

MYSTICAL ATTITUDE TO CHANGE

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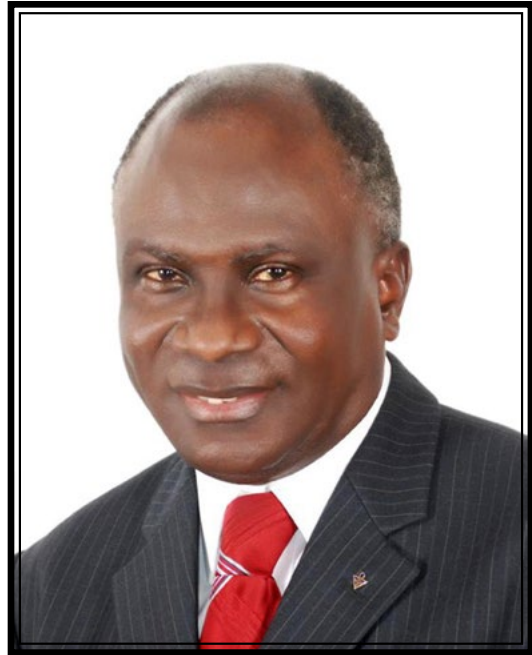
Grand Administrator of the West African Administration

Frater Kenneth Idiodi was born on December 20, 1946 in Delta State, Nigeria. After completing a degree in Mathematics, he trained and worked as a flight controller in Lagos Airport. From an early age, his deep interest in metaphysical studies finally drew him to the Rosicrucian Order in 1965. It was during his year as Master of Isis Lodge, Lagos in 1974 that he was invited by the Supreme Grand Lodge to set up the Nigerian Administration of the Rosicrucian Order. Since then he has served the Rosicrucian Order and the Traditional Martinist Order in multiple capacities.

Bridget, his wife of 36 years, is a professional Nurse and Midwife. They have four children and several grandchildren. Together, Frater and Soror Idiodi have organized and steered the Order through both good and challenging times, but always with a strong, positive approach which has contributed to the growth of the Order in their Region.

On October 3, 2011, Grand Administrator Kenneth Idiodi was elected as a member and Director of the Supreme Grand Lodge of AMORC.

Over the years, Frater Idiodi has received several awards and fellowships from professional bodies, as well as honorary doctorates from universities. Born and raised in a royal household, he has a deep understanding of African traditions and seamlessly merges these with the Rosicrucian spiritual heritage.



Many people today become discouraged and depressed as they look at the world about them. They see poverty, disease, and war. They read stories in the news which seem to constantly tell of terrorism, violence, crimes, **and every kind of negative situation**. They perceive in society an emphasis on materialistic values and the development of technology at the expense of common consideration, humanity, and mystical idealism.

As individuals, we can become so wrapped up in the negative conditions we may perceive around us that we feel trapped and even helpless. We can become so attuned to misery and suffering and the many things in our world which need improvement that we may fail to see the bigger picture. We can become so focused on the more unpleasant aspects of life that we look into them and fail to see the



immense Cosmic actuality behind our rather finite problems.

The fact of the matter is that the Cosmic is constructive in nature. In its expression, the Cosmic is vibratory. It is constantly in motion and constantly seeking or achieving balance. Since the Cosmic is ever constructive, it is therefore good, in the human conception of the word. Thus, in any of our seemingly negative situations in life, the good must ultimately win and balance must be the result.

We could, in this light, consider the example of an earthquake or floods or other natural disasters such as a volcanic eruption. We tend to look upon such occurrences as bad or destructive because of their effects in terms of material damage. But in the Cosmic sense, there is no good or bad. There is only the undulating motion of being. Good and bad are human concepts. They are labels that we assign to things which please or displease us!

The earthquake, the floods generated by heavy downpour of rain, and volcanic eruptions are in a very real sense good occurrences. The pent up energies and forces which result in volcanic action or earthquakes actively achieve balance in expression. If these energies and forces were prevented from being expressed, harmony would be disrupted much further and the resultant damage would be considerably greater.

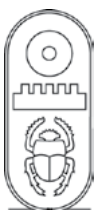
Every so often a member complains to us that when he embarked upon the Rosicrucian mystical path, he expected his life to become peaceful and to run smoothly but regretfully is experiencing upheavals and changes taking place! He then wonders what he is doing wrong!!

Fratres and Sorores, the experience of change and upheaval is not necessarily an indication of something that one is

doing wrong, for when we have made a commitment to the Rosicrucian Path, we have committed ourselves, once and for all to change. Change can be frightening, especially if we think we have something to lose, like power, position or possessions. Yet, even so, as Rosicrucians following the directions of our inner selves, we commit ourselves, first of all, by allowing ourselves to be changed from separate personalities to participants in a Cosmic unity and oneness and then to being an agent for such a changed reality to also occur in the world around us. Pretending to commit ourselves to inner evolvment when we are not, in fact, prepared to accept the changes which inevitably come with it, gives us no happiness, peace, or joy. Putting one foot on the path and leaving the other on the old road results in frustration, bitterness, and pain.

