

# The Mystery of the Holy Grail And the Being of Anthroposophia

Uniting Magi and Shepherd,  
Knight and Monk, Warrior and Priest  
Towards the creation of a new organ of Thinking and Perception

Two Lectures presented at Forest Row, UK

By

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on

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Dedicated to the 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sacrifice Made by the  
Knights Templar  
On behalf of humanity,  
13<sup>th</sup> October 1307

'May the Brotherhood Dwell in you'

Our journey will be undertaken in two parts.

### **Part 1**

*We will explore what is meant by Holy Grail and we will recap on what we know concerning the being of Anthroposophia and her relationship to Christ. We will explore the two mystery wisdom streams in human evolution that have been responsible for disseminating the Divine Cosmic wisdom and we will see how the two great initiates: Christian Rosenkreutz and Rudolf Steiner, came together in Spiritual Science in order to help to unite both streams in human beings and how this will lead to initiation.*

### **Part 2**

*The second part we will learn a little about the Templars. We will explore what is meant by Initiation and how it relates to Magi and Shepherd and we will see how it is only through their unification that the human being can fashion the human soul and, as a result, a new soul organ, the Etheric Heart. We will understand how this is the Holy Grail that will unite the Etheric blood of Christ and the Etherised blood of the human being and enable a communion with the Christ Being to take place.*

Once again I must remind us of the words of our great teacher Rudolf Steiner concerning the study of Anthroposophy. He asked that we approach Anthroposophia as a living being with whom we unite our minds and our hearts. She possesses truths that she offers us from two directions and we must unite these truths by taking them into our thoughts, as they are presented to us by Spiritual Science, and we must allow these living truths to kindle a fire of enthusiasm in our hearts and wills. For it is only when we have turned these thoughts into living pictures that warm us with pulsations of life that we bring about the conditions necessary for the birth of an understanding of what the being of Anthroposophia so freely gives us.

Before we start I would like to quote you from the Book of the Grail:

Brighter than the sun this lake,  
Boiling as a cauldron deep,  
And though nothing alive could stand  
This fiery furnace, molten hot,  
Perceval glimpsed creatures there,  
Most dark and dreadful to behold.  
Writhing beneath the seething surface,  
Flames of crimson; amber; gold  
Were things of wing and fang and talon,  
As though from the abyss had crawled.  
But on the shore there stood a knight,  
Adorned in mantle, vestal white,  
A red cross on his chest emblazoned,  
A holy light around him shining,  
To Perceval this knight did turn,  
He raised his arm towards the lake,  
And in a stern, commanding tone  
Bade Perceval cast the treasures in.

Perceval stood still as a stone,  
His heart went cold, his fingers froze,  
He felt he couldn't bear to throw  
The precious treasures from his hands  
Then the knight did speak once more  
His voice an arrow driving deep;  
We are brothers, Perceval,  
Your Brethren would not lead you wrong.  
All that is lost will be restored.  
All that is dead will live again.  
And Perceval, his faith returned,  
Did lean and cast the treasures in.  
The cross of bright, unalloyed gold  
Yellow as the morning sun  
The candlestick of seven prongs  
Of beaten silver, shimmering;  
Last the crescent of hammered lead  
Its rough-hewn surface shadow-dark.

All at once there rose a song  
From many voices joined as one.  
Borne on a breeze, sweet and pure,  
They filled the sky like breacing dawn.  
Now the lake was fire no more  
But tranquil blue of water clear,  
And from it came a man of gold  
With silver eyes and lead-black hair.  
Perceval fell upon his knees  
And wept and wept for utter joy  
He raised his head and thrice aloud,  
Hail to thee of Lord he cried.

By the end of these lectures we will be closer to understanding the meaning behind this wonderful poem and how it is connected to our present tasks as Anthroposophists.

So let us begin to unravel this thread with Anthroposophia, who is with us insofar as we try to understand what she gives us, in the right frame of mind, and the right mood of heart.

So we shall start as always with our first question:

## **What is the Holy Grail?**

It was during Lemurian times that the human being began to make a descent towards the earth, that is, it is at this time that the Jehova Elohim breathed into the human astral body the breath of life, or the rudimentary germ of the ego. The astral body subsequently became 'heavy' and began its descent to earth, into the prepared Ether body and physical body of the human being. The Bible calls this epic event the 'fall' of man. This fall of the human ego within the astral body into the physical and etheric sheaths resulted in a gradual unification with a condensing and manifesting physical world and came at the expense of a severance, or separation, from the spiritual world. It was only through this severance however that human beings were able to acquire independence. The ego in the astral body now became aware of the world through the development of organs of Thought (self consciousness) and Perception (consciousness of the world).

But as the veil of forgetfulness descended over human beings and communion with the gods became more difficult, only those who had been

specially prepared through a path of spiritual training could experience a memory of the spiritual world. This memory was a 'Revelation' of the Sun Being of Christ as the highest expression of the spiritual world.<sup>1</sup> They could do this because the Great Sun Being had sacrificially begun to descend to regions where in the 'mysteries' He could be 'revealed' to human beings. These sacrifices occurred in three stages in the spiritual worlds and they prevented human beings from totally losing their connection with the gods.

In Indian times this 'revelation' of Christ or the being of the Sun occurred by way of the Indian etheric body; in Persian times the etheric body could no longer perceive this revelation as it was descending further into the physical body and the revelation now had to be experienced by way of the astral body; in the Egypto Chaldean Epoch human beings could only experience this revelation in the more refined aspect of the astral body, that is, the sentient soul. This was a turning point for human beings. It was now possible for direct knowledge or 'Gnosis' of Christ to enter into prepared human beings via the sentient soul<sup>2</sup> to enable a picture of the Sun Being 'within'. This picture of the Sun Being evoked feelings; it was a Wisdom full of reverence that arose in the soul concerning God, which could be passed on to others. This Wisdom of God was called Theosophia.

By the time evolution had reached the age of the Intellect and Greco-Roman times human beings had descended fully into matter and this meant that they had acquired a clearer self-consciousness and a clearer consciousness of the physical world. Thinking and Perception sharpened and Wisdom could now only be acquired through the Intellect, or the intellectual aspect of the soul. A love for the world and all its splendours was the result of Perception and Thought, which led to Wisdom of the Intellect. This stage of 'loving the world' however denoted the lowest point of human descent into matter, human beings had forgotten their fathers in heaven and a final severance from spiritual worlds would have been the result had the Sun Being of Christ not descended directly into the physical organisation of a human being - into the astral, etheric and physical sheaths of Jesus of Nazareth.

Now, what had once been experienced in the mysteries as a 'revelation' of the Sun Being within the soul of prepared initiates could become a 'revelation' of Christ experienced through the physical senses of those human beings present in the physical world, that is, through thought and

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<sup>1</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Karmic Relationships vol VIII* 21 August 1924

<sup>2</sup> Rudolf Steiner *The Holy Grail, Sophia Books.*

perception. Christ shed His blood on the cross, died an earthly death and was resurrected and through him a potential was created for every human being who had 'died' into matter to rise up again to spiritual worlds through his own efforts. In *Christo Morimur*' means that in Christ death becomes life, that is, Christ's death allows us to one day be born again into spiritual worlds. This rebirth of human beings could occur because Christ's blood, the expression of His divine ego, had united at Golgotha not only with the etheric body of the earth but also little by little with the human etheric body. It was a cosmic sacrifice capable of redeeming the human ego, which, by way of thought and perception, had fallen too far into the world of matter.

Now the potential was created for every human being whose wisdom was capable of spiritualising his/her soul - of transforming the forces of death inherent in the processes of ordinary Thinking and Perception needed for independence - into forces of new life. The organs of ordinary Thinking and Perception can be transformed into spiritual organs of Imagination and Inspiration that allow human beings to unite in spirit with the being of Christ<sup>3</sup> and through this unification to reconnect with spiritual worlds.

**We can therefore say that the bridge between human beings and the being of Christ is Wisdom and that the bridge between human beings and the spiritual world, is Christ.**

The night before His crucifixion Christ Jesus gave to his Apostles a formula for remembering this potential union.<sup>4</sup> He wanted to prepare them for a time when He would no longer be with them. This cultic ritual would remind them of the eventual unification of the human soul and the soul of the earth with the substance of Christ's ego.<sup>5</sup> This He gave in the twofold imagination of the bread and the wine - the ritual of partaking of His Body and His Blood<sup>6</sup> and it became what we know exoterically as the ritual of the High Mass. Esoterically this was kept alive in the tradition of the Grail cup or the Holy Grail.

The Holy Grail imagination tells of a cup used by Christ Jesus at the last supper, which was then used by Joseph of Arimathea to catch His blood at the Cross. This cup was eventually taken up by the angels for

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<sup>3</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Occult Science and Outline VI the present and future of Cosmic and Human Evolution*.

<sup>4</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Occult Signs and Symbols* – “the upward growth of these higher powers makes it possible for man to become the recipient or chalice of purely spiritual cosmic being, expressed in the dove.”

<sup>5</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *The Festivals and their meaning II Easter lecture 8, 11 April 1909*

<sup>6</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *Greece in the Period of its Decline – The Mystery of the Grail Lecture 16 April 1921*

safe keeping until Anforta's grandfather Titurel could build a castle for the Grail.

What does this mean?

This 'gnosis' or 'knowledge' concerning the unification of the human soul with the expression of the Christ ego had to be hidden away from the human intellect, it could only be felt in the life of feelings until the human being represented by Titurel had transformed the intellect, that is, thoughts and perceptions, towards the development of spirit organs capable of building a new vessel out of physical matter.

It was therefore something of the future. It was sought for by the Arthurian Knights (particularly Parzifal), and said to have come under the guardianship of the Knights Templar and the Rosicrucians who were their successors.<sup>7</sup> The Cathars and Templars saw it as the end goal of a long Catharsis of the human soul or astral body, and this was also recognised by the Rosicrucians as the alchemical transformation of the soul achieved through a torturous path of perfection.

The above streams understood that this gradual descent of the human being into matter meant that a veil of forgetfulness was drawing over the Divine Cosmic Wisdom<sup>8</sup> that was necessary for this perfection. Humanity would have become deaf and blind to the Divine Cosmic Wisdom of the Sophia had another being not descended into world evolution prior to the Mystery of Golgotha to avert this danger.

Rudolf Steiner called the being responsible for carrying the Divine Wisdom into human souls in preparation for a future communion with Christ, 'Anthroposophia', the Wisdom of Man, or better put, the Wisdom that allows the human being to become truly human, to know his or her true humanity.

Our next question must be, therefore:

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<sup>7</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *The Grail Mystery in Richard Wagner's Work* lecture 29<sup>th</sup> July 1906

<sup>8</sup> This is illustrated by the fact that sacrifices were made by the Cathars, the Templars and the Rosicrucians. All three streams sacrificed their old 'Star Wisdom', that is, their connection to the Divine Sophia in preparation for the future when this connection would come again by way of the newly acquired Consciousness Soul. The Cathars were the first, the Templars came next and the Rosicrucians were the last to do so.

## **Who is this Emissary of Cosmic Wisdom? Who is the Being of Anthroposophia and what is her nature?**

Rudolf Steiner first spoke about the being of 'Anthroposophia' in his inaugural lecture at the First General Meeting of the Anthroposophical Society in 1913.<sup>9</sup> Anthroposophists had to learn to see Anthroposophia as a living being in the same way that the Greeks saw her as Sophia, and the poet Dante saw her as Lady Philosophy. In a different lecture<sup>10</sup> he told us that Anthroposophia is a human being that has a destiny.

Today we will recap on what we know concerning the being of Anthroposophia in order to form a firm foundation for this study.

Various indications by Rudolf Steiner, Sergej O Prokofieff and Emil Bock can give us a good *living and breathing* picture of the nature of this being. However for the benefit of those not familiar with this mystery we will give a brief account of it:

We can come to an understanding of the being of Anthroposophia by taking what Rudolf Steiner tells us of the Nathan Soul as a starting point: Rudolf Steiner tells us that the Nathan Soul comprised of ether forces (Chemical Ether and Life Ether). Like the human being, the Nathan Soul had passed through the four planetary stages of Saturn, Sun, Moon and a part of our present stage, Earth. It was on Earth during Lemurian times that these forces were separated out from Adam:

### **Nathan Soul = Chemical Ether and Life Ether of Earthly Adam**

These forces were kept back before the effects of the 'Fall' and the descent of Adam and Eve into matter, and protected in the Mother Lodge of Humanity - in the Sun lodge, or the sphere of the Sun.<sup>11</sup> Similarly, another being was separated out from the Earthly Eve, and can be called the Heavenly Eve, or the heavenly twin of the Nathan Soul.<sup>12</sup>

### **Heavenly Eve (Anthroposophia) = Chemical Ether and Life Ether of Earthly Eve**

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<sup>9</sup> Rudolf Steiner *The Being of Anthroposophia Berlin, February 3 1913*

<sup>10</sup> Rudolf Steiner *The Anthroposophic Movement Lecture Seven Dornach 16 June 1923*

<sup>11</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Lecture 30 December 1913* in relation to the Paradisal soul of Eve or the heavenly Eve see Sergei O Prokofieff *Heavenly Sophia and the Being of Anthroposophia page 246*

<sup>12</sup> See present author's lecture *Earthly Eve and Heavenly Eve and their connection to the Mystery of Isis, Mary, Sophia*



We will now explore the nature of the Nathan Soul and the Heavenly Eve.

Rudolf Steiner connects the Nathan Soul with the Archangels.<sup>13</sup> This is because the Nathan Soul's pre-fall Ether body is of like-substance to the Life Spirit (spiritualised Ether body/Buddhi), which is only acquired in its comprehensive fullness by the Archangels.<sup>14</sup> The Nathan Soul has, therefore, a kinship to the sphere of Archangels through the embodiment of Sun Laws. We are told by Rudolf Steiner that these forces came into the guardianship of the Sun Archangel Michael - the highest of all Archangels on the Sun. It was this spiritual relationship between the Nathan Soul and the Archangel Michael that enabled the Nathan Soul to become the bearer of the Christ being in the cosmos, to be His garment during his sacrificial descent towards earth, firstly into the sphere of the Sun as a star, from the sphere of the stars to the sphere of the sun as a planet and then to the sphere of the moon. In order to follow Christ in his sacrificial descent the Nathan Soul had to sacrifice firstly his Archangelic nature and then also his Angelic nature<sup>15</sup> in order to finally incarnate into a physical body as a human being on earth - Jesus of the Luke Gospel. He then participated in the fourth sacrifice of Christ - the Mystery of Golgotha.

The Heavenly Eve, like her twin the Nathan Soul, had a similar nature - the nature of an Archangel, due to the embodiment of similar laws,<sup>16</sup> and also a similar destiny.

## **What then could have been the Destiny and Task of the Heavenly Eve?**

The Heavenly Eve was also preserved for a lofty task. This being, composed of the pre-fall forces of the Earthly Eve, had a nature particularly suited to the task of bearing the forces of another sublime being of the cosmos - the unifying forces of the Divine Sophia.

In the same way that the Nathan soul was destined to become the bearer of the masculine individualising force of the universe - the great and mighty macrocosmic Christ being - the Heavenly Eve would have the

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<sup>13</sup> Rudolf Steiner – *The Four Sacrifices of Christ*

<sup>14</sup> Sergei O Prokofieff – *The Cycle of the Year as a Path of Initiation* page 46

<sup>15</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Lecture December 30<sup>th</sup> 1913*

<sup>16</sup> 'Then we consider how this has evolved from philosopher to philosopher we say to ourselves: there are active within not earthly laws, but Sun laws! The laws which at that time held sway between the Spirits of Wisdom and the Archangels come to light again on earth in the philosophical search for wisdom.' *Rudolf Steiner, Perception of the Nature of Thought, Sun Activity in Earthly Evolution GA 161.*

task of becoming the bearer of the feminine unifying wisdom of the universe, the Cosmic Sophia.

**Nathan Soul - Masculine - Christ Bearer**

**Heavenly Eve - Feminine - Sophia Bearer**

### **How did the Heavenly Eve accomplish this task?**

The Heavenly Eve, like the Nathan Soul, would also have to make her descent to earth by performing sacrifices in order to incarnate briefly into a human physical body at the turning point in time alongside her heavenly twin the Nathan Soul. She too, would have had to make a descent from the lofty Sun sphere where she had her 'home', sacrificing her Archangelic nature to enter into the sphere of the Angels (where she became the lowest member of the sobornal being of the Divine Sophia). Finally she sacrificed her Angelic nature, like the Nathan soul, in order to become a human being.

Michael, as the mightiest son of the Sophia, would also participate in the sacrifices of the Heavenly Eve as she made her descent to Earth - in the same way that the Archangel Michael participated in the three macrocosmic sacrifices of the Nathan soul as bearer of the Sun Being of Christ. The difference being that the Heavenly Eve's descent did not occur in the macrocosm, it was, instead, a descent into the microcosmic aspect of the human soul.

**Nathan soul's descent - Macrocosmic**

**Heavenly Eve's descent - Microcosmic**

### **Why was it necessary for Michael to follow this descent?**

Rudolf Steiner tells us that the Archangel Michael was the guardian of the substance that the Heavenly Sophia had created in our cosmos from above, from the sphere of the Spirit of Wisdom, downwards.<sup>17</sup>

What is this substance?

This substance created by the Heavenly Sophia is the composite Wisdom, or the creative world thoughts, the communications between higher beings pertaining to the entire significance of the Being of Christ and His deeds for the whole of earthly evolution - past, present and future. This

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<sup>17</sup> Sergei O Prokofieff - *Heavenly Sophia and the Being of Anthroposophia* page 77

is what is referred to in Spiritual Science as the Cosmic Intelligence of Christ. It was Michael's task to administer this Intelligence until the time came to sacrifice his dominion of it to humanity, which occurred onwards from the time of the Mystery of Golgotha.<sup>18</sup>

Two preparatory steps were needed however before this sacrifice of the Cosmic intelligence could be achieved in its fullness.

