



MEMBER STORY

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Discovering the Rosicrucian Path, what a long journey that found its perfect time! Joining the Order for me symbolized what I would come to learn to be the Terror of the Threshold on the one hand, and then reincarnation discovery and memory on the other. I would sense my older mystical selves. As I was organizing my Rosicrucian files, I found my digital welcome letter from December 31, 2011, only a day after reading the issue of the *Rosicrucian Digest* dealing with Discovering the Rosicrucian Path.

Experiences before Rosicrucian Terms and Membership

From a very young age, I remember sensing things and harmonizing and attuning with being in the built environment: who made all this stuff? I would ask myself that question over and over again and slowly want to meet those people who got stuff built. Connecting with the built world, I had probably about five or six significant mystical experiences by the time I was in my freshman year of college. These were very powerful and emotional, and they resulted in several writings that came “through me” that I am still working with. Around the time of one of my mystical experiences, I was given a very generous gift of \$100 for my confirmation when I was in eighth grade, and I purchased my very first poster with it: Edmund Leighton’s *The Accolade*. I had seen the poster and it had a profound sense of importance to me. After all these experiences, after college as if “out of the blue,” I was contacted specifically by someone who worked for the New York World’s Fairs and had information on how the world of the future was envisioned at the Fairs in in 1939-40 and 1964-65. This gentleman became an amazing mentor to me, who pushed me to see things about the world, and challenged my overall belief systems. That lead me to one of my favorite biblical quotes about remembering the landmarks. In college, I studied what were then titled the wisdom tradition books in one class, and still have the small booklet I made of my favorite wisdom poems, including William Shakespeare’s “Cloud Capp’d Towers.” I knew this part of the larger work was so critical, I just didn’t know how. I knew that *The Tempest* was so important, and that the line which states “Leave not a rack behind” was even more so. Just before my mentor died, we put together a document to get the New York State Pavilion landmarked, and he told me: “I want the last page to have Shakespeare on it, featuring the ‘Cloud Capp’d Towers’ quote from *The Tempest*.” I put it there, and we got the building landmarked a year after he transitioned.

By the time I joined the order in 2011, I was 33, but I remember always searching and sensing things throughout my younger life. I knew there was a secret flow to everything and I wanted to find the real source. I knew somehow that the real source was my attunements, but I never quite had the tools to methodically connect to it. I would for example listen to music in the dark and try to connect with mental images, which turned into powerful dreams, and in some cases very clear and significant viewing experiences. This was very strong in high school and college.

But then life got in the way of all that and in many ways, I forgot about these things for nearly a decade as I began what would become my alchemical journey with Iron and the railroad.

Rosicrucianism

I was promoted to the scheduling department in my company around 2010 (which was created by a series of positive thinking exercises I had worked through from the book *The Secret* and some Tony Robbins exercises), and then we did a quick trip to visit our Chicago offices, where a colleague who is in the Order worked. Somehow we got onto esoteric conversations, and he mentioned this Order, and then I shared with him the fact that someone else kind of wrote a mystical book through me in high school and college. Our conversations continued, but I was not quite connecting the need to join or even understand that I should. I was always very guarded about myself until recently, and was always “afraid” genuinely of connecting in large groups. It was genuine terror to do anything in groups. This is odd, because when I’m forced into the situation, I’m just fine – it’s the actually choosing which is quite difficult for myself. Then, in 2011, a host of Egypt-related opportunities and powerful books came my way, including finding *Fingerprints of the Gods*, *Synchronicity Key*, and *Book of the Dead*. I put them all in a backpack, and had the opportunity to go to Egypt for two weeks. I was working in San Jose at the time, and my Rosicrucian work colleague once again suggested I go to the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum, and that I might want to think about joining this Order. I still hesitated.

But I went to the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum that August. It was amazing. The video at the top of the stairs connected with me, but more importantly, the gift shop was one of the few points of regret I’ve had. When I saw the box of incense, which I didn’t know was incense at the time, the front cover completely resonated with me. It was the one thing I always feel I should have bought sooner of all the things I ever purchased in this material world.

That small box with the cover graphic of “calming smoke” resonated so much that I later had a dream about it, going back into a slightly different book store, looking at some music, and then looking up to see a box of something I should buy.

I returned from Egypt having read the three books on the Nile, and I would never be the same – primarily because all the things I ever thought about were somehow being fine-tuned. I still was “afraid” to join as I didn’t like extending beyond myself. But I kept going back to Rosicrucian Park and the Museum, now on lunch breaks, and after work in November and December. I then met a few members, and suddenly felt completely at

ease. I finally joined that December. I now absolutely love Rosicrucian Incense and have it burning as much as is possible.

The Mirror, Candles, and Sanctum

I suppose that that spring of 2012 was probably my favorite time of life to date, as my first few monographs seemed so sacred to me. I remember setting up my sanctum, and how wonderful that was, and struggling to get the incense to burn properly, something I know now how to do. I still have issues with moving into situations and crossing the threshold with large groups and next steps, but in the end loved my experience with the Neophyte degrees to date the most. Perhaps just because it was like the seating of a big stone or seeing a whole path open before me that I now knew was the right thing. It was a monumental step for me. While each degree in so many ways is that much larger in all reality, the steps to cross the threshold are somehow getting smaller each time. It was that initial step that was the greatest leap.

The Order

I am still moved by the Paris Poster, and what it took for those people to get the poster written, organized, and printed, and then to follow through on the whole assembly of starting up something new. I make sure everyone sees a copy of it that I think needs to in our Order, as it is just such a key first stepping point. It's like the ultimate Threshold in our "more recent" times.

What I've gotten out of the Order is to see how so much of what I encounter as challenges in my life is what I bring to it, and that I am ultimately in full control to bring harmony to situations, no matter how complex. Some of these scenarios can be exhausting or tiring or strenuous, but they are the ultimate mirror to creating inner peace. I'm slowly learning that even this is not necessary, and that the simple mirror on my Sanctum is all I really need. For that I am grateful!