

The Roses on the Cross A Meditation

DIVINE SYMBOLS which have been given to mankind from time to time speak to that forum of truth which is within our hearts, and awaken our consciousness to divine ideas entirely beyond words. Therefore symbolism, which has played an all-important part in our past evolution, is still a prime necessity in our spiritual development; hence the advisability of studying it with our intellects and our hearts."—Max Heindel.

Contemplating the roses on the cross of the Rosicrucian Emblem we first note that they are red, which color represents the activities of God in nature manifesting as the Holy Spirit. The human parallel points to the mystery of the Cleansed Blood.

The blood is the vehicle through which the Ego maintains control of the physical body, and in particular through the Mars' mediated iron making possible the requisite heat in the blood. Through the processes of right living the vibrations of the body are harmoniously raised, the blood is purified and transformed into the Blood of Christ. This is one of the regenerative processes of the Christ in us. Some of the fruits of this condition are that the body becomes a more sensitive and responsive instrument of the Spirit. Its powers of immunity are strengthened. Should one suffer the bite of a

venomous snake, the poison is neutralized and eliminated, as stated in the Bible.

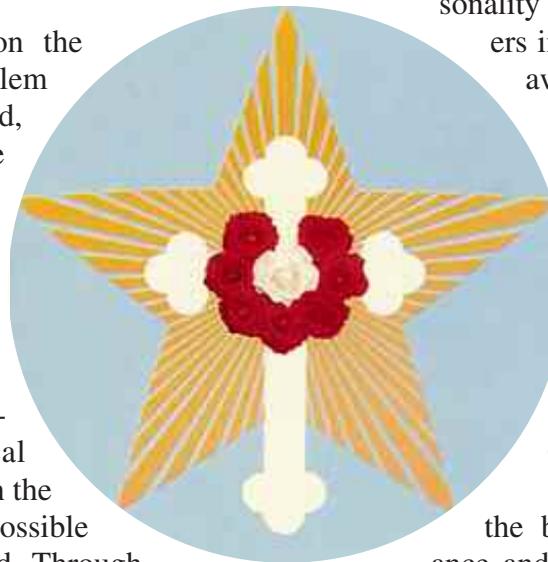
When Christ Jesus had risen from the dead He came to His apostles and imbued them with the Power of the Holy Spirit in fulfillment of His promise. This was the Baptism of Fire. It can only be invoked with safety when we are established in Christ Principles.

In the Mysteries this Baptism is the achievement of the Mystic Marriage, or the union of the personality with the higher Self. The barriers in the concrete mind are burned away and great works follow.

Just as the seven Red Roses on the Rosicrucian Fellowship Emblem macrocosmically refer to the seven creative Hierarchies currently active in human evolution, on the microcosmic level they refer to the seven Pentecostal gifts each aspirant to Christ-likeness shall attain.

The **First Rose** is an earnest of the beautiful promise of clairvoyance and clairaudience, or clear seeing and clear hearing. When in scientific spiritual progress upon the Path of Attainment the channels of the senses have been cleared of obstructions and harmoniously attuned to supernormal vibrations, these abilities are acquired. They are under the control of the enlightened will and are used in love for service.