### **1. Casting out of Lucifer from Old Moon:**

We must remember that it was Michael who, working with the Jehova-Elohim (whose task it was to implant the ego in the human being), cast Lucifer down to Earth from Old Moon. This began a process that ended in Lucifer tempting the human ego into the astral body - known as we have seen above, as 'The Fall'. This casting out of Lucifer was important, since freedom could not have come about without it. Lucifer's task was to tempt the human ego into the astral body and ether and physical bodies, to facilitate the process of differentiation into sexes and the creation of the human brain and spinal cord to occur. The mighty being of Michael knew that the human brain was needed if human beings were to develop that independent faculty of logical thinking necessary for understanding the 'Cosmic Intelligence'. This intelligence could only become the possession of human beings when it was taken up in full consciousness and in complete freedom.

### **2. The Descent of Heavenly Eve:**

The second step towards Michael's sacrifice of the Cosmic Intelligence involved the descent of the Heavenly Eve to Earth. Her task was to carry the Heavenly Wisdom into human souls to enable a transformation of the astral body (thinking, feeling and will). Such a transformation could develop this faculty of logical thought necessary for *receiving* and also *understanding* the Cosmic Intelligence sacrificed to humanity by Michael. In other words, the Heavenly Eve had the task of carrying the necessary forces into the human being that could fashion the soul into an appropriate vessel, or Grail, into which the Archangel Michael could pour the Cosmic Intelligence or 'Memory' of Christ. We can say, therefore, that the Heavenly Eve provides the wisdom that enables the memory of Christ to light up in the human soul, creating a bridge that unites human beings with Christ Himself.

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<sup>18</sup> Rudolf Steiner – *The Archangel Michael*

Having said this, the Being of Anthroposophia was responsible not only for creating this soul vessel, or Holy Grail, from the transformed astral body of human beings, but also for creating the first physical vessel into which the Christ ego could enter, through her incarnation as Mary, mother of the Luke or Nathan Jesus.

## **How does the Heavenly Eve Create the Soul vessel in human beings?**

We can mark her preparation for the descent of Christ through her own descent into the human soul - into the various soul sheaths elaborated in the first four cultural Epochs of our Post Atlantean Age thus:

### **Persian Times**

Before the Heavenly Eve made her descent to Earth she was responsible for reflecting the forces of Soph-'Ea' to humanity, so that the Persian initiate in the Zoroastrian mysteries could form an understanding of the Sun 'Life' forces capable of creating the human brain as an expression of the work of Ahura Mazdao, the great Sun being.<sup>19</sup> This was a reflection of the first Sacrifice of Christ, when he entered the sphere of the fixed stars. The fixed stars are related, microcosmically, to the 12 senses of the physical body, and these in turn are related to the physical brain and spinal cord.

### **Egypto-Chaldean Times**

It was at this time that the above-mentioned being began her descent from the sphere of the Sun, through the planets, moving towards the sphere of the Moon. Rudolf Steiner tells us that at this time the Initiation of Isis gave candidates the ability to gaze into the world of the Harmony of the Spheres<sup>20</sup> with understanding, that is, to that sphere in which the echo of Christ, or the Cosmic 'Word' could be found due to His second sacrifice - in those regions where the spheres are resounding through space by way of the 'Sound' ether - the planetary spheres.

Once the Heavenly Eve had reached the threshold of the Moon sphere, the sphere of the angels, she then sacrificed her Archangelic nature and as an Angel began to enter directly into the human astral body, in

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<sup>19</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *The Gift of Isis Berlin February 5 1913*

<sup>20</sup> *ibid*

particular, the Sentient Soul<sup>21</sup> of human beings, carrying with her the forces of the Divine Sophia. This marked the beginning of Gnosis (as we discussed above). The unification of the human Sentient Soul with the forces of the Divine Sophia stimulated a knowledge of God. An understanding full of feeling/reverence. This fashioned an independent being whose physical, etheric and astral bodies contained all that the human being had accomplished through having experienced the Sophian Wisdom in their Sentient Souls. This Wisdom was reflected back and seen by the priests of ancient Egypt who called her 'Theo-Sophia'.<sup>22</sup> Through human beings the Heavenly Eve had now created a physical, ether and astral sheath for herself.

### **Greco Roman Times**

In Greco Roman Times, the Heavenly Eve, the mediator of the being of the Cosmic Sophia, was born for the first time as an ego bearing human being, the Luke Mary. After this brief incarnation, she was able to pass through the human Intellectual Soul to create the potential in human beings for the development of logical thought and this development enabled the human being to understand the world or love the world. This Wisdom in the human Intellectual Soul was seen objectively as 'Philo-Sophia'. By the time she had passed through the entire Greco Roman Epoch and the first part of the 5<sup>th</sup> Post-Atlantean Epoch, the Anglo Germanic Epoch, the Heavenly Eve could add to her physical sheaths her newly fashioned soul sheaths, the Sentient, Intellectual and Consciousness Souls.

### **Anglo Germanic Times**

Since the year 1413 the Heavenly Eve has had the task of entering further into the developing Consciousness Soul, that is, the consciousness that lights up in the will impulses. Her task in the Consciousness Soul has been to inspire human beings to acquire a conscious wisdom or moral force, through a transformation of thoughts, feelings and will impulses, thereby bringing to fulfilment the perfection of the entire astral body.

This passing of the Cosmic Sophian Wisdom through the Consciousness Soul meant that the Heavenly Eve's own evolution was now at the Angelic stage. As a result the ego of this being was now capable of incarnating during the Christmas Conference in 1924 into the physical and soul sheaths of the Anthroposophical Society. She is now seen objectively by

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<sup>21</sup> Sergei O Prokofieff, *Heavenly Sophia and the Being of Anthroposophia* page 94.

<sup>22</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *Perception of the Nature of Thought* 10<sup>th</sup> January 1915

human beings through the work of Christian Rosenkretz and Rudolf Steiner as the being of Anthroposophia, the Wisdom capable of showing to the human being what he/she has made of his/her entire soul: self-knowledge.

### **The Two Streams:**

In the beginning the above Wisdom that enabled the spiritualization of the astral body was mediated by Anthroposophia into the ancient Atlantean Sun Oracle, guided by the great Manu, the leading Sun Initiate.<sup>23</sup> When the time came for the wisdom of this Oracle to be disseminated, two groups were sent in opposite directions, one by way of France and north to Russia and another by way of Spain and south to the Middle East. The Northern stream is illustrated for us in the Bible as the stream of Cain. Cain came into being on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of creation from the inoculation of Eve with the male forces of the 6 Elohim on the Sun - a form of asexual reproduction.<sup>24</sup> The Southern Stream is exemplified by Abel who was the offspring of the sexual union of Adam with Eve, made possible by a separation of sexes through the working of the seventh Jehova/Elohim on the Moon.

**Cain = Sun - six Elohim**

**Abel = Moon - seventh Elohim, Jehova/Elohim**

You might ask why two streams?

There is a cosmic law that dictates that for a higher stage in human development to occur it has to be achieved through the coming together and the overcoming of polarities.<sup>25</sup> This law can be seen both in the development of the Cosmos i.e. Saturn, Sun, Moon and Earth, where separations took place in order that in a future time a higher synthesis could be achieved, that is: Jupiter (a higher stage of Moon); Venus (a higher stage of Sun); and Vulcan (a higher stage of Saturn).

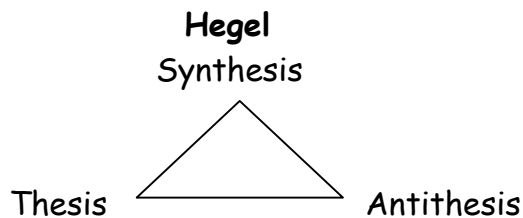
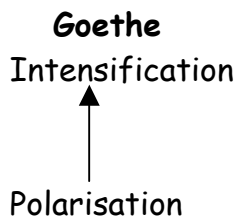
This law was perceived by Goethe who called it 'Polarisation and Intensification', and by Hegel who called it Synthesis - the coming together of Thesis and Antithesis.

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<sup>23</sup> Sergei O Prokofieff *May Human Beings Hear it the Mystery of the Christmas Conference*, page 315

<sup>24</sup> See Author's lecture, *Heavenly Eve and Earthly Eve and their connection to the Mystery of Mary*, Isis, Sophia

<sup>25</sup> Sergei O Prokofieff, *Encounters with Evil*, page 112-111



It stands to reason that the same law would apply in the development of the human soul through two streams, whose peculiarities were able to take up the wisdom of the Cosmic Sophia through her emissary Anthroposophia in two different ways, and from two completely different directions:

### **The Northern Stream - The Stream of the Heights:**

The Northern stream is also, as we have seen above, known as the stream of Cain. The name Cain (or Kayn) in Hebrew means something *produced* - or a *spear*. We can see by this name the quality of this stream, which seeks to forge into the world like a spear into matter, to produce something that can be offered up as a sacrifice to the spiritual world. In other words, to emerge out of the physical body of matter, by overcoming the veil of the **outer senses** (Perception).

Rudolf Steiner tells us that these initiates sought to enter into the spiritual world in order to perceive there a 'memory' of what they had experienced before descending to earth, a form of pre-natal remembering.<sup>26</sup> By reaching out and up into the heights of the cosmos, the starry heavens, this stream was able to connect not only with the stars and the beings there, but also with the knowledge that connected them to the world of mineral and plant substances.<sup>27</sup> This knowledge was acquired through the faculty of perception made possible by the brain and nervous system<sup>28</sup> and is the result of the entrance of the Male individualising force of the ego, the force of plurality,<sup>29</sup> that is, Sun forces. We can see here the connection with the Greeks and Pagans. Plato reached up to the heights with his philosophy, or love of wisdom, in order to experience the archetypal forms of the universe. He was thus one representative of this stream.

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<sup>26</sup> Sergei O Prokofieff, *Encounters with Evil*, page 110, Rudolf Steiner, *The Search for the new Isis the Divine Sophia*, lecture III

<sup>27</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Dornach December 25, 1920*

<sup>28</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *lecture*, June 13, 1916 see also Rudolf Steiner *The Search for a New Isis the Divine Sophia*, lecture III

<sup>29</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *Mission of the Folk Souls*, page 83

Rudolf Steiner tells us that the greatest human representative of this stream was Zarathustra.

In Persian times Zarathustra was able to look with lucid clarity through the veil of the senses to the vision of the Sun's physical aura, which to him reflected a *memory* of the spiritual reality of the great Sun being Ahura Mazda or Ormuz - the Cosmic Christ. This lucid clarity was also capable of seeing how the Divine Sun Wisdom was also reflected in physical nature, in mineral substance and in the plant world. Both of these abilities to 'see' by overcoming the obstacles of the senses, in cosmic terms, are related to the faculty of *Imagination* - the 'beholding' of spirit. This is Persian duality, the ability to 'Imagine' the above and the below, the good and the evil, the light and dark, in perfect equilibrium.<sup>30</sup>

This stream used the fire of enthusiasm to transform or shape matter into a substance compatible with Spirit. Hiram Abiff, related to Tubal Cain, was the builder of the Temple of Solomon and belongs to this stream.

It is also a peculiarity of this stream that its leaders and representatives are the bearers of higher spiritual individualities who do not incarnate in the flesh but work in that personality in order to achieve their aims. These leaders, we are told by Rudolf Steiner, were forced out of their own being, so to speak, by these higher individualities residing within them, and this caused them to unite with the fire of the macrocosm - or spiritual space.<sup>31</sup>

This stream continued on into Egypto-Chaldean times and transformed the ability to see spiritual reality behind the stars and planets into the seeds of Astronomical Science in preparation for the descent of Christ. This stream looked upwards to mark this descent.

At the time of the Mystery of Golgotha, the Greco Roman Epoch, this stream became known as the stream of the Magi (*Mæji*).

The stream of the Magi (those initiated into the Mysteries of Persia, the mysteries of the Great Sun Hero) was depicted in the Matthew Gospel. The highest initiates of this stream were now so spiritually constituted that they were possessed of a light-filled knowledge, making them

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<sup>30</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *The Search for the new Isis the Divine Sophia*, Lecture III

<sup>31</sup> Sergei O Prokofieff – *May Human Beings Hear it – The esoteric Archetype of the Original Council*.



capable of Imaginative Cognition, a higher vision of the 'Gold Star' in their souls. This vision was the reflection in their soul, of the *light*<sup>32</sup> of their spiritual master, Zarathustra, as he descended toward incarnation in Bethlehem. They knew Zarathustra had a great task to fulfil - as Jesus of the Matthew Gospel he would one day prepare the Physical and Soul sheaths of the Luke Jesus for the incarnation of the Cosmic Christ into earthly evolution.

We can place before our souls the tender picture of the highest initiates of this stream, the three Magi, as they stood reverently before the glorious 'light' of their newly incarnated master Zarathustra. Their gifts can now be seen with higher knowledge, as a reflection of all the wisdom these three men had gathered in the past and that lived in their souls as a 'memory.' Myrrh corresponded to the mysteries of the will; Frankincense to the mysteries of feeling; and Gold to the mysteries of thinking.

As time passed this knowledge of the Magi - which could encompass the world of stars - drew inward, contracted, and became 'the dry, geometrical-mathematical world' of thought that the modern man draws out of his soul.

### **The Southern Stream The Stream of the Depths:**

The Southern Stream was also known as the Abel stream. The name Abel (Ay-bel) is of Hebrew origin, and its meaning is "breath vapour", illustrating the connection of this stream with 'Inspiration' and with Jehova who breathed into man the spirit, or the forces of the ego. This stream was concerned more with the mystical immersion of the ego into the human soul, in other words the penetration through the veil of inner experiences of the soul (Thought), the microcosm, to an understanding of spiritual worlds.

The initiates of this stream were able to descend into the soul and come to an experience of the inner will forces and by way of these, the forces of the Earth's depths. The initiate of this stream reached the spiritual world from the other side, that is, from above downwards.<sup>33</sup> Such journeys are depicted often in literature e.g. Dante's journey to hell, Faust's journey to the mothers, Orpheus' journey to find Eurydice - are but a few examples. The initiates of this stream penetrated through the

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<sup>32</sup> Rudolf Steiner Dornach December 25, 1920

<sup>33</sup> *ibid*

soul's fabric to experience the same spiritual world as the Northern stream, albeit from the opposite side.

The faculties necessary for this ability to enter into the soul's depths were developed in the time after death, that is, between death and rebirth.<sup>34</sup> Rudolf Steiner tells us these faculties are youthful faculties that are potentially germinal, and are akin to the forces of growth in a child. Rudolf Steiner calls them the faculties that are capable of foretelling the future. We could also call this the stream of unity. This stream has that feminine aspect of consciousness that can be called the calm waters of wisdom. Such a consciousness is able to use what it gains from the spiritual world through immersion into the depths of the soul to transform spirit into a substance compatible with the world of Matter. This stream is related to the will and the heart and is also known as the stream of Aristotle.<sup>35</sup> Aristotle was the archetypal man of the future. He could, through an exact scientific outlook, enter into the details, into the depths of the will forces behind the workings of the human soul and animal life.<sup>36</sup>

Rudolf Steiner tells us that the most prominent human initiate of this stream was Gautama Buddha. Gautama Buddha's initiatory path relied primarily on his individual development. He was a Bodhisattva made mortal, that is, he was not a human being permeated by a higher being (as is the case for the Magi), he was the incarnation of a higher being:

A Bodhisattva took on that radiant human form of the Being of Gautama Buddha — it does not for the moment concern us in what other fashion he was also manifest. And it signified an advance of this Bodhisattva when it was no longer necessary for him to remain in the upper spiritual realms, when his development in the spiritual worlds was such that he could master his physical corporeality to the extent of becoming man as Buddha. A Bodhisattva advancing in human existence is Buddha.<sup>37</sup>

Buddha's initiation entailed sitting beneath a Bodhi-tree, which is the astral inner image of the nervous system,<sup>38</sup> the brain and the cerebellum.<sup>39</sup> In a meditation lasting several days he saw what exists below his purified astral body, below his Thoughts. He penetrated to the inner life - to his bodily inner life (his organs), his Ether body. When human consciousness enters the Ether body it has the peculiarity of turning inside out. There was a projection outwards of what lived in the

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<sup>34</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *Lecture Dornach December 25 1920*

<sup>35</sup> Sergei O Prokofieff, *The Heavenly Sophia and the Being of Anthroposophia* page 168-169

<sup>36</sup> Rudolf Steiner *ibid*

<sup>37</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *East in Light of the West, Christ and the Bodhisattvas*

<sup>38</sup> Rudolf Steiner *The Gospel of St John Third Lecture*

<sup>39</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Foundations of Esotericism XII*

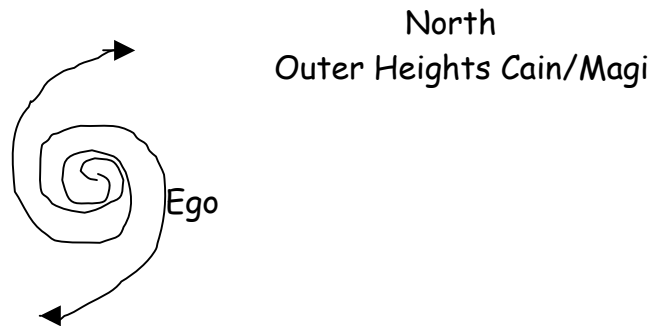
Ether body of Buddha. This was lifted out and became united with his ego and astral body and in this way he was able to see his former incarnations. This is seen as a descent into the will forces and there is a connection between Buddha's teachings of compassion and love (six centuries before Christ) and what would one day become moral will, or conscience (consciousness of will impulses, The Consciousness Soul). Buddha's initiation under the Bodhi tree occurred through a Catharsis of the astral body, and it is this astral body, his 'mother', or Nirmanakaya, that he was able to donate to the Luke Jesus. We can see by way of this how the southern stream of Buddha has its links with the Shepherd stream depicted in the Luke Gospel. The conscience, or inner morality experienced by the Shepherds in the field, exemplifies the Hebrew people's connection to this stream. Through such inner initiations, the Hebrew people were able, by reaching back into former incarnations, to strengthen themselves in such a way as to be able to see into the future making prophecy possible.<sup>40</sup>

The Hebrew stream, through Abraham, also had the task of working to prepare the human physical sheath for the future bearer of the Cosmic Christ. The physical element, we know, is directly related to the mysteries of life after death and to the life of will, which is reflected in the soul as consciousness of morality or conscience, the moral law spoken of above, understood in cosmic terms as *Inspiration - or the breathing in of spirit*.

