



# MERCURY



Published Semi-Monthly as the Official Messenger of  
Metropolitan College, Societas Rosicruciana in America.



Vol. 4

May 5,



MCMXIX.

No. 9

## The Sacred Fire.

By Fr. Saturninus, O-O, (Washington College)

In the pages that follow, the writer makes no attempt to define the Element, Fire. Its visible manifestation, together with the powers, forces and energies expressed in the phenomena resulting from its operation is readily cognizable, if not readily comprehended, by the simplest child of Nature. The noumenon, or Spirit of the Fire, however, is veiled alike from the savage and seer, from the learned and the unlearned, from the neophyte and the Master, except as it is developed in and recognized by each individual Monad or individualized intelligent being.

The Spirit of the Fire is the One Essence that pervades Space. The planet with which Man is identified is, as well as all other planets in the various systems of worlds, a physical manifestation of that Essence, crystallized into a concrete Order of Being.

To the physical senses the One Fiery Essence, the Essence of Life, manifests in solid, liquid, fluidic, etheric and other forms known as Elements. These Elements, compounded and crystallized in various combinations, express themselves in inorganic and organic life forms, and manifest in all departments of Nature, from Atom to Monad, and from Monad to God.

It is with the evolutionary development of the crystallized expressions of the One Essence or Sacred Fire that the following pages have to do. For whatever Truth they may contain, let the Great One be praised, and the writer blamed for all error.

As the writers of archaic sacred literature have more ably portrayed the universal condition preceding the present Manvantara or Period of Cosmic Evolution than is possible with the present writer, a few quotations from the "Book of Dzyan" will here and now be used as an introduction to the theme which we hope to develop in succeeding pages:

### STANZA 1.

"1. The Eternal Parent, wrapped in her Ever-Invisible Robes, had slumbered once again for Seven Eternities.

"2. Time was not, for it lay asleep in the Infinite Bosom of Duration.

"3. Universal Mind was not, for there was no Ah-hi to contain it.

"4. The Seven Ways to Bliss were not, the Great Causes of Misery were not, for there was no one to produce them and get ensnared by them.

"5. Darkness alone filled the Boundless All, for Father, Mother and Son were once more one, and the Son had not yet awakened for the new Wheel and his Pilgrimage thereon.

"6. The Seven Sublime Lords and the Seven Truths had ceased to be, and the Universe, the Son of Necessity (the Servant of Providence), was immersed in Paranishpanna, to be outbreathed by that which is, and yet is not. Naught was.

"7. The Causes of Existence had been done away with; the Visible that was, and the Invisible that is, rested in Eternal Non-Being—the One Being.

"8. Alone, the One Form of Existence stretched boundless, causeless in Dreamless Sleep; and Life pulsed unconscious in Universal Space, throughout All-Presence, which is sensed by the Opened Eye of Daugma.

"9. But where was Dangma when the Alaya of the Universe was in Paramartha, and the Great Wheel was Anupadaka."

### STANZA 2.

"1. Where were the Builders, the Luminous Sons of Manvantaric Dawn? In the Unknown Darkness in their Ah-hi Paranishpanna. The Producers of Form from No-Form—the Root of the World—Devamatri and Svabhavat, rested in the Bliss of Non-Being.

"2. Where was Silence? Where the ears to sense it? No, there was neither Silence nor Sound; naught save Ceaseless Eternal Breath, which knows itself not.

"3. The Hour had not yet struck; the Ray had not yet flashed the Germ; the Matripadma had not yet swollen.

"4. Her Heart had not yet opened for the One Ray to enter, thence to fall, as Three into Four, into the lap of Maya.

"5. The Seven were not yet born from the Web of Light. Darkness alone was Father-Mother, Svabhavat; and Svabhavat was in Darkness.

"6. These Two are the Germ, and the Germ is One. The Universe was still Concealed in the Divine Thought and the Divine Bosom."

To him who comprehends this; who contemplates and meditates thereon will come much Wisdom. To him who comprehends what follows; who contemplates and meditates thereon, will come new Light.

### Sayings of Elbert Hubbard, No. 4.

We are at times what we should be all the time.

STANZA 3.

