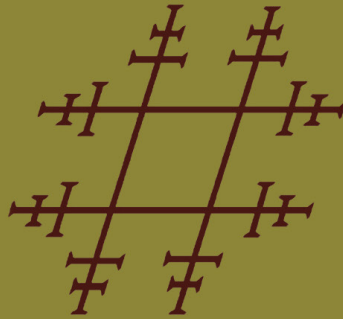
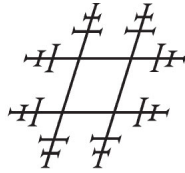


# Whisperings of Self



*by*  
*Validivar*

# WHISPERINGS OF SELF



by Validivar

*A collection of aphorisms designed to uplift and inspire each  
day of the year*

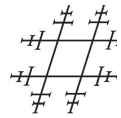
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Our friends are selected by the virtues which we attribute to them. In such persons we see *loyalty, understanding, dependability, and camaraderie*. To them from whom I have derived encouragement and inspiration I have dedicated this book.

*VALIDIVAR*



## Preface

*Whisperings of Self* is a collection of intuitive impressions received by a great mystic philosopher, Ralph M. Lewis, who in this work writes under the pen name of Validivar.

Known to Rosicrucians throughout the world as the head of that renowned mystic fraternity, Ralph Lewis has also received acclaim in the literary world as an author of books and articles on psychology, mysticism, metaphysics, and philosophy.

The aphorisms in this collection have appeared singly in copies of the *Rosicrucian Digest* over a period of forty years, and comprise insights into all areas of human experience—justice, war and peace, ethics, morals, marriage, family, work, leisure, and countless others.

The words chosen succinctly describe the pattern of the universe. They tell of the hows, whens, wheres, and whys of existence. More than that, they serve as guides to show man the way to fulfillment—as guardians to ward off the ills that might beset him.

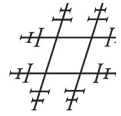
Ralph Lewis' frank and direct style provides much food for thought in each brief impression. A reader develops the habit of using a thought for a day, and there are more than two hundred from which to choose.

These are truly personal guides to daily living, and we hope that they will serve you well.

Arthur C. Piepenbrink



# *Whisperings of Self*



The moral motivation for goodness on the part of man is both biological and psychological. It is the desire for the harmony of one's own being with his surroundings.



Study is the conscious effort to learn; the pleasure to be gained is a secondary motive.



There can never be a paradise populated with men of low intent and little restraint.



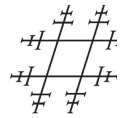
Any condition that always occurs in relation to a phenomenon is a law.



We are rich only when we do not want more than we have, regardless of how little that may be.



# *Whisperings of Self*



A thing has intrinsic value if its essence is in demand because of its essential contribution to some human purpose.



The strong are those who show compassion for the weak, for they are able to resist the vanity of their strength.



Tolerance is an attitude which preserves individualism without jeopardizing the welfare of a whole people.



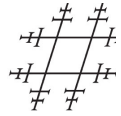
We live by what we know not by what may be so.



The past is an image of what men once thought and did. It becomes an incentive to try and emulate it or rise above it.



# Whisperings of Self



Tolerance is the recognition of the right of others to any actions or expressions of thought which are not contrary to what a *whole people* conceive as their welfare.



Public decency is the attempt to preserve that evolved aspect of self to which man has laboriously attained.



Homely philosophy is an appeal to popular opinion rather than a challenge to individual reason.



Never hire a friend, but be friendly to those you hire.

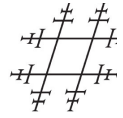


The human's five senses are the result of his organic dependence upon those characteristics of reality we call *motion, mass, and attraction*.





# *Whisperings of Self*



A virtue is a self-disciplinary action by which a certain standard of behavior is attained.



Frustration arises from infringement of unrelated ideas upon one another preventing the satisfactory culmination of any single one. Superstitions are the assumption of causes.



They are substitutes for unknown causes or the attempt to invoke those that do not exist.



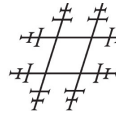
When writing or speaking, be informative. No one likes to chew on chaff.



Rosicrucianism is not a particular subject but rather the furtherance of the spirit and application of knowledge.



# *Whisperings of Self*



If solely by his own reasoning one can arrive at the same conclusions as the great thinkers before him, he should find encouragement in his pursuits; for it is only the limits of his own mind which may prevent him from surpassing them. No man is inherently great. It is only the exercise of those powers which are his that makes him so. A Socrates and an Aristotle were not destined to be; they became such.



Reason is a blade that grows dull if not whetted with thought.



The ideal of the true society must be to so monitor the powers and faculties of men that each may realize the wholeness of his being.

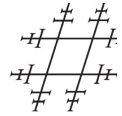


The good in life should be a human creation in relation to events, not a search for a latent, inherent good in nature or the world.



If philosophy is the love of wisdom, then science is the love of coherence.





It is better to think and occasionally be found wrong than to be always right because you are a follower of another.



Human relations is the study of mankind with the purpose of revealing and removing the basic causes of conflict among men.



The inconsistency of the television audience is that it finds satisfaction for hours in idly watching a portrayal of the *active* lives of others.



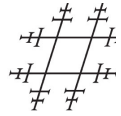
Inferiority is not a virtue by which all that exceeds it is to be protested as a vice.



Perhaps most of our dissatisfaction with life comes from the fact that our pursuits of happiness are too numerous. Each thing sought in itself seems crystal clear in the joy it will afford. But collectively, they detract from each other and diminish our enthusiasm for any one of them like an assortment of art treasures heaped high.



# *Whisperings of Self*



A life is lived in a moment of ecstasy.



No man is free whose mind is not like a door with a double-acting hinge swinging outward to release his own ideas and inward to receive the worthy thoughts of others.



The challenge to almost all philosophers has been: We are and the world appears to be, yet if one alone is real, why the other? If both are real, how may they be conceived as one?



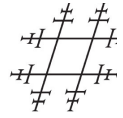
In general, God is the ultimate of the individual's conception of supreme power, initial cause, and moral perfection.



A miracle is a perceived effect of an unperceived cause.