Now we can see a picture of the Shepherds sleeping with their heads close to the earth, feeling how in the depths of the world soul a 'feeling' was arising in response to the descent of the Christ Being towards the earth. They became one with the rhythms of the spiritual world from which the resounding choir of Angels sang their majestic tones announcing the birth of the Nathan child, the Jesus of the Luke Gospel. These rhythms and tones were *inspired* into their souls and having penetrated them reached down into the depths, addressing the forces of their moral will directly, bidding them to obey unquestioningly.

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<sup>40</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Lecture Dornach 25 December 1920*



**Therefore it can be said that:**

Nothern Stream = Sophia working through Anthroposophia working through Zarathustra

Southern Stream = Sophia working through Anthroposophia working through Gautama Buddha

### **The Unification of the Two Streams**

Rudolf Steiner tells us that these two streams came together in the one being when the Jesus of the Mathew Gospel, The Zarathustra ego and the Jesus of the Luke Gospel, the Nathan soul, united in Jesus of Nazareth. The Zarathustra ego (Northern Stream - head) and the Nathan Soul and Nathan Physical Body (Southern Stream - feeling + will) united to provide the vessel, the grail, for the incarnation of the Cosmic ego of Christ at the baptism in the Jordan. This was an archetype for the future task of humanity. The individual human being would one day unite both streams in the one human being.

How human beings achieve this?

Rudolf Steiner tells us,<sup>41</sup> that since the mystery of Golgotha and the synthesis of the two streams in Jesus of Nazareth, there has been an interchange in both streams.

These forces of outer vision or 'memory of past experiences' (Magi) and inner soul 'understanding of karma' (Shepherd) are to be transformed into the forces of Imagination and Inspiration in the soul through this interchange. In our times, with the beginning of Michael's reign in our epoch, he allies himself with this task of unification and he has inspired

<sup>41</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Christmas Lectures*, 1920, Dornach

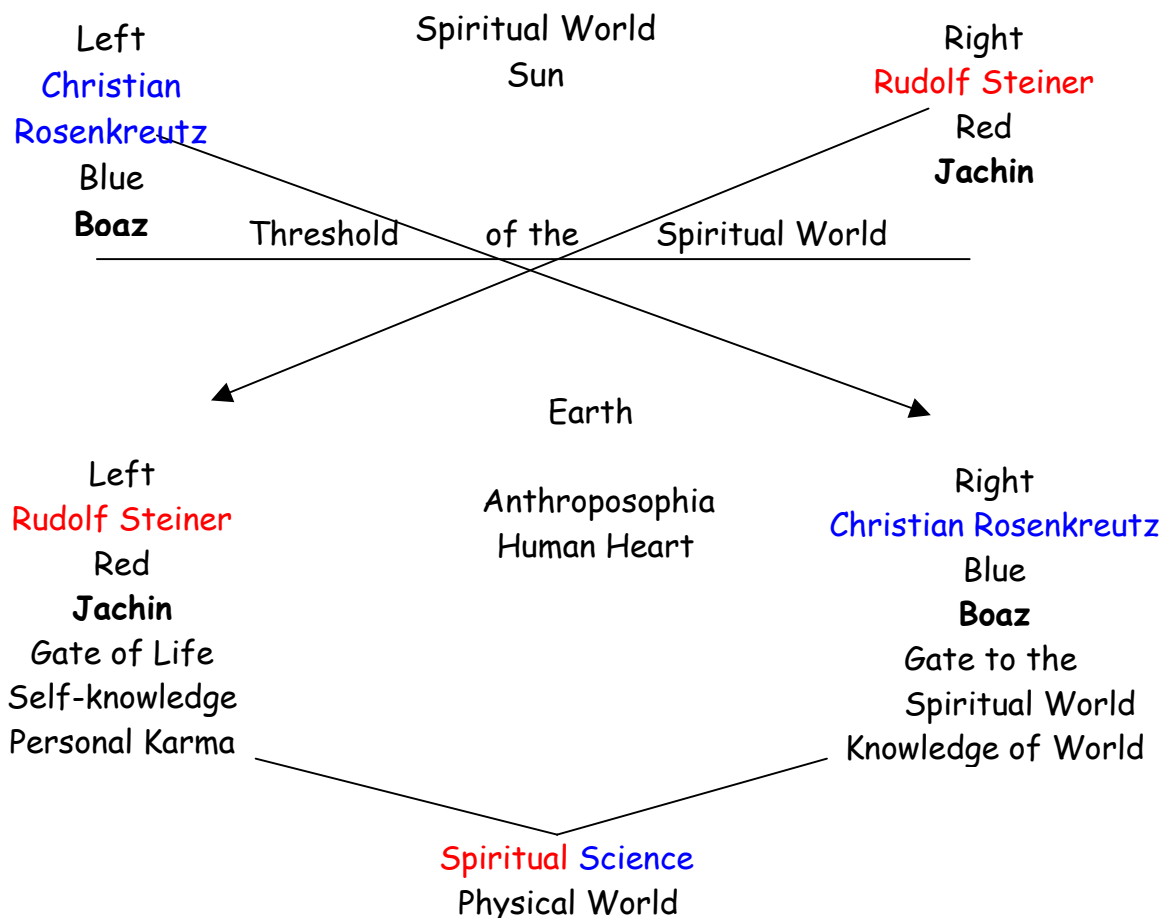
two human initiates, representatives of both streams to work on behalf of this unification.

These two high initiates can be called the servants of the Sophia who work with her impulses as they enter into human evolution through the beings of Michael and Anthroposophia. Towards the above end they came together to unite both paths of Wisdom into one path of spiritual development - *Spiritual Science*. These two initiates are Christian Rosenkretz and Rudolf Steiner.

## The Servants of the Divine Sophia

Rudolf Steiner once characterized his relationship to Christian Rosenkretz thus:

*Think of a supersensible altar in the spiritual world. Beside it on the left stands Christian Rosenkretz wearing a blue stole, on the right stands Rudolf Steiner wearing a red stole. (See diagram below)*



Blue and red can also be seen on the fourth apocalyptic seal which is a representation of the two columns in the Temple of Solomon - **Jachin** (Red) and **Boaz** (Blue), however on this seal red is on the left and blue on the right. Rudolf Steiner tells us that there is a reversal on earth of what exists in spiritual worlds. The apocalyptic seal expresses an earthly temple, as it existed in Solomon's time. Hence the reversals in the above diagram.<sup>42</sup> Rudolf Steiner also tells us that when we are surrounded by blue we experience red inwardly and when we are surrounded by red we experience blue inwardly.<sup>43</sup> We can also see here a connection with the human heart where:

- The right chamber is related to blue blood, or deoxygenated blood
- The left is related to red blood, or oxygenated blood

We can say that the Temple of Solomon is a physical outward representation of the inward Heart Temple.

This also relates to the modern Magi and Shepherd Streams - Blue blood Boaz and Red blood Jachin.

Bearing the above in mind let us now look at how Spiritual Science seeks to make available a path of development that can enable Magi and Shepherd, Knight and Monk, Warrior and Priest to come together in the one human being through Imaginative and Inspirative Cognition.

Lets begin by looking at what we mean by Imaginative Cognition and Inspirative Cognition:

## What is Imaginative Cognition?

*Imaginative cognition* = to *imagine* i.e. a mental picture or image or likeness...*ative* i.e. having the quality of - Imagination...*cognition* i.e. from the Latin 'cognoscere', meaning to become acquainted, or to perceive or to know (in this case) the created mental picture or likeness. Cognition that has the quality of Imagination.

In Spiritual Terms, this means to 'perceive' or to 'see' or know Spirit through the faculty of Imagination - the faculty capable of creating mental images, higher thoughts. This is the **shadow image** of divinity.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> H. Collison, *Commentary on Rudolf Steiner's Four Mystery Plays Page 78 (London 1949)*

<sup>43</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Lecture Munich 21 May 907*

<sup>44</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *The Reappearance of Christ in the Etheric, Lecture IX – The Etherization of Blood.*

## **What is Inspirative Cognition?**

Inspirative cognition = *inspire* i.e. the act of 'drawing in' or of 'breathing in' the communication of sacred or higher things...*ative* ie having the quality of - inspiration...*cognition* i.e. to become acquainted, or to perceive or to know (in this case) through the 'drawing in' or 'breathing in' of sacred things. Cognition that has the quality of Inspiration.

In Spiritual Terms, this means to 'perceive' and to 'understand' Spirit through the faculty of 'inspiration' i.e. the faculty capable of 'drawing in' or 'breathing in' spiritual communications, higher feelings. This is divine guidance - *Soul reality of Divinity*.

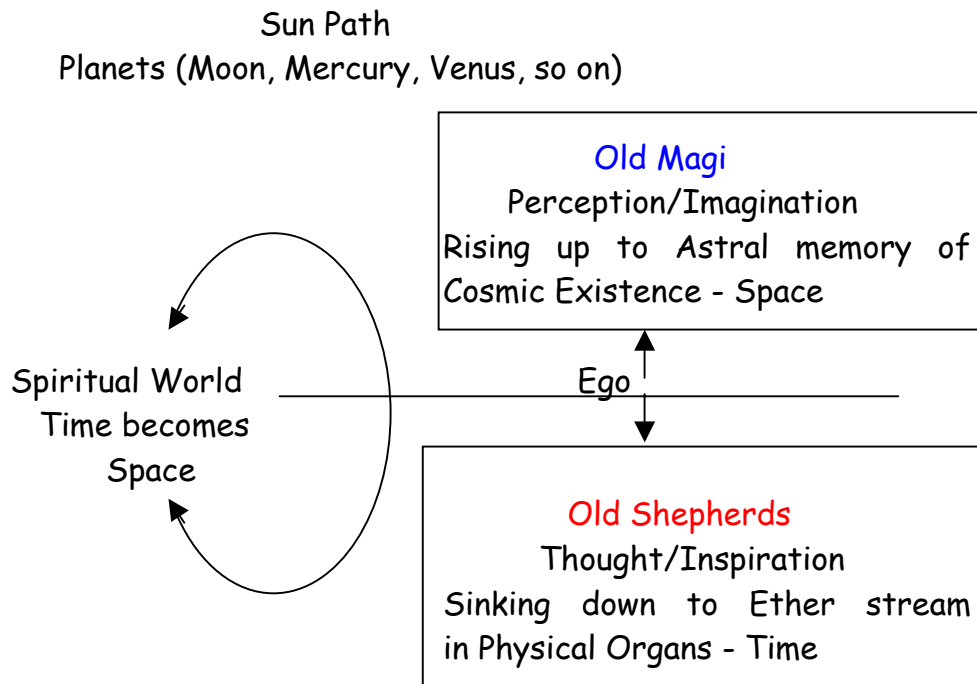
**Imaginative Cognition** = shadow image of divinity

Whereas:

**Inspirative Cognition** = soul reality of divinity

**The two Streams and the development of Imaginative Cognition and Inspirative Cognition.**

In the past, the two streams worked differently. They came from different directions and through different experiences: one rising up to the heights through a stimulation of the memory of the cosmos acquired during the time before birth to achieve 'Perception'; and the other by descending with Thought into the depths of the soul to karmic experiences that form a gateway to 'Understanding', or hearing. Both streams met in the Sun Sphere.



Moon path  
Physical Organs  
(Saturn forces in the foundation of various organs)

The two streams came together in Jesus of Nazareth and since the Mystery of Golgotha, as we have stated above, there has been an interchange in the two streams. Wisdom can now only be acquired through an interchange of tasks because what was an outward experience before the Mystery of Golgotha is now an inward experience and what was an inward experience is now an outward one:

- The Wisdom 'Perceived' in the outer world by the Magi has now turned inward and has become inward perception made possible through the faculty of Thought - Mathematics.
- The Wisdom 'Experienced' or taken down inwardly into the soul of the Shepherd, has turned outward to become an understanding through the senses, a Perception of the material world of nature - Natural Science.<sup>45</sup>

<sup>45</sup> Rudolf Steiner *The Search for the New Isis*



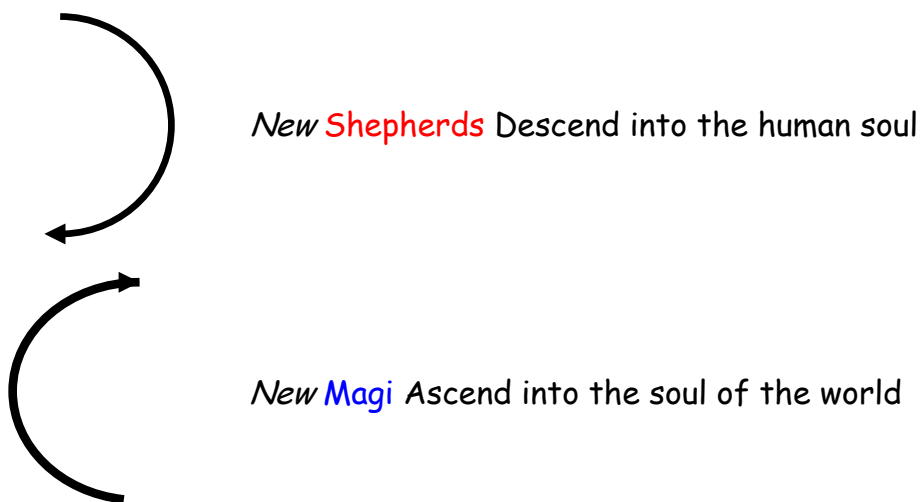
**Mathematics** - Inner Thought as Transformed Outer Imagination of the old Magi

**Natural Science** - Outer Perception as Transformed Inner Karmic Thought or understanding of the old Shepherds

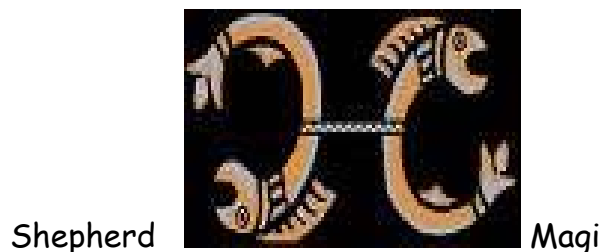
In order to ennoble Mathematics and Natural Science, the two streams now have to work from opposite sides:

The old Magi must become new Shepherds to ennoble Mathematics.

The old Shepherds must become new Magi to ennoble Natural Science.



The Alchemists and Astrologers had an understanding for this duality of the two streams - they saw it in the symbol for Pisces (Human Being), where two fish connected together swim in opposite directions one swims up from below and one swims down from above:



And the Alchemical truth known to Basil Valentinus also points to this:

Body, soul and spirit are in two contained - *Magi and Shepherd*.  
The total art may well from them be gained - *Initiation*.

It comes from one, and is only one thing - *Both exist in the one human being.*

The volatile and fixt together bring - *together they bring conscious awareness of the spirit (Volatile) in the physical body (Fixt).*

It is two and three and yet only one - *Magi and Shepherd: Body, Soul and Spirit in one human being.*

The Gospel of Thomas also speaks of this unification:

Jesus said to them,

‘When you make the two into one, and when you make the inner like the outer and the outer like the inner, and the upper like the lower, and when you make male and female into a single one, so that the male will not be male nor the female be female, when you make eyes in place of an eye, a hand in place of a hand, a foot in place of a foot, an image in place of an image, then you will enter [the kingdom]...<sup>46</sup>’

This work of uniting the two into one, which will lead to the ennobling of Natural Science and Mathematics, could only have come about through the work of the two great servants of the Divine Sophia and her emissary the Being of Anthroposophia. They were able to help humanity on this path because they had achieved a synthesis of both streams within themselves.

## **Christian Rosenkretz**

### **The Left side of the altar - Blue Stole - Magi - Space - Thought**

Christian Rosenkretz is an initiate of the stream of Cain. This was the stream of practical knowledge, which sought to penetrate with the ego through the veil of the outer world, to spiritual perception. In his incarnation as Hiram Abiff he was the builder of the Temple of Solomon and could already marry the 'fire with the water', that is, 'enthusiasm (warmth of heart) with Wisdom (enlightenment)', which in Spiritual Scientific terms, is the unification of 'higher thought and higher will'. Later, in his incarnation as John the beloved, he was able through this unification to stand at the foot of the cross and take into his soul the forces that were compatible with those which had made Christ's own astral body capable of being a vessel for the Holy Spirit. These were the forces of the purified astral body known in the mysteries as the Virgin Mother. John took this astral body which had been donated by the

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<sup>46</sup> *Gospel of Thomas verse 22*

'Mother of God' into his 'house', into his physical body, ahead of humanity.<sup>47</sup>

In subsequent incarnations Christian Rosenkreutz suffered martyrdom, which further purified his astral body to the extent that it could, in two incarnations, become united with the ego substance of Christ.

The first time this occurred was in the middle of the thirteenth century (1254) when he became the first human being to receive an imprint of the ego of Christ in his purified astral body, that is, into his spiritualised consciousness (Consciousness Soul) or the Virginal Sophian substance of his soul, through the activity of the Holy Spirit that had become individualized inside him as Spirit Self.<sup>48</sup> This was achieved through his having ascended in full consciousness to meet with Christ in the region of Eagle/Scorpion that is the region that comprises the sphere of the Sun as a planet and the lowest member of the Cosmic Sophia's first triad.

In a second incarnation, Christian Rosenkreutz experienced the Divine Marriage, that is, his illumined consciousness was able to meet with Christ in the sphere of Virgo (the highest aspect of Sophia's first triad). This is the sphere of the Sun as a Star. And it was in this sphere that he experienced the 'Chymical Wedding', that is, where the forces of the Son are 'wedded' to the highest aspect of the Cosmic Sophia.<sup>49</sup> This signified the down-pouring forces of the Son (Buddhi), which became individualized within Christian Rosenkreutz as Life Spirit.