- "1. The last Vibration of the Seventh Eternity thrills through Infinitude. The Mother swells, expanding from within without, like the Bud of the Lotus.
- "2. The Vibration sweeps along, touching with its swift Wing the whole Universe and the Germ that dwelleth in Darkness, the Darkness that breathes over the slumbering Waters of Life.
- "3. Darkness radiates Light, and Light drops one solitary Ray into the Waters, into the Mother-Deep. The Ray shoots through the Virgin Egg, the Ray causes the Eternal Egg to thrill, and drop the non-eternal Germ, which condenses into the World-Egg.
- "4. The Three fall into the Four. The Radiant Essence becomes Seven inside, Seven outside. The Luminous Egg, which in itself is Three, curdles and spreads in milk-white Curds throughout the Depths of Mother, the Root that grows in the Depths of the Ocean of Life.
- "5. The Root remains, The Light remains, the Curds remain, and still Oeahoo is One.
- "6. The Root of Life was in every Drop of the Ocean of Immortality, and the Ocean was Radiant Light, which was Fire, and Heat and Motion. Darkness vanished and was no more; it disappeared in its own Essence, the Body of Fire and Water, of Father and Mother."

\* \* \* \* \*

The Great Pralaya ended. The Great Bosom of the Eternal One had been fully expanded. A Great Breath of the Absolute had been indrawn and during the Great Pause that followed, the Idea, or Spirit, of a Vision of Future Ages was stamped upon the imprisoned Cosmic Essence. The Great Exhalation commenced. A Flery Blast issued from His Nostrils that disseminated to the uttermost parts of His Habitation and a Host of Sons (Exalted Beings), each with a work to perform, a destiny to fulfill and a fate to pursue, re-awakened to conscious, Cosmic activity and swung to position. The "Word" was spoken. The creative fiat went forth. The Regents, Builders and Helpers in the Family of our Solar God each took up the task of transmutative Work peculiar to its position and station, and the evolutionary process peculiar to the present Great Manvantara began to operate.

\* \* \* \* \*

Saturn dawned. The fiery body of the planet teemed with countless, infinitesimal Sparks or Rays from the Divine Fire of our Parent Body, destined to become, through the process of evolution, intelligent, self-conscious Monads, fit companions for the Gods. Cycle after Cycle in Round after Round the primitive Monad wound its way through the first planetary Manvantara while the alchemical Fire bent its eternal power, force and energy to the task of refining its gross nature preparatory to raising its consciousness to a higher Degree. In the fullness of time, the task was accomplished. Twilight deepened into shadow. The planetary Pralaya drew on, and wrapped in its mantle of slumber the Great Body rested. The night shades deepened and all was still. Auroral rays heralded the dawn of a new planetary Manvantara, and the Great Body awoke to a new period of Cosmic activity. As a result of the purifying, assimilating and consuming alchemistic Fire that prevailed during the previous Manvantara, the vibratory activity of the fiery Sparks or Rays within the Great Body were raised to just correspondence with a higher Degree of Life and Form, and at the dawn of the new Manvantara they attained and entered into the state of Dreamless Sleep. The Great Alchemical Fire burned on. The sombre darkness that attended the previous Manvantara was dispelled by the Light that beamed from the countenance of the awakening Spirit. Cycle after Cycle in Round after Round of the new Manvantara the flaming Rays were subjected to the influence of the refining Fire until, when the Manvantara drew to a close and the shadows of another Pralaya began to deepen they were prepared for manifestation in a body expressing a higher state of consciousness. Again Pralaya enshrouded the Great Body with its mantle, and with its senses by slumber stilled, it rested. Pralaya passed, Manvantara dawned, The Great Body awoke to renewed activity, and with the awakening the fiery Rays attained to a higher expression of Life and Form and entered into the state of Dream Consciousness. On another course of Cycles and Rounds the fiery Rays progressed, continuously subjected to the refining influence of the Great Alchemistic Fire that prepared them for just correspondence with the plane of Life and Form on which they were to manifest in a future Manvantara. Shrouded again with the robe of Pralaya the Great Body rested, awaiting the dawn of a Manvantara in which its fiery Rays would manifest upon the plane of wakeful, self-consciousness. That Manvantara has dawned and Pralaya draws on.

