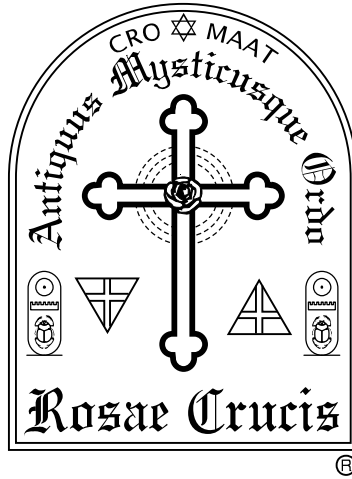




ROSICRUCIAN INITIATION

ROSICRUCIAN ORDER
AMORC



NEOPHYTE SECTION

Atrium 1

*“Initiation brings into the realm of reason the purpose
and into the realm of emotion the spirit of one’s
introduction into the Mysteries.”*

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The Story of Light

All the great avatars gave to humanity spiritual doctrines or a moral code enabling men and women to commune with the Cosmic and receive its Illumination. Thus, they were Torchbearers of the Great Light which lit the world through history's darkest periods. Without their help it is likely that the human race would not have advanced to its present level of understanding and tolerance, even though we must recognize that humanity still has far to go to be a model of Divine Perfection on Earth. In concurrence with this initiation, whose purpose is to awaken your spiritual being, we offer this short biography of one of those greater avatars who, through time and space, transmitted Light to humanity.

AKHNATON (Amenhotep IV)

According to the archives of our Order, Amenhotep IV was born in the royal palace of Thebes on November 24, 1378 BCE. He was the son of Amenhotep III and Queen Tiy. In 1367, when he was only eleven years old, he was crowned and thus became the pharaoh of Egypt. At a very young age he married Nefertiti (whose name means "The Coming of Beauty") with whom he had seven daughters.

From an early age, Amenhotep IV rejected the superstitious practices of the priests of Amon. He considered the priests to be only impostors who took advantage of the credulity of the people so as to exert absolute power over them. From the time he was vested with the required authority, Amenhotep opposed the priesthood with unprecedented determination, for he was convinced that the entire universe was the work of One God, rather than a multitude of gods and goddesses that must be adored by means of many sacrifices. Thus, for the first time in recorded history, monotheism supplanted a polytheism which, by this time, had spread over the entire surface of the Earth. For centuries after his reign, Amenhotep IV was represented as an individual afflicted by madness; however, historians now agree that this pharaoh inspired an unprecedented cultural and spiritual revolution.

The priests of Heliopolis, as was generally true of priests throughout Egypt, thought that the Sun, which they called Ra, was the God of all the gods and goddesses. They worshiped Ra most often under the name of Amon-Ra. For Amenhotep IV the Sun was merely the visible symbol of the invisible God in which he believed and whom he called Aton. He changed his own name,

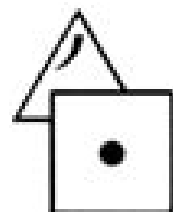
(Continued on inside back cover)

Dear Fratres and Sorores,

We hope that you comprehend the symbolic importance of the Rosicrucian sanctum and that you have determined where you will establish your own sanctum. This should not be seen as an obligation, because, according to the traditional rules of our Order, you remain free to live Rosicrucianism as you understand it and, perhaps, most of all, as you experience it. However, the idea of the sanctum is rooted in the history of our mystical organization and, for centuries, Rosicrucians have given it great importance. For many of them the sanctum is a place they revere because of the symbolism they have attributed to it, and it is in this place that they take pleasure in studying their monographs and in meditating on the spiritual values of existence. When the proper time comes, we will give you further explanations concerning the Rosicrucian sanctum and we will ask you to consecrate it with a special ritual that will make it a place whose vibratory nature gives it a mystical dimension benefiting you on all levels.

