**The Seven Scrolls of
The Order of The Black Rose
VI**

**The Fourth Principle**

AN ADEPT IS ONE WHO KNOWS. There is much to learn, much to teach, and so little time for application. All adepts understand the great value of wisdom and knowledge properly applied in a positive manner. Such virtues can raise mankind up from total darkness into bright light of understanding. Even if there is just one adept who knows, alive upon the Earth at a given time, that person can teach many new adepts whom they can send out to teach others who can one day teach still more. Wisdom and knowledge are easy to carry and easier to spread for when the dark times come, all are eager to hear. It is the application that is difficult. To move ideas and concepts into reality requires physical work. That is why we are as much concerned with the physical side of our adapts as their spiritual sides. Knowing how to build a house won't get it built anymore than knowing how to transcend the veil will make a person whole. It all has to come together in one place at one time to be of any value.

Therefore, adepts often have to get their hands dirty and raise a sweat to get things accomplished. Often we have to use incentives to get our students to actually do anything. However, once they see some solid results, the next step usually requires much less prodding. Therefore, one who knows must also be one who does. That is why adepts often find themselves in leadership positions, for they are the individuals who plan projects, organize people, gather materials and get the jobs done. Days are for working and evenings are for learning and teaching. The next day's work is planned the night before and difficulties are sorted out before they become problems. The process is learn, do, and teach.

Adepts make every effort to be among the circle of those who know, for there are so many who don't. The ratio is something like a hundred to one. However, there must be that one knowledgeable person or adept if anything is to be accomplished, for the one is the spark that starts the fire that will eventually illuminate the path for all mankind to follow. Adepts prepare themselves with all types and kinds of knowledge, for they know from experience that every once in a great while, calamity will arise and plunge mankind into darkness. Without one who knows, the road back to light and understanding would be a long one, indeed. Many times in the past, men have risen to great heights, only to be tumbled into the depths by catastrophe. It has always been the spark of wisdom and knowledge, carried by the few that has saved the many. However, one who knows must be judicious at such times, as when the darkness comes, people grow superstitious and shun anything they don't understand. That is why one adapt will never reveal the face or place of another.

"In the past, it has been man's lot to rise to the
heights only to be plunged into the depths. But as
we say, when something falls over, it is the
job of our adepts to pick it back up
again. The way of the Family is to
learn and do and teach. It is an eternal
process, but then, so is brotherhood."

**The Fifth Principle**

AN ADEPT TEACHES THEIR CHILDREN WELL. Being human guarantees each brother OR sister a ticket on the Ferris Wheel of Life. As the wheel turns, we swoop down to Earth to live out our physical lives, all the while learning, doing, and teaching. Then as the wheel turns around, we ascend to the spiritual realms to further our education to prepare for the next revolution. Some think of human existence as a great infinite loop with twists and turns to make the ride more interesting. All soon realize that when we enter the Earth Plane we do it as a child, as there aren't many other options. Hear it again: the next time you come back here, it will be as a child, just as you were this time and the last time and the one before that. Therefore, all adapts teach their children The Keys of Wisdom with all of their implications from as early an age as possible. Why? What if you returned next time around and were denied the wisdom and knowledge? Where would you find it, and would you even know enough to look for it? How empty life would be without the spark to ignite the mind into growth and the spirit into readiness to finish the long trip. Think of the Order as an endless chain of hands, some pulling, some pushing, all a part of the whole. Learn, do, teach. It is our responsibility to leave our legacy for our children, so we take the time and teach our children well.

Traditionally, the head of a family will see to it that an hour each evening is set aside for the teaching of a Key of Wisdom. They begin at the beginning and proceed through to the end, then begin again, repeating the process until the book is completed. No one is going to remember the story of the All after only one hearing, so repetition plus doing is the only answer. The mentor should also live the lessons, showing their students their effects upon reality. After all, seeing is believing. It must be shown that there is both a right way of looking at things and a right way to live. There is also a right way to think. It must also be shown that there is both action and reaction. How we react makes all the difference. The children must be shown that they are responsible for their own actions, and that they must pay a price for any wrong thinking or action on their parts. When the Orders lessons are correctly and fairly taught, both mentor and student will soon learn that the youngers shall follow the advice of the elders, and the elders shall show favor to the youngers. The circle shall not be broken.