This first Flower of the Spirit has its root, leaf,

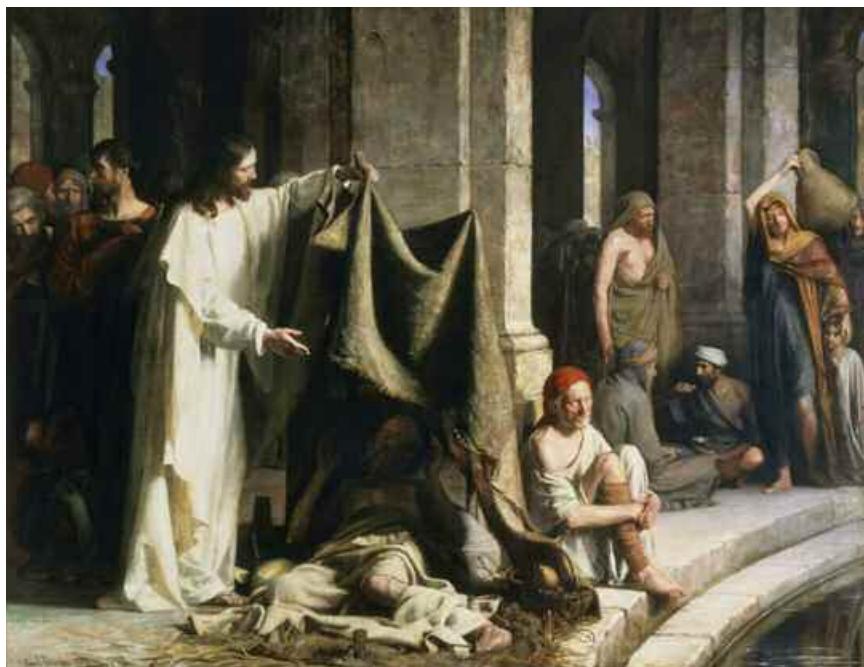


and bud in the simple daily life. Observation is the beginning of all spiritual attainment. Would you see clearly? Then desire with all your heart to see "straight" and comprehendingly. Rid the mind of prejudice and preconceived opinions. Absorb the truth from what you contemplate by setting aside all the screens of self that distort your vision. Only the eyes of love can see the truth. Clear hearing likewise depends upon the above qualities and the cultivation of a ready and complete focusing of the attention. You will come to understand other people very much better by the cultivation of observation and attention in a kindly attitude, and revelations will follow.

The **Second Rose** is the symbol of prophecy. This power of the Holy Spirit gives discernment of the causes of past and present events and confers the inspiration to envisage the future. It is essentially an intellectual power of keen discrimination. The way of preparation demands the cultivation of the ability to identify the essentials from among the nonessentials in human experience and evolution.

Blind to the future they are creating by unenlightened activity, a suffering humanity cries out for leaders of true vision. This darkened condition is a result of the concrete mind being in its Saturn or mineral stage of evolution; it has not yet awakened in spiritual consciousness. We are building thought forms and developing faculties, but we have not endowed the mind with the wisdom of the heart. We must learn to properly correlate cause and effect. Without this ability we are not even prepared to receive and follow a prophet because we have not evolved the infallible means to prove his truth. So we grope until, by conforming to the divine law, we write it in the fleshy tables of our hearts. "Though I have the gift of prophecy, and have not love, I am nothing." So, in love, we study cause and effect and learn to prophesy.

The **Third Rose** designates the power of teach-



Oil on canvas, 292 x 355 cm, Carl Bloch (1834-1890), Bethesda Chapel, Copenhagen

The Healing by the Pool of Bethesda

The blooming of the Fourth Rose on the aspirant's cross signifies the attainment of the power to heal, drawing on energies from the World of Life Spirit.

ing the Truth and the knowledge that Truth generates. We learn through the senses, emotions, and thought, but all these faculties are subject to error. All true understanding originates in the Higher Self; it comes down from above. Though first taking form in the abstract mind, it derives its wisdom and power from the World of Life Spirit.

As we turn from the personal life and strive to live the spiritual life, we gradually establish lines of force or channels of communication between the concrete and abstract minds. Finally, by the help of the Holy Spirit, the Mystic Marriage is consummated. From that time, Truth is discerned in ever increasing measure. We no longer need rely entirely upon the records of others. We read in the Book of Nature, which is God's scroll. Righteous judgment is attained, and we can then unerringly distinguish between true and false prophets. Teaching in the knowledge of the Truth helps us to be all things to all men and give to them according to their needs. It is then that we become true, self-conscious channels for the Elder Brothers in their work for humanity.

Then "shall the Sun of Righteousness arise, with healing in His wings" (Mal. 4:2). The **Fourth**

Rose invites meditation upon the nature of the healing power, the methods of acquiring it, and the fruits of its operation. From the Divinity in man emanate three specialized streams of radiant energy: will power, wisdom, and activity, correlated to the blue, yellow, and red rays. Healing power is essentially of the golden ray, having its source in the life spirit, operating through the intellectual soul upon the mind. The nature of this vibration is harmonizing and vitalizing.

God is love, wisdom, and light; therefore all the suffering and discord in human experience are the result of expressing our energies out of harmony with the divine law, which is ever changeless. During the Mars half of the present or fourth Revolution of the Earth Period, the primary keynote of human activity was characterized by differentiation, repulsion, and centrifugal force. During the Mercury half of this Revolution we are slowly learning true relativity and natural law. The disciple of healing must follow the sequences indicated in the divine analogy. He must make straight the pathways of the Lord in himself. Peace, purification, understanding, and love must become his state of being.