\* \* \* \* \*

"From the unmanifested all the manifested stream forth at the coming of day." (*Bhagavad-Gita.*) "The Worlds are built up of Elements. These Elements are themselves, collectively, a Divine Life. Distributively, on the plane of manifestation the numberless and countless crores of Lives. "Fire alone is One, on the plane of the one Reality: On that of manifested, hence illusive Being, its particles are fiery lives which live and have their being at the expense of every other life that they consume." (*Secret Doctrine.*) Our planet is an Hierarchy, or "Order of Being." Of itself, it is a "Divine Life"; an Exalted Spirit Incarnate; a brilliant, Septenary Ray of the Great Central Flame, the One Fire. The planetary septenate manifests in elemental divisions, all of which are, essentially, Fire, but expressed, as heretofore stated, in solid, liquid, fluidic, etheric and other forms. The Elements are distributed in equitable proportion throughout the various kingdoms of Nature, and the crores, of fiery lives that enter into the formation of the mineral atom, the plant, the animal and the human are but crystallized expressions of the One Essence that pervades Universal Space; the Light which was condensed into the World-Egg. As a result, not an atom of mineral, not a plant, not an animal nor a human being exists that is not, fundamentally, a septenate, and a partaker of the nature of the "Fire" which "Alone is One."

\* \* \* \* \*

"Every Form on Earth and every Speck (atom) in Space strives in its efforts toward self-formation to follow the model placed for it in the "Heavenly Man." (*Secret Doctrine.*) Assuming that the reader is cognizant of the operation of the involuntary processes by which the atoms and Monads, as we know them, were crystallized from Cosmic Root Substance, it is needless to go into detail concerning it. The present manifestation of the "fiery lives" and the process by which they are being refined and raised to vibratory correspondence with higher planes of Life and Form will alone be considered. (*To be continued*)

# Standard Instruction in the Rosicrucian Philosophy.

By Fr. K. X°.

Number Four.

## The Four Kingdoms.

### Divisions of the Life Stream, their Natures and Attributes.

(Copyrighted 1919, by Societas Rosicruciana In America)