# *Whisperings of Self*



If we know all there is and the laws thereof, there is still the mystery of the cause.



Human progress continues only so long as the human concept can exceed attainment.



The struggle for freedom is the primitive and eternal fight of human will against necessity, natural and social, which imposes itself upon man.



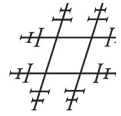
The higher form of society, which we call civilization, really begins with a growing self-consciousness and the attempt to have it discipline the whole of human behavior.



The vocative and written word can be dynamic. It is a force, once released, not easily controlled. There fore, nothing should be more carefully selected than our words.



# Whisperings of Self



The greatest thoughts are simply expressed, for their simplicity is evidence of their clarity.



Good is the content of whatever men call happiness.



Something can only be an ideal by comparison with something else whose context stands as inferior.



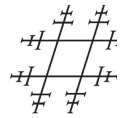
Arrogance is an increased consciousness of power accompanied by a decreased conscience.



What have we learned from war? How to fear the next one even more!



# *Whisperings of Self*



The principal human fault which gives rise to evil is to see things outside their true relationship.



Reason as knowledge excels perception because it always concerns itself with first principles, causes— either of the past or the future. Perception is limited to effects, no matter how causal they may appear to be.



Rights are privileges which men grant each other in mutual respect of human dignity.



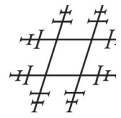
Perfect knowledge is that which for the moment is irrefutable by anyone and about which you entertain no doubt.



In their relations in the state, men should be honest, not alone because of moral edict but because, if they are not, they strike at the existence of society upon which they depend for greater personal expression.



# *Whisperings of Self*



Suspicion is an intangible but nefarious film that insulates human minds one from the other.



There are no personal ends in life that can exceed health of the body and peace of mind for the self.



It is not death but a forceful separation from life that most men fear.



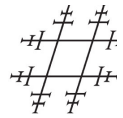
Most of the particulars or ends which men pursue in life in the hope of finding peace of mind, though often by some other term, actually impede or destroy their own capacity to attain peace.



The law of self-preservation is the exercise of self—the furtherance of self in all of its aspects. If we did not further self, there would be no further self.







A thing does not exist unless it has meaning, for identity depends upon the significance of experience. The understanding derived from experience corresponds to reality.



Anyone who recommends giving up intellectual, cultural, or spiritual ground gained because it is hoary with age is bereft of reason.



Science began when man no longer presumed to know the connections between objects but first had to demonstrate their existence objectively.



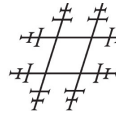
A mission in life is a purpose toward which the individual conceives that all his powers and functions should be directed.



One awakens the soul not by being ignorant of evil but only by calling on his inner qualities to sustain him from known temptations.



# *Whisperings of Self*



Referring to destruction in nature is man's way of saying that nature has opposed his sense of values.



The thinker is the one who uses what he collects in the way of experience.



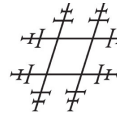
There is a kind of general goodness which seems to youth to exist in the newness of all experience. Therefore, youth can afford to expend itself, to take chances, to make mistakes because of the resiliency of its spirit.



True education is the intentional acquisition of knowledge through guided experience. It has as its objective not just the development of a particular skill but, as well, the cultivation of the mental faculties. By means of it, one comes to exercise his creative powers thereby preserving his intellectual freedom and individuality.



# *Whisperings of Self*



There is no wound so severe as that of a ruptured ego, and none that heals more slowly.



It's not the quantity but the quality of reading that stimulates thought



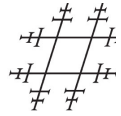
The most discouraging thing in life is the approach toward the unfinished end. This, perhaps more than any other thing, prompts the hope in a hereafter or future life.



Man is not by Cosmic intent but by Cosmic necessity; within the necessity of the Cosmic's nature there arise such complexities, of which man is one.



# Whisperings of Self



An intuitive truth is one that satisfies the emotional as well as the reasoning self. Intuitive truths are those which are simply arrived at and appear inspirational. Because they seem to flash into consciousness, rather than being arrived at, they allay suspicion that they may have suffered in the process of reasoning.



*Knowing* is realizing that a thing is, but *understanding* is knowing what that thing is.



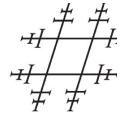
Wisdom is the cultivating of the ability to discern the effects of applied knowledge. The wise man has been able to combine experience into a pattern of action whose effects are propitious.



In theory, conscience may be explained as the sub conscious desire to live sympathetically and cooperatively with one's fellows. This is accomplished by establishing some ground, some behavior, to represent such feelings.



# Whisperings of Self



Figuratively, we may change the color of the glasses through which we peer out at Cosmic reality, but we will always be conferring an illusionary quality upon it as a result of such glasses.



The logical premise underlying any moral system should be that *which is best for the most*—at the time.



The most difficult art to cultivate: getting along with what you have.



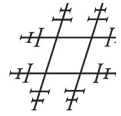
The liberal mind is one that has not established an unwarranted allegiance to inherited and untried concepts.



There is no mystery greater than nature and no adventure greater than its solution.



# *Whisperings of Self*



In effect, law is the enforcement of a stipulated practice or principle which the governing power of society wishes to perpetuate. An accident is a natural event that occurs without intent.



It is not true that just positive thought alone is power. All thought is power! It is the application of that power which we normally call positive or negative.



Nothing is God, and yet God is everything.

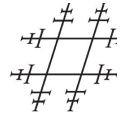


You can take everything away from a man but his thoughts.



Let us remember that prejudice is not the conclusion of reason, for it never offers a rational explanation for its objections.





A democratic nation is one in which individuals create a political instrument to preserve the just exercise of their separate powers.



One must not stop progress, but first it must be determined whether a change is progress.



Man may be divine in essence, but he is still an animal in substance.



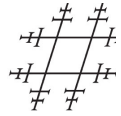
How can a man who does not think be free? Only a thinker makes a true choice. All others are bound to the influence of suggestion, either subtle or direct.



The only way to enjoy a rest is to work for it.



