

The Virgin Mary and Christian Rosenkreutz

We are all Christs in the making, the love nature is unfolding in us all, and why should we not identify ourselves with one or another of the Christian churches which cherish the Christ ideal? Some of the best workers in the Fellowship are members, yes, and ministers, of churches. Many are hungry for what we feed upon. We cannot share it with them by standing aloof, and we do ourselves harm by neglecting to take advantage of the great opportunity to aid in elevating the church.—Max Heindel

STUDENTS on the occult path of spiritual development may have a tendency, albeit unconscious, to feel superior to their mystic brothers. In Heindel's *Ancient and the Modern Initiation* an illustration shows a mountain with the two paths: one straight and one winding. It can readily be seen that where the paths intersect orthodox church members ("ordinary humanity") are more advanced than the occult school pupils at the lower intersections. It is not usually easy for an occult student to go back to a traditional church. It is like pouring water on fire, and he needs to make an extra effort. He would need to develop much humility and no one can develop humility without going through the school of humiliation. The Rosicrucian School meets its members at the gate with knowledge (fire); the church meets her members at the gate with faith (water). The Rosicrucian School pupil will have to develop more devotion to achieve balance, as the church member needs to develop mental understanding to gain his balance.

When I went back to church, which happens to be



the Catholic Church, I was interested in seeing where it was similar and where it differed from the Rosicrucian teachings. Most apparent in the Catholic religion is the mystery that surrounds Our Lady the Virgin Mary, and the special veneration the faithful give her. Many questions came to my mind: Does the veneration of Mary contradict the Rosicrucian teachings? What should be the attitude of a Catholic Rosicrucian pupil towards Mary? What is the position of the feminine sex in the Rosicrucian teachings? Is there any relation between Virgin Mary, the mother of our Lord Jesus

Christ, and Christian Rosenkreutz, the Founder of the Order of the Rose-Cross? Is there be any relation between the Rosary and the Rose-Cross? In the course of my study I discovered many truths. The most beautiful and the most wonderful discovery I made concerns the genuine relation between the Virgin Mary and Christian Rosenkreutz. These relations are of two types: the family relation and the mystical relation.

Family Relations

According to the Western Wisdom Teachings, Christian Rosenkreutz is the reincarnation of Lazarus, the Son of the Widow, who was raised from the dead by our Lord. He was a disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ, the one He loved most. Corinne Heline states plainly in her book *Mystery of the Christos* that John the beloved is the same person as Lazarus and that Lazarus was his initiatory name.

James and John are the sons of Salome and Zebedee. Salome and Mary, the mother of Jesus, have the same parents, they are the daughters of Anna and Joachim. James and John are therefore Jesus' cousins; they are Mary's nephews. It is this strong family tie between Salome and Jesus that motivates Salome to bring her two sons, John and James, to Christ asking Him to give them seats in heaven, one at His right and the other at His left. It is this family tie that causes many people to infer that they are Mary's children. John and James are Jesus' cousins. In the Hebrew language the same word is used for brother and cousin, just as it is found in some other languages in the world. In Galatians 1:19 Paul the Apostle in Jerusalem told Cephas, "But other of the apostles saw I none, save James, the Lord's brother."

Mystical Relation

Mary is not only the physical mother of Jesus, she is also the spiritual mother of our Lord. She partook in all the sufferings that her son underwent. Mary has become "Our Lady of Perpetual Help" when she came to the rescue of the child Jesus when the latter saw in a vision the planet's Dweller on the Threshold.

According to the Western Wisdom Teachings, God has three aspects: the Father, the Son, and

Jehovah or the Holy Spirit. Each aspect has a positive and negative polarity. Jehovah is the positive pole and the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, is the negative pole of the Third Person. Jehovah worked through Moses, the Law Giver. Of the Holy Ghost an Angel told Enoch: "This is the Beloved, this is the Holy Spirit who speaks to the Prophets, Queen of the Ocean of Light." Moses was an instrument for Jehovah, Jesus was an instrument for the Christ, and Mary has been an instrument for the Holy Ghost. She is described as "the Bride of the Holy Ghost." A certain mystic has written that "Mary's soul offers the Holy Ghost a glorious temple in which to dwell, a closed garden into the secrets of which He alone can enter, an altar on which is offered the purest of sacrifices."