**The Sixth Principle**

ADEPTS SUPPORTS THEIR COMMUNITY. Until the day when we can all live in and around our own communities, we must do the best we can with the existing communities such as they are. However, we can make them more to our liking by gradually restructuring them a little at a time, and becoming involved in civic projects and processes. All adepts should take defensive politics seriously, for if we don't, someone else surely will. We are not suggesting that all adepts should run for office, however, being a trusted advisor to an elected official can bring satisfying results. Think of it like this: an adept builds his or her home base in a given community in hopes that he or she and their family will prosper and enjoy solid growth and benefit from such a lifestyle. If they do not become active in his community, they are in effect, leaving their fate up to other individuals who may not have their best interests at heart. Such inaction could easily result in oppressive taxation and untenable laws which might stifle any possibility of desired growth. It is a sad thing to one day wake up in a world in which you can't live. Don't let it happen to you!

Start small and build a track record. Call up city hall and find out what is going on in your town. There should be any number of civic projects and community efforts in the brew. Pick out one of some importance and see what you can do to help it along. Do a top job and become known by your peers as a trustworthy and reliable asset. In other words, become established as one who knows. At the same time, find out who your elected officials are and ask for their office phone numbers and addresses. Open up a journal for each one of them and keep track of how they vote. Notice whether they are left, right, or in the middle. Then try to figure out their agenda. An agenda, by the way, is a plan to bring a specific goal into fruition. Now, once you figure out just what your officials are doing and where they are going, assess how their actions will affect you and yours. Once you know what you are talking about, begin writing them short, quick-to-read, but powerful letters. These letters might offer support if they are on your side or alternative possibilities if they are not. Perhaps you could be instrumental in changing their views.

The next step, of course, is to meet those officials, and over a period of time, gain their attention, confidence, and trust. Helping out at campaign time is an excellent way. At this point in time, an adept can have a profound effect upon their officials and their community. Of course, when your chosen officials aspire to higher office, you can go right along with them. Try to pick or even make winners who will support your values. Support them, but maintain contact with as many others as possible, for you may be able to influence them too. The trick is being in the right place at the right time.

"Things can be changed a little at a time
without anyone even realizing that you
have been at work."

**The Seventh Principle**

AN ADEPT GOES WITH HONOR. We live in the Realm of Choices, and we consider ours well. Our intent is to bring wisdom and knowledge to mankind in hopes that they will grow tall enough to reach their greater selves and become well and whole. All that we do is for the benefit of ourselves, our fellows, and our communities. When we rewrite the script of life, we do it for the benefit of ourselves and where possible, mankind. When we remove (cull) a bad apple from the barrel, it is for the betterment of mankind, and when we improve the lot of our fellows, that too is for the benefit of mankind. Therefore we are an honorable people who are looked upon as pillars of our communities. Even if we are a bit different.

Our word is law. We assess a given situation, consider our options, assets and abilities, make our choices, and then follow through. A promise made is a promise kept. When a person asks us if we will do them a favor, we first find out what it is before we commit ourselves to their service, for we live our lives to owe nothing to anyone. The feasibility of anything we do must first be assessed and considered before we commit ourselves to it. Therefore, we would not make a deathbed promise before considering it, let alone promise to do an unknown action that might be against our principles. The reason our word is law is because we always take our word seriously.

Our intentions are honorable. We have strong backs and are not overly proud as we understand our place in the All. We stand upon the middle ground of the Realm of Choices where both right and wrong are possible, and we must choose our own direction and alignment with the Force. Moreover, we know from gained experience that intent is a powerful force in itself and must be controlled from start to finish or the results of our actions might be far different than expected. Therefore, we must focus upon honorable intent and constantly compare our daily actions to that perfect model. Consistency is the one true key to success, so we continually practice, applying the Three Ps in all we say and do, never allowing ourselves to slip across the line into dishonor and the darkness of stupidity.

We are to be trusted. It is this long range consistency that earns the trust of our fellows, as they know from experience that we will make the right choices and have the fortitude to carry them through to completion. We will not change sides in the middle of any fray or betray our fellows to an enemy spy. We do not ever attempt to be everyone's friend as that is not possible, and our strong suit is finishing jobs according to plan. That is why all adepts who practice the Seven Principles will continually grow in stature among mankind.

"Adepts plan their life, first one day,
and then another. They also examine
the various bits and pieces that make
up the whole of their existence. They look
ahead to what the future might hold, all
the while figuring out how and when they
can improve upon what the winds of
fate have cast before them."

"Every time you break your word
or fail a trust, you have lost a little of
yourself. Lose enough of yourself, and
you will dry up and blow away in the
winds of time, forgotten, because you
have never accomplished anything
respectable or memorable. You
will become the invisible man,
and not trouble the memory
of the human race."