

## How the System of Study Works

Each month, you'll receive a packet of weekly lessons, called monographs, to read in the privacy of your own home. The lessons, about six to eight pages each, introduce certain ideas and experiments in a straightforward and simple manner. We ask that you devote about one and a half hours once a week to study that week's lesson and perform any exercise or experiment given. For the remainder of the



week we encourage you to periodically think about the important ideas contained in that lesson and to repeat the exercises. We ask you for this simple commitment because the lessons are not just a body of knowledge, but a way of life. If you only read them and don't attempt the experiments or practice the techniques, then you're only learning theory, just as you would be if you only read a book on how to play the piano, but never practised playing one.

It takes a special sort of dedication to quest for the knowledge of the universe. It's essential that you test the ideas and experiments to prove their validity to yourself. You will quickly discover that we do not insist or even ask you to believe anything in the studies. Only you can judge their validity by putting them to the test. And only you can decide whether or not to accept them into your life.

### How the Information is Structured

New students begin with a series of three introductory degrees comprising an overview of the Rosicrucian course of study. This is followed by nine additional degrees, each having its own particular emphasis. The teachings are continuously updated to reflect our modern

world, while keeping true to the traditions of the Order.

Underlying it all is a code of natural law which forms the core of the Rosicrucian teachings and which remains constant over time.

The Rosicrucian system does not promise instant enlightenment: it is a system of gentle unfoldment. In the first four or five years you will be given the necessary knowledge and techniques that will enable you to achieve a high level of mastery of life. However, the teachings continue past this point bringing greater depth and advancement towards illumination.

The uniqueness of the Rosicrucian teachings doesn't come simply from the body of knowledge it offers, but also from the way in which it is organised and brought to life through practical exercises and experiments to produce a genuine evolution in consciousness. Each degree covers an important step you need in order to benefit from the following degree. Each exercise supports, reinforces, and builds upon the preceding exercises and techniques, leading to balanced, full development.

# The Rosicrucian Home Study Lessons



The lessons are divided into two main sections, the Neophyte section and the Temple section.

## NEOPHYTE SECTION

In ancient times, if you wished to study the great mysteries, you would travel to a temple and petition for admittance as a student. Once accepted you would be known as a neophyte,

and you would enter the atrium, or reception chamber of the temple. There you would receive preliminary instructions before being allowed to enter the main temple itself and study the higher teachings.

Following the analogy of the ancient temples, the early lessons are called atrium lessons and beginning Rosicrucian students are called neophytes.

## Introductory Lessons (3 months)

Right from the start, you are given basic Rosicrucian concepts that you can apply in practical ways. One of the first things you learn is that you are a dual being. In addition to your five physical senses, you also have a psychic sense. The exercises in these introductory lessons are designed to gradually awaken and develop the psychic faculty. The exercises presented here and throughout the entire Rosicrucian system allow you to discover for yourself through direct experience how these principles work. Topics include:

- Experiments on Human Aura, Telepathy, Vibroturgy, Metaphysical Healing
- Mystical Sounds
- Spiritual Alchemy

- Time and Space
- Experiment: The Illusory Nature of Time
- Human Consciousness
- Cosmic Consciousness
- Experiment: Development of the Intuition
- Meditation
- Experiment: Rosicrucian Technique of Meditation

## First Atrium (4 months)

In the First Atrium you'll learn how the creative power of thought affects the material world. This power is demonstrated through exercises in the techniques of concentration, visualisation, and mental creation. The First Atrium also explores consciousness as the organising principle of matter and explains the composition and structure of matter and its vibratory nature. Topics include:

- Role of the Brain
- Power of Thought
- Concentration
- Experiment: Development of Mental Concentration
- Symbolism and Alchemy of Fire
- The Creative Power of Visualisation
- Experiments: Visualisation Exercises

# The Rosicrucian Home Study Lessons

- Composition of Matter
- Structure of Matter
- Mental Creation
- Telepathy
- Mental Projection
- Experiment: Mental Projection Exercise
- Law of the Triangle