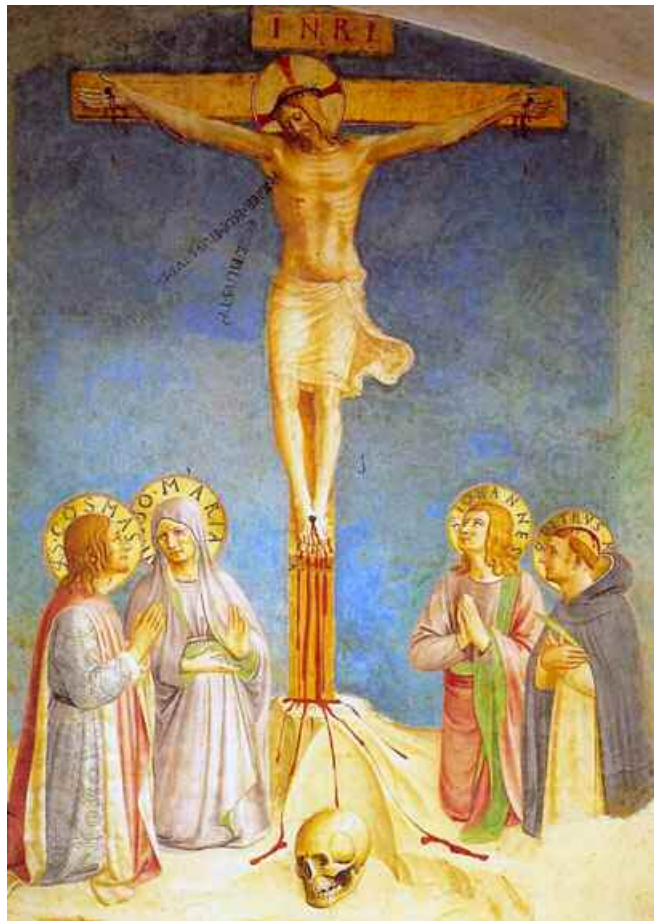
The Holy Ghost works best with someone in whom the feminine qualities have been developed, and it is in the Virgin Mary that these qualities have been most fully and highly developed. The words from *Song of Solomon* (6:10)—"Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners?"—have really been used for the Holy Ghost. At the Annunciation the angel Gabriel prophesied: "The Holy Spirit will descend on you and you will conceive." Mary was present among the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Ghost descended on the apostles. Anyone who wants to attract the Holy Ghost should first develop the feminine qualities and master the lower desire nature in himself/herself.

The first building of the Elder Brothers was called the "House of the Holy Spirit." The main difference between Holy Mary and Christian Rosenkreutz is that Mary's work is based on the heart (faith) and the water element, while Christian Rosenkreutz's work is based on knowledge (the mind) and the fire element. But we know that in order to advance on the path, to attain the Christ Consciousness, we need to tread both paths: the heart (water) path and the mind (fire) path. Speaking of these two paths, the Talmud declares "The law may be likened to two roads, one of fire, the other of snow. To follow the one is to perish by fire; to follow the other is to die of cold. The middle path alone is safe."

Today, there are many faithful who yearn for esoteric knowledge, and they need to be satisfied. The intellectual requirement of mankind has been significantly increased due to many factors, including the ubiquity of the print media, universal education, application of the scientific method, and the evolution of the mind. Church leaders, priests, and ministers spend more time for their training in the seminaries. There are today in the world a great number of church goers who are highly intellectual. A good part of Christian youth has been exposed to higher education and they need a higher aspect of the christian teachings, something more than what is available in their catechism from Sunday Bible class.

