

Christmas and the Being of the Nathan Soul

We are nearing the time of Advent, the four weeks preceding a very important event, Christmas. If we look away from all that our modern world has come to make of this momentous event, if we look beyond all that is material, all the Christmas shopping, getting the house ready for guests, the endless parties and picnics and school plays, we realise that at this time we are preparing to commemorate the birth of a very special being. Whose birth is it that we are commemorating? When we ask this question we will hear some very mixed answers. Is it Christ? Is it Jesus? Is it Santa Claus?

The indications from Spiritual Science are that this being has had a [long history and has participated in great cosmic events](#) before the supreme event in a manger in Bethlehem.

To understand the origin of this being we have to look at a time in the development of the Earth when man first became a being endowed with his own individual ego. This occurred in Lemurian times when humanity experienced what the Bible calls the "Fall". [reference: Outline of Esoteric Science]

What is meant by the 'Fall'?

In Biblical terms the fall represents an expulsion from paradise. Humanity is tempted by a snake (Lucifer) to eat the fruit that grows on the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, which results in a loss of innocence and a capacity for sin. Humanity is then cut off from God, and knowledge concerning the Tree of Life is denied.

The puzzle that this biblical account presents can be solved.

Rudolf Steiner tells us that in Lemurian times man began to receive the impulse of the ego as an outpouring from the Gods. The ego is that member of man's being, which brings about self-awareness, consciousness and individuality. From that time on the ego began its descent into the astral body of human beings - whose physical manifestation is the nervous system. This meant that for the

first time the human being began to experience himself as an individual being separate from the physical world around him. This was a propitious time for Luciferic beings to tempt the human ego to descend further into the astral body than had been intended by the progressive guidance of world evolution. There arose a terrible danger that this descent might even reach as far as the Etheric body, which would make it impossible for human beings to progress with freedom and therefore reach the level of development that was expected of them. So it was necessary that higher spiritual beings remove a part of the more refined aspects of the Etheric body before the actual event of the fall.

Rudolf Steiner tells us that there are four grades of Ether or life forces; warmth ether, light ether, sound or chemical ether, and life ether. Much damage could have resulted had the Luciferic impulse entered all the way into the chemical and life ethers prematurely. So it was decided, for the sake of [human beings](#) that the chemical and life ethers should be taken away from the general evolution of humanity. This is what is meant by the knowledge concerning the Tree of Life that is denied man.

In humanity a certain portion of the forces of the Etheric body was held back before the fall. This innocent part of humanity that had not taken into itself the experience of an ego, had none the less, all the wisdom that could have been attained through the previous incarnations of the Earth and possessed all the love of which a human soul is capable. It was the bearer of the life forces not affected by the fall and had an ego that resembled the Spirit Self. Rudolf Steiner's scientific research revealed this innocent part of humanity as the living soul who would become the Jesus-child of the line of Nathan in the Luke Gospel.

It was necessary that the Nathan soul be lovingly protected and preserved from any contact with the earth, for it was being prepared for a special task; a task that would culminate in its first incarnation as the Luke

Jesus-child whose birth is celebrated at Christmas time. This incarnation as a human being provided a physical vessel for the Christ Being that was to descend at the Baptism on the River Jordan.

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Suggested Reading

The four Sacrifices of Christ, Rudolf Steiner
Pre Earthly Deeds of Christ, Rudolf Steiner
The spiritual nature of Maya Krishna – the light Halo of Christ The risen One.
Rudolf Steiner
The Cycle of the Year as a Path of Initiation,
Sergei O. Prokofieff