A commitment to the path of service means we have become channels for change in the cosmically correct direction. This principle is amply illustrated in nature. Without the cycles of change, the planet could not live and support our life. Because of change and therefore, through compassion, life is able to exist. Each season gives way to another season. The seasons do not fight change, but give way, bowing to the next stage, welcoming each home. Spring gives way to summer, summer to autumn, autumn to winter, winter to spring. Dry season to rainy season in the tropics, etc. As the cycle goes on and on, year after year, generation after generation, the seasons offer us time and again the possibility for experiencing and learning to embrace change and take it within our stride to maintain wellbeing and harmonium.

Moving away from the abstract example of the forces of nature, we can see the same principle manifesting in the historical accounts of great dictators. Hitler's rise to power in Nazi Germany and



subsequent actions created tremendous disruption. However, the end result was their defeat and the disintegration of their objectives. Balance was once again restored. There have been numerous individuals throughout history who have sought absolute power and who have envisioned world domination. We have experienced enough in Africa and Nigeria from adventurers in the arena of political power, religious domination, social discrimination, and economic monopoly. In each case, their plans, regardless of how far they were allowed to progress, have always met with defeat. Balance must be the result. The Cosmic is all, and its nature is constructive, it cannot support that which is out of harmony with its nature. The good must always ultimately win.

It is up to us to learn from the things we experience and to grow from the negativity we may perceive about us. It is up to us to harmonize with nature—to harmonize with the creative forces of the Cosmic. This is not, of course, always the easiest thing to do. It requires effort to step outside of one's problem and to see things from a vaster, more Cosmic perspective. However, it can be done, and we are aided in our efforts by the regular practice of prayer, meditation, and visualization, which help to expand our realities and open our vistas to a much larger world. It is this expansion of consciousness that facilitates our adaptation to change as well as offers us the opportunities to create desirable changes.

We have each gone through difficult times in our life experience. We have experienced things which have been most unpleasant. Sometimes we have doubted whether we would survive the difficult times and perhaps wondered, in periods of great unhappiness, whether we would ever be happy. Yet, it is a part of the nature of life that things change. Even our unhappy

times give way to happier times. We are pushed by the forces of Being, sometimes by our very inner self, to survive, to adapt, and to grow from experience. We are continually urged from within, if we take the time to listen to our inner nature, to move toward those actions which will bring us into harmony with the natural forces and thus the Cosmic itself.

We may prefer, in our dealings with life, to have our life-work proceed smoothly and without much trouble, perhaps like the symphonies of Mozart which effortlessly sprang forth from his pen virtually complete and requiring little revision. But, more often, our life experience is more akin to that of Beethoven who toiled and wrestled with the themes in his symphonies and struggled with revision after revision until he could finally express the inner truth he experienced. His triumph over the adversity he experienced is well known and serves to underscore his refusal to be overwhelmed by his negative situation. Instead, he focused his attunement on the beauty of a more expansive and inner world and our civilization is all the richer for his efforts.

Negativity, adversity, depressing situations, and obstacles are a necessary part of life. They stimulate our creativity. They challenge our awareness. They motivate us to move into necessary areas which our complacency has kept us from. They enrich and enliven our experiences. They cause us to grow. They are changes to which we must adapt and adjust to be triumphant. Changes that upset us emotionally, mentally, and physically. Changes that frustrate us. Changes that prepare us for the sustainability of well-being through the storms of life.

Throughout life, we meet with people who fear change, who resist change either because change may involve additional responsibilities or an interaction with

unknown or unfamiliar factors. I recall at this time a junior colleague of my aviation profession many years ago who resisted a transfer from our headquarters main office in the metropolitan city of Lagos to a branch office in Ibadan. The more we persuaded him to accept the transfer the more he cursed us and affirmed that he knew we did not want his progress. Of course, we resorted to the use of the big stick and instructed that if he insisted upon remaining in Lagos, which to him was the best city in the world, he would lose his job. Reluctantly he proceeded to Ibadan only to be received by his subordinates and ushered into his official quarters with an Olympic size bedroom and a service quarters surrounded by flower gardens. This was a sharp contrast to Lagos where he had lived with his wife and six children “only” in a one bedroom apartment for nearly ten years! In a matter of a few days, he came to us in Lagos with his wife to thank us for the transfer, the change which had given his family much better shelter (with the backyard for vegetables and poultry farming) and that he had now settled for good. He was so overwhelmed with the serenity and relaxed pace in Ibadan which, also became to him, the latest best place in the world that when the idea was muted three years later of his official retransfer to Lagos even on a promotion basis—he instantly threatened to resign his appointment.

