

FROM THE WISDOM OF THE ROSICRUCIAN SCHOOL.

Lecture by Herr Pfeiffer at 12 Bedford Square

7.X1.33

The Rosicrucians - the high Initiation Circle of the Middle Ages - have been regarded as a collection of fantastic people and it is difficult to get to the real wisdom they embodied. From the point of view of Rudolf Steiner we can understand a little better .

There are printed books on Alchemy - and interesting things are described, but they are difficult to understand as the terminology is so different from the words used in modern chemistry.

There are 3 streams in the XII, XIII and XIV centuries which spring from the source of spiritual wisdom.

I.- The mystical stream, which consisted in looking into processes of one's own soul. This comprises the philosophers of the middle Ages, including Thomas Aquinas and Albertus Magnus This thinking cannot be reached by modern scientific thinking - but it is also not connected with the

II.- Rosicrucian stream - Eleven years ago Herr Pfeiffer was in Hamburg and visited a library - he there was given a MS on Rosicrucians - One of which was dated 1585 written by a disciple of Ros: He also found another with nearly same content, which described chemical experiments and gave the statutes of the Ros.circle. In the circle only 72 members were allowed these were only replaced at death - there were outer and inner circles -The Directors of Ros, circle were not allowed to remain longer than 10 years in any one place and must change their name and whole physical appearance, so that one could not discover who is the Leader "Imperator" was name of Leader. Training consisted in a long period of service to a member of the circle - then admission to the outer circle was given. No one was allowed to speak of all the secrets to the disciples for a period of 7 years - It appears that some secrets were betrayed to the Pope at Rome, so that after 1622 no one belonging to the Catholic Church was admitted - Everyone initiated received money from the Circle, so that he could live for 60 years and so was never tempted to sell his knowledge for money - There were about 30 paragraphs of Rules, the main thing being not to give any knowledge of Rosicrucianism outside, but for these two documents we should now nothing about there

Way of discipline of the Rosicrucians - was to develop a certain atmosphere of religious feeling, of waiting quietly, and devotion to what one has to learn to work at physical and chemical experiments mostly of rather a stupid character. After 4 or 5 years feeling developed that it was all useless - They had to learn to work with the fingers - and to induce a quiet attitude - After 7 years they were taken into outer circle - They still made chemical experiments - crystallisations and fermentations etc. But this was only one side - the mistake was made in the Middle Ages in thinking this was the whole of the education - In order to make disciple enter into the deeper knowledge of nature processes, education was arranged in 12 steps, divided into 7 and 5.

Development of certain inner feeling or imagination of what was done. (In the next period of culture, our examinations will be different from today - not merely brain knowledge and memory with will be taken into account, but feelings - what lives in etheric the inner experiences of the soul in connection with experiments in the laboratory.)

Meditations were given partly in words and partly in pictures e.g. a circle surrounded by plant forms- or a crown with precious stones which indicates a head with developed imaginations (the crown represents the free etheric body and the Jewels the sense organs open to the spiritual

world) - different forms and different colours.

1st step working and praying Thinking is represented as golden triangle - symbol of Sun forces praying, surrounded by vines and trees - he is occupied in processes of distillation for 44 days which period is again repeated for $1\frac{1}{2}$ years. He develops only atmosphere of work and prayer, in the understanding of what the sunlight produces in plant-life - he saw all the wonder of the world.

2nd step Turned in on own soul. Same picture was given him, with the words - "Know Thyself".

3rd step All round beautiful. Amazement and wonder. Picture of man in old Roman dress praying with outstretched arms - Palm trees with red and white grapes with ears or corn entwined. He was not to see in the abstract the forces of Nature

4th step. Brought to the Thought - what is above is also below. The picture is a landscape with the elements working on it – fog / rain etc., thunder and lightning - he was called to understand the working together of the forces coming through the earth and down from the Heavens.

5th step. Brought outside to Nature Picture- a peasant farmer working on land - Words given were :- "on earth are growing plants and grasses." The disciple could remain here and go no further - he could remain a farmer. The Rosicrucian training always was to be a farmer or a doctor. At this stage he could be a very highly developed farmer. If he feel able to go further.

6th step. Inexhaustible is the power- Saw landscape of rivers and roads, but with etheric forces behind - saw power of germination, fructification and growing - the tendency for development and growth. He saw and learnt to understand the continuous power of the etheric world to produce all life on earth.

7th step. He was educated to use the power of etheric forces, not like a farmer but like a doctor – his task was : make thyself into a healing power - Everything he did must become a source of healing – Picture - above, the sun and beyond the golden triangle was a dragon with red wings – also a scorpion and around it trees and some houses - he saw connection of Cosmos with physical world-is task was to develop power to be a source of curative energy.