This made it possible for Christian Rosenkreutz to transform the Sophian Cosmic wisdom, which had 'married' the Christ within, into an Esoteric Christianity. This became the substance of Christian initiation, gained as we have seen, through a rising up to the cosmos. This Christian initiation was comprised of meditative practice and outer exercises that would guide human beings on the path of a gradual, *in gradalis*, unification of the Magi and the Shepherd streams within. This unification was taught in rudimentary form in the Rosicrucian Mystery schools, where the pupil was taken to the heights of the mountain (Magi Revelation) and to the depths of the cave (Shepherd, Nature).<sup>50</sup>

This unification through Rosicrucianism could only be experienced, in a restricted sense, by those who were chosen to attend the esoteric

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<sup>47</sup> Rudolf Steiner *The Nature of the Holy Sophia and the Holy Spirit Hamburg, May 1908*, this can also be found in a compilation of lectures under the name, *Isis, Mary, Sophia her Mission and Ours*.

<sup>48</sup> Rudolf Steiner *lecture Hamburg May 1908 The Nature of the Virgin Sophia and the Holy Spirit*.

<sup>49</sup> Sergei O Prokofieff, *Twelve Holy Nights and The Spiritual Hierarchies* page 87

<sup>50</sup> *Rudolf Steiner Rosicrucianism and Modern Initiaton* Dornarch 5<sup>th</sup> January 1924

mystery schools; it was an *esoteric pathway* of Christian initiation and it worked to transform the soul alchemically so that it could experience Imaginations and Inspirations. Christian Rosenkreutz represents, therefore, *Esoteric Christianity - Blue Blood*.<sup>51</sup>

Christian Rosenkreutz, the Magi, had to rise up into the Cosmos in order to bring down into his soul, like a Shepherd, a Cosmic Image that he would later give to selected students as the content of Esoteric Christianity - the Inner pathway to Christian Initiation.

## Rudolf Steiner

### Right side of the Altar - Red Stole - Shepherd - Time - Will

Rudolf Steiner is the representative of the Shepherd stream. If we look at his incarnation as Abraham<sup>52</sup> we can see a wonderful connection to this stream and the stream of the old Hebrew prophets, as previously discussed. Abraham prepared the way for the work of the being of Anthroposophia by planting the seed in the Hebrew people for a form of thinking that was imbued with moral awareness, that is, a thinking that takes the consciousness down to the will. He was the first human being to see the spiritual world through a physical organ, namely the physical organ of the brain,<sup>53</sup> and was able to direct his thought in an inward way. He was the forebear of this physical peculiarity in the brain so that it could be inherited through three times fourteen generations in the Hebrew people. But this did not only apply to the physical brain and its faculty of thinking but also its effect on the physical sheaths, that is, physical, ether and astral bodies of the descendants of Jesus of Nazareth. This was a preparation for the incarnation of the Christ Being. Later, in his reincarnations, firstly as Aristotle<sup>54</sup> who through an exact scientific outlook was able to enter into the details, into the depths of the will forces behind animal life and the human soul,<sup>55</sup> and then as Thomas Aquinas by diving down with logical thought into the realm of the heart in preparation for a future incarnation as the individuality of Rudolf Steiner.

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<sup>51</sup> Inward Blue is depicted outwardly in Red. It is for this reason that Rosicrucian esoteric initiation temples were painted in Red colours, *Rudolf Steiner lecture Munich 21 May 1907*

<sup>52</sup> See Edward Reaugh Smith, *The Burning Bush - Chapter Entitled Pillars on the Journey* and Sergei O Prokofieff *Rudolf Steiner and the Founding of the New Mysteries* Chapter 4

<sup>53</sup> See Prokofieff *Eternal individuality Towards a Karmic Biography of Novalis*

<sup>54</sup> Sergei O Prokofieff, *The Heavenly Sophia and the Being of Anthroposophia* page 168-169

<sup>55</sup> Rudolf Steiner *ibid*

Rudolf Steiner's task was to take the inner Esoteric Christianity of Christian Rosenkreutz and apply to it the instrument of logical thought (modern scientific outlook) in order to make it understandable to the modern intellect. He took what existed in his soul as the content of esoteric Christianity understood through his intellect, outwards in a macrocosmic way, as an exoteric pathway to initiation. This was now not only the concern of those specially selected students, but could become the concern of humanity.

The unification of the Spirit fructified by Science is *Spiritual Science* - Initiation Science, that is, the coming together of Imagination and Inspiration.

We can therefore say:

[ Christian Rosenkreutz (Magi) - became a Shepherd.  
Outer (Cosmic Image) descends into the Soul and becomes  
*Esoteric Christianity*

[ Rudolf Steiner (Shepherd) - became Magi.  
Inner (Esoteric Christianity) ascends out of the Soul and  
becomes *Spiritual Science*

## What is Spiritual Science?

Spiritual Science stimulates knowledge of the human being and knowledge of the world. It is inspired by the being of Anthroposophia, working on behalf of:

- Michael (Cosmic Intelligence)
- And the Divine Sophia (Cosmic Wisdom)

For our exploration we will discuss the two books that encapsulate all of Spiritual Science and this path of development: *Occult Science* and *Knowledge of Higher Worlds*.

### Occult Science:

Primarily a Study of the evolution of the Cosmos (Cosmic Image), which leads to a knowledge of the world: This knowledge connects with the inner being of man (Karma) through which spiritual thinking and Imagination is awakened.<sup>56</sup>

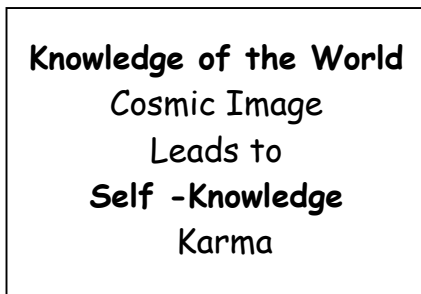
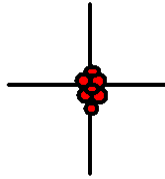
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<sup>56</sup> Lecture Dornach September 18, 1916

## Knowledge of Higher Worlds:

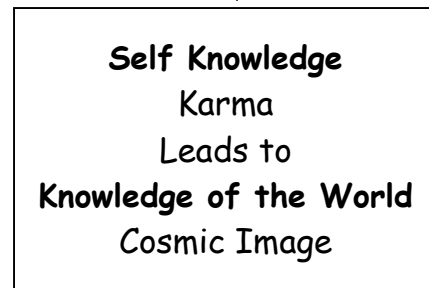
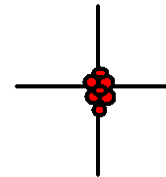
Primarily the study of a pathway of development, of spiritual exercises which leads to self-knowledge (Individual Karma) through which spiritual perception (Cosmic Image) and Inspiration is awakened.

### Occult Science<sup>57</sup> Outer becomes Inner



### Knowledge of Higher Worlds Inner becomes Outer

Rose Cross



Rudolf Steiner tells us:

In this way the without should kindle self-knowledge; the within should teach knowledge of the world. In these two statements, or rather in their realization in the world lies true spiritual insight into the existence and the impulse to real human love, to a love filled with insight.<sup>58</sup>

And

And now let us try to understand the content of a book such as my Occult Science from this standpoint. — The Magi had a real penetration into the starry heavens; they saw what was spiritual there because they had insight into human pre-natal experience. This has become abstract in our mathematics. But the very same forces out of which we develop mathematics can be brought back to life, and intensified as imaginative vision. Then there is born from out of our inner being a world which, although we create it within us, we see as the outer world, as though: containing Saturn, Sun, Moon, Earth, Jupiter, Venus, Vulcan. We see the heavens in inner vision just as the Eastern wise men externally perceived the secrets of the Mystery of Golgotha. The external has become an inner thing, has become mathematical abstraction; and in like manner the inner must be

<sup>57</sup> Rudolf Steiner Lecture, *The Two Christmas Annunciations 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1921*

<sup>58</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *Dornarch September 18<sup>th</sup> 1916*

widened out until it becomes a universe around us, until inner vision leads us to a new astronomy experienced within.<sup>59</sup>

This is the unification of outer and inner, of Magi and Shepherd leads to Imagination and Inspiration. The result is Initiation.

This mystery of the two becoming one and leading to initiation was known and guarded by the knights Templar.

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<sup>59</sup> Rudolf Steiner *The Two Christmas Annunciations 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1921*

## Part II

### Who were the Knights Templar?

In 1119 five French knights united under the leadership of Hugo de Payens to found an order of men who (outwardly) were dedicated to protecting the pilgrim routes to the Holy Land. Their inner task however was to dedicate themselves entirely to the Mystery of Golgotha. Their first home was close to where the Temple of Solomon had once stood and this was no coincidence since they desired that the holy wisdom of the ancient mysteries, related to Cain might unite with the Wisdom of Solomon, related to Abel, for the benefit of Christianity. They took vows of chastity and poverty and pledged themselves to work together to bring the Holy Land under the control of the Christianised Europe. The Knights completely filled themselves, their hearts and souls with the sacred Mystery of Golgotha, and were prepared to sacrifice their blood for Christ.

Rudolf Steiner tells us:

In each moment of their lives they were to think that the blood coursing in their veins did not belong to them but to their great spiritual mission. Whatever wealth they might acquire belonged to no one individual but to the Order alone. Should a member of the Order be killed, no booty should be available to the enemy except the hempen cord girding his loins. This cord was the sign of their work, which was freely undertaken for what was then regarded as the healing of the European spirit. A great and mighty task was set, less to thought than to deep feeling, which aimed at strengthening the soul life as individual and personal with the intention that it might be entirely absorbed in the progressive stream of Christian evolution.<sup>60</sup>

This star shone before the Knights Templar in all that they thought, felt and understood.

They extended their activities wider into Europe in order to penetrate European life with this Christian spirit. This penetration of the Christ impulse would ennoble two evil things: Sense Perception, which they knew was related to pre-natal experiences of the Magi which were connected also with natural urges and to the ideal of goodness; and Thought which they knew was related to the post death experiences of the Shepherds and were connected with the knowledge of evil.

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<sup>60</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Inner Impulses of Evolution Lecture VI*



Sense perception they knew had once been a noble outer Imagination.  
Thought they knew had once been akin to pious inner Inspirations.

Imagination or the ability to interact with the outer world had always been the task of the knight. Inner inspirations had been the life of the priests and monks.

They sought to unite both in the one human being. Hence their preoccupation with duality e.g.: The Order's seal depicts two knights on one horse.

The Red Cross on a white background represented not merely purity and the blood of Christ, it also, symbolised the tempering of cold thought with the warmth of heart, like the imagery of the drops of blood in the snow found in both the Parzifal tale and in the fairytale Sleeping Beauty. The balance brought about through a unification of Magi and Shepherd (Fire and Water, Knight and Monk, Warrior and Priest, Outer and Inner task, the knowledge of the Macrocosm and the Microcosm, West and East) was the task set before the Templars.

In the outer world of the Knights we see the product of this unification in:

#### Magi becomes Shepherd

- The building of churches was an important step in transforming Magi into Shepherd. In the west the ability to see the spirit in outer perceptions was almost all but lost and outer cosmic knowledge had to be transformed into inner experiences. The building of churches, created in their form and structure (reaching out as they did to the heights) an inner experience of outer cosmic forces in the medieval human being. In order for these great structures to be built however, it was necessary for the builders themselves to take what had once been an outer imaginative understanding and use it in architecture, through the application of mathematics and geometry.
- The economic life of the west, related as it was to the control of natural urges and the pre-natal experiences of 'goodness' in the outer cosmos known to the Magi, were being replaced with a materialism of perception which led to the idea of prosperity. Prosperity had its roots in the ownership of gold and the Templars having and understanding for this sought to create an economy that was not based on gold ownership. This required that outer perceptions or the ability to have visions of the outer spiritual

world or ether, be transformed into inner Imaginative capacities. For instance, the cheque or promissory note required a great advancement in thinking. The medieval human being had to develop the ability to imagine in his/her mind, the gold that existed *behind* the piece of paper. This created, in the first instance, a loosening of the connection between gold and prosperity, and when this was supported by the strict rule of the Order and the development of selflessness, it led to a 'forgetfulness' of individual prosperity, through the desire for the 'goodness' of the whole as an end in itself (brotherhood). This ennobling of natural urges and outer perceptions was the result of Magi becoming Shepherd, that is, outer sense perceptions became inner Imaginations which entered into the soul and became warmed by feeling and strengthened by the forces of good will. The Magi became Shepherds thereby.

### Shepherds becomes Magi

- War in the east was related to the problems of Evil and its relationship to Sin and its redemption. This was more related to the post-death experiences of the Shepherd. The Knight Templar knew that thinking was a consequence of the fall of man and was related to evil, which had brought about death. The order's task was to prevent the materialised (evil) form of thinking, a precursor of natural science, from reaching Europe. This materialised thinking was spreading outwards from centres in Asia (Gondhi Shapur) and would have prevented Europeans from a future free development of the individual Consciousness Soul from 1413 onwards. The development of the individual Consciousness Soul was necessary if human beings were to one day unite their souls with Christ. The knights were prepared to outwardly fight, to sacrifice their lives, to suffer physical death in the face of this threat to the furtherance of Christ's Kingdom on earth. In this way they moved the fire of enthusiasm, the moral will that lives in the life of fervent prayer in the priest, outwards, towards the life of the Knight, turning Shepherds into Magi.
- In addition, this outward life brought the Templars into contact with the world in a new way. Those in the battlefield no longer had churches or monasteries in which to worship. They were forced to worship instead, outside in the realm of nature: beneath blue skies; looking up at the stars; in hot deserts or cool forests. The Knights in this way transformed faith into knowledge through their newly acquired, Christianised relationship to nature - whose worship was not blind but understood, through experience, what lay behind the

world of matter and its connection to the divine Cosmic Wisdom. In this way Shepherds became Magi.

This unification of Magi and Shepherd in the soul of the Templar was a direct result of what Rudolf Steiner calls a 'Christian Initiation', which later would be taken up in a new way by the Rosicrucians (Christian Rosenkreutz).

In our times it is the task of Spiritual Science to facilitate the unification of Magi and Shepherds, in a new way, leading to a *modern* Rosicrucian initiation more suitable to our times.

### What is Initiation in Spiritual Scientific Terms?

Initiation *proper* begins with Inspiration and continues on to Intuition, but before Inspiration can begin the human being has to undergo the stages of Preparation and Imagination. The initiatory steps are:

#### Preparation > Imagination > Inspiration > Intuition

- **Preparation:** Involves the study and practice of Spiritual Science as it is found in *Occult Science* and *Knowledge of Higher Worlds*. This study and practice is the foundation for the Meditative processes of the new Magi and the new Shepherds. Meditation is a *conscious forgetting* of the physical world and physical consciousness - the modern path towards Imagination.
- **Imagination:** Is a *conscious dreaming*, a remembering of the past working of the spirit. This is experienced as a Shadow Image of a past reality or Being - the *past* thoughts of the being - a preparation for Inspiration.
- **Inspiration:** Is a *conscious perception* of the Soul reality of a Being (laws and rhythms) or the taking part in the *present* creative in-breathing and out-breathing (word) of the Being, which leads to a communication and understanding through the harmony of breath and blood. This is a preparation for Intuition.
- **Intuition:** Is the *conscious uniting* with the Will of the Being, that is, the human ego becomes one with the ego<sup>61</sup> of the Being and

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<sup>61</sup> Rudolf Steiner Stages of Higher Knowledge Inspiration Intuition GA012

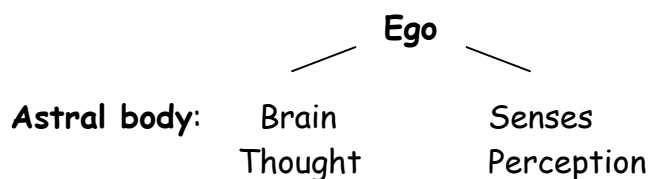
lives into what exists in the being as an active potential for *future* creation.<sup>62</sup>

How does the ennoblement of Thought and Perception necessary for initiation relate to the physical human being?

## **Nerves / Senses System - Thought and Perception**

Thought and Perception as an ego experience in the astral body:

The physical manifestation of the astral Body is the nervous system. For thought and perception to occur, the astral body needs to be permeated by the ego. Thought occurs when the ego experiences oneness with its physical aspect through uniting with the organ of the brain while perception occurs when the ego experiences its separation from the outside world through the organs of the senses. Each time there is an experience of selfhood.



How did this come about?

Rudolf Steiner tell us that both the brain and the senses came into existence after the fall, that is, after the ego had entered into the human astral Body through the initial in-breath of air.<sup>63</sup> Rudolf Steiner also tells us that air is the material aspect of spirit (light)<sup>64</sup> that is, in air the ego 'light' entered into the human being. The ego 'light' breathed into human beings needed a warm vessel - this vessel was blood. Blood is the *condensed* aspect of the human etheric Body. When this blood permeated with ego 'light' coursed its way to the astral Body by way of the nervous system, an interaction of nerves in the brain and the ego-bearing blood took place. This interaction stimulated conscious thought.

