



ROSICRUCIAN INITIATION

ROSICRUCIAN ORDER
AMORC



NEOPHYTE SECTION

Atrium 1

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Published by the Grand Lodge of the English Language Jurisdiction, AMORC, Inc.

007



The Story of Light

All the great avatars who gave to humanity spiritual doctrines or a moral code enabling men and women to commune with the Cosmic and receive its Illumination, were Torch Bearers of the Great Light which, thanks to them, 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 concordance with this initiation, whose purpose is to awaken your spiritual being, we offer this short biography of one of those great 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 B.C. He was the son of Amenhotep III and of Queen Tia. In 1367, when he was only 11 years old, he became the pharaoh of Egypt. At a young age he married Nefertiti (whose name means "The Coming of Beauty") with whom he had seven daughters.

From youth onward Amenhotep IV scorned the superstitious practices of the priests of Amon. He considered the priests to be impostors who took advantage of the credulity of the people so as to exert absolute power over them. Once 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 one must adore by means of multiple sacrifices. Thus, for the first time in recorded history, monotheism supplanted a polytheism which had spread over the entire surface of the earth. For centuries, Amenhotep IV was represented as a personage afflicted by madness, but historians now agree that this pharaoh originated a cultural and spiritual revolution which contributed considerably to the evolution of humanity.

The priests of Heliopolis, just as the priests throughout all of Egypt, thought that the Sun, whom they called *Ra*, was the God of all gods. They worshiped Ra most often under the name of *Amon-Ra*. For Amenhotep IV, the sun was only the *visible symbol* of the invisible God whom he called *Aton*. He changed his own name, which means "Amon Is Satisfied," into *Akhnaton*, meaning "Disciple of Aton." Akhnaton considered this God to be a Unique Intelligence manifesting in the whole universe and penetrating all

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Dear Fratres and Sorores,

We hope that you fully comprehend the symbolic importance of the Rosicrucian Sanctum and that you have determined where you will establish your own Sanctum. No obligation is involved in this matter, for, according to our Order's traditional rules, you remain free to live Rosicrucian philosophy as you understand it and as you experience it. However, the concept of the Sanctum is one of the most ancient in the history of our mystical brotherhood and, for centuries, Rosicrucians have granted it considerable importance. For many the Sanctum is a place they love dearly because of the symbolism they have ascribed to it, and because the Sanctum is where they take great pleasure in studying their monographs and in meditating on the spiritual values of existence. When the moment comes for you, we will give further explanations concerning the Rosicrucian Sanctum. At that time we will ask that you consecrate it with a special ritual which will make it a place whose vibratory nature gives it a mystical dimension benefitting you on all levels.

Considering the importance attached by our tradition to the Rosicrucian Sanctum, we will presume that you now established your Sanctum, or at the very least, that you will obtain all that is necessary—namely, a table or a shelf, a mirror, and two candles—when you conduct your study period. To partake effectively in a Rosicrucian initiation, it is imperative that you have the benefit of some sort of Sanctum, be it permanent or temporary. However, if it is absolutely impossible for you to have at your disposal a Sanctum for your weekly work, you must continue your studies. What matters most is to work on a regular basis and to put all your heart into the study and practice of our teachings. With this intent, read the following ritual as though it were a monograph. But as soon as you can have a Sanctum at your disposal, you must conduct this initiation, so that you may fully experience the Rosicrucian tradition.

Included in this special monograph is the *Neophyte's Great Oath*. Theoretically, it must be read and signed at a given moment in the following initiation. However, if you cannot conduct the initiation right away for the reasons we have just explained, read it just the same, sign it, and send it with your Initiation Report to the Department of Instruction. If you wish, make copies of both to retain for your own records. (Companion Members: please



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photocopy both the Initiation Report and the Great Oath before they are filled out or signed. Then using these copies, follow the instructions given above.)

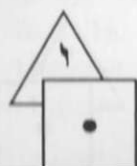
Before proceeding with the following ritual, we must once again emphasize that the Rosicrucian initiation has no connection whatsoever with magical practices, for AMORC has never taught ceremonial magic. The Order is firmly opposed to such practices as black magic or voodoo for its leaders know from experience that such have their roots in superstition, which, in all its forms and aspects generates fanaticism and ignorance. Rosicrucian tradition represents, rather, a path of freedom and knowledge. Hence, all of its teachings and initiations have only one goal: to restore to humanity what is our due—or, in other words, to restore to humanity the mastery of laws which have always governed life, whether they be manifested on this mundane plane or not.