# Whisperings of Self



It is far easier to arouse the ire of a man than to appeal to his reason. Until there is a transition in this condition of human nature, we may expect society to display passion more often than wisdom in attempting solutions to its problems.



The beautiful is that harmony of things and conditions which is pleasurable to one or more of the senses of man.



Continuity of space corresponds to continuity of duration in time. If space has existence that is infinite, then its duration, or time, is likewise infinite. Something cannot *be* without likewise being an *event*.



The spirit of nationalism is the spirit of security for the resources and interests of the group of which the individual is a part. It is loyalty to self-interest on a collective scale.

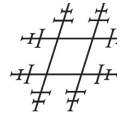


Many an authoritative opinion is but an educated conjecture.





# *Whisperings of Self*



Human dignity is the particular status that mankind believes it has attained in its physical, mental, and moral development. To retain this dignity requires self-discipline.



In the mysteries of the universe are the glories men attribute to their gods.



Mysticism is an inner conviction born of subtle feeling.



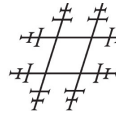
The behavior of conscience, the form which it objectively assumes, is the result of experience in human relations, customs, and inherited traditions.



Those who live should ask themselves: “What are you doing here?” Within their answer will be bared their whole philosophy of life.



# *Whisperings of Self*



The best of tradition is, after all, but static, an intermediate resting place between a lesser state and one yet to be attained.



He who entertains a new avenue of thought is a metaphysician. He who demonstrates it is a scientist.



The only supreme right among men in society is the collective power they assign it by their unfettered wills, their own volition.



Strict conformity in society is basically repetitious conduct. It rarely contributes anything of importance to the culture of the period.

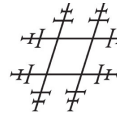
Philosophy is the organization of human experience so as to better serve the individual's life.



Destiny is a fabric of events woven on the loom of time.



# Whisperings of Self



## *Why Time Seems Shorter With Age*

In youth, the consciousness is crowded with many new experiences which hold the attention. The duration of the succession of experiences thus seems drawn out.

With age, many experiences each day and week have become repetitious. They have little demand upon our attention. The succession of experiences, therefore, seems less, and the duration or time shorter.



Only those who fear the truth lie.



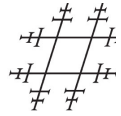
There is nothing greater in life than a wholesome happiness, but it has to be created. It is not to be found, nor is it a caprice of the mere act of living.



It is always easier to coast than pull, but one is downhill; the other is the upward climb.



# Whisperings of Self



A truly progressive civilization is one that cultivates the character as well as the environment of man.



Doing anything in a habitual and ceremonial way that will perpetuate a desired ideal and emotional feeling is a ritual.



The greatest philosophers have recognized the relative value of the *scientific* approach to knowledge.

The greatest scientists have evolved a *philosophy* from their study of phenomena.



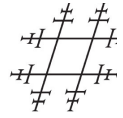
The greater the number of things one possesses, the greater is his responsibility for them.



Considerable of today's crime is the result of the urge of the ego to cast aside the cloak of obscurity that has descended upon it. It is a negative struggle to prevent a submersion of the self.



# Whisperings of Self



Man is a dependent element of nature but independent as to his conception of her. His freedom, thus, lies solely in the view he chooses to take of this relationship.



The Earth is one great table at which we must all learn to sit and share its bounty. The world is too small to further divide among diversified political states.



Habits are born out of experience and tradition. Experience is a product of time and circumstance. What one period and event makes plausible or practical today may not be so tomorrow.



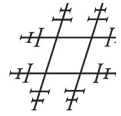
Responsibility is a *response* to a conceived value. This response is an obligation to preserve the value.



Soul is our conception of the indwelling aspects of self. Personality is our expression of that conception in thought and deed.



# *Whisperings of Self*



Many moral systems have inherited the obsolescence of the religion from which they emerged.



The Cosmic is universal and infinite in its manifestation, but it is individual and finite in human experience and conception.



Religion is a series of customs and beliefs intended to bring us into conformity with a supreme super natural power.



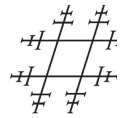
Resistance makes persistence. The strength of will is in its power of opposition.



If a religion must control the political and physical force of the state to maintain its supremacy, it admits its lack of human appeal.



# *Whisperings of Self*



Will is in the mind's creation of a desire, a mental urge which motivates one to act in accordance with it.



True luxury is the extravagance of possessions.



Intuition consists of an unconscious reorganization of our existing ideas into an order of greater clarity.



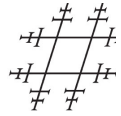
Society must preserve the dignity of personal thought and action within the bounds of common security.



It is not that in which man immures his conception of God that matters, but what the ideal of God causes to occur within man.



# Whisperings of Self



Men are united by the fact of religious experience, not by their collective interpretation of it.



Each religion is a *mystical experience* had by its founder, out of which grows the creed it expounds.



Many men take an excursion from their faith only to return to it at the end of life like a weary traveler coming home.



Orthodoxy is an evil to be found alike in religion and science.

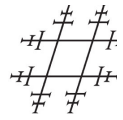


Practical Christian living is nothing more than the natural development of satisfactory human relations. This finds its equivalent in any highly developed moral order.





# Whisperings of Self



For most men, all human endeavor falls into three divisions: that which is commonplace and appears comprehensible; that which, like the sciences, is mysterious but by custom is acceptable; that which is mysterious but, being uncommon, is damned.



It can be positively declared that the decadence of a civilization begins when the effort to obtain the necessities of life is diminished to a minimum, and there is no corresponding effort to attain moral idealism.



The most golden treasures of life are its beautiful memories.



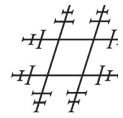
The labors involved in complex living are far in excess of the pleasures extracted therefrom.



Everything is both cause and effect. It is an *effect* of a past cause. But it is likewise a *cause* of the effect that will emerge from it in the future. There is, therefore, neither an absolute cause nor effect. They both arise as a notion from our perception of any particular cycle of change.