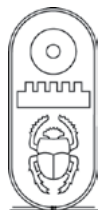
Fratres and Sorores, it is sad to observe that even some of our Rosicrucian members, in spite of years of affiliation with assumed study of our philosophical



and spiritual teachings behave similarly and even timidly in their reaction to changes or variegated experiences in life. It is true that our Monographs contain teachings, techniques, and exercises which when practically applied could and should bring positive changes and transformations in our various situations in life. But life, brothers and sisters, has the ups and downs in accordance with the law of cycles, the positive and negative in accordance with the law of polarity. As I always say: Life is not a bed of roses; and even if it were, there are no roses without thorns!!

What should we do, if after applying all the principles we know to the best of our ability, things still happen to us and around us contrary to our expectations? What should be our mental and emotional attitude if after all the concentration, creative visualization, meditation, or prayers we fail woefully to achieve the desired results or even experience manifestations or changes directly opposite to what we bargained for in our thought projections? But how do we know precisely what is even good or best for us for the time being? How do we even know that the outcome of our attunement is bad if in the overall Cosmic picture we need to experience the so-called “bad” first of all in order to better appreciate the so-called “good”?

Are we not the ones who close our attunement sessions with the words If it pleases the Cosmic or If it pleases the masters, it is done! What if what we think is good may not from a cosmic view point be best for us for the time being? Should we claim to know more than the Supreme



Intelligence any more than a drop of water in the ocean may claim to have more water than the entire ocean?

Fratres and Sorores, the definition and determination of an absolute good or bad seems to be questionable since the “good or bad” aspect can change with the circumstances or context or by our own perceptions of the events. Permit me to share with you an old story that illustrates this wisdom. There was an elderly man who lived in



a very small and poor village. He lived a very meager life as a farmer, but he owned a horse which made his work easier. His neighbors regarded him as a very fortunate man.

One day the horse ran away and his neighbors cried, “How unlucky you are to have lost such a valuable possession!” But the man replied, “maybe it’s good, maybe it’s bad.”

A few days later the horse returned to the farmer, bringing with it two wild horses. The neighbors came and proclaimed, “How wonderful, to have three horses. You are truly a rich man.” But the elderly man replied, “maybe it’s good, maybe it’s bad.” Soon, the man’s son decided to train the new wild horses and in the process broke his leg. Now there were three horses to feed and his son would be unable to work for months.

Once again the neighbors came to lament the misfortune of the man. But again all he answered was, “maybe it’s good, maybe its bad.”

As it happened, the following week, conscription officers from the local army came and drafted all the young men in the village except for the young man with the broken leg. But when all the neighbors came to remind the man how lucky he was, he shook his head and said “maybe it’s good, maybe it’s bad.”

Fratres and sorores, it is obvious that the man of our story is a wise man indeed. He knew that in every good there is some bad

and in every bad there is some good. And the good and bad depend upon the circumstances. If we know this we will adapt to all the changes we experience in life. Maybe it’s good; maybe it’s bad may thus be seen as the attitudinal formula for embracing change.

As Rosicrucian students, we must learn to develop the positive mental attitude to embrace change with the realization that we are in a learning environment and that whatever happens to us in the school of life must be for our ultimate good. If we are good students, we must realize that even the negative experiences in our lives are special monographs which we should review surprisingly sometimes with some sense of relish!!

Indeed what matters in life is not what happens to us but how we react to the experience or change, how we handle it, how we administer it, and how we manage it. Change is a basic law of the manifest universe and we dwell and function in a world of dynamic constant change.

Remember that what goes around comes around and this law of nature which states that everything is in motion becoming something else is the basis for my affirmation that we should learn individually and collectively to embrace change since change is an inevitable result of motion.

Let us make a habit of regular attunement for us to receive cosmic inspiration and direction from the God of our Hearts through our inner self as to how best to adjust to change, or adapt to change, or better still, embrace change!

If we forget everything else in this discourse, please let us remember that in all our Home Sanctum initiations and throughout our various Temple Degree initiations which are basic to our comprehension of a higher world, the key to true initiation is the inner disposition of the individual and her willingness not only to understand and embrace change but also to initiate positive changes that bring about improvement in the lives and circumstances of our fellow human beings, as well as of ourselves. Perhaps, this is why in our Order, we regard transition or the so-called death as the highest initiation for mortals because we know of no one who has failed to embrace this ultimate change when the time has arrived for a transfer to the Invisible realm!