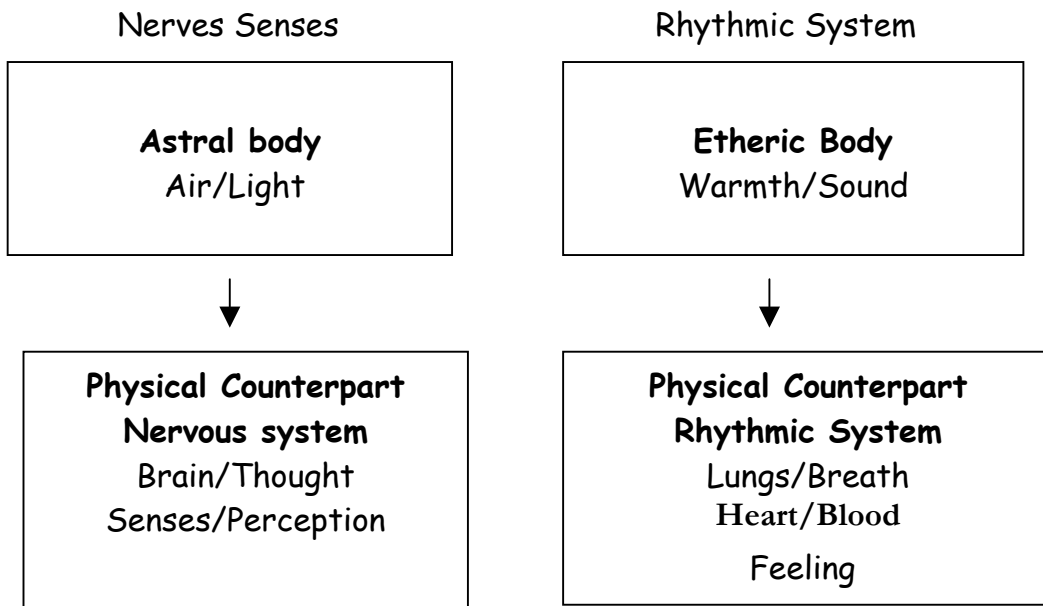
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<sup>62</sup> Rudolf Steiner 18<sup>th</sup> May 1924

<sup>63</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *Occult Science and Outline* chapter 4

<sup>64</sup> Rudolf Steiner lecture April 1<sup>st</sup> 1907 Berlin

On the other hand, the interaction of air (ego 'light'), blood and the nerves in the physical senses stimulated perception.



Lets look more closely at the **Rhythmic System**.

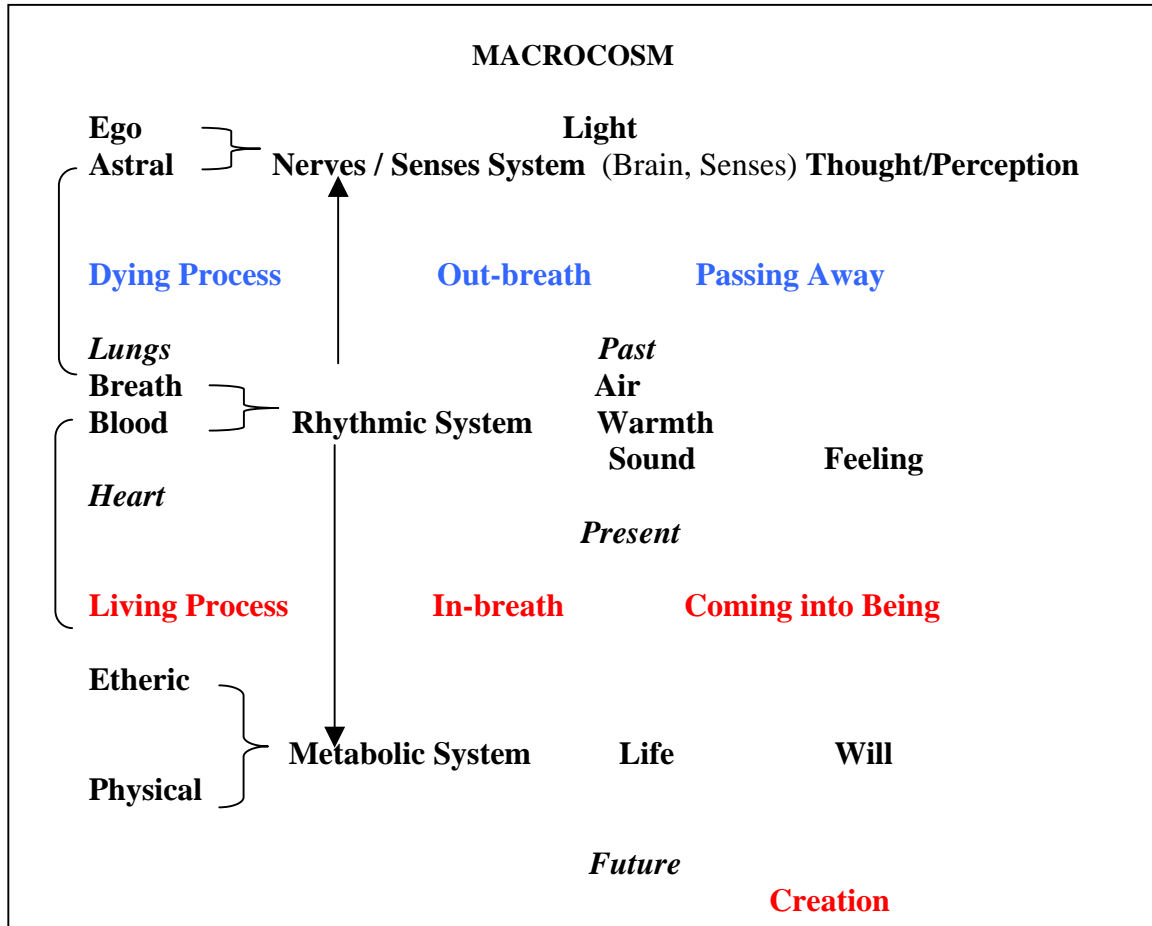
### **Rhythmic System: Feeling - Breath and Blood**

- **Breath** is related to the astral body and the Nerves Senses however it belongs to the **Rhythmic System**.
- **Blood** is related to the Metabolic System as described in the diagram below however it belongs to the **Rhythmic System**.

When the Rhythmic System rises upwards through breath permeated blood, Thought and Perception occur:

- Breath enters Blood and Blood interacts with the Nerves in the brain and the ego experiences its oneness with the physical organism through **thought** in the brain - Selfhood.
- Breath enters Blood and Blood interacts with the nerves in the senses to experience the ego's physical separateness from the outside world by way of **perception** i.e. through the twelve senses - Selfhood. (See diagram below)

SPACE



MICROCOSM

Through this interaction between the Nerves and Senses System and the Rhythmic System, we have thought and sense perception as a dying process. That is, when the Rhythmic System moves upward through breath permeated blood towards the Nerves and Senses System, a dying process takes place, that is, we have oxygen depletion.

Thus we can say that ordinary thought and perception are a *dying process*.

**Why is this so?**

During the performance of ordinary thought and ordinary sense perception, oxygen is carried by the breath into the blood (red oxygenated blood) where it interacts with the nerves. This interaction of blood and nerves brings about a depletion of oxygen leaving in the blood the waste product of this interaction: carbon dioxide - the combination of carbon and oxygen. Carbon dioxide in the blood (blue blood) has to be

carried to the lungs for re-oxygenation. Carbon dioxide is a poison which has to be expelled into the outer world through the breath. This means that thought and perception, a kind of breathing out process, in Alchemical terms a 'salt' forming process, are also a death process experienced in life.

With every ordinary thought and sense perception carbon dioxide, a poison, is breathed out.

Rudolf Steiner tells us:

So here too there is a double element: a kind of destroying process of the lower by the side of a creating process of the higher. As poison is created in the blood in the veins, and as in the normal man consciousness is created between the red and the blue blood.<sup>65</sup>

The process of ordinary thought and sense perception is an egoistic one. The human ego feels him or herself through it but in order to do so the human being must perform a killing action, a destroying that is not only physical but also spiritual.

In our eye the ray of light is killed. We murder it in order to have the perception by means of the eye. So we are filled with what must die in us in order that we can develop our earthly consciousness.<sup>66</sup>

What is it that we kill spiritually?

There is a connection between the second Mystery of Golgotha and the crucifixion of Christ in the ether and every sense perception and ordinary thought.

What do I mean by this?

When human beings focus their eyes on the world, to see through the reflection of material light on material objects, the binocular vision that makes this picture of spatial depth possible, prevents the human being from seeing, or destroys the ability to see the delicate Ether light in the astral world.

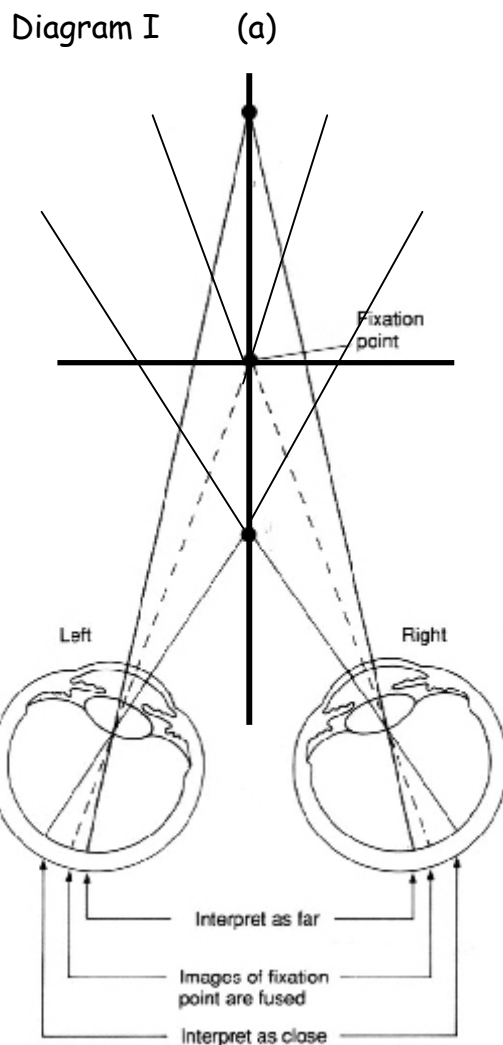
Thus we might say: The light streams towards us and brings about in us the sensation of light; but looking deeper into our being we discover that while we are conscious of light, our

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<sup>65</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Origin of Suffering*, Berlin, 8<sup>th</sup> November 1906.

<sup>66</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Lecture 16 July 1914*

human nature is permeated by something that has to die in us in order that we may have the sensation of light. We can have no perception, no sensation from outside without a sort of corpse being formed as the result of this sensation...Whenever we perceive the outer world, something dies in us...Through this content, this corpse-phantom being formed in us, through our receiving into ourselves, every time we perceive, something which is at the same time a corpse, we kill in us during the act of perception, this ever-springing impulse towards spiritualization.<sup>67</sup>

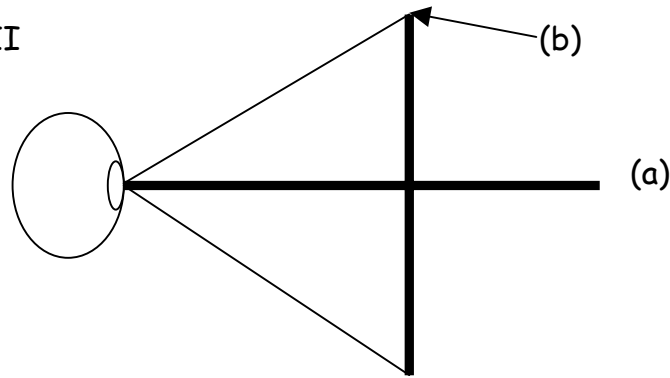


In diagram I, three points are needed for the eye to perceive three-dimensional space - close, far, and distant as well as widths, a) equals the sense of the horizontal.

<sup>67</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *lecture Vienna 11th may 1914*



Diagram II



In diagram II the sense of vertical (b), of above and below, is added.

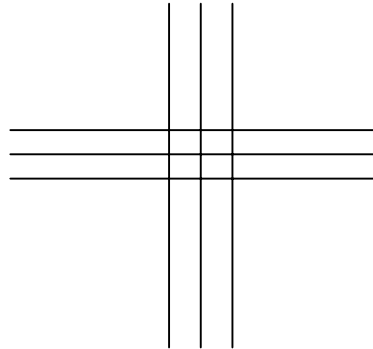
This killing off of the ether light or light ether so as to see material light reflected from objects in physical space creates a sensation for the human ego in the astral body of physical time.<sup>68</sup> In effect, this means that human beings are sacrificing the living etheric light that illuminates Christ in the astral world, that is, his ether or time image, which takes on a spatial characteristic in the astral World. We do this with every material sense perception.<sup>69</sup> The resurrection of Christ in the etheric is therefore only achieved for human beings when this process is reversed, that is, when the human being can overcome perception through the physical senses and begins to see with spiritual eyes by way of open gaze perception, or perception that does not rely on focussing the eyes.

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<sup>68</sup> We must keep in mind that although the essence of the Etheric body is Time, it gives the Ego in ordinary consciousness a feeling of Space. Also, although the Astral body's substance is Causality, an extension of space and time or (one because of another), however it is through it that the human ego experiences Time in ordinary consciousness. Rudolf Steiner *Anthroposophical Leading Thoughts* 29

<sup>69</sup> The connection of horizontal and the vertical and the experience of time through space in the Astral body is illustrated in the mystery of Latitude (north south) and Longitude (east west). Put in simple terms Latitude can be found by measuring the distance between the Sun or certain known stars and the horizon. This gives an estimate of distance north or south of the equator. The discovery of how to measure Longitude began in the 1600's and culminated in the 1700's. A point can be determined by calculating the time difference between that point at its location and another point by a timescale based on the rotation of the earth which is measured in hours and minutes. The time difference between two points determines the distance or space between these places, or how far apart they are in longitude, east or west. On the one hand this discovery in the age of the Consciousness Soul was necessary for the expansion of consciousness and cosmopolitan outlook which was necessary for the Michael age. On the other hand it added to economic expansion and the search for prosperity through colonisation of countries and enslavement of peoples. Longitude and Latitude, was a transformation of star knowledge into materialized Geometry and Mathematics and this culminated in its most inhuman form, in the treatment of human beings as goods and numbers (slavery).

Similarly, in the diagram below is demonstrated how intimately a cross is associated with our ability to focus. In an optometrist's office our focus is often tested through our ability to perceive the darkness or lightness of three horizontal lines and three Vertical lines that together make a cross. If our focus is good the two sets of three lines are equal in darkness. If our focus is not good depending on our problem, either the horizontal or vertical lines will be darker. The optometrist then tries various lenses that can improve our focus and make the lines equal.



Rudolf Steiner intimates this connection of focus and selfhood and independence in the lecture dated 22 October 1921 thus:

All self-awareness, all inwardness, essentially is a matter of thus taking hold of oneself. We do something similar with our eyes. When we focus on a particular point the right visual axis intersects with the left visual axis, just as the right hand takes hold of the left.

But there is more:

There is also a dying process associated with the creation of thought in relation to memory in the Ether body.<sup>70</sup>

When human beings think, thoughts have to become imprinted on the Ether body otherwise they will not be remembered. Thoughts imprinted on the memory or time element of the Ether body create an opacity and obscurity. This opacity 'kills off' the human being's ability to experience the reality of thought.

What is this reality?

The living beings behind the element of thought are the Archai and the Angels: The Archai in the process of mineralization necessary for thought, and the Angels in the more free, imaginative aspect of thought.<sup>71</sup> These beings imprint their thoughts on our Ether body

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<sup>70</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Lecture Dornach 22 October 1921*

<sup>71</sup> *ibid*

because we cannot bear to experience their thoughts directly as their living 'power' would shatter us. For this reason the human being can only see corpses of these thoughts, their shadows as they are reflected back to the ego by the Ether body. This is why thinking is often called 'reflection'.

Were they to appear (thoughts) as they actually are, we should feel ourselves within the life of the thought-beings moving hither and thither; but we do not perceive this, and our Ether body, which otherwise would be transparent, is rendered opaque. I might say that it becomes somewhat like a smoke-topaz, which has darker layers in it, while quartz is quite transparent and pure. In the same way our Ether body is filled with a spiritual obscurity and that which thus fills our Ether body is the treasure of our thought.

And:

This treasure of thought arises through thoughts being reflected, as it were, in our Ether body in the way described, but in this case, in 'time', they are reflected back as far as to the point of time to which our memory extends in physical life. Memory is rejected thoughts, thoughts reflected in time.<sup>72</sup>

It is a spiritual truth that by obscuring or making opaque the Time body, (the etheric body) with dead thoughts, the ego can orient itself in physical space. This is necessary for life on earth, however these dead thoughts that human beings kill during ordinary thinking also prevents the human being from experiencing in the ether body, the ether substance of Christ which lives within it since the Mystery of Golgotha. Thus we can see how in every ordinary thought we are crucifying the being of Christ with dead thoughts.<sup>73</sup> His resurrection is effected when this process is reversed. When human beings begin to overcome ordinary thinking, that is, when human beings lift their thinking from the physical brain.

How do we achieve higher thoughts and higher perceptions in order to redeem this killing or dying process?

The human being must awaken what during day only dreams and sleeps and to understand how this works we have to look at the Metabolic System.

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<sup>72</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *The Inner Nature of Man and Life Between Death and Rebirth*, Vienna 11<sup>th</sup> April 1914

<sup>73</sup> It was dead thinking that led, finally, to Darwinism and culminated in materialised Natural Science, culminating, in its most erroneous form, in the assertion that the human being is no more than an evolved animal.

## **Metabolic System: Will - Limbs**

When a thought occurs, say to move a leg, the Rhythmic System takes this thought and radiates it downward through the blood. This is a living/feeling process whose consciousness in the body is akin to the dream state. This dream state ignites the Metabolic System to action as Will in the limbs - you move the leg. However once this living/feeling/dreaming process enters the Metabolic system it loses its 'consciousness', that is, it becomes creative, it enters a state of 'sleep consciousness' - this is why we are unaware of every muscle movement needed for a particular action.<sup>74</sup>

When the Rhythmic System moves downwards through thought permeated blood, it stimulates the will to action in the limbs.

The 'Dream' consciousness or feeling and the 'Sleeping' consciousness or will must to a degree become awake during inner and outer meditation and it is the task of Spiritual Exercises to create the possibility for a 'wakefulness' of the Feeling and Will aspect of the human being that can redeem Thought and Perception.