# Whisperings of Self



*Philosophy* theorizes on the probable unity of the universe. *Science* tries to prove the existence of such unity by revealing interlocking laws and phenomena. *Mysticism*, however, provides the actual experience of unity through such states as Cosmic Consciousness.



No man can be honest in his convictions who has not first explored the possibility of an opposite view.



The fulfillment of desire creates obligation.



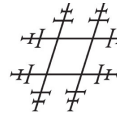
Consciousness is a state which an organism undergoes as the result of stimuli acting upon it. It may be likened to the motion of an object, which is a form of change through which the object passes as the result of forces acting upon it. Therefore, consciousness is neither a tangible nor intangible substance.



He who interrupts my thoughts, interrupts my life.



# *Whisperings of Self*



Each lends the color of his understanding to his surroundings.



To state the obvious is not a declaration of knowledge.



As science explains the nature of our existence, philosophy relates the purpose of that existence, and mysticism provides the spirit of it.



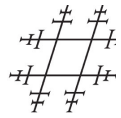
It is easier to discourse upon what man is not than on what he is. In all that he differs—that is not all that he is.



There is no more deadly venom than that which flows from the slanderous pen.



# Whisperings of Self



The isolationist is always one who is never conscious of his dependence upon others outside the narrow sphere in which he has placed himself.



Conscience, or the moral sense, is the way in which we regard the relation of self to our environment.



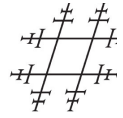
If good is a reality, it must be experienced. There fore, no man sins who knows not the good, but every man sins who *refuses* to know the good. Thus, the greatest sin of all is *willful ignorance*.



If one pursues the knowledge that he loves, he makes love of knowledge his real end. One with such an end in view never intentionally misuses the power of his knowledge. It is the prudent use of knowledge that constitutes wisdom.



# Whisperings of Self



The mystic is most suited by his teachings and beliefs to contribute to the expansion of moral behavior. He causes his conduct to become a compulsion from *within*, a response to self, rather than a social or legal enforcement.



Most superstitions would pass if we took the trouble to find a reason for our beliefs.



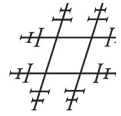
The more man, through science, extends the physical universe, that is, reveals heretofore unrevealed reality, the more he comes to realize that he must alter his concepts of the relationship of divinity to matter.



What is commonly known as moral behavior is the human attempt to pursue such a course of mental and physical conduct as will induce or arouse feeling sympathetic to the realization had of the Inner Self.



# *Whisperings of Self*



The pseudo-mystic smirks at other men's struggles with the problems of existence, while he retires into a self-created atmosphere of smug sanctity. He implies that neglect of the world means spiritual supremacy.



All men have the same destination in life—happiness. But there is no agreement on the road to take to it.



Aspiration is the desire to attain what the mind conceives would be the most satisfying experience!

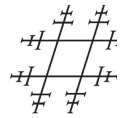


Each man should so live that he is worthy of life and his work worthy of him.



It is far easier to resort to the pages of a book than to ideas of the mind. Consequently, there are more readers than thinkers.





The human consciousness is “the organizer of the universe.” That aspect of being which is comprehensible to the mind appears as order.



The moral structure is but one fabric. Any contamination of it makes the whole imperfect. He who lies is also a thief, for has he not stolen another’s trust in his words?



Prejudice: a dislike without reasonable provocation.



One should be neither elated nor grieved over the present. The present is so fleeting that the causes of either sentiment are past when their effects are realized. Therefore, just say of what you experience, “It is well.”

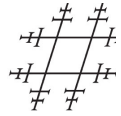


If a thing is neither good nor bad, it is devoid of inherent purpose. The effects that follow from it are by necessity and not by intent.

Nature is neither good nor bad. The good of living, therefore, consists in adapting ourselves to those effects we prefer.



# Whisperings of Self



Moral perfection in its highest state is the ultimate equivalence of *personality and soul*.



The right is only such if it provides justice.



The more money a man has, the more he has to find a usefulness for; since most men are selfish, it soon satisfies their elemental wants. Then comes the disquieting realization that the only lasting happiness money provides is in spending it on others.



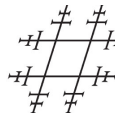
Happiness is hard to acquire and easy to lose if it consists of many things.



A peaceful life is the intelligent evaluation of what is good in existence and the obtaining of it, for that brings satisfaction as lasting as our days.







The essence of good speaking: Have something to say, and say it.



Every incident should be worthy of the moment in which it exists.



The recitation of a confession is the recitation of a lesson learned.



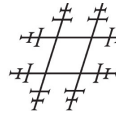
Most men take a problem, not to themselves, not into the chambers of their own minds, but to the first directory of persons whom they can consult.



Happiness is an extract from the compound of living, but the compound is an intelligent formula of ordered thinking and doing. It is not a chance combination of events.



# *Whisperings of Self*



Many men and women live so unintelligently and with such abandon that they are forever contracting mental and physical pains, which eventually cause them to see the end of life and happiness as nothing more or less than a freedom from their particular distemper.



To do an honest work well is to earn a satisfaction.



A fool's paradise is one in which peace rests upon ignorance of the future moment.



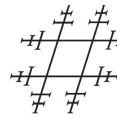
The real value of self-assurance is the spirit of determination it arouses.



Something which has merit only because it stands alone has no merit at all when with other things.



# *Whisperings of Self*



Radicalism is an oblique departure from a line of thought or action. Radicalism is dynamic and opportunistic. It forcefully grasps at the immediate time and circumstances to gain its objective. Radicalism is not tolerant of obstructive ideas. The intent of true radicalism is constructive even though revolutionary in its nature.



That which all men need is no man's property.



The only value of tradition to society is that it affords a platform to stand upon while reaching for something higher. If it becomes a weight which prevents the individual from rising, it has outlived its usefulness.



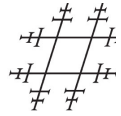
Take away my reason for living and you may as well take my life, for the latter is worthless without the former.



It's not how long you live but the satisfaction you derive from life that makes it worthwhile.



# *Whisperings of Self*



Moral discernment is instinctively relating to our selves the results of our contemplated acts toward others.



