

## READERS' QUESTIONS

### *Jesus and Christian Rose Cross*

**QUESTION:** In what manner are Jesus and Christian Rosenkreuz connected with the Elder Brothers and their works?

**ANSWER:** There are on earth seven schools of the Lesser Mysteries, each one presided over by a conclave of twelve Initiates who have passed through the nine Lesser Initiations. One of these seven conclaves or orders of Initiates is the Order of the Rosicrucians. Each of the seven orders is constituted of twelve Elder Brothers who are under the leadership of a thirteenth or Eldest Brother. He remains invisible at the nightly Temple Services but is the inspiring power upon which the order depends for guidance. The august head of the Rosicrucian order, the eldest of our Elder Brothers, is Christian Rosenkreuz, of whom Max Heindel says, "He is incarnate today, an Initiate of high degree; an active and potent factor in all affairs of the West although unknown to the world....He is a representative of the Central Conclave of the Elder Brothers of humanity.

The Elder Brothers of the minor conclaves presiding over the Lesser Mystery Schools have received the nine Lesser Initiations; the thirteenth, however, is an Initiate of the Greater Mysteries and forms "the link with a higher Central Council composed of the Hierophants of the Greater Mysteries, who do not deal with ordinary humanity but only with graduates of the Lesser Mysteries."

We are told that there are five schools of the

Greater Mysteries and consequently five orders of Greater Initiates, each likewise composed of twelve Elder Brothers and a thirteenth or Eldest Brother. The thirteen Brothers are "the links between the different schools," and the seven Heads of the Lesser Mysteries, together with the five Heads of the Greater Mysteries "compose what is ordinarily known as the White Lodge, a supreme conclave of the Eldest among our Brothers, who are now in full charge of human evolution and plan the steps we are to follow in order to advance. The whole is grouped under one Central Head who is called the Liberator."

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The Elder Brothers and Eldest Brothers possess physical vehicles; although they can function at will in their higher bodies, and the larger part of their work is done from the

inner worlds. But Jesus, whom we assume to be the illustrious and most holy head of the Central Conclave, perfected and relinquished his physical body 2000 years ago. He was the first human being to receive all thirteen initiations and thereby to liberate not only himself from the shackles of physical matter and the bondage of death, but to set the supreme example of how by a life of perfect purity the resurrection body is built and liberation made possible. The Bible calls him the "first fruit" of perfected mankind. He was "obedient unto death" and, by perfect surrender to the will of God, was worthy to receive the Christ Spirit. Therefore "God

has highly exalted him"; he functions in a celestial body of the most rarefied desire matter as the Eldest Brother, the Liberator alluded to in the *Cosmo-Conception*, who forms the link between the Supreme Council on our planet and the Cosmic Hierarchies.

"An Elder Brother will only grasp my extended hand when I extend my other to the younger ones coming behind me, in order to lead them to the Temple door. This will open to them if they seek prayerfully, if they knock persistently, and if they labor manfully."

### SOUL AND SPIRIT

**QUESTION:** What are the Rosicrucian Teachings regarding the difference between Soul and Spirit?

**ANSWER:** There seems to be some confusion on this subject in the minds of many students.

First the spirit, then the body emanating from the spirit, and lastly the soul extracted by the spirit from the body it has built.

The Rosicrucian teachings are that man is a composite being at this stage of his evolution. Before evolution began he was an all-conscious part of God, having within himself all the potentialities that were possessed by God, his Father, in whom he was differentiated as a conscious spark. When he later separated from his Creator, his vibrations gradually lowered. Various hierarchs, advanced spiritual beings in advance of our stream of evolution, worked upon him from without and succeeded in awakening the Divine, the Life, and the Human Spirit within him, and also gave to him the germ of the three bodies—dense, vital, and desire. These bodies gradually developed, and after aeons of time the beginning

of the Earth Period was reached. Man had then a threefold spirit, each aspect of which emanated from itself a body, and these vehicles of lower vibration were gradually connected with the threefold spirit by the link of mind.

Bodies which are composed of crystallized spirit fall away, but the quintessence of all the experiences acquired in these bodies is extracted as a principle called *soul*. This is not a tangible, visible substance, but a force which is accumulated life after life, and is finally absorbed by that aspect of the spirit from which the corresponding body emanated.

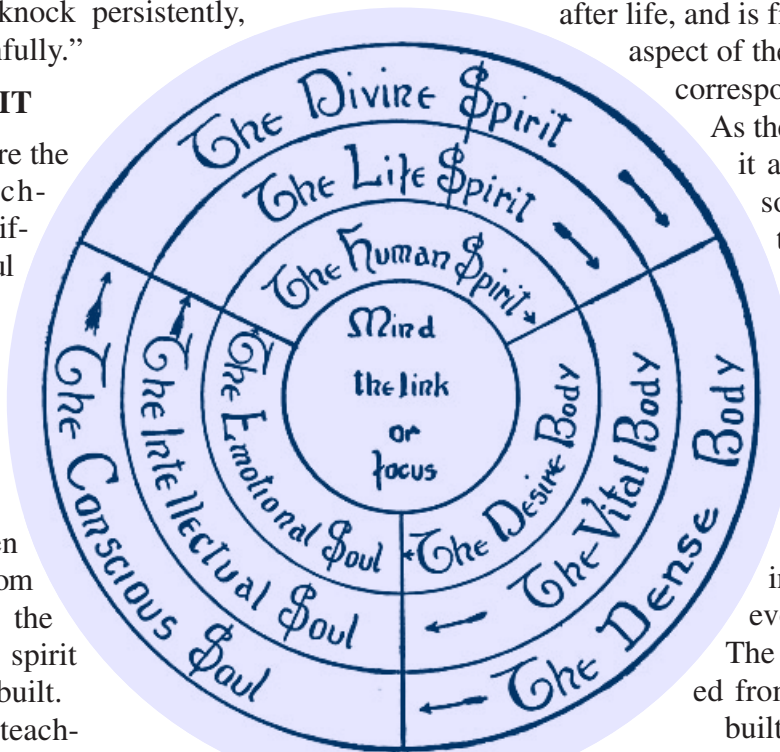
As there are a trinity of spirit and a trinity of bodies, so there is also a trinity of souls, and these together with the link of mind form the tenfold constitution of man.

Soul only comes into existence after involution is ended and will be absorbed into the spirit before his evolution is completed.

The soul which is extracted from the dense vehicle is built by right action and called *conscious soul*. Memory of actions works through the vital body and forms an *intellectual soul*; and the highest desires and emotions of the desire

body build the *emotional soul*. This emotional soul, when absorbed in the Vulcan Period, will add the knowledge it contains to the Human Spirit. The intellectual soul will be absorbed by the life Spirit during the Venus Period; and the experience gathered through the dense body and stored in the conscious soul will be built into the Divine Spirit during the Jupiter Period.

Teachings given later than those contained in the *Cosmo-Conception* are brought out in the *Web of Destiny*. □



**The Tenfold Constitution of Man**

*Man is a threefold Spirit, possessing a Mind by means of which he governs a threefold Body, which he emanated from himself to gather experience and will transmute into a threefold Soul, upon which he nourishes himself from impotence to omnipotence.*