Among the fruits of spiritual healing, recovery from physical ailments is the last factor to be considered, as it is the effect of health, strength, and regeneration first imparted to the higher vehicles. We must cope with the causes of discord. All methods of healing that do not consider this process of regeneration as paramount only thwart Nature in its corrective measures, which are slowly but surely bringing us into conformity with the divine law.

The **Fifth Rose** symbolizes the power to cast out devils. "These things that I do, ye shall do, aye, and greater." This power of the Divine Mind, the Christ Mind, includes the ability to free us from all forms of obsession in enmity with God and man. Residences for the psychically disturbed are



From Die Bibel in Bildern, Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1789-1853)

Elijah Raising the Widow's Son

The blooming of the Seventh Rose symbolizes the ability to maintain unbroken consciousness upon the separation of the soul and spirit from the physical body at the time of death. Generally, it signifies the birth of higher consciousness.

crowded with unfortunates who are the victims of various types of obsession, from that of a thought or an emotion to that of discarnate entities. Let us look forward to freeing them by the faithful promise of our Savior.

We learn the nature of devils by a lengthy list of qualities described in any Bible encyclopedia. Violence, lust, deceit, subtlety, pride, lying, cruelty, and fear are some of those enumerated. Here we have a clear outline of the work which each disciple of Christ must first accomplish within himself. How can we expect to cast out devils from others until we have first cast them out of ourselves! Let us watch and pray, that we enter not into temptation.

The **Sixth Rose** recalls to our aspiration the glorious power of the Word manifested by our Lord when He stilled the storm on the sea of Galilee and released the life of the fruitless fig tree. There are great Intelligences who command the activities of the elementals of fire, air, water, and earth. The Christ Mind can commune with these spirit-beings and modify the activities of their charges. The

cultivation of the power of the Word has its humble beginning in the conduct of our daily activities. When we consecrate the sacred privilege of speech to truth and love, a power gradually impregnates the word, and our hearers feel something within themselves granting assent. Trust and understanding flash from soul to soul. "May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer."

The **Seventh Rose** is emblematic of the glorious power of raising the dead. Like all the other spiritual gifts it has many applications. In a general way it signifies the survival of the true Self after the death of the personality or worldly self. Elijah resuscitated the widow's son as a witness to the power of God. Jesus raised Lazarus as a witness to the power of God in those whom He sends as messengers to a humanity spiritually asleep.

The raising of Lazarus is the symbol of spiritual initiation. When the time of preparation is accomplished the soul in waking consciousness separates from the physical body and enters the superphysical worlds where the divine purpose is revealed and the records of past phases of human evolution are shown in the Memory of Nature. Wisdom and mastery of soul and spirit forces endow the Initiate with glorious power to guide and aid humanity. The fear of death is conquered and physical death is recognized as a merciful event in Life Eternal.

But we may raise the dead in the power of the revelation which has come to us in the teachings of the Elder Brothers of the Rose Cross. By our understanding and the experiences which have come to us as probationers and disciples we are equipped with knowledge that can convince people who believe themselves to be but physical entities doomed to extinction at death, that they are essentially divine and eternal in being. Then we have raised them from the dead. "O Death, where is thy sting, O Grave, where is thy victory," when we know the purpose of life and our kinship with our Creator?

The **White Rose** which The Rosicrucian Fellowship uses in its Healing and Memorial Services is the Alpha and Omega of its symbols for spiritual

LIGHT SHINING OUT OF DARKNESS

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants his footsteps in the sea,
He rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never-failing skill
He treasures up his bright designs,
And works his sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take,
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust him for his grace,
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.

Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter,
And he will make it plain.

—William Cowper (1779)

aspiration. On the Path of Preparation it symbolizes peace and purification, two conditions that must be established as states of being before the higher works are achieved. In the sublime analogy the White Rose indicates the transmutation of all powers in the White Light of God. In the daily struggle to conform our lives to the Divine Plan we are building the soul body, the celestial body of light, in which we function as Invisible Helpers.

"'Tis the little seeds of kindly thoughts that are scattered here and there,
Which bear a harvest plentiful, that all the world may share." □

—ARLINE D. CRAMER