**Order Of The Black Rose
 Advanced Lessons : IV**

COOP TRADE

Trade makes the world go around, because few people can learn and become proficient in all skills. The potter will trade his wares for clothes from the tailor who will trade finished goods for material. The farmer will trade his produce for a new plow as the baker will trade bread for grain or shoes. Natural resources are where you find them and one region will have materials and products that are not readily available elsewhere. Therefore, the people of one region will want items from another and will trade their surplus goods for what they lack. First, it is necessary to produce that which you can commit to your own use, second, those goods fit for your community's use, and third, goods useful for trade with other regions. Eventually, there will come a need for a medium of exchange that may be traded for anything of value. This medium must be light, easily carried, and the people must have confidence in it. Gold, silver, precious stones, gems, shells, beads, and paper money have all been at one time or another a medium of exchange. In a healthy, basic barter system community it is possible to sanction a community clearing house and store which may be established by council vote. In such a system, each member opens an account and establishes credit with that clearing house. Everyone agrees to put up a given percentage of trade goods, and thereby establishes a line of credit. Goods may be sold privately by currency, cash, trade, or check. Also, surplus goods may be delivered to the clearing house store where families might have a central shopping center or general store.

Now, a member may trade their available credits for hard goods, or trade hard goods for credits. However, by the time this is necessary, there should be a reorganized value placed on most trade items, and there should be surplus of trade products. A shirt should have a recognized value as would a sack of onions. Let us say that a farmer sells a sack of onions to the blacksmith for 5 credits. The five credits could be deducted from the blacksmith's account and applied to the farmer's account less a small transaction fee. The fee would cover clearing house operating costs and wages of the bookkeepers, clerks and other personnel. Yes, a member may trade labor for credits which can later be traded for hard goods. That way a carpenter can build a shed for the potter even if he has no need for pots. Proceeds from goods sold through the general store would be credited to the suppliers account less the usual small transaction fee. At some future time, there may even come a need for a greater financial base and regional or even national clearing houses. This would allow travel and a greater trade area. The whole idea is that Family members may build a credit balance, and then write a check against that balance or even draw some form of currency which would be accepted by the population at large.

Now, the Family is not a communistic or socialistic organization as it encourages and supports free enterprise and trade. Furthermore, the government is run by the people who can expel an errant council member at any meeting. Also, there is nothing wrong and everything right with a person doing business and increasing his or her lot. This is encouraged! However, we learn by experience, and through the forge of experience we have learned how to prevent our government from becoming corrupt, greedy and arrogant, for that would soon herald in another fall. The system is based upon family helping family not members hurting others. Taxation has always been the bane of mankind. Taxes, fairly collected and properly used are an acceptable method of financing public works. However, politicians tend to abscond with the tax money or otherwise squander it, requiring ever more to make up their deficits. If all of the kickbacks taken by corrupt politicians were returned to the public coffers, national debts would disappear. National debts then, are only a ploy to raise taxes. Better to do without them. The Family cooperative works on the principle of gifts. Taxation always carries punitive possibilities and limits free choice. Gifts do not. Gifts, on the other hand, are always graciously given and received.

So far, we have discussed the matrix for a workable community and even conjectured expanding its horizons to interact with other communities, regions, and a national entity. We have purposely done this with broad strokes to communicate the basic idea without forcing future generations to live under a set of untenable rules that are not right for them. The fine details will have to be worked out by the councils according to the needs of their families. In a nutshell, all family members are accountable to Father Adonis, themselves, and their families. Could it be any other way? Father Adonis will do the best for us, His helpers will help us, but we must also do our parts for our coops to succeed.

THE BIG PICTURE

It has been said that the Family way costs you nothing, yet it costs you everything. Don't worry, no one is going to ask for your money or the deed to your ranch, so you can put those fears aside. However, the Family does deal with the real you, the total you, not just your physical self or your greater self at different times. It deals with the total you all at once. Remember, the purpose is to bring you into focus, clear your mind, adjust your thinking for positive results, and bring you to the point where you can control your actions for the best outcome. All of the early lessons were geared to this ideal, but many people just read those lessons instead of acting on them. It takes practice and much prudence, patience, and perseverance to achieve success! The lower nature of most people is fiercer than any lion or tiger that ever walked the Earth and won't be so easily or quickly tamed. It has a short memory too, so constant, steady reinforcement is necessary to finally conquer it. It can be done, even if it does take a while. So, don't become discouraged if your early efforts at contacting your helpers fail at first. Remember, you can only contact them through your greater or higher self. You must make contact and merge so as to become one with your greater self first before you can ever expect to start forming grand and lasting relationships with those across the way.

