

# OBJECT LESSONS OF A WORKING MYSTIC

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One of the first activities we perform when we become a Rosicrucian student is to set up a personal Sanctum, a (hopefully) private, quiet place in our home where we can study our monographs, meditate, pray, and perform the various exercises of our mystical school. It immediately conveys the importance of having a sacred space to contemplate the mysteries that surround all of us, and it is essential and of great importance to all Rosicrucians.

As time goes on and our perception of our studies evolves, we begin to recognize that mysticism goes beyond sitting and studying in our sanctum. It is an actual part of being human, of seeking answers to questions, of living life in this world while we simultaneously seek for inner wisdom to better guide us in our personal development. Our studies in our sanctum are beautiful and inspiring, and such study leads us to recognize that our mystical work is “out there” in our day-to-day life where we can put that which we learn into practice and become of service to others.

One of my first object lessons of this was in the earliest days of my profession. I was a precision toolmaker and I was thrust into a lead role very early. I was given a very complex tool to make and had no clue how to do it. It was a small company; there was no one there to help, and since I was so new to the industry, I had no expert friends I could call upon. I tried all of the ways that I could think of to get this job done to no avail. The owner of the company would come in from time to time

with an anxious look on his face, which only made me more anxious. I was at my wit's end and went home that evening feeling hopeless.

On my way home, as I was thinking of new methods to use, it struck me that I had Rosicrucian techniques at my disposal. At first, I thought they couldn't possibly help me to make a tool! But then again, my physical efforts weren't getting me very far. It was like I was forced to at least try the mystical techniques I was learning in a real-world situation. What did I have to lose?

That evening, I went into my sanctum and began the work.. I carefully and fully visualized a successful outcome, making sure not to try to force what I thought the process should be. I saw the actual tool in detail, as well as the owner of the company inspecting it with a big smile. I then allowed myself to drift into meditation, forgetting about everything. Afterward, I went about the evening, doing my best not to think about the whole scenario. This was impossible, but I did my best. Before going to sleep, I must admit that I was disappointed that a solution was still nowhere in sight, but with effort, I thought of other things and was able to sleep.

On my way to work the next day, with still no solution, I felt anxiety returning. Halfway to work, I got a very subtle impression, so small that I almost dismissed it. But I captured it somehow; it basically was a vision of doing everything almost the exact opposite of what I had

been trying. I thought at first that this was just a random thought out of the blue, but I also realized that this idea came to me not from my knowledge of toolmaking, but from somewhere else. Could this be my answer? It was radically different, so there was trepidation, but I decided to follow that which had come to me.

Needless to say, it worked perfectly. Before the morning was over, the tools were produced, the owner was thrilled, and the customer had what they needed. It was a great relief and a great lesson.

There were many such experiences like this one; there are also those that take more time before we realize them. As an example, my wife and I are both longtime members, having met at a Rosicrucian convention. We joined our local Rosicrucian Lodge, and it became an integral part of our life. We had also started our own toolmaking business when our children were very young, and of course we were met with the many challenges that this entails. There were times when the lodge responsibilities would clash with business opportunities, and I wondered if we should spend so much time supporting the lodge when our business needed our attention. My wife was more unwavering than me. She always put her mystical work first, and I followed her lead, though I must admit that I did so kicking and screaming at times. She had a natural confidence in the many laws of nature that we studied as Rosicrucians and she confidently followed the mystical principle of “if you dare to do, you will be given the power to do.” But for me, it truly begged the question, are these laws real? Can we truly depend on them? After all, we had mouths to feed, employees with their own families, customers who depended

on us, and so forth. Was it responsible for us to give so much time and attention to advancing mystical ideals rather than doing the “real” work of running our business?

As the years went by, positive answers to the above questions gradually revealed themselves in our life. As we go through individual everyday experiences, we sometimes miss their significance until later. Looking back, whenever there was a business need, the Lodge and its members indirectly gave us inspiration and guidance. Further, being with other members strengthened our knowledge and use of Rosicrucian techniques. Personally, my wife and I did not have a college degree when we started our business (my wife earned an MBA later in life), and it was amazing to recognize the education that stemmed from our Rosicrucian work, including not only through the monographs, but also with affiliated body work. Through the lodge, you learn public speaking, effective writing, event organization, financial planning, and conflict resolution, among many other things you would not expect and which can spill over into one’s personal and professional life. Further, you have the opportunity to develop a sincere, unique mystical sense of understanding and service to others. Indeed, finding your way on the mystical path with others of like mind brings blessings and great rewards that are invaluable. Gradually, there is a realization that mysticism is inherent within all human beings because we are all intertwined in an evolutionary process of becoming. Truly, AMORC has been a great blessing to us on every level that one can receive blessings. It continues to inspire us each day and to begin each morning with gratitude.