The greatest illusion of existence is the attempt to explain it.



Each people finds a kind of spiritual satisfaction in the behavior they have been conditioned to accept. This becomes their moral values.



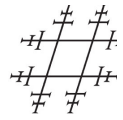
The mystery of the Absolute: No man knows it, nor will ever know it, but illumination comes to those who seek to know it.



If we refute all our illusions, there remains no world in which to exist.



# *Whisperings of Self*



What men term freedom is the right of one man to exercise his will as against another.



What you think constitutes happiness can be the cause of unhappiness.



The objective expression of morality represents the diversity of human intellect and experience.



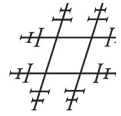
Belief is a conclusion without the verification of experience. In the absence of any knowledge contrary to them, beliefs are the most positive factors of our thinking, for they represent the sum of our reasoning.



Faith is reliance upon the implied quality of things and conditions.



# *Whisperings of Self*



Cosmic Consciousness is the consciousness of spiritual causes as distinguished from the consciousness of phenomenal effects.



No matter what else, we can be daily grateful we have been put in touch with knowledge, for its source is inexhaustible.



A proof of character is humility when confronted with praise.



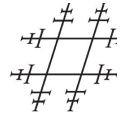
We are rich in worldly attainments and poor in inner comprehension and self-discipline. This kind of economy makes for moral bankruptcy.



Matter moves man, but it does so without volition, for there is no will in matter. The movement of matter is only by the necessity of its nature. There fore, the elements of matter should not be the master of man.



# *Whisperings of Self*



Prejudice is the poisoner of reason and the assassin of justice.



Consciousness is the motion of the force of life as form is the motion of matter.



Resoluteness without reason is folly.



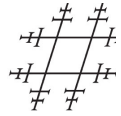
Faith is a presumption of the nature of something. It is the unquestioned acceptance of appearances of things, whether words or objects.



Worthy accomplishments can provide memory with a pleasure that counters the lessening satisfaction of age.



# *Whisperings of Self*



Philosophy is an intelligent approach to life.



Thought is an act of volition; it is the deliberate forming of ideas. Whereas instinct drives, thought selects.



To live is no unique state, nor is it a particular credit to man. However, to make life a radiance that illuminates the human understanding is most worthy of man.



Human nature, like fruit, is ripened by time. Only then is its true flavor apparent.

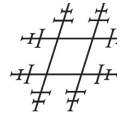


Wisdom is the possession of no man, yet it can be had by all men.





# *Whisperings of Self*



Starved thought is often found in an overfed body.



Behind every purpose is the assumed need for a physical or mental or emotional satisfaction that was thought to be had by a certain pursuit, as a form of action.



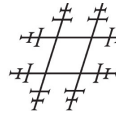
Procrastination is a disease of the will.



It is the duty of the philosopher to speculate on possibilities which are not yet confirmable by science. The philosopher is to conceive channels of investigation and observation, the direction of which science shall take.



# *Whisperings of Self*



The emotions are what give value to life. Reason and judgment help in deciding the value.



Man pays homage to his god not in numbers of his kind but in the perfection of the individual.

No god is false if it be the product of a free conscience and spiritual impulse.

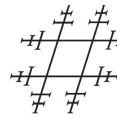


Space is perception without form. Extension is the extent of the character of substance and of space. Time is the duration of the period of consciousness.



Find some degree of happiness each day, for life gives no assurance that it may be attained at a future time.





## Clock and Time

Even if we know how the clock works, have a mastery of its mechanism, why does it *do so*? In the case of the clock there is purpose; the *why* is to tell time. Assuming that the universe is not purposeful and man only is, then it is philosophy and idealism that must provide the *why*, the *purpose*. Can a mechanism be appreciated without a purpose?



The test of intelligence is a crisis.



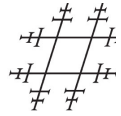
The importance of a behavioral code as a life value is the conscious direction in life it provides man. It makes man not a fatalist, but rather a potential master of his fate.



Everyone has character—it constitutes the sum total of our volitional behavior under all circumstances and to the demands which are made upon us.



# Whisperings of Self



We do not believe we *are* because it sounds plausible that we are, or because someone gives us a reason for self. We conceive self, the ego, because of certain irrefutable impressions we have.



The care for things of pleasure can become a burden.



To mean something to somebody is one of the great est satisfactions in life.



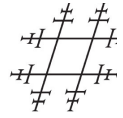
Happiness is not an ingredient of the Cosmic substance. It is a state of mind arising from the conscious adjustment each makes to the reality of his personal existence.



The Divine is realized through the ever-changing mentality and consciousness of man.



# Whisperings of Self



The mystic never departs from his intimate experience. It is part of his being. *He alone* must evaluate it.



Nature will remain chaotic to us if we do nothing but create a series of little circles around certain groups of laws.



Whoever copies, always follows.

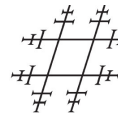


The mystical consciousness permits us to be completely immersed periodically in the sea of infinity instead of just wading in it objectively as most of us do.



To *know* is to form a thought image about an experience; it is to establish an understanding of what is realized in consciousness.





The more dominant emotional and psychic attributes of the person constitute the structure of his personality.



We do not always *have* to do what we like to do, but we should try to *like* what we have to do.



What the mind conceives, man will eventually achieve. The will always seeks good—it is the desire for a particular satisfaction. That to man is *good*, of a kind.

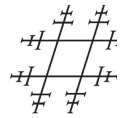


Men have tried so hard to know what cannot be known and, in doing so, have discovered what can be known.



Educated men must be more than textbooks, or computers, or single volumes of knowledge. They must, in all their learning, think of themselves as being an integrated part of mankind. Their knowledge and personal success must contribute to society.





Business can be corrupt not because it is business but because of the ethics in its application—or the lack of same brought to bear in connection with it.



Let us remember that he who lives best is he who lives wisely, for the years increase his happiness as they decrease his powers of physical and material accomplishments.



Choice is selection according to preference. We never choose against our own nature physically, intellectually, or emotionally. Consequently, how free is our choice?