Due to the importance attributed to the Rosicrucian sanctum by our Tradition, we will presume that you now have a permanent one or, at the very least, that you will obtain everything necessary—namely, a table or a shelf, a mirror, and two candles—for when you conduct your study period. However, if it is absolutely impossible for you to arrange a sanctum for your weekly work, you must of course continue your studies, as you have until the present. What matters most of all is working on a regular basis and putting your whole heart into the study and practice of our teachings. On the other hand, when carrying out Rosicrucian initiations, it is essential that you have the benefit of some sort of sanctum, whether permanent or temporary. If, for whatever reason, this is not possible, we advise you nevertheless to read the following ritual, as though it were a monograph. In this way you can absorb its contents and continue your normal Rosicrucian studies without feeling that you are getting behind. However, once you are able to set up a sanctum, you must carry out this initiation, so that your Rosicrucian progression will be in complete conformity with our Tradition.

You may have noted that an oath is included with this special monograph. Ideally, it must be read and signed at a given moment in the following initiation. If you cannot conduct the initiation right away for the reasons we have just explained, read it just the

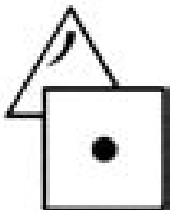


same, sign it, and store it in your records, preferably in your study notebook. If you are a companion member, please photocopy the oath before it is filled out or signed. This Neophyte's Oath is very important on the mystical level.

Before allowing you to proceed with the following ritual, we must once again emphasize the fact that Rosicrucian initiations have no connection whatsoever with magical practices, for AMORC has never taught or approved of such methods. Moreover, it has always opposed such practices firmly, because black magic is founded on principles that resort to strange and unusual manifestations bordering upon the "supernatural." Rosicrucianism is instead a mystical way that exalts the study of cosmic laws, such as those manifested in the universe, in nature, and in human beings. It is also a philosophy based on the desire to perfect oneself and to express in one's behavior the noblest virtues of the human soul.

Rosicrucian initiations are not religious in character. Their goal is to enable each member to gain greater awareness of his or her spiritual nature and to establish a more intimate dialogue between the objective self and the inner self. The key to the mastery of life lies in the ability to create this dialogue, because it is what gives the individual that inspiration, will, and power to manifest on Earth the grandeur and glory of Divine Intelligence which vibrates in the individual's innermost self and in the heart of the most distant galaxies. In this regard, Rosicrucian initiation constitutes an ideal path to "know oneself and thus to know the universe and the gods."

* * *



PRELIMINARY INSTRUCTIONS

Sanctum Preparation:

To complete the following initiation ritual it is imperative that your sanctum be properly equipped as we have said and that you are in a state of perfect tranquility, without risk of being disturbed.

The lighting of the room in which you have set up your sanctum must be as subdued as possible. However, the light must be sufficient so you can read the instructions without difficulty.

The candles of your sanctum must not be lit prior to the ritual. You may burn a little incense.

Have a box of matches within reach, as they will be needed during your initiation. Likewise, have a candle snuffer nearby.

Place a pen and a bowl holding a small amount of water on your sanctum altar.

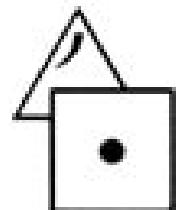
Special Instructions:

Before beginning the following ritual, wash your hands as a sign of physical purification and drink a glass of water as a sign of mental purification.

If you own a Rosicrucian apron, put it on. As was explained to you in the booklet entitled *Neophyte Guide—Rosicrucian Initiation*, this apron is a symbol of mystical work and veneration.

In the ritual you are about to carry out, you must always imagine that you are being directed by your Class Master and that he or she is present on the invisible plane.

As soon as you feel ready to carry out this initiation, sit facing your sanctum mirror and, after a few minutes of meditation, begin to read the following:



RITUAL

Class Master: (Read the following in a low voice and imagine that your Class Master is present and speaking to you on the invisible plane.)

Beloved Postulant, I greet you before the Rosicrucian Sign!

It is with joy that I will now guide you in this initiation which will make you a Neophyte of our Order and, in that capacity, a full member of our organization. I ask you to give all your attention, all your trust, and all your sincerity to this symbolic ceremony, so that you may pass through this first Portal in all purity and in perfect dignity.

Now arise and light the candle on your left and, immediately after doing so, say the following: “May this light, symbol of the Great Light of Cosmic Wisdom, spread its radiance in the midst of darkness and illuminate my path.”

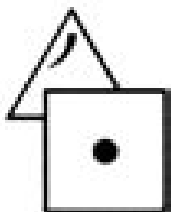
Postulant: (Follow these instructions with sincerity and by being as receptive as possible on the inner level.)