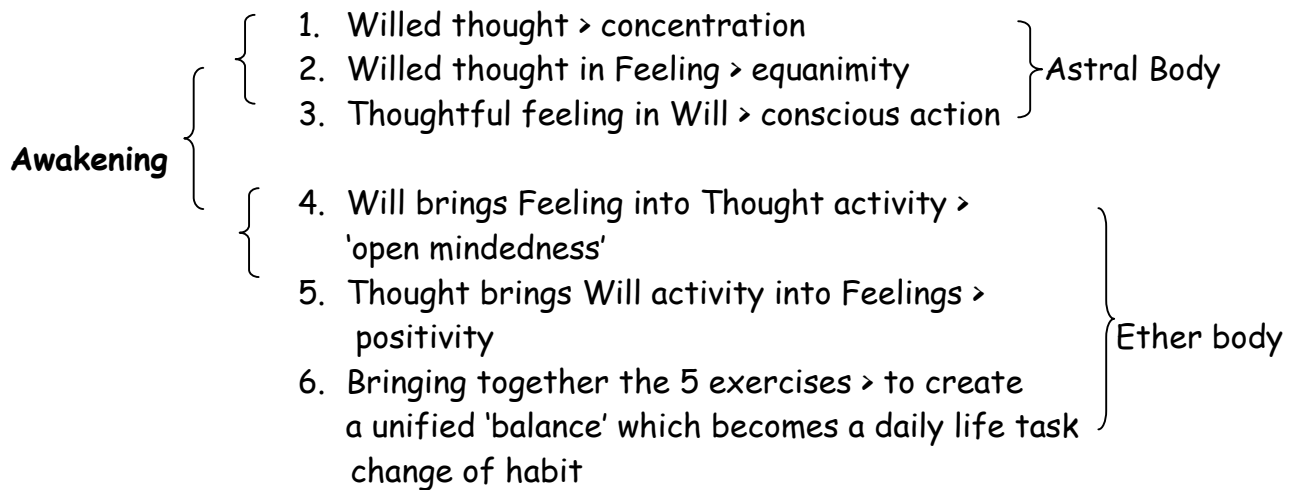
Nerve Senses System: Thought - *awake state - dying away*  
Rhythmic System: Feeling - *dream state - coming into being*  
Metabolic System: Will - *sleep state - creation*

## **Spiritual Exercises**

The six basic exercises, given to us in their entirety in the book *Knowledge of Higher Worlds*, must be practiced in conjunction with Meditation. This wisdom, imparted by Rudolf Steiner on behalf of Spiritual Science, gives the human being the wherewithal to create organs of Spiritual Thought and Spiritual Perception through Control/Will and Balance/Rhythm.

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<sup>74</sup> Rudolf Steiner lecture Vienna, 2 June 1922



**Daily Review:**

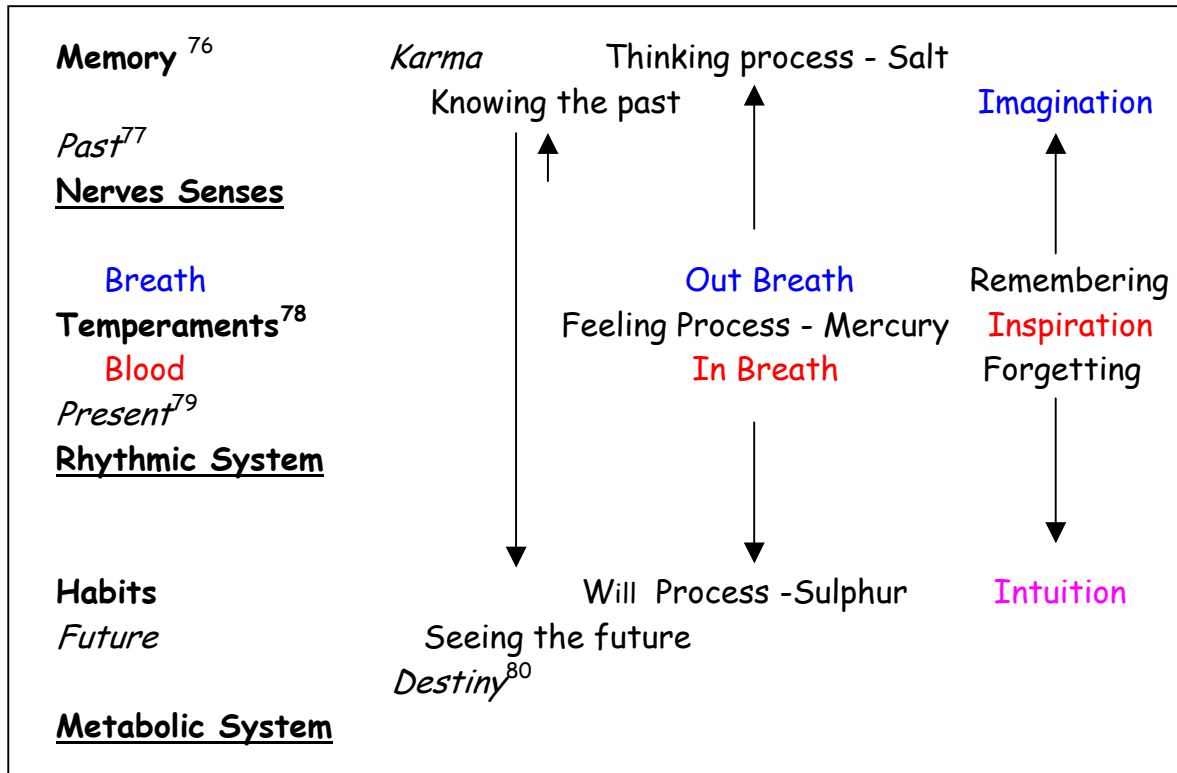
This is one of the most important exercises Rudolf Steiner has given to us and it can be found in the book Knowledge of Higher Worlds. It has the effect of awakening Will through thought and loosening thought from feelings, from its forward pattern, and therefore from the physical brain. By virtue of this exercise as well as the above basic exercises we begin to enter into the stream of time - the Ether Body.

Taken together these exercises not only fashion the astral body through a purification of Thinking Feeling and Will but this progress is imprinted on the etheric body. When the ego sees what is imprinted on the etheric body through the eye of the astral body, it can be said that it perceives the change in Memory, Temperaments, and Habits to have a relationship to Thought, Feeling and Will in the astral body.<sup>75</sup> This is depicted in the diagram below:

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<sup>75</sup> Having said this we must bear in mind that the Etheric Body cannot be experienced inwardly as we would the astral body, in an individual self enclosed way with its different soul members. The experience of the Etheric body has the effect of turning consciousness inside outwards. However when seen Through the Astral body it is as described in this diagram.

## Time



These exercises are a support for inner and outer meditation and enable what was achieved by the Magi (Imagination), and Shepherds (Inspiration) in the past through a dulled consciousness to be recapitulated, in a higher way, through clear wide-awake consciousness.

### Meditation

**Inner Meditation** is a *conscious Forgetting* of the physical world, or overcoming the *memory* of it, through a concentration within the self, on certain thoughts over a long period of time. There is a devotion of attention, all inward experience, to the building up and spiritual 'energization' of mental activity - a vital thinking in the self. This is the modern path towards Imagination.

**Outer meditation** is a conscious *Remembering* of what exists behind the physical world through a conscious forgetting of the Self or overcoming of physical senses - or Self Love. There is a concentration on 'looking away' or forgetting what the physical senses experience to what lies

<sup>76</sup> Rudolf Steiner *The Senses and Temperaments in Esoteric Training*, March 22 1913

<sup>77</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Macrocosm and Microcosm* 30th March 1910

<sup>78</sup> Rudolf Steiner *The Effects of Esoteric Development*.

<sup>79</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *The Being of Man and his Future Evolution*, *Forgetting*, Berlin 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1908

<sup>80</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Essay, Incarnation and Karma, How Karma Works, to see how destiny is linked to the future see Theosophy addenda number 7*

behind physical objects in outer nature. This is the modern path towards Inspiration.

Let us see how the new Magi and Shepherd must unite inner and outer Meditation to achieve initiation:

### Old Shepherd:

In the past when a Shepherd meditated he sought to descend with thought into the breath, and from the breath he then entered, with a dulled consciousness, into the blood and followed the inner rhythms that then gave him a sense of 'self-ness' or ego-hood.<sup>81</sup> By way of this Mysticism he turned away from the outer world and gained knowledge of the 'inner self'.<sup>82</sup> This sense of self was united with what came from the depths, not only in man, but also from the earth. We must imagine the Yogi sitting in a position where his lower Chakra is in close connection to the earth. In this way the Yogi acquired a feeling for gravity and connected his self-hood to the deep Ether forces of his organs, which he could project outwards onto the astral world. This gave the Yogi an experience of the Spiritual world through the instrument of his individual Karma, that is, he sojourned to spiritual worlds by entering through the Gateway of Life (The Tree of Life) or the etheric body. Likewise, through this inner experience the Shepherd could understand the rhythms and laws that related to the earth's depths, the depths of the human soul, and animal life. These faculties were related to the life between falling asleep and waking up, and to the life after death and they are connected to the future and to prophecy: future (Destiny) by way of the Past (Karma).

Moreover, it is in these forces especially that we live between falling asleep and awaking, when our souls are outside of our bodies in outer space. The soul then lives as it will live consciously in future when it has laid aside the physical body after death. These forces, which under special conditions can penetrate from the world of sleep and dream into waking life, were once very active in the ancient instinctive clairvoyance. And these the poor shepherds experienced, receiving through them a revelation of the Mystery of Golgotha from a different quarter than that from which the annunciation came to the three Magi.<sup>83</sup>

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<sup>81</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Lecture Vienna 1 June 1922*

<sup>82</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *Lecture Basle February 1<sup>st</sup> 1921*

<sup>83</sup> Rudolf Steiner *The two Christmas Annunciations Lecture 1<sup>st</sup> January 1921*

## New Shepherd:

The old Magi who wish to become new Shepherds must take what they once gained as outer knowledge of the Spirit Light, or the Cosmic Image (Spiritual Perceptions) observed through a memory of life before birth, and enter with it into the individual soul like the Shepherd of old. The new Shepherd though must in full consciousness take thoughts that have a universally cosmic significance (which one can find in Occult Science) and use them for the purposes of inner meditations. Here in the inner life, the Cosmic Image is enlivened, and foregoes its shadow-like memory quality through the power of clear logical thought. Re-enlivening of these former outer memory pictures thus creates conscious Inner Spiritual Perceptions or Imaginations.

Here is the key:

## Old Magi turned New Shepherd must:

**Overcome old Memory Pictures through a forgetting of the world of senses and a spiritualization of Thought.<sup>84</sup>**

In this way can a self-conscious unification occur, that is the old Magi can become a new Shepherd by bringing conscious thoughts that are enlivened down into the soul, into the Gateway of life, that is the new Shepherd can bring into the Gateway of Life what had once been acquired through having passed through the Gateway of the Spiritual world: when Cosmic Memory is turned outside in and through thought these imaginations are intensified and thus released from the physical brain and the rhythm of the breath (this is the opposite pole to the old Shepherd - who wished to unite thought with the rhythm of the breath<sup>85</sup>). These Imaginations, warmed in the soul by feelings and ignited by the fire of will (individual Karma), allow the new Shepherd not only to recapitulate a former ability on a higher level but also to unite this with something previously not experienced in the depths of his or her being. This 'higher' Shepherd then has united the recapitulated power of Imagination with inner Inspirations to reach Initiation.

Sergej O Prokofieff tells us that it is the Divine Sophia working through the being of Anthroposophia who is primarily concerned with turning the old Magi into new Shepherds.

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<sup>84</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Supersensible Knowledge Article GA 35* 'In the field of the senses the faculty of Love erects, as it were, an impenetrable background whereat Nature is reflected; in the inner life of man the power of *Memory* erects a like background'.

<sup>85</sup> Rudolf Steiner Vienna 2 June 1922



A metamorphosis of Old Magi into New Shepherds occurs: <sup>86</sup>



The new Shepherds redeem the dry, materialised Cosmic Image of the Old Magi (Astronomy and Mathematics), by permeating it with spirit life and warmth.

### Old Magi:

In the past the old Magi rose up to the heights through certain ritualistic methods that mortified the flesh: physical pain enabled a loosening from the physical body to occur; sulphurous fumes produced ecstatic visions;<sup>87</sup> much later a 'Soma drink', a juice made from plants, was taken to create similar conditions.<sup>88</sup>

The Soma drink consisted mainly of Carbon<sup>89</sup>, which is the product of a process of Photosynthesis (the synthesis of Sunlight and Carbon Dioxide which separates out Carbon and Oxygen).<sup>90</sup> This Soma juice induced in the old Magi the 'memory' of the Cosmic Image of the world of the stars which they had experienced in their life before birth and which is reflected on earth in plants and minerals.<sup>91</sup> They saw this through the faculty of magical (**magical**) vision (**imagination**) - which was an experience related to the time before birth.

<sup>86</sup> We can see also the brain's connection with Cancer. The brain like the crab has an exoskeleton.

<sup>87</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Macrocosm Microcosm* 21 March 1910

<sup>88</sup> Rudolf Steiner *The Search for the New Isis, the Divine Sophia* page 61 Dornach Dec 26 1920

<sup>89</sup> Similarly, in the middle ages, a substance called the 'Philosopher's Stone' was known to be the 'physical body' of carbon that human beings will acquire as a synthesis of light/warmth in the human soul; the light of spiritualised thought and the warmth of spiritualised feelings.

<sup>90</sup> Rudolf Steiner *The Search for the new Isis the Divine Sophia*, Lecture IV

<sup>91</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Dornach Dec 24 1920*

The pupils of the ancient Mysteries who possessed that wise outlook, still extant in its last fragments in the Wisemen of the East, had the clear impression: “When we study the stars and apply our mathematical forms and reckoning to them, we are spreading out again over the outer reaches of universal space what we actually lived in before our birth.”

And

What does one experience by means of the forces peculiar to man between death and rebirth when, as in the case of the Wisemen from the Orient, they are kindled in the life between birth and death? One experiences what takes place beyond what is earthly. One is borne away from the earth out into the world of the stars where we live between death and rebirth. This was the world into which the Wisemen of the East were led away from the earth out into cosmic space.<sup>92</sup>

Here they experienced oneness, albeit through a suppressed ego consciousness, with what they remembered of Mercury, Sun, Moon, Saturn and Jupiter. It was a Cosmic Memory of Spiritual Worlds that could be seen when the Magi looked up to the stars.

### New Magi:

The old Shepherds who are becoming new Magi, have to rise now, with the product of the recapitulated inner soul life, to a higher level, *consciously* (without losing ego consciousness). The new Magi must enter into the soul of the world - into what exists behind sensory objects. The 'fire of will' in which lives Individual Karma now consciously rises up through the temperaments and the life of feelings and moves outward through a thought that is vitalized to Imaginations to enable the recapitulation now, on a higher level of his/her former inner Inspirations, these inner inspirations are now turned outwards. This means that the inner Inspirations that were once acquired through the Gateway of Life, through the 'eye' of individual Karma, by the old Shepherd, can now in complete wide-awake consciousness (that is, devoid of Magi Ecstasy) pass through the Gateway of the Spiritual World and through enlightened thought achieve a Cosmic Inspiration in the new Magi. This signifies a release of perception from the organs of sense through inner enthusiasm and selfless love. Selfless sense perception is moral 'cognition'.

The new Magi achieves Inspiration by uniting Inner feelings of love and will to goodness through vitalized thought to Outer perception of Spirit: the tones and rhythms that are seen floating away from the physical plants, animals, minerals, the stars, what lies behind the dying and the living processes, the seasons, the times of day, the gestures of the

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<sup>92</sup> Rudolf Steiner Lecture, *The Two Christmas Annunciations* 1<sup>st</sup> January 1921

weather. These become for the new Magi the expressions or revelations of the creative 'beings' behind everything in the world. This is a communication of the laws and relationships, the impulses behind all things - the cosmic script. The new Magi therefore enter into conscious communication, or conversation with the 'heart' of sense phenomena - the creative process in the soul of spiritual beings - not as a memory (Magi of old) but as a conscious experience of the present aspect of the Being. The unification of Imagination and Inspiration = Initiation.

The new Magi must overcome self-love to enter selflessly into nature and perceive the spirit there.

**The new Magi must:**

**Overcome Self-love through Higher Sense Perceptions.**

Rudolf Steiner tells us:

The man of the present age must seek his supersensible knowledge in a different way. He cannot unite his thinking with the breath. Through meditation, he must lift his thinking out of the life of logic to vision...Thought is released from the breath and woven together with the spiritual in the world. The Self is now experienced, not in connection with the breath in the single human being, but in the enviroing world of spirit...<sup>93</sup>

This means an ascent with the forces they have once developed through their inner organs (Self Love); turning them outwards, that is inside out, to a conscious *perception* of the forces or spirit (through Imagination+Inspiration) behind outer nature; overcoming the outer organs of sense, eyes and ears etc. to perceive beyond what Natural Science can see.

Sergej O Prokofieff tells us that the being *Michael*, through his descent of the Cosmic Intelligence, promotes this change of Shepherds into Magi.<sup>94</sup>

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<sup>93</sup> Rudolf Steiner Article *West-East Aphorisms*

<sup>94</sup> Sergei O Prokofieff *May Human Beings Hear it* page 136-137

The Metamorphosis of Old Shepherds into New Magi occurs:



When the old Shepherds become new Magi, they are redeeming the dry materialistic sense perception that has led to Natural Science.

*The New Magi thus redeems Natural Science.*

He/she does this through a will-permeated love, turned inside out; its higher form is self-knowledge (Karma) turned outwards. It is this self-knowledge that enables the new Magi to have a perception of the Cosmic Image behind outer nature.

Rudolf Steiner tells us:

If in the way that Astrology once worked among the Magi and the vision of the heart among the shepherds, what comes to modern man from Initiation science through Imagination and Inspiration, can work together within him, he will rise again through knowledge of Imagination and Inspiration to a spiritual understanding of the living Christ.<sup>95</sup>

Unification of Magi and Shepherd in one human being results in an understanding of the living Christ through Initiation. But what does this mean in terms of the Holy Grail?