Yet, nothing in all the foregoing implies that one should behave like the small lizard called the chameleon—easily changing colors, characteristics, or even personality and, like a rudderless ship, dance to every whim, fancy, or caprice in our human environment! On the contrary, to open-mindedly embrace the multi-faceted changes in today's ever-growing diverse, complex world and still remain consistent in the formulation, development, and expression of ones' personal philosophy of life, is to be truly Rosicrucian in every

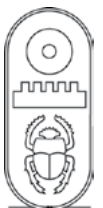
sense of the word. After all, a person who is strong in nothing is weak in character! To go through the necessary transformation and transmutation of the basic metals of our nature into gold, we must be good managers of change!

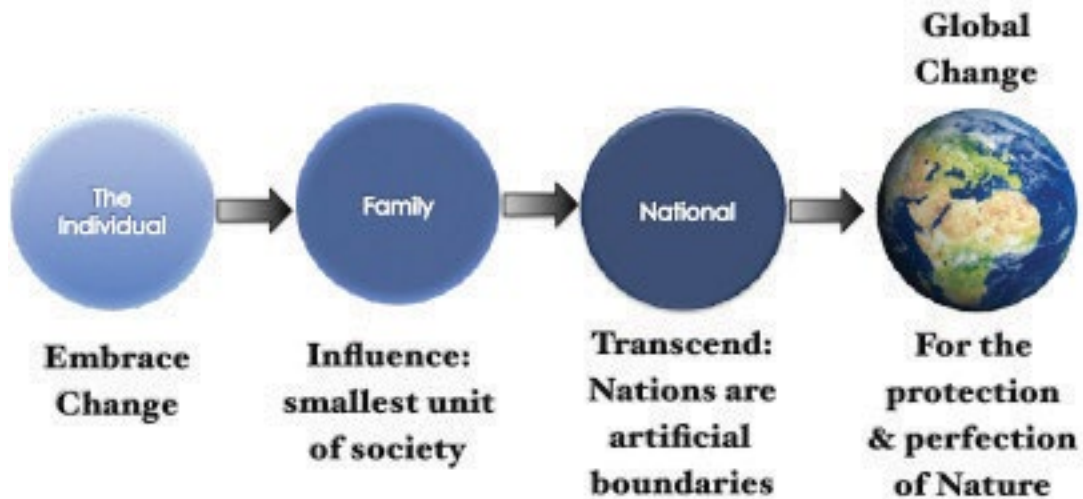
Fratres and Sorores, it is our ability to embrace, handle, and manage small and big changes that empowers us to cruise to that mystical wavelength where we may begin to experience an unfettered blossoming of the Rose within us as we carry the Cross of the physical body. So many members are in a desperate hurry to scale through the neophyte monographs and board the temple degrees into the higher planes of our Rosicrucian study program only to discover that our higher principles are buried in the neophyte section. Sorores and Fratres, immediately after this Convention, please make an effort to review your monographs beginning with the first one you received. You will notice and concur with the following observations:

It is change which causes us to know today what we did not know yesterday! It is change which causes us to understand today what we did not understand yesterday! It is change which causes us to enjoy and experience today what was considered impossible yesterday! It is also change that will cause us to attain in 100 years' time, possibly in our next incarnation, what we have failed to attain in the current one!!!

Every one of us must upscale our deeper understanding of and approach to all manifestations of change if our world is to more quickly and strategically benefit from the good inherent in change.

Sorores and Fratres, for our practical application, let us summarize our reflections on the mystical attitude to change as follows:





The Change Chain

At the Individual Level: Embrace change. Do not resist it. Work with thoughts that present defensible understanding of reality. Know that without change, growth and development of self and the mastery of life will be intensely painful. Show love and tolerance. Be sincere and be compassionate knowing that we are all one collective humanity.

At the Family Level: Recognize that the family represents the smallest unit of society and should therefore work with the orientation of thinking and acting in an integrated manner from the point of view of the whole.

At the National Level: Know that our nations are artificial boundaries and barriers which must be intelligently dismantled for painless changes to take place. Mother Earth belongs to us all. No one can claim ownership of it. We are individual and group possessors. Embrace global changes. Humanity is one!

At the Global Level: The globe is our organization for the protection and perfection of nature, the development of our personalities and the reestablishment of universal citizenship as a more sustainable instrument of change introduction and administration. Be synergistic in thought

and action because the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. As Rosicrucians we should think globally and act locally; wherever we are in time and space.

In conclusion, Fratres and Sorores, all change is constructive. Any negative conclusions are your own making. All humans and especially mystics must rise above such misconceptions to see the good in all changes and to maximize the potential in every change. In its ultimate expression, we must not only embrace change but we must be intelligent creators of sustainable change.

May we now and henceforth remain so well-attuned to the Cosmic that we may be empowered not only to adapt and adjust to changes but indeed to embrace them as opportunities for growth and mystical development thereby enhancing our capacity for greater service to humanity.

Finally, let us exercise our consciousness with the serenity prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr:

“God grant us the serenity to accept what cannot be changed; Courage to change what can be changed and the Wisdom to know the difference.”

So Mote It Be!