Class Master: (Read the following while still imagining that your Class Master is guiding you in this ritual.)

Postulant, now light the other candle and, immediately after doing so, say the following: “Unto Light is added light, so that my inner Light, united with the Great Light of Cosmic Wisdom, may guide my steps out of the forest of errors where ignorance, superstition, and suffering reign.”

Postulant: (Do what your Class Master has asked of you, and then be seated. Meditate a few moments on what you have just said and done, and then continue.)

Class Master: Know, O Postulant, that fire, from the most remote antiquity, has symbolized the purification, regeneration, and illumination which human consciousness may receive when harmonizing itself with Cosmic Consciousness. Many centuries before the Christian era, in some form or other, a sacred flame burned on the altar of many temples. It symbolized the Omnipresence, Omnipotence, and Omniscience of the Divine Fire. And humans, because we possess that Divine Fire in



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Class Master: our innermost beings, are fascinated by the power which the flame exerts over us.

Have you not noticed how human beings experience peace and harmony of thought when we meditate together around the same hearth? This is so because the sight of fire sheds light on our souls, warms our hearts, and awakens within us the noblest sentiments. Of that you must always be conscious, because as long as you seek the Greater Light, your own inner Light will guide your steps.

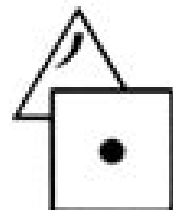
Now, Postulant, arise, lightly dip the tip of your right index finger in the water. Now trace a cross in the center of your sanctum mirror, and say the following words: “Rosicrucian Tradition states that when human beings saluted the sunrise for the first time, we did so with arms outstretched to the sides, and as we were thus venerating the coming of the light of dawn, the shadow formed by our body on the ground had the appearance of a cross. This allegory has traversed centuries and the cross has thus become for mystics the symbol of the physical body and of the trials of earthly life, which, symbolically, is only the shadow of Cosmic Life.”

Postulant: (Do and say what was asked of you.)

Class Master: (Continue reading while paying attention to what is said.)

Now dip the tip of your right index finger in the water again and lightly trace a circle in the center of the cross. Then read the following words:

“By this circle is symbolized the rose, which represents the human soul in its gradual blossoming in contact with the mundane world. When the rose is joined with the cross, we become a vehicle of Cosmic Consciousness on Earth and participate in the Great Work. May the Rosy Cross thus be for me the symbol of my own evolution and of my sincere desire to reflect the Greater Light in each of my thoughts, words, and actions.”



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Postulant: (After following the preceding instructions, be seated and, after pausing about one minute, continue this ritual.)

Class Master: (Read the following in a low voice.)

For too long, O Postulant, you have remained in ignorance of your own Mystery, and an abyss has eventually formed between your soul and your body, between the Rose living within you and the Cross you must carry. The time has come for you to fill this abyss, for such is the condition you must attain if you want to make yourself the master of your life. To help you, I will now leave you alone with yourself and I will ask you some questions which you must answer by facing your conscience. In this way, a communion will be established between your outer self and your inner self, and from this communion there will surge a flame that will light your path throughout the coming months. Be sincere in your answers because, although it is possible to deceive others, one cannot lie to oneself.

Postulant: (Read the following questions and answer each of them while observing your reflection in the mirror.)

Class Master: “Do you wish to know the Mystery of your being?”

(Answer.)

“Why do you seek knowledge of this Mystery?”

(Answer.)

“Do you promise to listen to the voice of your inner self?”

(Answer.)

“Will you heed its warnings?”

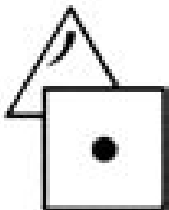
(Answer.)

“Will you allow it to speak freely?”

(Answer.)

“Do you agree to make it your guardian, guide, and protector?”

(Answer.)



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Class Master: “Will you go as often as possible into this sanctum?”

(Answer.)

Postulant: (After answering each of these questions, meditate a few moments on the inner communion they have allowed you to establish. Once this is done, continue.)

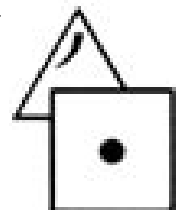
Class Master: (Read the following sentences with solemnity.)