We would like to offer some possible reasons and suggestions to those of you who have not as yet enjoyed success in making spiritual contact. We are not suggesting that you need to be perfect and walk some kind of a tightrope to remain in the good graces of your astral helpers, for such things are mere pipe dreams of the pious, whose own morality fails rather consistently when no one else is looking. Instead, we teach the reality that anyone who desires spiritual advancement needs to be able to live with themselves on a day-to-day basis. Such a person can't afford to carry a load of guilt and remorse on their back or they will surely fail. That is why we have revealed the knowledge of how to clear your mind of all past mistakes by current positive action in the here- and-now! Every one who has ever lived has made some mistakes whether they will admit it or not. That is why kids get dirty noses! However, dirty noses can be cleaned with a little effort. The trick is to accept that fact and start thinking positive thoughts that will create a positive environment through positive actions.

Did you get the point? Here it is again: your helpers will always reach out for you when asked, but if you are too heavily laden with guilt to reach out for them, contact is hard to make. Simply stated, some people feel that because of past mistakes, they aren't good enough to advance spiritually or make contact with spiritual beings. If that were true, no member of the human race would have a chance! So, put any such silly notions aside as they are not pertinent to the situation. Instead, study the Scrolls and act upon them as you are supposed to do. Go ahead, work at it and soon, you will find that you are not such a bad person at all. Then once you can live with yourself, you can live with others. When that happens, your astral helpers will be within easy reach.

Here's another point. There are those people who won't accept the concept of completing the family of Father Adonis where men and astral helpers can work in harmony for the benefit of the All, for reasons of their own. Perhaps, they fear spiritual contact or have been taught against it or the idea just plain offends their intelligence. These folks will have to sort things out for themselves, for we are not in the belief business. Neither can the astral realms be detected with scientific instruments, because the Force or Spirit does not inhabit the same space or time as the other physical forces nor is it subject to them. Only living things can detect the spiritual Force. However only man can interact with it, for only mankind, among all creatures, has a bit of Father Adonis within his or her breast waiting to bring the Force alive.

Instead, we present concepts as truthfully as it is possible to communicate them, for we know of no other way. What we do ask is for all persons to have an open mind and to allow themselves the joy of progressing spiritually at their own pace. What have you to lose? We do not even expect people to open themselves up to the unknown, for we have brought forth only known constants, concerning astral helpers who have stepped forward and agreed to aid and assist all mankind who will ask. All we can say is that for those who seek, the rewards will be many.

Here is wisdom: if you are having problems, remember to not only assess yourself, but your environment and all persons around you, for often, an outside influence can hold you back, tying your spiritual hands so to speak. Sometimes, the workplace is the culprit as it overshadows all else, consuming all of your energy to the point of exhaustion. However, the people around you can more likely drag you down if you let them. Be it known also that there are those people who seek power over others by attempting to make them feel entirely worthless or inadequate by telling them that they will never amount to anything. See these people for what they are and either confront them, or remove yourself from their presence. The choice is yours. Act, don't react! Remember, "The road is long by foot, but short by spirit!"

KEEP ON TRYING

Whatever the reasons, do keep on trying to open up your spiritual eye so that you can see. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain by achieving success. Some people open up easier than do others, depending upon life experience and circumstances. Remember, what is hard today will be easy tomorrow. Often, just relaxing and letting the contact come naturally is all that is necessary. Experience has proven that one person will see differently than another. Some experience visions, some hear voices speaking to them, and others actually make it all the way into the presence and travel freely. In any case, the only limiting factor is your own perspective. Father Adonis won't limit you, the astral helpers won't limit you either, so what's left? Occasionally, because of shyness or fear of the unknown, certain people erect barriers from the depths of their subconscious minds. Should this be the case, a gradual conditioning to spiritual contact might be in order, taking events a little at a time. This is done the same way as some folks enter a swimming pool. First, a toe goes in the water and then the foot...

For most people, full function on the higher astral planes does take a while, but once the process starts, advancement will be as quick as they will accept it. Here is a little bit of positive reinforcement: Everyone has experienced at least an occasional flash from their inner eye. How many times have you picked up your telephone set to call a friend and found them saying "Hello" to you on the open phone line when your phone hadn't even so much as rung? How often have you walked into a strange building or house that you're sure you've never visited and then had the distinct realization that you have been there before? Then, don't you really feel strange when you walk up and start talking to a stranger, thinking that they were someone you knew? The fact is that all humans beings have that third eye, and no matter how sleepy it may be, you have one too. At these times, a connection has been made if only briefly, without your doing anything to instigate it.

Now that you are aware of the possibilities and are on the lookout for them to manifest, don't you think that they might happen more often, especially if you let them? The trick is to open up but not force the issue. Remember; "What is hard today, is easy tomorrow." Most of the time, the best contacts and experiences just happen when you least expect them. Think of them as a gift from your friends across the way and enjoy them, for every spiritual experience opens the door for the next. When you practice playing golf or tennis, don't you get better? Well, the same principle applies here.

"Primitive man is always more
spiritually attuned than his
civilized brother, for
he lives under the
stars and tends
to reach for
them."