### **Initiation and the Holy Spirit - Pneumatology**

Rudolf Steiner tells us that a reversal of the 'Fall' occurs in the heart. That is, the reversal of the condensation of blood from warmth ether

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<sup>95</sup> Rudolf Steiner *lecture 25 December, 1920*

occurs in the physical heart where blood (physical blood) is continuously being converted, or rarefied, to an etherised Substance (etherised blood).<sup>96</sup> It is this etherised blood that can become a spiritual expression of the spirit in the Self, in the same way that the human blood is a physical expression of the ego.

Let us look at it more closely:

Rudolf Steiner tells us that the astral body is imprinted with all our actions, thoughts, impulses and so our individual Karma:

In short, the whole of man's activity, which finds expression in the outer world is written into the astral body; thus the astral body becomes configured in manifold ways through all our human actions.<sup>97</sup>

And that our blood is the expression of the qualities of the astral body or soul:

...the pulsing of the blood, its *whole inner mobility*, is the expression and the effect of the processes of the soul. The soul is the cause of the behaviour of the blood. Turning pale through feelings of fear, blushing under the influence of sensations of shame, are coarse effects of processes of the soul in the blood. But everything which takes place in the blood is only the expression of what takes place in the life of the soul. However, the connection between the pulsation of the blood and the impulses of the soul is a deeply mysterious one. The movements of the heart are not the cause, but the consequence of the pulsation of the blood.<sup>98</sup>

The blood or etheric body is imprinted with the qualities of the soul or astral body.

Now we come to an indication of Rudolf Steiner's concerning Pneumatology, the study of the Spirit - the Holy Spirit (Greek: pneuma = spirit, self, wind, breath).

Pneumatology, he said, was necessary for the future of humanity.<sup>99</sup> Why? Because the formation of the new organ of thinking and perception in the future depends upon the Pneumatization, the spiritualization or rarefication of blood, which in spiritual science we have come to know as

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<sup>96</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Etherisation of Blood – The Reappearance of Christ in the Etheric*

<sup>97</sup> *ibid*

<sup>98</sup> *ibid*

<sup>99</sup> Rudolf Steiner Dusseldorf June 15 1915

the Etherisation of blood. Etherisation of blood is a permeation of the blood with spirit.

How does the spirit merge with the blood?

When the old Magi become new Shepherds and the old Shepherds become new Magi, the soul or astral body is transformed through Initiation. Initiation, as we have said, only begins with Inspirations and there is an in-breath or entrance of the Holy Spirit into the astral Body. The Holy Spirit now merges with the in breath and enters the blood and becomes individualised. Spiritual Science calls this individualised spirit in the blood *Spirit Self*.

Lets take a closer look at how this happens.

Rudolf Steiner tells us that there is a building up of the Spirit light outside us through every thought that passes out with the breath that we exhale.<sup>100</sup> What does this mean? Whatever the soul accomplishes through the development of Imagination is firstly imprinted on the soul (Astral body) - then through the breath this is imprinted on the blood (Ether Body) to be carried out. This exhaled breath (that is permeated by our development) fashions the outer spirit light - Imagination means that we connect the inner spirit light with the outer spirit light or Holy Spirit which is all around us. This inner spirit light fashions the outer spirit and individualises it according to our level of development. This fashioned spirit, which is the product of Imagination, that is now outside of us, can be gradually 'inspired'. This is called, Inspiration, an in-breath of the fashioned spirit.<sup>101</sup> The spirit can then begin to enter the blood.

The breathing life is where our ether body truly becomes a body of creative powers that designs images.<sup>102</sup>

**Imagination** > **The fashioning of Holy Spirit through Exhaled air**  
**Inspiration** > **The in-breath of Spirit into the Self, fashioned by Imagination**

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<sup>100</sup> Rudolf Steiner Lecture Berlin, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1906

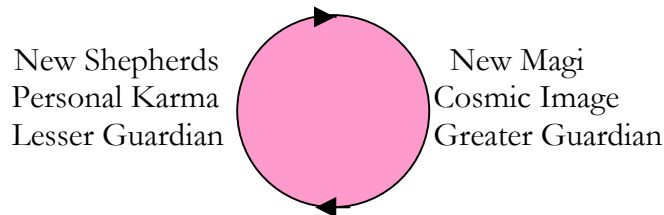
<sup>101</sup> This is why we must let go of the Imaginations; we must inspire them if we are to reach the level of Inspiration.

<sup>102</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *Dornach 29 October 1921*

However the spirit that is fashioned outside can be barred from entering the human being because it does not find a suitable vessel as yet in the blood.

In the past, when those who belonged to the old Shepherd stream sojourned into the depths of their own being, they came to an experience of the *Lower Guardian*, which prevented them from progressing further. This was the meeting of all the impurities, all the personal karma imprinted, during the period between death and rebirth, in the etheric body or blood. This can be seen during meditation as dreamy pictures (Images of the Minotaur come to mind). It was the opposite for those who belonged to the old Magi stream. They gazed out of their own being to the external world, where they were prevented from progressing further by what corresponded to a memory of the spiritual world in the time between death and rebirth - where they had experienced the *Higher Guardian* (Cosmic Image of goodness).<sup>103</sup> This was akin to sleep consciousness.

Those who embark on modern esoteric training are uniting both Shepherd and Magi streams and because of this, they will, on the whole, undergo an experience of both lesser and greater guardians.



How does this take place?

This occurs through two experiences:

- An awakening of Sleep consciousness in the day.
- An awakening of Dream consciousness in the day.

Let us look at this.

*During the course of spiritual development there is an awakening of a 'night' experience in the day, that is, dreaming in the day. Rudolf Steiner calls this a 'wooing' of the night into the day and it occurs thus:*

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<sup>103</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *Knowledge of Higher Worlds and its attainment*

When Dream consciousness (that is usually experienced at night) is experienced in the day when fully awake, Imagination occurs through Spiritualised Thought - Inner meditation.

*During the course of spiritual development there is an awakening of Sleep consciousness in the day:*

When Sleep consciousness (that is usually experienced at night) is experienced in the day when fully awake, Inspiration occurs - Spiritualised sense perception - Higher perception - Outer meditation.

<b>Night</b>	<b>Day</b>
Dream Consciousness	Imaginations/spiritualised Thought <sup>104</sup>
Sleep Consciousness	Inspirations/spiritualised Sense Perceptions

One must wrest the dreaming soul from the twilight of the dream; then it will not evaporate into fantasies, but rather lay its mask aside so as to appear as a being active spiritually in the body. One must wrest the sleeping soul from the darkness of sleep; then the soul does not lose sight of itself but faces itself as an actual spiritual entity, which in the act of willing, by means of the bodily organism, creates above and beyond this body.<sup>106</sup>

Two experiences are encountered on the path of 'wooing' night into the day.

Firstly, the wooing of Dream Consciousness into the day leads to an experience at the Gateway of Life. This is a meeting with the Lesser Guardian of the Threshold, and it usually occurs at the moment of waking but is not a conscious experience.

Secondly, the wooing of Sleep Consciousness into the day leads to an experience at the Gateway of the Spiritual World. This is a meeting with the Greater Guardian of the Threshold, we experience this each night on falling asleep but we are not conscious of it.<sup>107</sup>

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<sup>104</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Leading Thoughts* - 86

<sup>105</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Leading Thoughts* - 87

<sup>106</sup> Rudolf Steiner *GA33*

<sup>107</sup> John Fletcher *Art Inspired by Rudolf Steiner* page 7



The first is an Imaginative experience, which begins to emerge in consciousness when Imagination occurs in the day - when conscious Dreaming in the day occurs through Spiritualised Thought.

The second is an Inspirative experience, which begins to emerge in consciousness when Inspiration occurs in the day - when the condition of Dreamless Sleep occurs in the day whilst awake through Spiritual Perception.

Let us look more closely at these two meetings and how they relate to the entrance of the Holy Spirit into the self.

## **Moon consciousness: Dream**

In the day, when the Intellect is awake, the human blood permeated by the day's thoughts, feelings and activities (what we shall call Karma or Moon substance) enters the physical heart and is etherised.<sup>108</sup> This etherised blood then travels up to the head to the pineal gland where it collects. Conversely, at night when the Will is awake and the Intellect sleeps, the astral body and ego perceives within itself an Image of Goodness (Cosmic Image), or Sun forces, which it rays down as impulses to be imprinted on the ether and physical body. In the night these impulses descending from the Cosmic Image meet the karma in the etherised blood (the essence of karma) that has ascended into the Pineal gland in the day. In undeveloped individuals, the Individual karmic essence (Moon) meets the descending Cosmic image (Sun) and there is a violent struggle, individuals fall asleep because the Cosmic Image is repelled by the karma ridden etherised blood. While ever this Cosmic Image meets an etherised blood that is full of impurities from the soul, it is repelled by it and cannot unite with it, thus the person falls asleep.

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<sup>108</sup> Rudolf Steiner *lecture 20 August 1924*

## Gateway of Life: Lesser Guardian\*

The moment the human being begins to strengthen inner soul-forces through Thought's spiritualization, memory is overcome, that is, the process of imprinting thought into memory is overcome, and it is at this point that the Moon Consciousness begins to awaken in the day. The day becomes over-shone by the light of the Moon or dream Consciousness is awakened.<sup>109</sup> The human being then awakens to the shadow images of Cosmic Thoughts - Imagination. In this case the Shadow Image is an angelic being, the Lesser Guardian of the Threshold, the Moon Angel<sup>110</sup> who shows the human being the result of his thoughts, the impurities that have entered into the etherised blood. Imaginative knowledge is the working of the conscious ego in the astral body as it becomes imprinted on the ether body, into the substance of time to experience the rhythmic balance between karma and Destiny in the soul.<sup>111</sup>

Thus when we pass the Lesser Guardian of the Threshold we have true self-knowledge, for there stands before us an image of what we have become; this self-knowledge is a stimulus for our whole future life.<sup>112</sup>

The human being must now continue to persevere in spiritual development so that he or she may awaken enough to a vision of Karma in the day, in order to redeem it through moral impulses.

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\* Please note that in a previous edition of this lecture I have made reference to the experience of the Higher Guardian as a morning or waking experience and the experience of the Lower Guardian as an evening experience. In this edition I have modified it to the opposite to bring it into accord with a statement by Rudolf Steiner recorded in GA 124, 19 of December 1910. However my conviction is that both Guardians are experienced in the evening and both are experienced in the morning. That is, the Lower Guardian must be experienced first as the Astral body and Ego begin to loosen from the Physical and Etheric bodies and then shortly after this (Knowledge of Higher Worlds), for the initiate, a more conscious experience of the Higher Guardian occurs. Conversely in the morning the Higher Guardian asks the question with regards to re-entry into the physical and Etheric bodies but once there is an immersion into the Etheric body it is the Lower Guardian that the initiate experiences more consciously. The distinction occurs because the morning experience is more related to the Lower Guardian and the evening to the Higher Guardian, however, seen from a different perspective the opposite can also hold true. This is why although the Higher Guardian is related to the future and the Lower Guardian to the past, we experience past karma as we fall asleep and future Karma when we awaken. This is the result of my own spiritual research. As always I exhort the reader to come to his or her own conclusions through his or her own experiences and research.

<sup>109</sup> These forces, which under special conditions can penetrate from the world of sleep and dream into waking life, were once very active in the ancient instinctive clairvoyance. And these the poor shepherds experienced, receiving through them a revelation of the Mystery of Golgotha from a different quarter than that from which the annunciation came to the three Magi. Rudolf Steiner *The Two Christmas Annunciations 1<sup>st</sup> of January, 1921*

<sup>110</sup> We do well to note Rudolf Steiner's *Lecture 10 Jan 1915*, where he speaks about a supersensible being who stands behind the being of Anthroposophia, the Lesser being of Karma, the last concluding member of a being even higher than the Sophia. Sergej O Prokofieff *Heavenly Sophia and the Being of Anthroposophia* page 133 mentions, the Greater being of Karma who is presided over by the Christ being as Lord of Karma.

<sup>111</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Leading Thought 29*

<sup>112</sup> Rudolf Steiner *20 August 1924*

If this self-knowledge inspires the human being to redeem Karma in the day, the etherisation of this redeemed Karmic Essence (Moon) in blood becomes a suitable vessel for the Holy Spirit in the evening. Then, insofar as this is possible, the *Greater Guardian* allows the individual to enter little by little into the *Gateway of the Spiritual World*, i.e., the substance of the Holy Spirit descends gradually into the Etherised blood, to become Spirit Self and insofar as this is inspired by the human being, the possibility arises to experience the spirit behind matter in the day during outer meditation. This is how inspiration is made possible. At this point the individual comes to meeting not only with the 'shadow image' or 'Angel' but also with the Archangelic 'being' - who is the vessel for Christ.

## **Sun Consciousness: Sleep**

*Gateway of the Spiritual World: Greater Guardian*

When the human being has so achieved a purification of Thinking, Feeling and Will so that these soul forces become independent and controlled by the Spirit Self, a meeting occurs between the Cosmic Image of goodness, the image of the Christ Being, clothed in Archangelic form in the Spiritual World - this signifies an awakening in the day of Sleep Consciousness. There is at this threshold a moment of indecision, which occurs just before the human being enters again into the physical body.<sup>113</sup> The individual is then faced with the upcoming entry again to earth through the *Gateway of Life* or the ether Body.

When sleep consciousness occurs in the day, it is like seeing the spiritual sky, the night sky, at midday, i.e., the day that is usually over-shone by the light of the Sun now shows us the spirit behind the light of the Sun. What do I mean by this? The outer sky changes and we are able to pierce through what the senses observe to what lies out in the cosmos, the thoughts of the cosmos: the stars, the planets etc; and this necessitates the overcoming of the self or forgetting of the self through spiritual perception. The human being then awakens to or sees what he/she remembers of what was once experienced in the time before birth.

This sleep consciousness which lights up in the day, this sun consciousness, has a nightly counterpart. This is called seeing the sun at midnight. This stage now signifies an awakening of wide-awake

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<sup>113</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Knowledge of Higher Worlds*

consciousness in the time of the Dream and Sleep - where we experience both guardians.

But if we acquire the maturity to say to ourselves: You will overcome all obstacles — then the veil that falls over the soul on going to sleep, is lifted. The veil becomes thinner and thinner and finally there stands before us — in such a way that we can now endure it — the form that is a likeness of ourselves *as we are*, and by its side we become aware of the other figure who shows us *what we can become* by working at our development. This figure reveals itself in all its strength, splendour and glory. At this moment we know that the reason why this figure has such a shattering effect is that we are not, but ought to be, like it, and that we can acquire the right attitude only when we can endure this spectacle. To have this experience means to pass the “Greater Guardian of the Threshold.” It is this Greater Guardian of the Threshold who effaces consciousness when we go to sleep in the ordinary way. He shows us what is lacking in us when we try to enter into the Macrocosm, and what we must make of ourselves in order to be able, little by little, to grow into that world.<sup>114</sup>

As we see, it is at this point that the Christ Force, or Greater Guardian, shows us how our inner sun forces, that is, our ether bodies, are permeated by moon substance, and how this compares with the divine archetype or, the Cosmic Image of Christ. This experience is a living picture of how much the individual must conquer to become like that image, Christ-like. There is also an experience of a moral decision: to choose between selflessness and selfishness. This tests whether self-love has been overcome. Self-love must have been overcome through perception of the spiritual behind nature. This is the important point: To overcome self-love through a self-less perception of nature is self-less love - moral cognition.

But at this stage the initiate can either choose to remain in spiritual worlds (Black Path) or to return to the physical body to be of service to the world (White Path).

If the Black Path is chosen the human being may remain in those regions he has conquered by purifying the astral body - the astral world, but may not progress further to higher spheres.

If the White Path is chosen then the human being will begin to participate in a creative way with spirit consciousness (a continuity of consciousness during day and night, Sun and Moon) in the world of

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<sup>114</sup> *ibid*

physical senses, knowing that one day, he or she will ascend to higher regions.

Therefore we can say that:

The Lesser Guardian stands at the Gateway to Life (Moon Consciousness) when in the day the individual manages to overcome Memory of the world through higher Thought. This is an experience of all the negative Karma in the essence of etherised blood, all the impurities the human meets.

The Greater Guardian stands at the Gateway of the Spiritual World (Sun Consciousness) and is seen when the individual is able to overcome Self-Love through the Perception of the spiritual in nature. This is an experience of moral choice between selfishness and selflessness.

The above can be illustrated thus:

<b>Old Shepherd</b>	<b>Overcome</b>	<b>New Magi</b>
Inner Union	Self-Love	Meets Higher Guardian
Self-consciousness/Karma	self-less Perception	Gateway of Spiritual World
(Perception of Self)	of Spirit in Nature	Evening Experience
Lower Guardian	of Cosmic Image	

<b>Old Magi</b>	<b>Overcomes</b>	<b>New Shepherd</b>
Outer Union	Old Memory Clairvoyance	Meets Lower Guardian
Perception of Cosmos	Spiritualised Thought	Gateway of Life
Higher Guardian	Heightened Self-Consciousness	Morning Experience
	of Individual Karma	

## But how is Initiation related to the formation of the Etheric Heart, or the fashioning of the Holy Grail?

In Rudolf Steiner's lecture on the human heart he tells us that when the human being is born he has a provisional etheric counterpart of the heart, which is built up from his etheric body as a mirror of the cosmos, planets and stars etc,

The etheric body, as it forms and develops itself in the human being, is a universe in itself — a universe, one might say, in picture form. At its circumference it manifests something in the nature of stars, and in its lower portion something that appears more or less as an image of the earth. It even has in it a kind of image of the sun nature and the moon nature.<sup>115</sup>

<sup>115</sup> Rudolf Steiner *The Human Heart Dornach 26 May 1922*

He goes on to say that this etheric heart fades away and that we must then begin to fashion a new etheric heart at the onset of puberty. This is a similar process to the change of teeth - when the old teeth fall out and new ones replace it. This heart is fashioned through an imprinting of the astral forces onto the etheric heart.