Since you have agreed, before your own reflection, before your conscience, to answer the questions submitted to you, and since the replies you gave to them satisfied your inner self, I affirm, before the Rosy Cross and the Masters of our Tradition, that you are worthy of being admitted to the Neophyte Section of the Ancient and Mystical Order Rosae Crucis. For this admission to be certified in your heart, you must acquaint yourself with the oath at the end of this initiation and carefully read each of its points. After doing this, you will sign it and place it in your personal records, preferably in your study notebook. It will thus act as the witness to the sacred oath you took when facing your own conscience.

Neophyte: (Read the Neophyte’s Oath and sign it. Then continue to read this ritual.)

Class Master: (Read the following in a low voice.)

Remember forever, Neophyte, the moments you have just lived in the presence of the Invisible Masters of our Order and in the presence of the Supreme Intelligence which prevails throughout Creation. And, most of all, always retain the memory of the communion you have just established with your inner self which, as long as you keep your promises, will ever be your guide, your guardian, and, under the aegis of the Rosy Cross, your protector. Whenever you wish to reestablish this communion with your inner self, withdraw to this sanctum and, far from noise and turmoil, let yourself be infused by its light.



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Class Master: Neophyte, before we part, I must give you the traditional password which is associated with the First Portal you have just passed through. This word is *Reflection*. Learn it, because you may some day be asked for it, and always keep it secret. Now arise and extinguish the two candles of your sanctum, beginning with the one on your left. Then close this special initiation by making the Rosicrucian Sign and saying:

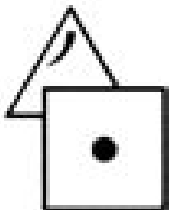
“Before the Rosicrucian Sign and in the presence of the Guardian of this sanctum, I close this ritual. May the Greater Light of Cosmic Wisdom enlighten me forever, so that I may be worthy of the Knowledge that will be entrusted to me. So Mote It Be!”

Neophyte: (Follow the instructions just given, and then remain silent for a few minutes. Then write a brief report of the ritual in your study notebook. Then leave your sanctum or disassemble it if it is temporary.)

With best wishes for Peace Profound,

Sincerely and fraternally,

Your Class Master



Words of the Illumined

“Many are the vistas that are revealed to those who have attained the mountaintop.”

It is often difficult, when considering the founders of spiritual doctrines that have marked the evolution of humanity, to make a distinction between the historical truth and legendary aspects of their lives, because such beings are often described as demigods. What cannot be doubted about them is the legacy of words of wisdom which reflect the Illumination that raised them above other people. Featured here are some of the thoughts of the Illuminatus whose biography introduces this special monograph.

HYMN TO ATON

*Splendid you rise in heaven's lightland,
O living Aten, creator of life!
When you have dawned in eastern lightland,
You fill every land with your beauty.
You are beauteous, great, radiant,
High over every land;
Your rays embrace the lands,
To the limit of all that you made.
Being Re, you reach their limits,
You bend them for the son whom you love;
Though you are far, your rays are on earth,
Though one sees you, your strides are unseen.*

*When you set in western lightland,
Earth is in darkness as if in death;
One sleeps in chambers, heads covered,
One eye does not see another.
Were they robbed of their goods,
That are under their heads,
People would not remark it.
Every lion comes from its den,
All the serpents bite;
Darkness hovers, earth is silent,
As their maker rests in lightland.*

*Earth brightens when you dawn in lightland,
When you shine as Aten of daytime;
As you dispel the dark,
As you cast your rays,
The Two Lands are in festivity.
Awake they stand on their feet,
You have roused them;
Bodies cleansed, clothed,
Their arms adore your appearance.*

*The entire land sets out to work,
All beasts browse on their herbs;
Trees, herbs are sprouting,
Birds fly from their nests,
Their wings greeting your ka.
All flocks frisk on their feet,
All that fly up and alight,
They live when you dawn for them.
Ships fare north, fare south as well,
Roads lie open when you rise;
The fish in the river dart before you.
Your rays are in the midst of the sea.*