While the Rosary has served as a teaching instrument for the less mentally evolved, the Rosicrucian Teachings appeal to the more literate and mentally inquisitive. As Max Heindel advises those who follow the mind path to go back to their churches in order to make more rapid soul growth, so do church members need to open themselves to esoteric teachings to complete their training. Some people think that the mind is not important in the search for God. This is not correct. Those in the churches who aspire to holiness but who lack esoteric knowledge are given spiritual advisers to help them to interpret the spiritual experiences they encounter on the path to holiness. To be spiritually whole, each Christian must develop both the Mind and the Heart. Saint Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort was aware of this truth when he emphasized that recitation of the Rosary should not be a passive work, but that both the mind and the heart should be involved. Today's Christian community needs to promote advancing toward an intellectual esoteric mystical school. In the very near future, *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception* will be greatly appreciated by the general world population because it is one of the books that appeals to both the mind and the heart.

Through the Virgin Mary and John the Beloved Christ seeks to re-establish the balance that man lost during the War in Heaven. Before that event, the constellations of Virgo and Scorpio were joined. The War in Heaven caused a shifting of the polar axis of all planets, a change in the planetary rhythm of the entire solar system, and the separation of



Fresco, Fra Angelico assistant, c. 1450, Museo di San Marco, Florence

Jesus Consigning His Mother to Saint John

For the Rosicrucian student, the exalted status of the Virgin Mary is confirmed from the cross on Golgotha, "the place of the skull," from which Christ speaks to his mother regarding John the Beloved (kneeling on her left), the future Christian Rose Cross: mulier ecce filius tuus, "woman, behold your son."

constellations of Virgo and Scorpio. This disharmony lasted until the coming of our Lord Christ. It was when He was on the cross that Christ brought the Constellations of Virgo and Scorpio together again at the spiritual level. Our Lord was able to realize this Great Work through his two great disciples, the Virgin Mary and John the Beloved, representing, respectively, Virgo and Scorpio.

"When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son. Then saith he to the disciple, behold thy mother. And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home" (John 19:26-27).

According to the Western Wisdom Teachings, Christian Rosenkreutz is the reincarnation of

Lazarus who is John, the Virgin Mary's nephew. At the raising of Lazarus, Christ was initiating John, His most advanced Disciple, whose initiatory name was Lazarus, into the new Sun Mysteries.

Christian Rosenkreutz founded the Order of the Rose Cross in the year 1313 with the purpose of giving the world a body of Teachings that will raise its consciousness through knowledge and loving, self-forgetting service to others. The cross in the Rosicrucian emblem symbolizes matter, the physical body, and the roses represent the soul. When the Ego consciously works in its several "bodies," it generates soul which becomes pabulum for the spirit. The Rosicrucian Fellowship is the only authorized preparatory school for the Order of the Rose Cross. As a Christian school, the Fellowship's mission is to give to the world the Western Wisdom Teachings that promote Aquarian Age Consciousness. The Aquarian Age will formally begin in about the year 2600.

The Rosary

In the year 1214 the Virgin Mary founded the Order of the Rosary, "Rosa Mystica." As set forth in his book *The Secret of the Rosary*, St. Louis de Montfort describes the origin of practice of the Rosary as communicated to Saint Dominic by the Holy Virgin Mary. Montfort calls each bead of the Rosary a "rose." The Rosary Crucifix is composed of a cross and roses ("beads"). One construal of the word *Rosary* is a crown of roses. In reciting the rosary one weaves a crown of roses for the head of our Lord Jesus Christ.

While Rosaries vary in number of beads and verbal patterns, the simplest Rosary is composed of 5 'decades' of fifty beads which is properly recited three times, resulting in 150 Hail Marys, thus correlating it with the 150 Psalms. While the Apostle's Creed is recited with the cross, with each decade of beads the rosarist contemplates one of the 15 Mysteries that comprise the Gospel story, the path of attainment. The five Joyful Mysteries are The Annunciation, The Visitation, The Nativity, The Presentation in the Temple, and The Finding the Lord in the Temple. The five Sorrowful Mysteries are The Agony in the Garden, The Scourging at the Pillar, The Crowning with Thorns, The Carrying of

the Cross, and The Crucifixion. The five Glorious Mysteries are The Resurrection, The Ascension, Pentecost, The Assumption of the Virgin, and The Coronation of the Virgin. Each cycle of 50 repetitions, according to Saint Louis De Montfort, corresponds to verses in Philippians 2:5-11 which form the keynote of the Rosicrucian Temple Service.