It should also be kept in mind that Rosicrucian rituals have no religious character. Their goal, as we already stated, is to enable each member to gain greater awareness of his or her spiritual nature and to establish a more intimate dialogue between the Outer Self and the Inner Self. In fact, the key to the Mastery of Life lies in the ability to create this dialogue, for this is what gives the individual that strength, will, and power to manifest on earth the grandeur and the glory of intelligence which vibrates both in the individual's innermost self and in the heart of the most remote galaxies. Rosicrucian initiation thus constitutes an ideal path to "better know oneself and thus to know the universe and the gods."

PRELIMINARY INSTRUCTIONS

To complete the following initiation ritual it is imperative that your Sanctum be properly equipped and that you be in a state of perfect peace, without risk of being disturbed.

The lighting of the room in which you have set up your Sanctum must be as soft as possible. However, the light must be sufficient for you to read the instructions without difficulty.



The candles of your Sanctum must remain unlit prior to the ritual, but you may burn a little incense.

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Have a box of matches and a candle snuffer within reach, for they will be needed during your initiation.

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

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

When you feel ready to begin 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 speaking to you.)

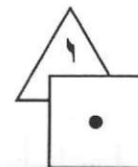
Beloved Postulant, Greetings on the three points of our Sacred Triangle! It is with joy that I will now guide you in this initiation which will make you a Neophyte of our Order and, in that capacity, a full-fledged member of our mystical brotherhood. I ask you to give all your attention, all your devotion, all your trust, and all your sincerity to this symbolic ceremony, so that you may pass this first Portal in all purity and in perfect dignity.

Light the candle on your left and, immediately after having done so, say:

“May this Sacred Light, symbol of the Greater Light of Cosmic Wisdom, cast its radiance in the midst of darkness and illuminate my path.”

Postulant: (Carry out these instructions without the least mental reservation and in an inner attitude as receptive as possible.)

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



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Beloved Postulant, now light the other candle and, immediately after having done so, say the following:

“Unto Light is added light, 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, then continue.)

Know, O Postulant, that fire, from most remote antiquity, has always symbolized the purification, the regeneration, and the illumination which human consciousness receives when harmonizing itself with Cosmic Consciousness. Many centuries ago, in some form or other, a sacred flame burned on the altar of many temples. It symbolized the Omnipresence, the Omnipotence, and the Omniscience of the Divine Fire. And humans, because we possess that Divine Fire in our innermost being, are fascinated by the power which the flame exerts over us.

Have you not noticed, O Postulant, how your fellow beings feel at peace and in communion of thought when they meditate together around the same hearth? That is so because the sight of fire sheds light on their soul, warms their heart, and awakens within them the noblest sentiments. Of that you must always be conscious, for as long as you seek the Greater Light, your inner light will light your steps.

Now, Beloved Postulant, arise, lightly dip the tip of your right index finger in the water, draw a cross in the middle of your sanctum mirror, and say the following words:

“Rosicrucian tradition states that when humans saluted the sunrise for the first time, we did so with our arms outstretched, and as we were thus venerating the coming of the light of dawn, the shadow formed by our body on



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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 but the shadow of Cosmic Life.”

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

Class Master: (Continue your reading and pay careful attention to what is said.)

Dip the tip of your right index finger in the water again, lightly draw a circle in the center of the cross and 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 then participate in the advancement of the Great Work. Let the Rose-Cross be for you the symbol of your own evolution and of your sincere desire to reflect the Greatest Light in each of your thoughts, your words, and your actions.”

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

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

Too long, O Postulant, you have remained in ignorance of your own mystery, and an abyss has eventually formed itself 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, to which you must reply by facing your conscience. In that way, a communion will be



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established between your Outer and your Inner Self, and from that communion will arise a flame which will light your path throughout the coming months. Be sincere in your replies for, although it is possible to deceive others, one cannot lie to oneself.

Postulant: (Read the questions which follow, and while observing your reflection in the mirror, answer each one of them.)

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 and your guide?"

(Answer.)

"Will you go as often as possible to this Sanctum?"

(Answer.)

Postulant: (After answering each of these questions, meditate a few moments on the inner communion they have enabled you to establish. That being done, continue.)



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

Since you have agreed, before your own reflection—that is to say, before your conscience—to answer the questions submitted to you, and since the replies you gave to

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them satisfied your Inner Self, I affirm, before the Rose-Cross and the Masters of our tradition, that you are worthy of being admitted to the Neophyte Section of the Ancient and Mystical Order of the Rose-Cross. But to certify this admission in your heart, you must acquaint yourself with the oath appended to this initiation and carefully read each of its points. That being done, you will sign it and send it to the Department of Instruction. It will thus act as the witness to the sacred oath you will take when facing your own conscience.

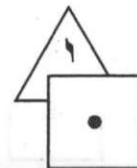
Postulant: (Read the *Neophyte's Great Oath* and sign it. Then, continue the reading of this ritual.)