*Who makes seed grow in women,
Who creates people from sperm;
Who feeds the son in his mother's womb,
Who soothes him to still his tears.
Nurse in the womb,
Giver of breath,
To nourish all that he made.
When he comes from the womb to breathe,
On the day of his birth,
You open wide his mouth,
You supply his needs.
When the chick in the egg speaks in the shell,
You give him breath within to sustain him;
When you have made him complete,
To break out from the egg,
He comes out from the egg,
To announce his completion,
Walking on his legs he comes from it.*

*How many are your deeds,
Though hidden from sight,
O Sole God beside whom there is none!
You made the earth as you wished, you alone,
All peoples, herds, and flocks;
All upon earth that walk on legs,
All on high that fly on wings,
The lands of Khor and Kush,
The land of Egypt.
You set every man in his place,
You supply their needs;
Everyone has his food,
His lifetime is counted.
Their tongues differ in speech,
Their characters likewise;
Their skins are distinct,
For you distinguished the peoples.*

Neophyte's Oath

A lone with my conscience, in the invisible presence of the Masters of our Order and under the Supreme Sight of the Divine Intelligence who works upon all levels of Universal Creation, at the moment I prepare to pass through the First Portal of the Ancient and Mystical Order Rosae Crucis, conscious of the importance of this moment and guided by the values that my understanding considers to be the most sacred, I solemnly declare to subscribe to the following oath and promise to observe each of the points:

First: As a Neophyte of A.M.O.R.C., I promise to study zealously its sacred and secret teachings, to devote sufficient time to meditate on the mystical laws and principles that have been transmitted to me, and to apply the knowledge that I will acquire, so as to receive Illumination and to gain access to the Mastery of life.

Second: As a citizen of the world and a member of the human family, I promise to do everything within my power to lead a life in conformance with the highest ideals; to use the wisdom that will be transmitted to me to serve the interests of humanity; to reflect the noblest virtues in my thoughts, words, and actions; and to contribute to the cultural, moral, and spiritual advancement of the country in which I reside.

Third: I promise to respect the fundamental rules of A.M.O.R.C., which rest on the promise that I have made to consider as confidential the teachings that have been transmitted to me, as well as the symbols, signs, and passwords that will be revealed to me during my affiliation; to comply with the instructions that I may receive from the Grand Lodge, knowing that these will always respect my freedom of conscience; and to always hold in high regard the integrity of the Order and the ideals which animate each of its members.

So Mote It Be!

Print Full Name _____ *Key Number* _____

Full Signature _____

Date _____ *Hour of Signing* _____

Note: As our Order is a school emphasizing freedom of conscience, the preceding oath corresponds primarily to a traditional commitment—that is, a commitment to yourself. Thus, if you find one of the points unacceptable to your convictions, you are entirely free not to sign the document.

The Story of Light *(continued)*

which means “Amon Is Satisfied,” to Akhnaton, meaning “Disciple of Aton.” Akhnaton considered this God to be an Unique Intelligence manifesting in the whole universe and penetrating all things. He thought the Sun to be an appropriate symbol because this Intelligence brings vitality to all earthly creatures through solar rays. He also meant to show that the One God was present in the heart of everyone, much as the Sun spreads its light and warmth upon every being. Aton was therefore often represented by a solar disk whose rays ended in hands, thus symbolizing Aton’s desire to spread blessings on all humanity, without distinction as to gender or race. These were convictions that were very advanced on a philosophical level.

Very soon, Akhnaton left Thebes, Egypt’s traditional capital. He constructed a splendid new capital named Akhetaton (near modern-day Tell el-Amarna in central Egypt) which, naturally, was dedicated to his new religion. He summoned to Akhetaton the most learned men and women of his time and, with their assistance, laid the foundations of a mystical organization whose ideals and teachings were to spread all over the face of the Earth. In the heart of Akhetaton he built a temple in which this group met regularly to study the arts, sciences, and Mysteries. Our Order is presently a trustee of all the knowledge that was accumulated in this place of which only a few ruins remain today.

Throughout his life, the greatest desire of Akhnaton was to behold the face of the living and unique God he had strived to serve. Rosicrucian Tradition reports that on July 24, 1350 BCE, in the late afternoon, he passed through transition, with his right hand held toward the heavens, symbolizing the ultimate ascent for which he had prepared himself. He was twenty-eight years old.



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