<b>The Life Stream divides</b>	Rosicrucian science teaches that the Life Stream in its progress through Involuntary Processes and the commencement of Evolution, differentiates into four distinct streams known as "Kingdoms." These are:
<b>Four Kingdoms</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Mineral Kingdom.</li><li>2. The Vegetable or Plant Kingdom.</li><li>3. The Animal Kingdom.</li><li>4. The Human Kingdom.</li></ol>
<b>Four Rivers</b>	In another sense the Life Stream may be considered as branching out like the River of Eden into four distinct branches, running through Mineral, Vegetable, Animal and Human Matter.
<b>Held in common by all bodies</b>	In either sense, these are the Four Life Kingdoms or four divisions of the Life Stream held in common by all legitimate occult bodies and by academic or material science as well.
<b>Purpose of Matter</b>	The <i>PURPOSE</i> of Matter is to supply to the developing Spirit proper vehicles for expression, in order that it may have ample opportunity to contact all necessary experience.
<b>Substance of Matter</b>	The <i>SUBSTANCE</i> of Matter in all the Kingdoms is identical, as Matter itself is simply crystallized Spirit. All substance is homogeneous, Universal Cosmic Root Substance. No one world is <i>finer</i> than another, but the various worlds differ in density and gravity.
<b>Organic and Inorganic Divisions of Physical Science</b>	Physical science divides the realm of Matter into two general divisions, ORGANIC and INORGANIC, each division being again subdivided into Type, Genus, Specie etc. Such sub-divisions are necessary in the study of biology, zoology, etc., but it is seldom that the occult student is called upon to consider the minutiae of species, but rather the generalized conditions of life as pertaining to a given Kingdom.
<b>Planetary Ether Interpenetrates</b>	The atoms of all the world regions described in the previous Instruction interpenetrate all the Four Kingdoms, and for this reason it must be understood that in order to express ALL the conditions of a particular Kingdom a separate Etheric and Astral Body must be present, else the expression of that Kingdom will be limited.
<b>Ethers active in the Four Kingdoms</b>	In the Four Kingdoms, the Ethers are active as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Mineral Kingdom .....Chemical Ether.</li><li>2. Vegetable Kingdom.....Chemical and Life Ethers.</li><li>3. Animal Kingdom.....Chemical, Life and Light Ethers.</li><li>4. Human Kingdom.....Chemical, Life, Light and Reflecting Ethers.</li></ol>
<b>Vehicles of the Kingdoms</b>	The vehicles of the Involving and Evolving Spirit in the Four Kingdoms are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Mineral Kingdom.....Physical Body.</li><li>2. Vegetable Kingdom.....Physical and Etheric Bodies.</li><li>3. Animal Kingdom.....Physical, Etheric, and Astral Bodies.</li><li>4. Human Kingdom.....Physical, Etheric, Astral Bodies and Mental Sheath.</li></ol>
<b>Power peculiar to each Kingdom</b>	Thus the powers peculiar to the Four Kingdoms are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Mineral Kingdom.....latent until released by exterior conditions.</li><li>2. Vegetable Kingdom.....Growth and Propagation.</li><li>3. Animal Kingdom.....Growth, Propagation, Locomotion.</li><li>4. Human Kingdom.....Growth, Propagation, Locomotion, Thought.</li></ol>
<b>States of consciousness defined</b>	This explains the states of consciousness pertaining to each Kingdom as given in a previous Instruction. <p>In the Mineral Kingdom only the Chemical Ether is active, producing the formation and crystallization of the substance; The involving Spirit is therefore also latent and confined. The consciousness of the involving Spirit is therefore also latent and confined and is described as the Trance state of consciousness;</p> <p>In the Vegetable Kingdom, the Chemical and Life Ethers being active make growth possible by the former, and propagation possible by the activity of the latter in connection with the separate Etheric Body. Light Ether is present but latent, hence the consciousness is that of Dreamless Sleep.</p> <p>In the Animal Kingdom, the Chemical, Life, and Light Ethers being active make growth and assimilation possible by the first, propagation by the second, and by the third locomotion consequent upon awakening of sense perception and the resultant development of the necessary means therefore in obedience to the law that Nature creates in accord with necessity. The Reflecting Ether is present but dormant, hence the consciousness is dream sleep or not quite full possession of the complete sensoria.</p> <p>In the human Kingdom, all ethers are active, hence full waking consciousness with complete possession of all sensoria, the faculty of thought in distinction to instinct and memory.</p>
<b>4th Memory</b>	We have previously cited three states of memory, the sub conscious, conscious, and super conscious. We now add a fourth state, the <i>Cosmic Memory</i> , the function of which is to give to the ultimate Initiate the consciousness not only of his past incarnations in human form but the consciousness of his states during his Involuntary processes and periods, as well as his Evolutionary ones. Such is not only possible but has been demonstrated.
<b>Elementals</b>	It is principally in connection with the Mineral Kingdom and the transitional state to the Vegetable that we come into contact with the fairy creatures known to Rosicrucians as Elementals, elemental types or forms of Humanity wherein the Involved Spirit is leaving the Animal Kingdom to become Human, but habiting largely the realm of the Mineral erstwhile. These Elementals are:



## Elementals

1. The Gnomes..... Spirits of Earth.
2. The Sylphs.....Spirits of Air.
3. The Salamanders.....Spirits of Fire.
4. The Undines.....Spirits of Water.

Their direct and close approximation and association with the Four Elements indicates the reason why we find them so often present in the various conditions pertaining to the Mineral Kingdom.

## Transitional Processes

The transition of the stream of Life from one Kingdom to another is after this wise:

The Mineral Spirit being so confined by the process of Crystallization adjusts itself to the geometric and purely mathematic form of Crystals, remaining inert until acted upon by exterior forces.

The Vegetable Spirits assimilate the crystallized elements, transmuting them into crystalloids.

These crystalloids are then assimilated by the Spirits of the Animal and Human Kingdoms, transmuted into cells, and compounded into organs.

## College Notes.

A cordial welcome is extended to the six new Sorors Recognized at the last Convocation.

The Subject of the Initiation Fee and Annual Dues in Metropolitan will be brought up at the next Convocation, lack of time having prevented discussion of the matter at the last Convocation.

On Saturday, April 26th, Rt. Wor. and Rt. Rev. Fr. Nestorius, X<sup>o</sup>, left town for a ten days sojourn in Florida. The best wishes of the College go with him.

