

# A SPIRALING JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

*Anita Bowden, SRC*

## **What Drew Me to The Rosicrucian Order?**

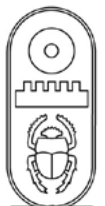
When I think back about what drew me to the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, it becomes difficult to pinpoint the actual moment, because, in many ways, it has always been a part of me – long before I officially joined, and long before I was even conscious of the connection – a spiral through time. If I were to describe my feelings towards the Order, I would say that it is the one place in which I have always felt “at home,” and the one place where its members have always felt like “family” to me. Many times, I have met Rosicrucians in different parts of the country or the world, and felt as though I had known them before, as if from a distant past – I felt at ease, I felt understood, I felt inspired, I felt “myself;” and I was always surprised that I could carry on a conversation with a Rosicrucian anywhere, about anything of interest, and it would seem as though we had been communicating with one another for many years.

We often hear the expression that Rosicrucians are “walking question marks,” and that certainly resonates for me. I feel as though I was born questioning everything. At four years old, I was asking my mother questions about the Divine, and as a child, I always wanted to sit in church with the adults to hear what they were hearing. I had a little journal that I carried with me, and wrote down my mother’s mystical experiences that she would share with me. As I grew, I always assumed mystical experiences happened to other people, but not to me. It took

me many, many years later to realize that I had indeed had my own set of mystical experiences throughout my life that were unique to me, but I simply had not thought of them as “mystical,” and as such, had not recognized their significance when they occurred. It was only in reflecting on them, collectively, that I started to “see” them and their connections to a path. And this is what, in fact, brought me “back to” (as I like to describe it) the Rosicrucian Order.

## **Recognizing Signs and Symbols**

I was drawn to AMORC at around age fourteen in 1973, while looking at a magazine. Prior to this, I had developed a fascination with all things Egyptian, and had spent many hours in the library exploring this topic, and, in particular, was drawn to Pharaoh Akhnaton. So, I was extremely drawn to the Egyptian imagery I noticed that was associated with the Rosicrucian Order, when I came across it in a *Fate* magazine. I didn’t know any Rosicrucians, and I was too shy to inquire about how to be a part of them, so I never joined – but I always carried that desire within me to be a part of the Order, and always hoped that one day I would visit the Grand Temple and Egyptian Museum in San Jose, California (which, happily I finally did in 2015). In the meantime, I grew up, considered becoming a Carmelite nun (even though I was not Catholic), went to college to study anthropology (during which time I had two significant mystical experiences), and ultimately pursued a Naval career. This sent me first to Spain, where I had several more



mystical experiences (including a dream involving white-robed monks who shared symbols with me), and then I went to California to commission a Hospital Ship being converted from an old oil tanker (the USNS Comfort), a white ship with a red cross (and which I discovered many years later, had been named the “SS Rose City” in its prior life). I later returned to college to earn a master’s degree in Peace and Justice Studies, before finally pursuing a career in Higher Education Administration. During this last career path, at the age of forty-eight, I unexpectedly lost both of my parents (five weeks apart) and my twenty-one-year-old cat, as well as my brother the year before, and, at forty-nine years old, I started questioning my life and losing my faith in what I believed, and experienced a period of deep emptiness (a “Dark Night of the Soul”). In desperation, I asked myself what I should do, and suddenly, I had the inspiration to write down every unusual or symbolic experience I had had in my life, and when and where it occurred. Doing this enabled me to, essentially, see my life laid out before me. This was then followed by another (unusual) inspiration to Google the most significant words that had meaning for me (Egypt, Carmelites, white-robed monks, cosmic consciousness, etc.), and the first thing that popped up on my computer screen after typing in my collection of words was the Rosicrucian Order! I had received my answer! Within a matter of minutes, I submitted my application to join (and have now “officially” been a member for almost fourteen years)! How wonderful it is that the Cosmic uses technology, when necessary, to open our eyes – or perhaps, to help us find our way back home!

## **Recognizing Patterns and Making Connections**

What I began to see and comprehend was that there have always been signs and symbols and people in my life that were pointing the way forward, and that all events in my life were connected in one way or another – nothing was random. I started to see not only how everything was connected, but also, how perfectly everything was orchestrated to work on my behalf.

Becoming a member of AMORC reconnected me with my past. It reminded me of my aspirations earlier in life, where my thoughts were and how they had evolved, and it helped me to reinterpret my own experiences. More importantly, it gave me the freedom and courage to keep asking questions of myself, to keep noticing the symbols all around us that provide us with important information, and to honor and appreciate a way of being in the world that I was oriented to from birth.

What I came to understand is that mystical experiences are not intended to reveal the degree of spirituality of a person, but rather, to expand our awareness within our human experience, so that we keep asking ourselves questions about who we are and why we are here. Just like our monographs, experience or information occurs in a spiral manner – something is planted early on, and then we revisit it from several different perspectives as we travel through life. Early in my life, I was asking questions, but I was not aware of the significance of the experiences that were happening to me and around me. And really, it was not so important to understand them in the moment, because the experiences were planting seeds for later and were part of a continuum along a path. Even without fully understanding them, their presence had an intended impact, however, because the memory of

those experiences always remained with me and kept me on that path, even when I was not aware of it. And ultimately, it brought me to the place that I had always been drawn to, and would recognize as “home.” Becoming a Rosicrucian gave me the context for my experiences in life, so that my internal questions and awareness could continue to expand further.

### **Rosicrucians as a Connected Family**

Rosicrucians always have a way of finding one another. About six years ago, I took a stab at blogging, and ended up connecting with a fellow blogger in Canada who had a beautifully inspirational blog site. We started communicating through emails and had such interesting, impactful conversations, and soon discovered many shared similarities in our lives and in our families, and one day I felt the need to share with her that I was a Rosicrucian. I quickly received a very happy and heartfelt response back from her, telling me that her

parents (who had transitioned by this point – as had mine) had been Rosicrucians in South America, and that she had been a Colombe – an experience that deeply impacted her! She further told me that she had never shared that information with anyone since then, nor had she been connected to the Order since her time as a Colombe. Our wonderful connection online brought her back to the Order again! We have never met in person, but we are the best of friends, and feel as though we have known each other for a lifetime! As I say, Rosicrucians always have a way of finding one another – it is a knowing and a recognition that seems to occur beyond space and time.

And for me, once again (and perhaps a theme for the twenty-first century), the Cosmic utilized a tool of technology to make that important connection happen!



Perpetual Expansion, *Gurinder Singh, FRC, 2023.*