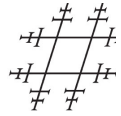
Abstract thought provides knowledge beyond the scope of objective experience.



To one who sees clearly the shadows of the past and the substance of the present, the future is not concealed.



# Whisperings of Self



The depth of feeling of spirituality is amorphous. No one's image of its source, no matter how refined and universally recognized, is its true and absolute nature.



True knowledge is the final judgment of experience.



*Keep your own counsel.* If freely offered it may fall on deaf ears and closed minds. Your experience and judgment have greater value when asked for.



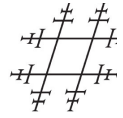
The nature of self is only mysterious to the extent that our ignorance of its full capabilities makes it so.



Indecency in connection with sex can only be a retrogression from whatever standard of moral restraint has first been associated with it.







Tolerance is the extending to others the rights you demand for yourself.



Civilization is a complex of things and conditions created by man to provide for his physical demands and to express his preferred mental and emotional states.



To be brave one must have first feared, for bravery is the mastery of fear.

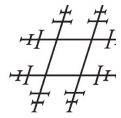


The love of life should not be in terms of profligacy but in the excellence of its development and expression.



How ignorant is he who knows all but not himself.





Men show concern for health when it fails them; when it serves them, they neglect it.



In predicting a future, man reveals his concept of the present. He sees in the future the fulfillment of ideals that transcend prevailing limitations, or calamitous effects that follow from faulty natural or human causes.



Generosity is a sharing of pleasure. But real charity is always accompanied by a willing sacrifice.

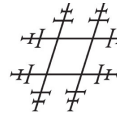
Mystically, unity is a more lofty attainment than is oneness. Oneness is that which exists within itself. There is therefore no striving to be, whereas in unity there is the motivation to enter into a greater relationship than the singleness of one's own being.



What are the fears of death? Are they the loss of loves, family, friends, possessions, and fame, or of an unknown crammed with the varieties of uncertainty extolled by religion and philosophy? Only the living can grieve, for in death there is naught to sorrow about.



# *Whisperings of Self*



An admission of ignorance is the first step toward acquiring knowledge.



The person who puts rational restraint upon his acts with relation to other humans is ultimately protecting his own rights and expression of self.



Being a free thinker does not mean being a mental rambler.



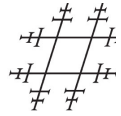
Perception provides through experience the fundamental substance of thought; reason and imagination compound them into an infinity of ideas.



Education does not necessarily make for profundity of thought. Intelligence, observation, meditation, and reason do.



# *Whisperings of Self*



It is knowledge that points what we do not know.



An actor in a role can change in appearance and mannerism. However, he has not changed his consciousness of self. A thousand persons may look alike but each realizes their difference.



The world is as good as man sees it and goodness is only as man values it.



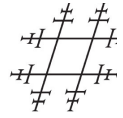
If there is no God image which is acceptable to all men alike, then no man's image of God is wrong.



Fate is but a combination of circumstances, the natural causes of which are unknown to man.



# Whisperings of Self



Where one works exclusively for self-interest, he cannot by so doing avoid working *against* the necessary interests of others.



As an organ the stomach is relatively large but its capacity is finite; the mind is relatively small but its capacity is infinite: Thus we may overeat but never over think.



There is nothing which can exist outside of that which is, and whatever is is part of the *all* that is.



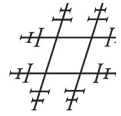
What is man, without knowing what he is— nothing.



There is more to life than told in the pages of books.



# *Whisperings of Self*



Life is the Great Initiation—a crossing of the thresh old from non-existence to self-realization. Its rites consist of the vicissitudes of life, each with its symbolic value. Ultimate attainment is the integrating of the total experience into an order of personal understanding and meaning.



What will money buy when it has destroyed all things of worth in obtaining it?



To youth is the future; to age is the fruit of experience.

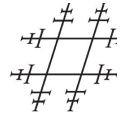


Tolerance is recognizing the right of others to a difference of expression.



A thing cannot be considered as other than perfect in itself if there is nothing else by which it can be compared.





There is a cosmic economy which permits no waste of creation. Each phenomenon of nature has a relationship to all others. So too, there must be an economy of mankind.



Order is but an accepted persistence of an act or arrangement.



The mystical experience provides the pulse of the Absolute, if not its anatomy.



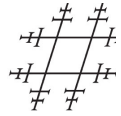
Familiarity may not breed contempt, but your worthy thoughts and actions are assured a greater recognition by those of a less close association.



There is a parallel *infinity* between vastness and minuteness. Reduction results in a seeming nothing, but such is of the same *infinity* as vastness. Since there is no permanency of form, the ultimate of evolution or devolution is *infinity*.



# *Whisperings of Self*



Do not let fantasy cloak your reason! Let fantasy be a creative process of the imagination grounded in the fabric of reason. Let it be a reaching out for demonstrable truth. Fantasy can soar, and it should, but never in so free a flight of the imagination that it loses contact with the fundamental laws of nature.



The inevitability of time: it quickens the attributes of youth and dulls the faculties of the aged.



It is not what a thing may be but what man may understand it to be that is the truth to him.

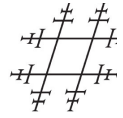


A true humanitarian is one that has so lived that he has brought happiness to others by his presence, by the very fact of his existence, and by the dignity his way of life has conferred upon mankind.





# Whisperings of Self



We must crusade against traditional darkness. Let us give mental and active support, legally and ethically, to all that which seeks to remove the screen that blinds man to the reality of the future. Let us analyze what we ordinarily and habitually accept as traditions and customs as to their true worth to mankind. What is worth enduring must not stand alone on its past but reveal as well an equal value to the future.



The *personal* attribute of life is consciousness. Without it, life is but a mechanistic process.



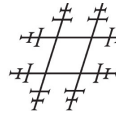
Who knows the first cause of all? We can only conceive it as we feel it.



The future thought, that of tomorrow, will extend a serious challenge to mere faith. It will be a new age of rationalism, but not necessarily one of intolerant radicalism.



