

Introduction 8

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Whoever seeks Gnosis will find a treasure of instructions and insights that concerns them very personally. This treasure is like a gateway to eternity through which we increasingly experience that there is no end to what we may find therein.

Layer by layer, that living world opens itself to us, and with each layer our view changes. A sentence or a part of a text can draw our attention as if these few words are calling us, like the doors of eternity standing open a crack. A gnostic school such as the School of the Golden Rosycross can help us learn to open these doors. It calls out to us to go the path of the great reversal, the path of transfiguration, the change from material life into spiritual life. In the power of the Gnosis, in the power of God's loving breath, we can change our entire natural being, which has been severed from the All-Father, the Spirit. How?

Let us look at one of the first hermetic instructions.

"Divide lovingly and with great insight and wisdom the earth from the fire, the subtle from what is gross, dense and congealed.

It ascends from the earth to heaven and again descends to the earth, and takes unto itself the power of that which is above and that which is below.

So you will possess the glory of the entire world and for that reason all darkness will flee from you."

(from the Tabula Smaragdina)

Human beings are twofold: finite in their material, outward appearance and infinite through the indwelling possibilities of the immortal microcosm and the latent soul. We are not referring to a spatial separation, but rather to a difference in vibration. Human beings can resolve this difference in vibration, this difference in consciousness and form of expression. We can elevate ourselves by inwardly distancing ourselves from the slow vibrations of matter while attuning ourselves to the spiritual radiations. Then what can be called our vibration key changes immediately. We enter a higher vibration, a higher reality. As above, so below.

Thoughts are vibrations. The mystery behind all of creation is vibration, which forms the basis of all movement. Variations in vibration, when classified, form the regions of existence. Each area of existence differs in the rhythm of its vibration. Arranging all of those fields of vibration in one line, we could indicate the beginning and the end as spirit and matter, or as God and humanity. We could then say that the rhythm at the starting point is refined, free of interference, and the rhythm at the end of the line, coarse, full of disturbances.

We could also use the image of an inner life of peace versus an external life of the senses spurred on by the pairs of opposites.

In the life of peace, deep inside the human being, is the god within.

The rose that blossoms, the soul that finds the spirit, lives in the rhythm of that spirit and inhales that vibration. The new way of thinking leads back along the line from the coarse rhythm, full of disturbances, to the refined rhythm that is free of interference. This transition, in a word, is what the Rosicrucians call transfiguration.



EIGHTH EXPLORATION

Rosycross and Gnosis

Transforming Life through the Power of the Soul

The realization discussed in the preceding exploration takes place as a gradual inner process. This process is one of self-realization based on a new mode of life that gives priority to the development of the new soul within our being — doing what promotes and refraining from what inhibits this process.

We draw the following conclusions.

- The human being appears to be the inhabitant of a microcosm or small world.
- The immortal soul can develop within the mortal human being.
- This process is the beginning of a path that leads to complete renewal of the human being as to spirit, soul, and body.
- This path has been known throughout time and among all peoples. It has been taught in the mystery schools - for instance through the Christian, Egyptian, Indian, and Chinese initiation mysteries. The Rosicrucians, too, are putting this path of initiation into practice.

The Way of Transfiguration in the Here and Now

The rose, the spirit-spark, holds an important place in the philosophy of the Rosycross as the eternal principle in our microcosmic being. On the basis of this rose, a process of soul renewal is able to begin that includes renewal and change extending to all the cell structures of the body. It is an actual and explicable process that takes place in the material body as well as in the more subtle bodies.

Magnetic Effects in the Natural Human Being

We know the normal chemical processes in our body. From our food, we absorb various materials for our maintenance. Through breathing, we take in oxygen, which is so essential to us that we can be without it only briefly.

In addition to these building materials, we maintain our life energy through various ethers that feed our system. These ether building materials are just as important to us as food and oxygen. They feed our life force and our soul. We attract ethers that are appropriate to our particular mode of life and our orientation. We live out of these ethers and in turn radiate this energy. "You are what you eat."

What applies to the microcosm and its inhabitant also applies to the macrocosm and the cosmos. The entire atmosphere of life consists of ethers and astral vibrations that form one great constellation of radiations with diverse characteristics and varying charges. Astral forces are vibrations of light that interact with the human being. These light forces have a magnetic effect of attraction or repulsion, and we interact with them. Therefore we are constantly influenced by our surroundings. It is possible for us to absorb light forces not only from our immediate surroundings but also from the cosmos and the macrocosm.



We can retain only that for which we have an affinity. Cosmic and macrocosmic radiations with which we have no affinity pass us by. Our microcosmic field and personality are bound by our life orientation — desires, karma, thoughts, and illusions — our state of consciousness. This state determines what we do or do not attract.

- ~ Do we experience something of this attraction and repulsion?
- ~ Are we able to determine the state of our consciousness?

We will remain caught in our own web until our orientation changes through gnostic activity in the heart.

