

## “IMITATION IS THE SINCEREST FLATTERY”

Since the Rosicrucian Fellowship work was started on the fourteenth of November 1908, Rosicrucian Societies (?) have multiplied apace. There seems to be a perfect mania for annexing the word Rosicrucian, but in order to assure distinction from the rest, some spell it with a “k”—Rosikrucianism. Others spell it with an “ae” instead of the “i”—“Rosaecrucianism.” Some of them make great claims. One even professes to have six million members, among whom are the crowned heads of Europe and all the distinguished men of all ages, including Moses, Elijah, the Pharaohs of Egypt and other great ones too numerous to mention. Nor is it to be wondered at that this dazzling phantasmagoria blinds some of our weaker members who scurry away to these orders in full faith that the so-called Grand Master or Imperator, or whatever else his fanciful name may be, will just wave a wand over them, and they will sprout wings immediately and become omniscient as the Gods. By and by they will know better; advancement upon the path depends, as we have said a thousand times, upon soul-growth, and no one can assimilate our spiritual food for us, or do our growing for us, any more than they can eat our physical breakfast and hand us over the food value whereby we may grow physically stronger.

Shakespeare asked the question, what is in a name? There may be very little, and there may be a great deal. We all know the business value of a good name to designate a brand of goods, but **no matter how good the name, unless the goods which it represents are of sterling quality, the name cannot alone make it a permanent success**, and it is the same with a spiritual movement—it must have a solid foundation, a sound philosophy.

The Hindus were given the Vedas, the Persians the Zend Avesta, the Mohammedans the Koran, the Christians the Bible, and **each great religion has had its own particular text book which is the foundation of its faith**, and this text book has three things: **An account of our origin, a statement of the future in store for us, and a code of ethics.** Even in modern times we find that the Christian Scientists have their textbook, *Science and Health*, and the Theosophists have the *Secret Doctrine*.

Before the Rosicrucian Fellowship was started, the Elder Brothers of the Rose Cross gave to the writer the monumental teachings contained in the *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*, which surpasses all previous philosophies. This is now the text book of the Rosicrucian Fellowship, and it is spreading over the whole world in the most wonderful manner, for it finds everywhere, among thinking people, an unqualified assent, because **it appeals to the inner forum of truth.**

The Rosicrucian Philosophy was first offered by the Elder Brothers to Mr. Heindel on condition that he would keep it secret and only reveal it to a few through the rite and mysteries of initiation. But being himself at that time a hungry soul searching for the solution of the mystery of life, he refused, though repeated overtures were made to have him recant. He thought that if this teaching was good for him it would be good for the thousands of other hungry souls in the world, and finally it was given to him on the reverse condition, namely, that he do everything in his power to promulgate this philosophy. He had been put through a test to see if he would use it selfishly or whether he would be firm in his purpose to give it to humanity; therefore, the Rosicrucian Philosophy is being spread publicly through this text book so that every one who seeks may come and drink freely of this water of life.

Just think what would have happened if the apostles had conspired successfully to keep the teachings of Christ away from the world, or if the first Sages of India or Persia who received the Vedas and the Zend Avesta had done this. Then all the world would have been ages without religious teaching, and surely everyone will see that that would have been a great detriment. Bearing this in mind, it is only necessary to apply the same common sense arguments to the claims of so-called Masters who profess to initiate anyone who has the price into the mysteries of this, that or the other so-called Order, but have nothing for the public. It is easy to take a name and make claims, but ask them to produce their textbook and compare it with the Bible or with the *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*, see if it covers the three essential points we mentioned, and no other test will be necessary to show their status.

The Rosicrucian Fellowship has no quarrel with these people, however, for as it is said that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, we take it that they recognize its merit and the power of our movement or they would not seek to ape it.