# Whisperings of Self



Like a light in the dark of a dismal night, let your self stand out as glowing, warm, and welcome.



It has been said that the only good is “The desire to do *good*.” This is so because such a good is not expressed in the diverse terms of individual values.



Soul is not a thing. It is an experience; an experience for which man ever gropes for words to express it.



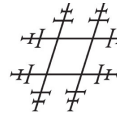
Rare knowledge, like gold, must be dug for, but in scholarly tomes, not soil!



Whenever morality is ineffective, conscience is inhibited, the right becomes only that which serves the personal self.



# Whisperings of Self



There is ever the struggle of the human mind to find its place in the whole of reality.



The *universality* of the *human will* is not found in just similar human actions; it is not what actions the will takes, but rather that it can *determine* its actions.



We may not respect all the beliefs of others, but we should respect their right to have them.



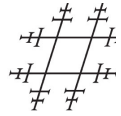
All study reveals a personal vacuum, which knowledge alone can fill.



We may let imagery stimulate our thought, but we should not let it enmesh our reason in fantasy.



# Whisperings of Self



It is not what men believe that matters, but what actions emerge from their beliefs.



How can a man be free who does not think for himself? After all, it is only one who thinks who makes a true choice. All others are bound to the influence of suggestion, whether it be subtle or direct.



We are not *chosen* to be illuminated, we must choose to be illuminated.



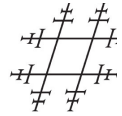
The Unknown is the Undiscovered.



Education does not consist of the books read but rather the content that can be recalled.



# Whisperings of Self



The greatest of all *constants* is *change*.



*Purpose* sets forth certain ends, goals, or objectives to be attained. The human *will* becomes the motivating force by which they are attained. The *action* of will always represents our most dominant desire. *Purpose*, therefore, must rationally and emotionally arouse the *will* for the necessary motivation to attain the end sought.



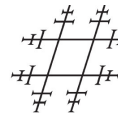
Philosophy is the struggle to know.  
Science is the *search* for knowledge.  
Technology is the reduction of knowledge to application.  
The first is the *intellectual* satisfaction.  
The second is explorative *creativity*.  
The third is the adaptation to *self* (social need).



Knowledge is like a rare gem—the more facets it has, the greater its brilliance.



# Whisperings of Self



Nothing worthwhile is attained easily. If it is, it is not fully appreciated because it has not a part of the self in it.



While there is life, there is hope. Life is the greatest gift we have. With life, we have that consciousness and the ability to realize the magnitude of the Cosmic.



When you are being copied, consider it an incentive to retain your lead.



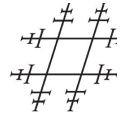
Conscience imposes feelings of restraint on those actions that would disrupt the unity of self and the psychic.



The *self* comprises every state of *awareness* of which our being is capable.



# Whisperings of Self



The Infinite, the finite; from which comes the idea of the other? The nature of the Infinite cannot suggest the finite. An Infinite is boundless, there are no limits which can be perceived within it. Therefore, the notion of the finite cannot rise from the Infinite. However, what appears as finite implies the possibility of it expanding beyond itself. From the finiteness of his own being, man came to realize the infinity of the universe about him.



The more advanced and learned a society, the more complex and higher it is in the sense of being more all-embracing in its religious ideals. Consequently, the expression of spirituality of the individual, in some elements of society, may appear to be more lofty by comparison with a lower culture. But the inner, subjective impulse of response to what is felt as the spiritual motivation may be no greater in one culture or individual so inclined than in another.



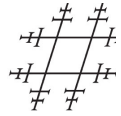
Life is a drive, but you have to do the steering.



Spirituality is a personal belief being engendered, on the one hand by an innate sense of righteousness, and on the other hand by the belief in a transcendent infinite power of goodness.



# Whisperings of Self



Man cannot be an escapee from nature, but he likes to believe that there were mortals who were.



*Mastership* is recognized in action, that is, in doing. And this doing is noticeable because of its superiority or it is that action of which others are incapable. This mastership is not a faculty limited to certain individuals. It is not something which is bestowed upon someone. It may be potential in one, like an indwelling talent. Yet, until it is aroused or developed and *manifests* itself, it does not exhibit mastership.



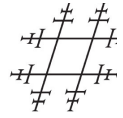
All types of desires are a motivation for happiness of a kind. And such is the substance of *Love*.



He who professes to know the absolute Truth, is but knowing agreement with his own conclusions.







Curiosity is the challenge of the *unknown*. It is the undefined emotional response to physical and emotional stimuli.



The *soul* should be rationally thought to be beyond either corruption or perfection by man—the premise being that, since it is of a divine source, it lies beyond human power to alter in any manner its pristine nature.



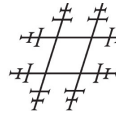
For a thing to *be*, it must be innately in harmony with that of which it consists; and *consciousness* is that state of harmony.



Goals and fancies *motivate* the individual to *action*. Fancy may please, but it does not achieve.



# Whisperings of Self



*Self* is a unique phase of the stream of consciousness. It is the *consciousness of consciousness*. It is the awareness that we are apart from all else. More succinctly, it is consciousness looking back upon itself, *Self-consciousness*, thus, is the *highest* form of consciousness.



The *true* master of transcendent and mystical knowledge does not tend to portray himself as a personal guide of the lives of other mortals. He does not teach or imply that others must be *dependent* upon him. He does not advocate that they seek him out in meditation or personally whenever a problem arises. Simply, he does not want to create a dependency upon himself, for he knows that each human has his own *slumbering* master within to be awakened and brought to the threshold of consciousness. This slumbering master is the *whole* of self of which most men are but partly aware.



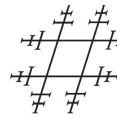
Consciousness, awareness, *cannot exist by itself*. Simply, you cannot be conscious without being *conscious of something*.



The power of a sacred place lies not in its form or tradition alone, but in the higher state of consciousness it can evoke in you.



# Whisperings of Self



One who *continuously*, by whatever method, is seeking guidance from a Cosmic Master that has transcended this Earth, is *forfeiting* his own *personal mastership*. He is actually opposing the true purpose of those esoteric teachers, which is to provide us with the means of attaining our own personal mastership, *here and now*.