Magnetic Effects in the Original Human Being

In the book *The Elementary Philosophy*, Jan van Rijckenborgh wrote:

Although we live in a corrupt temple and will have to build a new one in order to attain liberation, we have to live in the old temple on a temporary basis, since it is all we have.

Through this dialectical temple we must build and work with the new temple.

For this reason Christ did not think it a disgrace 'to take upon himself the form of a servant' and, starting from a dialectical personality, to show us the way of liberation. [...] He who begins to go this way and realizes and accepts the reality of his state of being, should also bring the old temple into a condition in which the powers of nature offer the least possible resistance.

(Jan van Rijckenborgh, Elementary Philosophy of the Modern Rosycross, chapter V)

From the spirit-spark, which in its essence is one with the vibration field of the Gnosis, a radiation emanates that evokes in the human being the remembrance of the original, supreme being.

Countless people hear this “call” in their hearts. They are disquieted by it and will react to it by seeking out answers to life’s fundamental questions.

These human beings are the ones who are susceptible to the clarifying light of the Gnosis.

The activity of the gnostic light affects not only the mental reactions of the personality but also the material body. The heart is charged with light power. Subsequently, the thymus gland transfers the light power into the blood circulation. Situated behind the breastbone, the thymus — which plays a major role in the growth of a child — also has a task in the process of life renewal. It helps to push the renewing forces up from the heart to the head via the blood. In this way, the “light-filled” blood is able to reach the brain centers. The consciousness is then literally being fed by the calling light, and ideas of freedom and unity appear. Through this light we behold a new reality as the beginning of a process of soul-change, of liberation, of transfiguration.

- ~ Out of which reality am I living?
- ~ By which reality do I let myself be nourished?



The new atmosphere ensouls the pilgrim and settles upon him when he, as portrayed in this picture, pokes his head and staff through the sphere of dialectical delusion and begins to see a totally different reality.

“State of consciousness is state of life.”

This maxim does not mean that through a particular state of consciousness we are able to decide on one or another state of life. It has to do with which magnetic field is feeding our consciousness. When we are nourished by that other, gnostic magnetic field, the transfer to a new state of life is not difficult but rather goes without saying.

Our consciousness is strongly influenced by our desires and our longings; the state of our desire body or astral body affects our consciousness. Life itself is the school of experience. We are placed time and again before the questions: Are we directed toward the ego or toward the other one in us, the new soul? Out of which consciousness are we living?

In the Bible, this process of becoming conscious of the other one within is portrayed in the life of John the Baptist, the harbinger of Jesus. The reality of life being described here in veiled form can and must take place in every human being. John is the herald paving the way for the new soul. He represents the human being who, rediscovering life's purpose, wants to devote himself to its attainment.

Transfiguration

Transfiguration is the process in which mortal human beings devote themselves to the resurrection of the divine being. Just as the earthly human being is provided with a mortal soul and a mortal body, so the new being is provided with an immortal soul and an immortal body. The new body is not constructed according to the laws of this nature but according to those of an entirely different order.

The transmutation of the old human being into the new one is a process involving the entire person. Only through devotion, through surrender of the entire being, can this great renewal of spirit, soul, and body take place.

It is most important to actually begin. Just as our food and our breath continue to work in us, so too the living food of the divine love power and the Gnostic breath of life can make a turnaround in our life possible.

The entire divine plan lies enclosed in this breath of life, in this food of life. In the Bible, this process is symbolically called “the construction of a new temple.” It is the making of gold in the spiritual sense; it is divine alchemy.



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SUPPLEMENTAL QUOTATION

The mortal body has an etheric double, sometimes also called the etheric body or the vital body. This vital body is composed of the four known ethers. Our entire manifestation in matter can be explained out of these four ethers. The ethers are brought into the state known to us and experienced by us and maintained by our particular magnetic field, the magnetic soul nucleus. The soul state of the human being therefore determines the state of the ether body and consequently manifests itself in the material body.

Through the activity of the primordial atom, a longing for salvation comes into being—a longing for the source, for the light, for unity with the divine omnipresence—so that at a certain moment, a new state of consciousness is born in us and a new soul awakens.

If the new soul, with the new consciousness, wants to make use of the personality, then this one must be changed. The ordinary vital body and the ordinary material body are both fundamentally unsuitable for the new assimilation. They are attuned to the old soul. Therefore a new ether body with a new structure of lines of force must be formed. This body then is able to start to assimilate the new ethers—the four holy foods—which are of an entirely different vibration than the ethers of the nature of death.

And as soon as that fundamental radiation of the Gnosis can be assimilated, a separation into seven aspects develops within that fundamental radiation: The holy seven-spirit then reveals itself in our soul-state. And in this manner, we see how from the new soul a new vital body emerges. As a result also a new material body—not born out of nature—is brought into being, a subtly constructed vehicle of a very refined form.

(Source: Pentagram)

statics

The original human being currently lies sunken in a sleep of death within the microcosm. The path of transfiguration is intended to revivify this original being through construction of a new soul and restore its binding with Statics.