The Joyous mysteries correlate with the text, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who made himself of no reputation and took upon himself the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of man."

The five Sorrowful Mysteries correspond to the scripture passage, "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death upon the cross."

The five Glorious Mysteries correspond to the sentence: "Wherefore God hath highly exalted him and given him a name that is above every name; that at the name of *Christ Jesus* every knee should bow, and that every tongue should confess that Christ Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

The Rosary may be seen as scheme for reliving and internalizing the complete Gospel story so that it conforms the heart and mind of the one who prays and contemplates with the lives and persons of Christ Jesus and the Virgin Mary.

When added, the 15 mysteries give the number six, a key number for both Our Lady Mary and Christian Rosenkreutz. Six is the number for Service, keyword for the 6th House of the Zodiac and for the sign Virgo, the sign of the Virgin. It is also a password for the Rosicrucian Fellowship. It is through ever wider vistas of service that man evolves to godhood. Our Lord Christ says, "He who would be the greatest among you, let him be the servant of all."

When we add the first 3 Holy Marys to the 150, we get to number 153, which totals nine, another important number in the life of the Virgin Mary and of every Christian. During the Angelus, which is a devotional exercise commemorating the Incarnation and honoring Mary, the Angelus bell rings $3 \times 3 = 9$ times. When Peter, by the order of our Lord, cast his net, he caught 153 fishes, representing the number of those who would be saved, as also given in the Revelation figure of 144,000.

According to the Western Wisdom Teachings nine denotes the liberation of mankind. There are 9 Lesser Initiations. The ninth calendar month, October, the month of the Rosary, is ruled by two planets: Mercury (Mind), ruling Virgo in the natural or sidereal zodiac, and Venus (affection), ruling Libra in the Intellectual Zodiac. During this time the mystic can most easily blend the two forces of the Mind and of the Heart. These two qualities are well blended in "Mary Catena Legionis," a prayer to Mary as a force to fight the Evil One, which begins with the antiphon: "Who is that coming like dawn, fair as the Moon, shining as the Sun, terrible as an army in a pitched battle?"

Heartfelt recitation of the Rosary develops devotion. Performed reverently and with mental alertness, such practice will hasten the occult student's spiritual development. Because Max Heindel thought that the Rosicrucian literature was lacking in the devotional element, he suggests readings from Thomas à Kempis' *The Imitation of Jesus Christ*. Mary is universal, she is the Mother of our Elder Brother Jesus who assisted the Christ for the salvation of mankind.

At the beginning of this article we asked, What should be the attitude of a Catholic Rosicrucian pupil towards Holy Mary and what is the position of the feminine sex in the Rosicrucian teachings? The Rosicrucian or the Catholic Rosicrucian should feel free to venerate the Blessed Mary and to recite the Rosary if he is so disposed.

The Madonna and Child theme is ageless. It holds for mankind the supreme ideal of perfected motherhood as embodied in the Blessed Mary, the immaculate mother of Jesus, who was the bearer of the Christ. The Virgin Mary is one of the latest incarnations of the Eternal Madonna; before her, the Eternal Madonna has incarnated through many other mothers such as: Isis in Egypt, the Virgin Frigga in Scandinavia, the Queen of Heaven in Mexico and the Americas, and, most notably, the Virgin Mary in Palestine. Mary was, and is, a great spiritual teacher who bequeathed to her son the riches of her profound wisdom. She was the highest Initiate to incarnate in a feminine body.

In *Mystery of the Christos*, the capstone to her seven-volume study of the Bible, undertaken at the

urging of Max Heindel, Corinne Heline writes that Raphael's famous Sistine Madonna has been used in schools of esoteric Christianity for meditative purposes. Among the first pictures given to these pioneers to study and interpret was that of the Mother and Child. Each Mystery Temple had its own healing sanctuary where patients were taught to project their consciousness into the Memory of Nature and thereby receive the healing forces emanating from the holy figure of the Divine Mother.

The author of *Revelation*, who later became Christian Rose Cross, writes of the Cosmic Mother: "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under the feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars" (Rev 12:1).