To follow the *ideals* and *teachings* of a truly enlightened being is one thing; but to desire only to be *led* by him is a *false* concept of mastership. For mastership, in any role, is *active*, never submissive.



Simplicity of accomplishment is indicative of personal mastership.

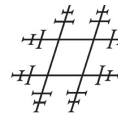


A thing or event cannot be a necessity in itself. It must be related to that which is *thought to require it*.



There are two universal concepts of the cosmos. One is that the cosmos is the result of a primary cause, and that it has an ultimate or final purpose. The other concept postulates the cosmos as self-existent and having an all-inclusive oneness. The first notion arises from attributing human like qualities to the cosmos. The second notion is more abstract; it endeavors to have the cosmos transcend any parallelism with human attributes.

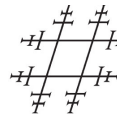




## *Is the Greater Universe Both Finite and Infinite?*

If the universe is the totality of all there is, then it is *finite* by the limiting quality of its own nature. The universe is also *infinite* because its nature has no beginning or end in *time*. The *space* of the universe is infinite because there is naught but its own nature to bound it. If the universe contracts and expands, then proportionately so does all else contained within it. Therefore, in either state, contraction or expansion, space would remain *relatively* the same.





## *Religion and Science*

Religion is now a dependence upon supernatural powers to provide what at the moment is beyond human accomplishment. Religion has made the mistake of attempting to explain how a god acts. Human experience has too often proved such theories false.

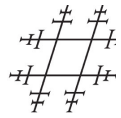
To survive, religion must always represent an idealism yet to be attained. If religion shall keep its god an indeterminable cause which continually remains behind all that comes to the fore of human understanding, then it shall never be breached by any science or exposed as a misconception.

Man and his world are a series of causes and effects more infinite than the inquiries of the human mind. It is futile to define a first cause behind the whole, because the whole is its own cause. Unless the human mind can encompass the whole, it cannot presume to know the cause. The whole cause will ever remain supreme, never dethroned by discovery but exalted by it.

Make a man realize that the extent of the universe will ever exceed an expanding human intelligence, and you will inculcate within even the rankest materialist a religious reverence of existence. Religion must take its god out of the realm of ideas and things, and make of him the inscrutable whole. Learning and knowledge can thus become reverend tools for building a religion which shall correspondingly grow with man's enlightenment.



# *Whisperings of Self*



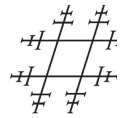
## *About a Sheet of Paper*

There is something so awesome about a crisp, white sheet of writing paper as it lies before you. It has a virtue of its own in its freshness and freedom from blemish. It dares you to alter its appearance with strange little characters, lines, and curlicues. As you look upon its unmarred surface, you feel as one gazing into a mirror. Anything may become reflected there. Out of its depths may arise great aspiration, towering ideals, images of glory that may move men's souls to nobler deeds, each word framed against the pearly background like a gem, and the whole a rare jewel.

But again, the labor completed, the marks are often but a hideous reminder of a spoiled material and a futile effort. At times one looks back upon the tracings before him wishing he had never advanced so far. Ahead of him is yet a great expanse of open, white smoothness. It has lost its appeal and has become but a taunt. To begin again is to wander back through a labyrinth of thoughts that mock your pride. As one poises his pen above the sheet, he feels not unlike a knight upon bold adventure. He hopes that upon his return the paper may fly from the masthead of his vanity and herald him as a crafts man of words and not a despoiler of the virginity of a white sheet of paper!



# *Whisperings of Self*



## *My Friends*

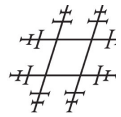
No man has a greater host of friends than I. Of an evening, some will take me on high adventure. Through icy blasts and over frozen regions we will journey. I will be numb with cold, and my eyes will ache from the unrelenting glare of sun on eternal white. Then again, on occasion, in torrid lands we will travel, each cutting and hacking his way through the green hell, as savage eyes peer out at us from the dismal darkness of the shadows.

Some of these companions of mine, of a night, will choose to leave the confines of this earth. With them I will vault into space. They stop at the moon, push their way through its moribund canyons, and thence they swirl and dance with the nebulae as I breathlessly keep pace. Never a night the same. Others of this host lead me into the past to silently witness sacred ceremonies of the ancients. We dine with Caesar. We fight in the legions of Alexander the Great, or we tarry awhile to listen to the death less words of the sages who are gathered in the shadows of the Parthenon.

My life is ever a full one, for my friends are full of spirit. Their resourcefulness is the capacity of all human thought and endeavor. These friends are ever near. Their escapades, lives, and sentiments are just within the reach of my extended arm, for these friends are the treasured books upon my shelves. At attention they stand, a legion of personalities waiting to leap at my desire and serve my every mood and interest.



# *Whisperings of Self*



*The soul of man is the site of his emotion,  
Bearing the fruits of his thought,  
And the story of his devotion;  
A vast elevated plane, seared by the many fires  
Of tempting pain,  
Raising the mind to a lofty peak,  
Where to troubled body it may speak  
Of the soul divine and its glorious reign.*

*Life is a formation of ridges on the surface of time,  
Whose valleys between are bridged with love  
And held as a shrine.  
The goal ever far distant but always in sight,  
To be reached by the man whose footsteps are guided  
Not by the sword of might,  
But by the true torch of endeavor and light.*

—Ralph M. Lewis

1922 (age 18)





# THE ROSICRUCIAN ORDER, AMORC

## *Purpose and Work of the Order*

The Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, is a philosophical and initiatic tradition. As students progress in their studies, they are initiated into the next level or degree.

Rosicrucians are men and women around the world who study the laws of nature in order to live in harmony with them. Individuals study the Rosicrucian lessons in the privacy of their own homes on subjects such as the nature of the soul, developing intuition, classical Greek philosophy, energy centers in the body, and self-healing techniques.

The Rosicrucian tradition encourages each student to discover the wisdom, compassion, strength, and peace that already reside within each of us.

[www.rosicrucian.org](http://www.rosicrucian.org)