## Second Atrium (4 months)

Your understanding of the connection between mind and matter will now be expanded to include the connection between the mind and the physical body. The Second Atrium explores how your thoughts influence your health, the role of proper breathing in psychic development as well as health and vitality, and Rosicrucian healing techniques. As you develop your body's psychic centres, you gradually awaken your psychic faculties, such as the ability to perceive the aura. You will also experience the mystical effect of sounds. Topics include:

- Vital Life Force
- Role of the Blood
- Origin of Diseases
- Rhythm of the Body
- Role of Pain
- Nutrition

- Sleep and Rest
- Our Two Nervous Systems
- Influence of Thoughts on Health
- Experiment: Awakening the Psychic Consciousness
- Mystical Art of Breathing
- Experiment: Breathing Techniques
- Rosicrucian Healing Treatments
- Aura of Material Objects
- Human Aura
- Experiment: Perception of the Aura
- Power and Symbolism of the Eye
- Psychic Vision
- Pineal and Pituitary Glands
- Mystical Sounds

## Third Atrium (4 months)

The Third Atrium moves beyond the physical body and the psychic faculties into the realm of the mystical. As you become more attuned with your inner source of wisdom, you'll become more receptive to the subtle inner promptings of intuition, inspiration and illumination. These lessons also explore the nature of Soul and spiritual evolution, reincarnation and karma, and the cycles of the soul. Topics include:

- The Great Religious Movements

- The Nature of Soul
- Experiment: How to Harmonise with your Soul
- Experiment: Physical/Psychological Cycles of Humans
- Purpose of our Spiritual Evolution
- Reincarnation
- Cycles of the Soul
- Karma and Karmic Law
- Free Will
- Good and Evil
- Intuition
- Inspiration
- Illumination
- Experiment: How to Serve as an Instrument of Universal Love

# The Rosicrucian Home Study Lessons

## TEMPLE SECTION

Having completed the lessons of the Neophyte section, you stand at an important milestone in your progress along the mystical path. You are now ready to enter the Temple. Your studies in the Neophyte section established the foundation for the lessons of the Temple Degrees. You have been introduced to the various elements of the Rosicrucian system and had the opportunity to practice many of the principles presented through simple experiments. Now the Temple Degrees will further develop these elements, providing additional depth and practical applications of the principles.

### First Temple Degree (3 months)

The First Temple Degree introduces the concept of polarity and its relationship to the subatomic world and its differing rates of vibration. It introduces the full spectrum of physical and nonphysical manifestation. An understanding of these subjects gives you an appreciation for the system and order of the universe, the interconnectedness of all nature and how everything is governed by natural law. Topics include:

- Structure of Matter
- The Vibratory Keyboard
- Positive and Negative as Vibratory Polarities
- Rosicrucian Definitions of Electricity, Magnetism, and Electromagnetism
- Subatomic Particles
- Rosicrucian Classification of Elements
- Material Alchemy

### Second Temple Degree (3 months)

The Second Temple Degree explores the workings of the mind. You'll learn how to use your various mental faculties to strengthen your will, eliminate bad habits and establish good ones, tap into the levels of your subconscious, reason more effectively, and integrate principles of psychology and mysticism to achieve your personal goals. Topics include:

- Cosmic Consciousness
- Our Objective and Consciousness Sensory Illusions
- Mental Illusions
- Our Subjective Consciousness
- Reflection
- Objective Memory
- Experiment: Stimulating your Objective Memory

- Imagination
- Experiment: Awakening Imagination
- Deductive, Inductive, and Syllogistic Reasoning
- Objective and Subjective World
- Physical, Psychic, and Spiritual Influence of the Subconscious
- Memory and Reasoning of the Subconscious
- Experiment: Stimulating the Subconscious Memory
- Will and habit
- Autosuggestion
- Experiment: Practising Autosuggestion
- Psychology and Mysticism

### Third Temple Degree (3 months)

The Third Temple Degree explores the meaning of life on many levels, including living and “non-living” matter, life on the cellular level, the mysteries of death and rebirth, and the eternal nature of the Soul. Topics include:

- Cosmic Purpose of Life
- Vital Life Force
- Cellular Life
- Rosicrucian Definitions of Living and Non-living Matter
- Incarnation of the Soul

# The Rosicrucian Home Study Lessons

- Transition of the Soul
- Initiatic Aspect of Death

## Fourth Temple Degree (3 months)

The Fourth Temple Degree introduces Rosicrucian ontology (the study of the nature of being), and lays out the cosmological framework for all creation. It explores the meaning, understanding and use of symbols as the language of the subconscious. Topics include:

- Vital Life Force and the Living Soul
- Cycles of Life and Constant States of Flux
- Time, Space, Infinity and Eternity
- Noumena and Phenomena
- Natural Symbols
- Artificial Symbols
- Mystical Symbols
- Sacred Architecture

## Fifth Temple Degree (3 months)

A mystic, by nature, is fundamentally a philosopher. In the Fifth Temple Degree, you will study excerpts from the works of classical and modern philosophers. Your exploration of the ancient roots of Rosicrucian philosophy will demonstrate the timelessness

of these principles. Thoughts of the following philosophers are presented:

- Thales
- Solon
- Pythagoras
- Heraclitus
- Democritus
- Empedocles
- Socrates
- Plato
- Aristotle

## Sixth Temple Degree (7 months)

The Sixth Temple Degree presents the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual components of health and disease. You'll learn specific Rosicrucian healing techniques. Topics include:

- Health and Illness
- Physiological Evolution of Humans
- The Skeleton
- Digestion & Nutrition
- Spiritual Dimension of Food
- Breathing and Respiratory Health
- Composition of Blood
- Heart and Circulatory System
- The Lymph and Lymphatic System
- Liver, Spleen, Kidneys

- Importance of Water
- Cell Consciousness and Cellular Health
- Cerebro-spinal Nervous System
- Autonomic Nervous System
- Sympathetic Division of the Autonomic Nervous System
- The Sympathetic Energy
- Influence of Stress on Digestion and Breathing
- Sympathetic Ganglions and their Connections
- Rosicrucian Therapy
- Disorders associated with the Cervical, Thoracic, and Lumbar Ganglions
- Rosicrucian Treatments
- Personal Treatment to Restore your Psychic Equilibrium
- Self-healing
- The Council of Solace
- Influence of Thoughts and Emotions on Health
- Physical and Mental Prevention of Disease
- Emotional and Spiritual Prevention of Disease

# The Rosicrucian Home Study Lessons

## Seventh Temple Degree (7 months)

The exercises and experiments of all the previous Degrees have contributed to your gradual development, providing you with the necessary foundation for the advanced techniques of the Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Degrees. In the Seventh Degree you will learn how to accomplish psychic projection, how to develop your personal aura and perceive other people's auras and how to further develop your psychic centres and perception. You will also receive a thorough explanation of the physiological, psychic, and spiritual influence of specific mystical sounds. Topics include:

- The Psychic Body
- The Psychic Centres
- Psychic Perception
- Psychic Consciousness
- Experiment: How to Accomplish Psychic Projection
- Experiment: Psychic Projection to a Definite Place
- Experiment: Psychic Projection toward a Definite Person
- Nature and Symbolism of Dreams
- Nature of Human Aura
- The Physical, Psychic, and Spiritual Aura

- Experiment: Perception of Your Personal Aura
- Experiment: Perception of Someone Else's Aura
- Colours of the Aura
- Development of Your Personal Aura
- Mystical Power of Vowel Sounds and Mantras
- Theoretical and Practical Study of Specific Vowel Sounds
- Physiological, Psychic, and Spiritual Influence of Vowel Sounds

## Eighth Temple Degree (9 months)

The Eighth Temple Degree explores in depth the theme of immortality ~ the mysteries of birth and death, reincarnation and karma and the evolution of the soul personality. Topics include:

- The Existence and Nature of God
- Universal Soul and the Human Soul
- The Immateriality, Immortality, and Perfection of the Human Soul
- Cosmogony of the Universal Creation
- Cosmic Evolution
- Soul Personality
- Divine Consciousness and Self-Consciousness
- The Soul and Intelligence of Animals
- Spiritual Evolution of Humans

- The State of Perfection
- Spiritual Alchemy
- Karmic and Non-karmic Trials
- Mastery of Karma
- Collective Karma
- Reincarnation of the Soul
- Universal Cycles: Memory of Past Incarnations
- Experiment: How to Remember your Past Incarnations, through Stimulating the Subconscious
- Experiment: How to Remember your Past Incarnations through Meditation
- The Mystery of Birth
- Incarnation of the Soul-personality in the Body
- The Mystery of Death
- Transition of the Soul-personality
- The Stages of Transition
- Cosmic Planes and the Levels of Cosmic Evolution
- Help to the Dying, Before and After Death
- Definition and Origins of Prayer
- Three Kinds of Prayer: Intercession, Confession, and Thankfulness
- The Rosicrucian Technique of Prayer
- Rosicrucian Technique of Meditation

# The Rosicrucian Home Study Lessons

## Ninth Temple Degree (9 months)

By now these techniques will have become second nature and you'll be well prepared to successfully undertake the advanced experiments of the Ninth Degree. This Degree gives you the opportunity to utilise the highest metaphysical powers in practical ways to positively affect conditions in your environment and your life in accordance with the greatest good. Topics include:

- Macrocosm and Microcosm
- The Four Principles: Earth, Water, Air and Fire
- Experiments: Symbolism of Earth, Water, Air and Fire
- Symbolism of the Cross, Triangle, Square, Circle, and Rose-Cross
- Mental Alchemy
- Experiment: Telepathy
- Experiment: Telekinesis
- Experiment: Vibroturgy
- Experiment: Radiesthesia
- Experiment: The Alchemic Cloud
- Experiment: Invisibility
- Experiment: Cosmic Protection
- Experiment: Mystical Regeneration
- Experiment: Spiritual Assumption

- Experiment: Attunement with the Cosmic Consciousness

## BEYOND THE NINTH TEMPLE DEGREE

While the essential Rosicrucian teachings are covered in the first five years, the exploration of universal laws is truly a lifelong study. As long as we live, we never stop learning. Therefore, the Rosicrucian lessons continue for many years beyond the Ninth Degree, providing you with even greater insights and exploration of the Rosicrucian principles and techniques.

*As a member of the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, you are not simply purchasing a course of study. In fact, we do not sell the Rosicrucian lessons at any price. In the true tradition of the ancient mystery schools, the teachings were never sold, but were extended freely to sincere seekers. In keeping with this tradition, the Rosicrucian teachings are made available to students as a benefit of their active membership. Your membership dues support all aspects of the organisation's activities, not just the lessons.*

*Next to the home study lessons, the other two main elements of Rosicrucian membership are the Order's initiatic tradition and the fraternal activities of Rosicrucian Lodges.*

## Assistance from the Department of Instruction

*You have access to the Department of Instruction, whose purpose is to answer your questions about the Rosicrucian studies. The Instructors, who have many years of experience in the Rosicrucian teachings, review your reports, provide helpful information, and direct you to the appropriate section of your studies to find the answers you seek. Of course, the instructor can only point the way; it's up to you to do the required work to achieve self-mastery.*

# Initiation and Fraternity

## The Initiatic Tradition

As a member, you are not just taking a course of study. You are passing through Degrees of study, rituals, ceremonies, exercises, and demonstrations that have a long historical background.

Rosicrucian initiations are fraternal rituals designed to mark the milestones of a student's progress on the mystical path. In these beautiful rituals, mystical laws and principles are demonstrated in a dramatic form, to both inform and inspire you. Almost all of the Degrees of Rosicrucian study are preceded by an initiation ceremony that can easily be performed during home study. You also have the option of receiving these initiations in a more elaborate form in the Order's affiliated Lodges. You'll find these initiations, when conferred in the Temple of a Rosicrucian Lodge, are even more impressive to the psyche.