The thanks of the College are extended to all who responded so generously with contributions of money and clothing for the destitute family reported at the last Convocation.

## The Stars for May.

We may still "bid farewell" to brilliant Sirius and bright Rigel, although, since the Sun during May sets from about 8 to half-past 8 o'clock, we must do so before they are overwhelmed by the superior radiance of Sol. In fact, the evening glory of the "glorious galaxy" has now departed, but, nevertheless, as was stated in *Mercury*, April 7th this galaxy's "upper part will remain in sight until about the beginning of summer." Slowly, from the east, the suns and constellations of later spring and summer are advancing towards the west. Around the hour of nine, at the beginning of the second week in May, the first-magnitude sun Regulus, with its starry Sickle, is to be found just south of the zenith, the rest of Leo's constellation extending from Regulus, eastward to a point above the constellation of Virgo.

The sun Spica, at the bottom of Virgo, is in the southeast, not far above the horizon. Besides Spica, the constellation Virgo contains about 10 fairly noticeable stars. Southeast and southward from Virgo, passing the smaller constellations Corvus and Crater, we find the long yet dim constellation of Hydra (the Sea Serpent), extending from the tip of its tail, near Spica, to its head, close by the bright star Procyon, one of the higher suns in the "glorious galaxy." Northward from the constellations Virgo and Leo, there are the noticeable constellations Bootes (Arcturus), the very dim starry outline of Coma Berenices ("Berenice's Hair"), and the Greater Bear (Ursa Major). During May, around 9 o'clock, Ursa Major and its Dipper will be sparkling close to or just north of the zenith. And northward from Bootes and Ursa Major, there are to be found the constellations of Hercules (rising in the northeast) and of Draco. (dim and irregular, extending from Hercules to Ursa Major).

With respect to Venus, Jupiter, Saturn and Mars, these popular planets, taken in order, set 11:12 P.M., 12:04 A.M., 2:18 A.M., whereas Mars rises at 5:30 A.M. (May 10th). And, on May 31st, Venus sets about 11:30, Jupiter about 11, Saturn about 1; and ruddy Mars rises about 5 A.M.

## Directory.

The One Hundred and Second Stated Convocation of Metropolitan College S.:R.:I.:A.:., will be held in the Adytum, 310 Lenox Avenue  
Between 125th. and 126th. Streets, opposite 125th. Street station, Lenox Ave. Subway.

Friday Evening, May 9, 1919, at 8.00 P. M. precisely

### Work:

Neophytes' Class ..... Instructor Rt. Wor. Fr. Reficio IX<sup>o</sup>

Elementary Rosicrucian Philosophy, No. 3,

Subject: "Man and His Bodies."

This Class will meet at 8:00 P.M., on Wednesday, May 14, in Room 1517 Masonic Temple, 24th St. Take Elevators from 24th St. Entrance.

Elementary Hermetic Class.....Instructor, Rt. Wor. Fr. Paracelsus IX<sup>o</sup>

Elementary Hermetic Instruction, No. 4,

Subject: "The Universe as a Mental Concept of the Absolute, Creatively."

This Class will meet at 8:00 P.M., on Friday, May 16th, in Room 1517 Masonic Temple, 24th St. See Instructions above.

Senior Hermetic Class. ....Instructor, Fr. K.

Doctrinal Instruction, No. 3,

Subject: The "Chalice."

### Astrological Classes.

Sr. Progressia 9<sup>o</sup>-2<sup>o</sup>.

Elementary Class, 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays. }

Advanced Class, 2nd. and 4th. Tuesdays. }

712 West 180th St., 8 P. M. Sharp.

ALL CLASSES CONVENE AT 8:00 P. M. PRECISELY, PLEASE BE PROMPT.

### Masonic Notices.

THE SEVENTEENTH REGULAR VOYAGE OF METROPOLITAN LODGE, NO. 1, ARK MARINER MASON'S, will be held on Thursday Evening, May 15th, at 8:00 P. M.

Owing to unavoidable circumstances, the Fifteenth Regular Voyage was held on Thursday Evening, April 17th, instead of April 3rd, and the Sixteenth Regular Voyage was held May 1st.