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

Remember forever, O Neophyte, the moments you have just lived in the presence of the Invisible Masters of our brotherhood and in the presence of the Supreme Intelligence which prevails in the entire Creation. And, above all, always keep 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 Rose-Cross, your protector. Whenever you want to speak to it and to listen to it, withdraw to this Sanctum and, far from noise and turmoil, let yourself be penetrated by its light.

Before we part, I must give you the traditional password which is associated with the First Portal you have just passed. That word is *Reflection*. Learn it, for you may some day be asked for it, and keep it secret always. 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 ceremony. May the Greater



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Light of Cosmic Wisdom enlighten me forever, so that I may be worthy of the Knowledge which will be entrusted to me. So Mote It Be!"

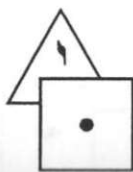
Neophyte: (Follow the instructions just given, and then maintain silence for a few minutes. Having done that, leave your Sanctum or disassemble it if it is only temporary. At your earliest convenience, write a brief report of the ritual on the form provided and mail it, along with the *Neophyte's Great Oath*, to the Department of Instruction.)

Words of the Illumined

*"Many are the vistas that are revealed to him
who has attained the mountaintop"*

It is often difficult, when considering the founders of spiritual doctrines which marked the evolution of humanity, to make a distinction between the historical truths and legendary aspects of their lives, for such beings are always described as demigods. But beyond doubt their words of wisdom reflect the Cosmic Illumination that raised them above other individuals of their time. Featured here are some of the thoughts and wisdom of the illuminatus whose biography introduces this special monograph.

HYMN TO ATON



*O Solar Disk, Beginning of Life!
When thou risest in the eastern horizon of heaven,
Thou fillest every land with thy beauty.
Thou art beautiful, great, glittering, high above the earth;*

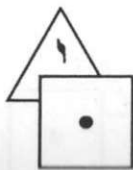
*Thy rays, they encompass the lands, even all thou hast made.
O Ra, although thou art afar, thy rays reach down to earth;
Although thou art present in the eyes of men,
They do not know the course thou followest in the heaven.
When thou settest in the western horizon of heaven,
The world is in darkness like the dead.
People sleep in their chambers,
At night, every lion cometh forth from his den,
All serpents, they sting.
Darkness reigns.
The world is in silence,
For the sun has gone to rest in his horizon.*

*Bright is the earth,
When thou risest in the horizon.
The darkness is banished.
When thou sendest forth thy rays,
The Two Lands are in daily festivity.
Men awake and stand upon their feet,
For thou hast raised them up.
After purifying their bodies,
They uplift their arms in adoration to thy dawning.
All cattle rest upon their herbage,
The birds fly away from their nests,
Their wings uplifted in adoration to thy Vital Force.
All beings live when thou hast risen for them.
The barques sail upstream and downstream the Nile alike.
Every highway is open because thou hast dawned.
The fish in the river leap up before thee,
And thy rays are in the midst of the great sea.*



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*O Thou, sole God, beside whom there is no other, whose symbol is
the sun,
Thou didst create the earth according to Thy heart while Thou wast
alone:
Men, cattle, and all wild beasts that walk, fly, swim, or crawl.
Thou settest every man in his place;
Thou suppliest their necessities.
For every one of Thy children has his possessions,
And his days are reckoned.
Thou art he who createst the man-child in woman,
Who maketh seed in man,
Who giveth life to the son in the body of his mother,
Who soothest him that he may not weep,
Who giveth breath to animate everyone that he maketh.
. . . on the day of his birth,
Thou openest his mouth in speech.
Their tongues are divers in speech;
Their forms likewise and their skins,
For Thou divider, hast divided the peoples into races.
But to them all, Thou art the same and ever present.*



The Story of Light *(continued)*

things. He thought the sun to be an appropriate symbol because through its solar rays this Intelligence brings vitality to all earthly creatures and because the One God was present in the heart of everyone, in the same way that the sun spreads its light and warmth upon every being. Aton was therefore often represented by a solar disk whose beams ended in hands, thus symbolizing the Aton's desire to spread blessings on all humanity, without distinction of sex or race. Obviously, these were advanced philosophical concepts for that day and age.

Akhnaton soon left Thebes, Egypt's traditional capital. He built 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 help, laid the foundations of a mystical brotherhood whose ideals and teachings were to spread over the entire surface of the earth. In the heart of Akhetaton he built a temple in which a brotherhood met regularly to study the arts, sciences, and mysteries. Our Order is the present trustee of all the knowledge that was accumulated in that place and 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. Our archives report that on July 24, 1350 B.C., 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 28 years old.

*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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Rosicrucian Park, San Jose, California, U.S.A.

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