The origin of initiation is as old as the earliest civilisations. In ancient times, the word mystery did not mean "strange" or "weird". Rather, it referred to a unique gnosis ~ knowledge which was to be revealed to the candidate for initiation. In fact, in ancient Rome the mysteries were called *initia*. The initiates were called *mystae*. The Latin word

*initiare* meant "to inspire".

No rite or ceremony is a true initiation if it does not do the following; (a) cause you to engage in introspection ~ that is, turn your consciousness within, to look upon yourself; (b) engender within you a feeling of aspiration and idealism; and (c) exact from you a sacred obligation or promise which you make to yourself that you will try to fulfil your aspirations. The purpose of Rosicrucian initiation is for the same traditional and psychological reasons.

Participation in initiation rituals does not, in itself, make you a true initiate, and Rosicrucian students are not required to participate in rituals. You become a Rosicrucian initiate only through your own efforts, merits, and preparation. However, it is possible to accelerate this inner preparation and this is the purpose of Rosicrucian initiations.

## Fraternal Affiliation

The Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, is a fraternal organisation that maintains a system of local Rosicrucian groups. You have the option and privilege of attending an affiliated Lodge, Chapter or Pronaos if there is one in your area.

Here you can enjoy the company of fellow Rosicrucians, hear inspiring lectures, engage in mystical experiments and participate in beautiful ceremonies. You'll also have the opportunity to attend a variety of special events, seminars, and conventions. No Rosicrucian member is obligated to associate with a local Rosicrucian group, but it is highly recommended as a unique opportunity to enrich your membership experience.

## Other Benefits of Membership

You will receive the following free publications each quarter: ***The Rosicrucian*** ~ the official magazine of the Rosicrucian Order, containing fascinating and informative articles related to mysticism, philosophy, the sciences and the arts and is of particular interest to Rosicrucians and their friends. ***The Rosicrucian Forum*** with in-depth articles on aspects of the Rosicrucian studies and answers to questions from Rosicrucian students. It is a private publication for Rosicrucian students only. ***The Grand Lodge Bulletin*** ~ a newsletter which keeps members updated on national and international Rosicrucian events, membership information and news.

# The History of Rosicrucianism

The Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, is known internationally by its traditional and authentic title, the Ancient Mystical Order Rosae Crucis. Rosae Crucis from the Latin means “of the Rosy Cross”. There is no religious connotation associated with this symbol; the Rosy Cross symbol predates Christianity. The cross symbolically represents the human body and the rose represents the individual’s unfolding consciousness.

The lineage of the Rosicrucian movement can be traced from its beginnings in the mystery schools of ancient Egypt founded by Pharaoh Thutmose III (1500 to 1447 B.C), and more particularly from his grandson Pharaoh Amenhotep IV (also known as Akhnaton) ~ through to the Greek philosophers such as Thales and Pythagoras, the Roman philosopher Plotinus, and others like Parmenides, who journeyed to Egypt and were initiated into the mystery schools ~ through to the symbolism hidden in the love songs of Troubadours, the formularies of Alchemists, the symbolical system known as the Qabalah, and the rituals of Orders of Knighthood during the dark and dangerous times of medieval Europe.

## The Famous ‘Fama Fraternitatis’

In 17th century Germany, a mysterious publication called the Fama Fraternitatis written by ‘Christian Rosenkreuz’ was printed. This heralded a renewed interest in Rosicrucianism throughout Europe. As part of this great renewal, the renowned Sir Francis Bacon (1561~1626) English philosopher, essayist, and statesman, directed the Rosicrucian Order’s activities both in England and Europe. Rosicrucian history states that Sir Francis Bacon was actually the author of the Fama Fraternitatis and other works that brought about the revival of the Order in Germany.