The Catholic church venerates but does not worship Holy Mary. The Virgin is petitioned, "Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us," while the prayer to Jesus Christ is "God have mercy on us." In venerating Mary, the Catholic Rosicrucian pupil does not practice Mariolatry; it is not the outer but the inner Virgin Mary to whom he appeals.

Members of the Rosicrucian Fellowship typically work for the emancipation of women in every sphere of life. According to the Western Wisdom Teachings, the human Ego is alternately embodied in male and female bodies, enabling it to learn all the lessons that can be extracted from the conditions existing on earth under the same planetary vibrations. Anything that men currently do for the advancement of women will directly favor their lives when they are reborn as women.

When Max Heindel was asked about the Rosicrucian viewpoint on women's suffrage (1Q&A, pp 371-2), he answered that because the woman has a positive vital body, she is "intuitively in touch with the spiritual vibrations of the universe. She is more idealistic and imaginative, taking a great interest in all the things which make for the moral upliftment of the race, and it is only by the moral and the spiritual growth that humanity can advance at this time, she is really the prime factor in evolution. It would be of an enormous benefit to the race if she were given an equal right with man in every particular. For not until then can we hope to see reforms brought about that will really unite

humanity.

“We see that by analogy, if we will look into the home, the woman is really the central pillar around which both husband and children cluster. According to her ability she makes the home what it is; she is the cementing influence and the peace-maker. The father may pass out by death or otherwise, the children may leave, while the mother remains, the home is there; but when the mother is taken away by death, the home is at once broken up.

“Some have argued, ‘Yes, but when she is taken away by politics the home will be broken up just as much.’ But of that there need be no fear. During the transition stage, while women have to fight for their rights, and, possibly, a short time afterward, until they have adjusted themselves, there may in some cases be a neglect of the home, but in the places where it has already been tried, no homes have been broken up and much good has been achieved, for women can always be counted upon to stand for any improvement which makes for morality. While laws are only makeshifts to bring humanity to a higher plane where each one will be a law unto himself, doing right without coercion, it is nevertheless necessary that such reforms should be brought about at the present time by legislation.”

Both the Virgin Mary and Christian Rosenkreutz, who is the reincarnation of John the Beloved, have attained the the Consciousness of the Vulcan Period through the Great Work both have accomplished under the guidance of Christ Jesus. They have thus surpassed the Venus Period Consciousness, which is a supreme Love Consciousness, described as Objective, Self-conscious, Creative consciousness. Our Lady has always been depicted with her Heart in the middle of her bosom, which reflects a perfect balance between the Mind and the Heart. If Christian Rosenkreutz were painted, his Heart would have to be depicted in the middle of his



Watercolor, illustration for Dante's *Divine Comedy*, William Blake, c. 1825, British Museum, London

St. John Joins the Other Saints and Dante and Beatrice

Love incarnate lived in a body hallowed by the pure sacrificial love of Mary. He who became Christian Rose Cross, who was closest to the heart of Christ, is best qualified to question Dante (below center) on love, after Peter (left) has questioned him on faith, and St. Paul (right) has questioned him on hope. The blending of love and knowledge is manifest in the profound wisdom of St. John's Gospel.

bosom as well. Being Adepts, Holy Mary and Christian Rosenkreutz have overcome death; they have unbroken consciousness, in or out of a physical body. Holy Mary works primarily with the churches and the devotional seeker. Christian Rosenkreutz works more with governments and science and the mentally-oriented spiritual seeker.

Should a student of the Rosicrucian teachings join a church? It is an individual matter. Max Heindel writes: “Of course there is no compulsion. You are not required to join or attend a church, but if you do go there in the spirit of helpfulness, I can promise you that you will experience a most wonderful soul growth in a very short time.”

The inner Christ can never be born within us if the inner Virgin Mary, the purified soul, is not first born within us. It is the Virgin Mary who brings forth Jesus and Jesus attracts the Christ. When purified, our physical, vital, and desire bodies become the inner Virgin Mary in each of us. As there is the inner Christ so should there be the inner Virgin Mary. Holy Mary does not belong to any particular church, Holy Mary is universal and individual. □

—Kwassi Laurent Djondo