Thus we can truly say (and in so saying we mark a real event in the human inner being): from puberty onwards man's whole activity becomes inserted, via the astral body, in his etheric heart — and in that which has grown out of the pictures of the stars, out of the images of the cosmos.<sup>116</sup>

This Microcosmic Image of the cosmos, the inner Sun in the ether heart, is fashioned by the Spirit Self, or light in the astral body, for perception of the spirit, in the same way that the "eye is formed by the light for perception of the light".<sup>117</sup> This inner sun image is fashioned as a result of the redemption of individual Karma or the inner Moon substance in the blood. The Holy Spirit in the etherised blood fashions the etheric heart in the same way that the eye-forming power is contained in every ray of sunlight.

In the heart, as far as the Ether universe is concerned, you have a cosmos gathered up into a centre; while at the same time, as far as the astral is concerned, you have a gathering together of all that man does in the world. This is the point where the cosmos — the cosmic process — is joined to the karma of man.<sup>118</sup>

The purified Karma in the substance of the etherised blood (redeemed Moon) permeated by Spirit Self (Holy Spirit individualised) is able to fashion an inner Microcosmic Sun - an Ether heart, a new organ that is an Image of the Cosmos (Sun), capable of uniting with the Inner Sun substance of Christ - His etherised blood.

The life of circulation ensures that those images (created through the breath)<sup>119</sup> become our whole organisation. Physical substance is then brought in through the life of metabolism.

And

These images are inhaled from life outside us. This then is our creative life. The images we inhale are spread through the whole organism by the life of circulation. This and the life of breathing

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<sup>116</sup> ibid

<sup>117</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Microcosm and Macrocosm* lecture 8, 28 March 1910

<sup>118</sup> Rudolf Steiner *The Human Heart Dornach* 26 May 1922

<sup>119</sup> Author's addition

take human beings to the point where they are inwardly an image of the world.<sup>120</sup>

In our times Blue blood and Red Blood enter different chambers of the physical heart and do not mix, the right side is for the blue blood and the left for the oxygenated blood, the red blood; the upper for filling, the lower for emptying. The oxygen gathered by the breath in the lungs enters the blood and flows into the heart where it is directed to the body and to the brain. The de-oxygenated or blue blood comes back from the body and the brain and flows again into the heart which directs it back to the lungs to be breathed out as waste or poison. This moving in and out, this exchange of red and blue blood, this in-breathing of outer spirit and out-breathing of individual karmic substance, is a loving process - a conversation of the human being with the world and the world of spirit.

In time the work of the physical heart will be replaced by the work of the Ether heart.

What do I mean by this?

The physical heart relies on gas exchange (air exchange in the lungs) the breathing in and out of air; this work will be replaced by the work of the Ether heart, which will eventually rely on the exchange of light - breathing in and out of light and warmth of Spirit (love).

In the physical heart blue blood and red blood do not mix. In the etheric heart, the substance of the sun, the blood of Christ does not mix with the etherised blood of the human being, the substance of the Moon until development begins. This development can fashion the ether Heart into a suitable vessel through the down-pouring of the individualised Holy Spirit Self into the human etherised blood. The conscious experience of sleep and dream conditions (Magi and Shepherd) must awaken in day, that is, the Will must awaken in the day and Thought or day consciousness must awaken in the Night for this to happen. The night must be wooed into the day, moon consciousness must arise, and insofar as this redeems that karmic substance in the etherised blood of the individual human being, it can then become permeated by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can be inspired into the etherised blood which, when individualised as Spirit Self, will enable Sun Consciousness to occur. Sun consciousness will create the inner image of the sun - the etheric heart centre in which the

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<sup>120</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Lecture Dornach 29 October 1921*

substance of Christ can unite with the substance of the human being - the Spirit Self in etherised blood.

This unification of Individual Karma and Cosmic Image leads to the unification of the blood of Christ and the Etherised blood of the human being so that they can flow together.<sup>121</sup>

The etheric heart is a redemption of the physical heart in which there exists a 'cross' separating the four chambers. This redemption signals a resurrection of the consciousness of Christ in the human soul and in the astral World.

For this to happen changes must have occurred in three sheaths: physical, etheric and astral:

### **Astral Body**

Feeling, Thinking and Will, have become transformed and through this transformation the power of Imaginative and Inspirative cognition arise.

### **Etheric Body**

Inspiration leads to:

Memory, Temperaments and Habits, becoming transformed and through this transformation, the human being can perceive karma (Akasha and participate in creating balance between karma and destiny.

### **Physical Body**

Gaseous, Liquid - that is, breath and blood are so transformed that they are capable of working into the solid aspect of the physical (mineral) body, to create something higher, a new organ.

Intuition begins now. Through uniting the World thoughts of the Magi with the warmth of soul of the Shepherds, the individual can become one with the free, self-active and potent creative force that exists in the depths of soul, to cast what the Freemasons call the Molten Sea, or to fashion what the Templars knew as the Holy Grail. In depths of worlds within, this marriage of Magi and Shepherd, Inspiration and Imagination, begets new life, the creation of a spiritual organ from out of redeemed mineral substance in the blood - The etheric Heart.

All of the above has been made possible by the being of Anthroposophia, who has entered into the human soul since Egypto-Chaldean times to

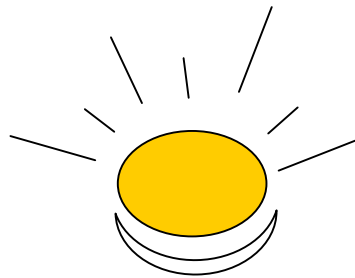
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<sup>121</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Etherisation of Blood – The Reappearance of Christ in the Etheric*



prepare it for the down pouring of Cosmic Intelligence in Spiritual Science. Spiritual Science made available to humanity through the collaboration of the two great Initiates Christian Rosenkreutz and Rudolf Steiner, provides a path for human beings to follow that enables the acquisition of the wisdom necessary to fashion the human soul into a microcosmic counterpart (Anthroposophia) of the macrocosmic Sun (Cosmic Sophia). This is, literally, the resurrection of the Sophia on earth through her emissary Anthroposophia, in the Heart-Sun of human beings.

In the same way that Christ brought down the power of the sun into the blood of Jesus of Nazareth (united Magi and Shepherd) and subsequently into the depths of the Earth (a result of the Fall and the forces of reproduction and karma - moon) through His sacrifice on Golgotha, so too must human beings unite the power of the sun, the inner substance of Christ, with what lies in the depths of the purified soul - the moon.



The etheric Heart *is* the Holy Grail, an inner Heart-Sun sustained by the redeemed sickle of the Thought-Moon (the Holy Spirit) which mediates the substance of the ego of Christ into the Sophian soul. Through this marriage, human etherised blood can become imprinted with His 'name' or ego, His Blood, which signifies a redemption of the dying process in the human breath and in the blood - 'In Christ Death becomes Life'<sup>122</sup>

We see this in the German word for I:

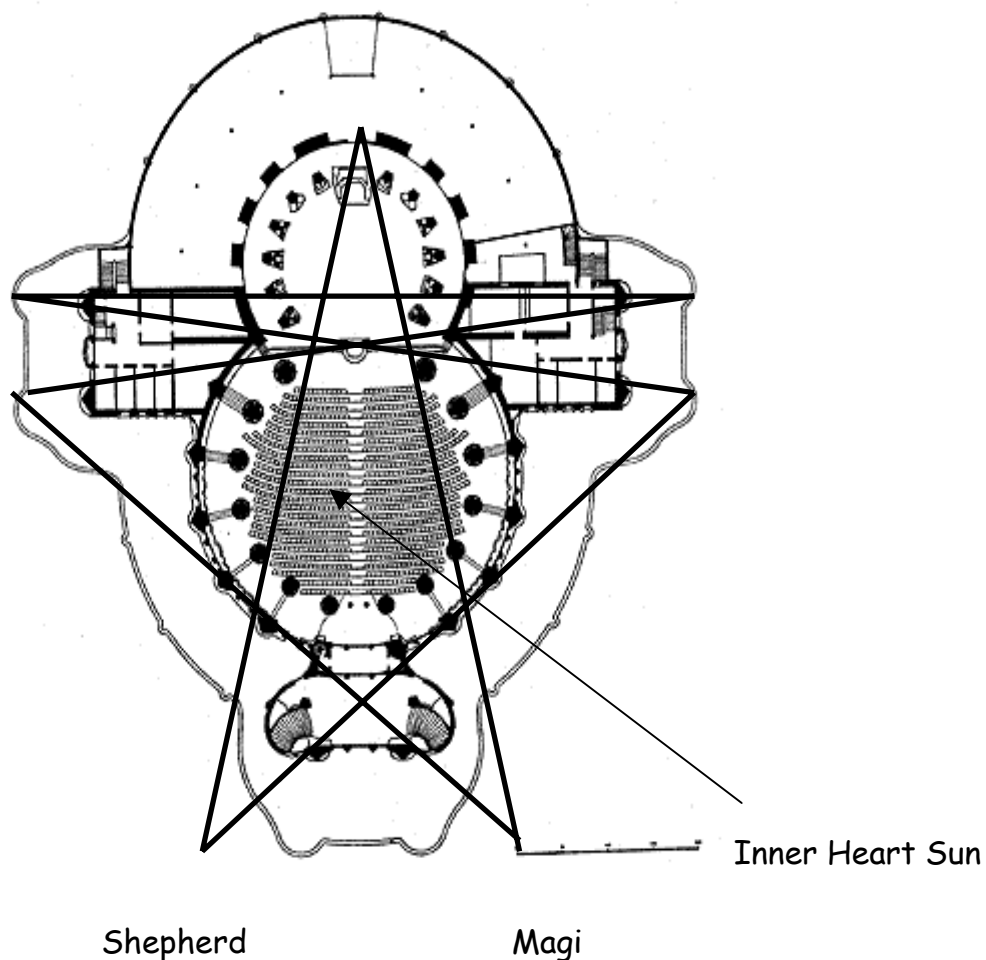
I - C - H

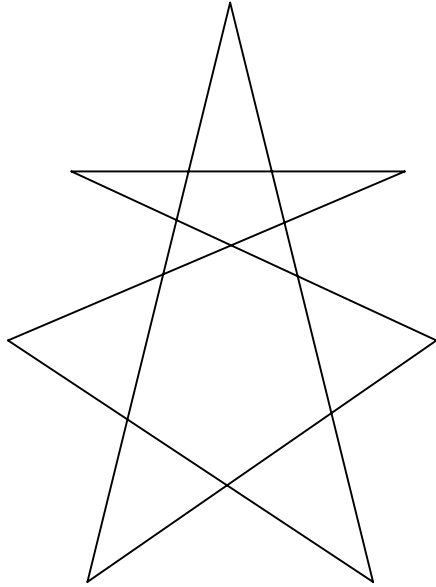
'I'-ness (ego) - Christo - Hertz (Heart)

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<sup>122</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Foundation Stone Meditation*

We also see this reflected in the plan of the first Goetheanum - which can be seen as an image of the future of the human heart. That is when the Ether body exemplified by the Pentagram unites with the astral body exemplified by the Hexagram. Then the seven will influence the twelve, that is, the etheric body will work creatively into the physical body, life will shape form.



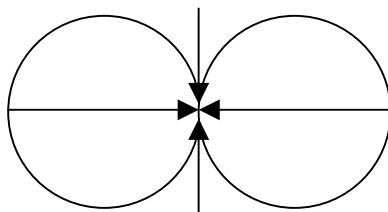


The sign of the Sun Spirit<sup>123</sup> or Christ is the Hexagram and Pentagram united. astral body imprinted on etheric body.

And what of the Templars? How did they picture the Holy Grail?

At Lockenhaus Castle there is an altar in an underground chapel. On this there are two carvings one above the other. The one below represents duality, two circles together Knight and Monk.

Duality



Shepherd

Magi

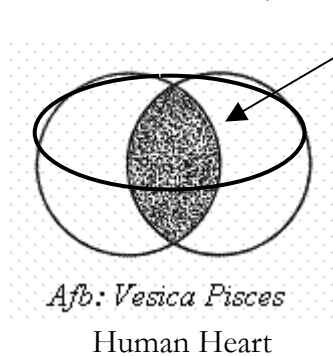
This creates a Templar cross and signifies the unification of duality that occurs within the soul. This is related to the Centripidal mysteries of the microcosm and the Isis Mysteries.

In the carving above there is a representation of a Vesica Pisces - or what is known in the mysteries as the bladder of the fish. It depicts the result of this unification of two: a bladder is formed, or a womb in which Christ is born. The shaded area in the diagram below, signifies the

<sup>123</sup> Rudolf Steiner *Lecture Berlin 27 April 1907*

creation of a fifth chamber in the human heart in which blue blood and red blood are united.

Within the four chambers a new chamber is created:  
The bladder or womb of the fish - Christ - related to  
the square root of 3 and the human heart



The Templars were the vanguards of the age of the Consciousness Soul

Anthroposophists are also vanguards of the future. We are vanguards of the age of the Spirit Self. As such we should now be working towards the achievement of the above faculties - which will only begin to enter into the sphere of possibility for the general population of human beings in the sixth and seventh cultural epochs of our present fifth post Atlantean epoch. This will be an inner preparation for what on Jupiter and Venus (incarnations of the Earth) will be an outer cosmic event.

In Jupiter the earth will unite once more with the Moon. At this time the purified soul which has become Sun-like (Anthroposophia - as a Microcosmic reflection of the Cosmic Sophia) will, through its inner forces, overcome the outer astrality of the Moon and will create on Venus the conditions necessary for the unification of the Earth and the outer Sun, the Cosmic Sophia. This is the apocalyptic image of the Sun woman who stands with the Moon at her feet.

### **How will this happen?**

Through the agency of human beings the being of Christ will unite with all earthly beings. This is true for the higher spiritual world as well, which shall unite with Christ after a long period of darkness in which His consciousness was extinguished through Materialistic thinking, feeling and willing. We work towards a time when, through human beings, consciousness of Christ shall arise in the realm of the astral World as a

Sun illuminating: first of all the realm of the Angels followed by Lower Devachan, the realm of the Archangels; and secondly the realm of degenerated Light Ether (Electricity) and Sound Ether (Magnetism) on earth.

This Light Divine, this Sun of Christ will be understood in the etheric sun-heart through the agency of Anthroposophia, the Wisdom of the Divine Sophia in the soul. This wisdom will warm our hearts and enlighten our heads so that we can direct our Will towards goodness.

This is what Rudolf Steiner calls the Isis, the Sophia of Christ, the Wisdom of Christ.

When human beings are able to achieve this lighting up of an inner Sun through the Wisdom of Christ in the purified Sophian substance of the soul - *Christosophy* - the wisdom of Christ will then pass into human souls and be united with the soul of the World.

We may now understand this poem better:

Brighter than the sun this lake,  
Boiling as a cauldron deep,  
And though no thing alive could stand  
This fiery furnace, molten hot,  
Perceval glimpsed creatures there,  
Most dark and dreadful to behold.  
Writhing beneath the seething surface,  
Flames of crimson; amber; gold  
Were things of wing and fang and talon,  
As though from the abyss had crawled.)  
But on the shore there stood a knight,  
Adorned in mantle, vestal white,  
A red cross on his chest emblazoned,  
A holy light around him shining,  
To Perceval this knight did turn,  
He raised his arm towards the lake,  
And in a stern, commanding tone  
Bade Perceval cast the treasures in.

Imagination  
Karma in Etheric body  
Moon substance  
Pollutes Sun substance  
Forces of Death

Lesser Guardian  
Moon Consciousness

<p>Perceval stood still as a stone,          His heart went cold, his fingers froze,          He felt he couldn't bear to throw          The precious treasures from his hands          Then the knight did speak once more          His voice an arrow driving deep;          We are brothers, Perceval,          Your Brethren would not lead you wrong.          All that is lost will be restored.          All that is dead will live again.          And Perceval, his faith returned,          Did lean and cast the treasures in.          The cross of bright, unalloyed gold          Yellow as the morning sun'          The candlestick of seven prongs          Of beaten silver, shimmering;          Last the crescent of hammered lead          Its rough-hewn surface shadow-dark.</p>	<p>}          }          }          }          }</p>	<p>Sacrifice          Dying Becoming</p> <p>Ordinary heart</p> <p>Etheric body</p> <p>Astral body/Crown Chakra</p>
<p>All at once there rose a song          From many voices joined as one.          Borne on a breeze, sweet and pure,</p>	<p>}</p>	<p>Inspiration/Holy Spirit in          the Self</p>
<p>They filled the sky like breading dawn.          Now the lake was fire no more          But tranquil blue of water clear,          And from it came a man of gold          With silver eyes and lead-black hair.          Perceval fell upon his knees          And wept and wept for utter joy          He raised his head and thrice aloud,          Hail to thee of Lord he cried.</p>	<p>}</p>	<p>Greater Guardian          Sun Consciousness          Etheric Christ          Christ in the Soul          Etheric Heart          Life</p>

Do we not see in this poem the meeting with the Lesser and Greater Guardians? Does the Lesser Guardian not lead us over the abyss of our own being, wherein we see in imaginative pictures what we are, the beasts and the karma that we must cast into the molten sea? Is this not our ordinary heart (gold) which forms a cross of Blue blood/Red blood; the warmth of our blood or the expression of our ego in the ether body which is related to silver and the number seven; and that which connects us

through our head organism or the shadowy dark images of thought related to the astral body and the crescent Moon; is this not also connected to the transformation into a higher consciousness exemplified by the crown Chakra - which is related to Lead.<sup>124</sup> Only after such a sacrifice do we hear the choirs of angels sing, that is, does grace or the Holy Spirit descend by way of Inspiration into the human being, and only after that do we come face to face with the Greater Guardian, the garment of the living Christ who images forth in the outer etheric world, what we must one day become in our inner etheric Heart.

So what is the answer to the Templar question put to the world in our times: 'Who will defend the Holy Temple, who will liberate the Sepulchre of the Lord?'

The answer must be: **'I will!'**

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<sup>124</sup> Rudolf Steiner *True and False Paths Lecture 3 Form and Substantiality of the Mineral Kingdom in Relation to the Levels of Consciousness in Man.*