

This is a very ancient worldview that may seem ludicrous to modern habits of thought, yet which has a profound validity of its own. It is interesting to see this represented, almost in passing, in a seventeenth-century document that ostensibly seems to be merely reveling in mechanical contrivances. In fact the whole Rosicrucian castle is represented as a model driven by clockwork. It is indeed a moveable representation of the "machinery of the universe," the inner world of the astro-etheric that keeps the outer world in order and motion.

The real force that drives the "machinery of the universe" is, however, the topic of much riddling conversation at supper that evening, which is how to measure love. That night C. R. dreams of a locked door finally opening. We are indeed at the threshold of the Mysteries of the feminine principle.

Third Day: The Magic Rites

The following day all those accepted to the Mysteries return to the golden fountain. The lion now bears a tablet of instruction in place of the sword. "Drink of me who can: wash in me whoever so wishes: stir me whoever dares." The waters are revealed to be those of Hermes—that is, higher wisdom, an analog of the powers of Pallas Athene who helped the ancient heroes. The final injunction is "Drink brethren, and live." In other words, all who have achieved to this point are able to drink of these waters of higher wisdom; to take them within themselves. And the ability so to do makes them part of a great brotherhood, as well as bestowing conscious participation in a higher or eternal life.

This is ratified, after they have drunk from the golden cup of the fountain and washed therein, by their being conducted by the Virgin of Lights into a hall. Here they are decked in gold robes decorated with flowers, given a golden fleece set with jewels, and also a gold medal depicting the sun and moon conjoined. This indicates the union of higher and lower self, and the glory of the unmanifest spirit flowing through the conjunction. A more common depiction of this is by two equilateral triangles conjoined to form a radiant six-rayed star. The motto on the reverse of the medal confirms this:

The light of the Moon shall be as the light of the Sun, and the light of the Sun shall be 7 times lighter.

They then process, with stately harmonies, up a winding staircase of 365