

FINDING THE ROSICRUCIANS

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My membership with the Order may have begun many years ago before I was born. It possibly started when my mother was around thirteen years old.

She and her friends had a unique way of “avenging” themselves on adults whom they perceived had “wronged” them in some way. Instead of egging front doors as part of their Halloween hijinks, and for other occasions of disgruntlement, they’d scour magazines containing ads for free literature. The Rosicrucian Order, with its abundance of introductory pamphlets, was a favorite, the goal being to overwhelm their enemies’ mailboxes.

With a list of their offenders’ names, and vengeance on their minds for such wrongs as giving out unsatisfactory candy, getting caught stealing a pumpkin, or a neighborly reprimand, they’d write the Order and have introductory packets sent to the names on their hit list.

I’ve often wished I could know how many new members the Order received due to my mom’s reprisals on neighbors!

Bear in mind I only learned of this tale after joining the Order as an adult. I occasionally tease my mother that having a Rosicrucian daughter is karma for her childhood escapades!

Another Rosicrucian/mom-related issue occurred some years ago when she and my teenage nephew took a road trip with me to Rosicrucian Park and venues along the way. The trip was enjoyable for everyone, but a noticeable incident kept repeating itself during our stop at Rosicrucian Park.

First, my mother took a harmless, slow stumble to the floor in the Planetarium, then another gentle tumble occurred in the Egyptian Museum, and when we visited

the Grand Temple for the daily Council of Solace meditation, she tripped over her feet on the way out, landing harmlessly on her knees. My nephew felt an eye-roll was warranted by this time, while I got to tease her about “falling for Rosicrucians.” No falls occurred during any other part of our trip.

These incidents verify my long-held suspicion that the Universe may have a sometimes-quirky sense of humor when applying karma!

My personal introduction to the Order began when I was between the ages of nine and ten years old. I enjoyed looking at my grandfather’s issues of *Arizona Highways* and *Desert Magazine* when my family visited his home. It was in the ads at the backs of these magazines that I first learned of the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC.

I remember the innate and powerful appeal of the Order’s ads telling me that my *thoughts had wings* and the promise that *age-old truths* would be revealed. I wanted to join the Order and take mystery flights on the wings of my own thoughts but knew better than to ask my very religious parents if they would sponsor me. I wanted to know what the ancients knew.

The idea of *mastering my life* was very tempting to a youngster still under the firm but gentle rule of her parents.

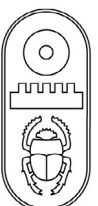
One ad stated that, “*There are other minds out there.*”

Who were these other minds?

For some reason I couldn’t explain, I wanted to encounter these minds and learn about them.

Is Man A Small Universe?

This concept appealed to me because in quiet moments I felt there were worlds





and universes within my being, intuiting that something more was going on inside than I was being told by my parents or my church.

Decades passed spent in the throes of growing up and the necessity of making my way in the world. I forgot about the Rosicrucian Order and its alluring messages. Then, in the late 1980s while reading a yoga magazine, I saw an ad for the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC. Memories of my childhood yearnings flooded in.

I applied for membership and a long and beautiful association with the Order began and remains an important part of my life today. My only regret is that for the past twenty years I've lived in places where the Order doesn't have a physical presence without the need to drive hundreds of miles.

I miss the days when, with just a few hours drive, I'd reach San Jose and spend a week or two each summer attending RCUI classes. I also enjoyed having a Pronaos near my home during my early years as a member.

The consolation is that in my deepest meditations I've found those "minds" that I so longed to discover; minds that

compose an "egregore of wisdom and purpose," spanning space and time.

When I first joined the Order my goals were somewhat different than they later became. I wanted to be proficient in the psychic skills associated with mystical development, such as the ability to see auras, project my consciousness, and extrasensory perception.

More important, now, has become the ongoing process of mastering my own life. I strive to live in harmony with Universal and Divine Laws and to control my thoughts instead of reacting to them.

How does one control one's thoughts?

Don't they simply rise unbidden in response to an array of human emotions?

Which arises first, the thought or the emotion?

I wanted to know all this and more. The Order teaches this, and much more!

While most of my goals have been achieved to both greater and lesser degrees, others that once seemed so important no longer beckon as they once did. Using mystical principles to aid others has become important, such as Celestial Sanctum contacts, Council of Solace work, Absent

Healing, and sharing ideas with other members on the online forums.

Personal benefits of my membership have been the transmutation of self in a variety of beneficial ways. Peace, happiness, and health are some of the outer manifestations often noticeable to others. Inwardly, a gently maturing patience with my own foibles, and those of others, leads to a calmer, less reactive life experience.

I've learned that many of the opinions and beliefs I'd accepted, without question growing up, as well as many of the popular views expressed today, often need careful assessment. Cultivating inner silence in the form of meditation and prayer brings me a much-needed feeling of balance in what often appears to be a clamorous and confusing world.

While growing up my religious training taught me that there were certain things I shouldn't do. My Rosicrucian lessons taught that there are Divine Laws behind the "shalt nots" and why certain types of actions are likely to incur particular results. More importantly, I've learned to live in harmony with those essential Laws thereby sparing myself inherent consequences.

Speaking of religion, rather than opposing my religion, an understanding of Divine Laws has given me a deeper and broader understanding of the important truths veiled within religious tenets.

It was interesting to find, after a few years of dabbling with Eastern philosophies and shamanism that, unbeknownst to me, there is a rich tradition of Western mysticism. The Rosicrucian Order is a repository of this tradition.

I've also recognized that there's an ancient "primordial tradition" lying behind and within most religions and Eastern and Western modalities, as well. These aren't necessarily different paths, after all, but likely the same path simply cloaked in the

outer trappings of human culture, custom, and practice.

I once heard someone say that she would give the Rosicrucian Order a year's membership to prove itself. I realized that a year is simply not enough time to receive and process the abundance of wisdom perpetuated by the Order.

Furthermore, simply reading the monographs as an intellectual exercise won't bring life-changing results. It would be like trying to decide if you like ice cream simply by reading a list of ingredients instead of digging into a scrumptious, gratifyingly-humongous bowl of it!

My realization after years of membership, study, and application, is that it takes a lifetime, maybe more, to absorb the untold generations of knowledge and philosophies of the many minds that have contributed to the world's wisdom being perpetuated by the Order today.

For me, the most significant goal anyone can have is the experience of Divine Consciousness, also known as Christ Consciousness, Enlightenment, Self-Realization, and so on.

Divine Consciousness is the *Pearl of Great Price* that's built layer upon layer. It's potential dwells like a luminous jewel at the heart of the Order's teachings. The Order doesn't guarantee this Gift as a right of membership, but it does pave the way for the Seeker to find it within his or her own being through diligence and self-mastery.

This radiant Goal is the mystical Philosopher's Stone that, through the processes of mental and spiritual alchemy, awaits an unfolding within the center of each individual's being. I am confident that the Order's teachings, if sincerely and continually applied to one's life, can result in this most sublime, yet personally achievable goal.