Throughout history a number of prominent persons in the fields of science and the arts have been associated with the Rosicrucian movement, such as Leonardo da Vinci (1452~1519), Cornelius Heinrich Agrippa (1486~1535), Paracelsus (1493~1541), François Rabelais (1494~1553), Teresa of Avila (1515~1582), St John of the Cross (1542~1591), Francis Bacon (1561~1626), Jakob Boehme (1575~1624), Rene Descartes (1596~1650), Blaise Pascal (1623~1662), Baruch Spinoza (1632~1677), Isaac Newton (1642~1727), Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646~1716),

Benjamin Franklin (1706~1790), Thomas Jefferson (1743~1826), Michael Faraday (1791~1867), Marie Corelli (1855~1924), Claude Debussy (1862~1918), Erik Satie (1866~1925) and Edith Piaf (1915~1963).

## Crossing the Atlantic

The Order crossed the Atlantic in the late 17th century when a Rosicrucian colony was established in Philadelphia. Later such eminent Americans as Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and Thomas Paine were intimately connected with the Rosicrucian community.

Throughout history there have been periods of greater and lesser activity of Rosicrucianism around the world. Inactive in the Americas during the 19th century, the Order was very active in France, Germany, Switzerland, Russia, Spain, and other lands during this time.

While Rosicrucianism is primarily a western phenomenon it is also eclectic and draws on the diverse mystical traditions of ancient Greece, China, India and Persia. Naturally enough, it also embraces the great explosion of human, scientific and philosophical knowledge of the 19th and 20th centuries.

## AMORC Today

The present cycle of the Rosicrucian Order began in 1915 by Dr. H. Spencer Lewis, who received the authority from the Rosicrucian Order in Europe. It was Dr. Lewis' life vision to create a unique home study system ~ the foundation of the Home Study now being used worldwide.

The Rosicrucian Order is the most successful Western mystical order of the 20th century. It has approximately 200,000 active members worldwide. Its teachings are translated into 14 languages and its groups are found in over 450 cities. To serve this diverse population, the Order is divided into jurisdictions known as Grand Lodges each responsible for a specific language or region.

The Rosicrucian Order AMORC was officially started in Australia in 1930 and later joined by New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong and the Philippines under auspices of the English-speaking Grand Lodge based in California. In 1996 the Grand Lodge for Australia, Asia and New Zealand was formed. It is a non-profit tax-exempt organisation with its own president and four other directors.

## How to Become a Rosicrucian Student

We cordially invite you to join us as we explore the marvellous frontier of self and the universal laws of nature. By accepting this invitation you will become part of a worldwide mystical fraternity of men and women who share your spiritual interests, zest for higher knowledge, and humanitarian ideals. We welcome you to a lifetime of learning that will enable you to experience real, practical benefits on a daily basis.

To become a Rosicrucian student, simply download an application and return it with the registration fee and at least one quarter's dues. The dues rates are listed on the application. No other fees are required, nor must you purchase any books or other supplementary materials. Your application will be reviewed by the Membership Committee, who will notify you by mail upon approval. This normally takes no more than two weeks.

If someone living in your household is also interested in studying with us, take advantage of our Companion Membership programme, which offers considerable financial savings. Under the Companion programme, two people living at the same address share a single set of

lessons, magazines, etc., yet they both have full membership benefits.

## How to Contact Us

We thank you for taking the time to learn more about us and the benefits we have to offer. If you have any further questions about the Rosicrucian Order and its teachings, please contact us.

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 NSW 2040 Australia**

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## The New Frontier

*As you can see, Rosicrucian ideas and our unique method of inner development have been developed over many centuries. Here in the twenty-first century, we feel strongly that these teachings will play an increasingly important role in humanity's evolution. With fast-paced technological advancement and its effects upon the environment and the human psyche, people are searching for an inner, ever-reliable source of strength and balance.*

*Perhaps now more than ever, we are reaching out for understanding, for mystical illumination, for spiritual guidance, for harmony and peace. Through its unique system of instruction and its humanitarian ideals, the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, offers a beacon of light to all who seek the answers to life's questions by following this inner path to wisdom.*