Here the disciple could stop and he would then be a man of deep morality.

Only after this stage was the disciple initiated into deeper secrets 8th step. His task now was to produce Alkahest substance, on which etheric forces are fixed. Preparation 501 (of the B.D Agriculture) is made from quartz and contains a certain energy or power. It is an agent through which real etheric formative forces may enter the world. Injunction now was - Change your mind - go into the knowledge of what is really life. Picture given was a dragon lying on his back and biting his tail - All processes in nature are circles and continuous - Below dragon is serpent gripping ? with earth

9th step, Secret revealed - Disciple also made many experiments. Picture man seen on a precipice holding substance called magnesia - He is standing on a rock and there are trees on a rock and disciple finds magnesia coming down from the roots. Magnesia is full of light and this signifies a spiritual experiment - is clairvoyance. He has found the root going down into the rock, i.e. into the physical, he finds knowledge of how to keep life in the physical world.

10th step. Picture - Sun above, the moon below, in a landscape - Disciple is no more in physical world, but brought out to the planetary sphere - way from moon to sun as a man goes on dying.

11th step - No words.- picture a swimming fish,- he is no more on solid earth but in experience of etheric world - his Consciousness: liberated from physical. Reached stage of pure thinking as described in "Philosophy of Spiritual Activity"

12th step. Disciple receives Philosopher's Stone "Arcan Lapidis coelum oppidorum" and understands forces of the planets playing into physical world, Picture - 2 dragons, one with wings (consciousness of man going through planetary spheres) and one without - 2 dragons biting their tail signifying current going from one to the other. Also a castle with 3 towers representing physical body with its > systems - metabolic, rhythmic and head - and he recognises working together of spiritual and physical forces. He has now reached the outer circle.only -

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The inner circle is described only in pictures, but nothing is spoken or written - the result is an educated clever person - then the development of higher consciousness and he becomes a practical member of human society.

Alchemists arose - of two kinds - Rosicrucian secret remains unknown to modern humanity. Other kind developed experiments in metallurgy and alloys - with knowledge coming from the Arabian schools. This latter is the basis of modern chemistry.

Difference between Arabian Schools and Rosicrucian School,

111. Arabian esoteric school is preserved in certain circles in Orient. Training in Arabian school consisted in 10 years preparation when the brain was trained to memorize for 10 years, the philosophies and poems of Islam, and the Koran - Disciples learned to know all things that had been thought by men and became very highly developed. They greeted each other by touching forehead to the ground. Then disciple is introduced into inner circle and a different education begins - Brain is now trained - but heart and will have to be developed and religious feeling - intent on seeking God. One meditation only :- Where can I find God? Answer received: "I find God in the heart of my teacher" - not through his own spiritual knowledge, but linked to another person. He renounces his own personality entirely - it dissolves into the soul of the teacher - There is a secret congregation in the Orient - the Master has 100,000 disciples all trained the same way and linked to one man and dependent on this one man -This explains why this one man has such power in the Orient.

Rosicrucianism develops disciples in his own responsibility - Disciple worked with his own fingers and on his own soul and was taught that many lives were needed.

Arabian disciple had head training and then had to enter into feeling sphere - had not practical work - hours and hours of praying and meditation.

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These two streams arose in Middle Ages - and the religious life arose out of Rosicrucianism and modern science out of Arabianism.

We have the two pictures - the heart way of development and the other not so much of the heart but more intellectual. Now we can understand what Rudolf Steiner has given us about the work of Rosicrucianism seen from the spiritual point of view of Anthroposophy.

Rudolf Steiner has spoken much of Christian Kosenkeuz - How he saw into the future and the danger for mankind in two ways - either in fantastie gazing into the spiritual world or in practical looking into the physical world , not willing to see the spiritual world as in modern technique and science.

Task for Rosicrucian circle was how to prevent this happening- They realised it was not

possible to do anything on the physical plane - Stronger influences were needed - and these were given by Christian Rosenkreuz, when he sent out that higher Being Buddha to influence from Mars the souls which were able to incarnate in physical bodies. Impulses were thus brought into the physical plane, so that man became able to link knowledge of spiritual world with doings in the technical world - and thus bring in the intuition and inspiration of the spiritual world.

Thus, we may understand how mankind has been preparing since Middle Ages to link the two together Everyone is striving in the one or the other direction.

Christian Rosenkreuz brought the impulse which helps us to harmonize both - Anthroposophy makes the circle in which people are able to link the two - when this is experienced by us, we shall understand the deepest symbol of the Rosicrucian school.

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