

The Book of Revelations, The Holy Grail
An exploration of Karma, Soul Transformation and Modern Initiation.

A lecture given by Adriana Koulias
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What is Revelation?

Rudolf Steiner spoke time and time again about the Apocalypse from 1904-1924. In many different ways he recounts how the Apocalypse or Book of Revelations was written by Lazarus who was raised by Christ to become John the Evangelist the first and foremost Apostle of Christ - called by Christ Jesus the Beloved because of his initiation. John was the only Apostle to be at the foot of the Cross with the three Mary's and was addressed by Christ Jesus and told to take His mother into his house - that is to take the wisdom that he saw in the representative of the Divine Sophia on earth, the Mother of God, the Solomon Mary, into his own soul. For this reason he was able to write his Gospel and the Apocalypse or Book of Revelations, the book that contained the knowledge of the Christ being and his relationship to the Past, Present and Future of world evolution and human evolution, that is, the Karma of the individual and the World.

What is the Grail?

The Grail has been understood for centuries to have two meanings. In the mystery centers it was, on the one hand, the vessel used by priests during the act of Transubstantiation or Transformation and it was also the soul of the acolyte who underwent transformation by way of Initiation.

At the time of Christ it was also known as two things. It was Jesus who was the vessel for Christ and it was also the cup from which Christ Jesus drank at the last supper when he performed a priestly ritual in the presence of his followers. It is said that this cup collected His blood beneath the cross and that it was then taken by Joseph of Arimathea to Glastonbury.

In the mysteries the Grail as the soul or as a cup led to the one thing Revelation of the Gods - Alpha and Omega - beginning and end.

At the time of Christ as the grail as Jesus or as the cup that held the blood of Christ Jesus also led to one thing: Revelation of Christ, his beginnings or his Birth (Alpha) and his end or his death (Omega), which incidentally was a beginning in itself, hence, his dying and becoming.

Through Christ what had always occurred in a secretive way in the mysteries became 'Revealed' in the Body of Jesus for all men to see with their lower Egos because it happened on the physical plane. Later, a Revelation of Christ by John, his closest disciple, occurred on a higher plane and this is what we find in the Book of Revelations, a Revelation of Christ in the Higher Ego of John. This could only occur because John was initiated by Christ himself who was his 'priest' or Father. When he was Raised, that is, when he became conscious of the spirit he then took the Mother into his house, that is the Wisdom of Sophia which transformed him into a Grail, ready for the content of Revelation.

For this reason the Holy Grail or the Transformative process in the human being, that is, Initiation, goes hand in hand with Revelation of the spirit. One does not,

by and large, exist without the other. Rudolph Steiner even goes so far as to say that we must imagine the Holy Grail or the cup of the Holy Mass sitting on top of the Book of Revelations, because without transformation one does not 'see'.

Our task tonight is to make a small attempt at understanding this and in order to do so we have to go back to the time of the Ancient Mysteries, so that we can understand what Transformation and Revelation mean to each other.

The Mysteries - Physical, Etheric, Astral:

Ancient Mysteries: Physical.

In the Ancient Mysteries the Gods descended to priests at their altars and they associated, as Rudolf Steiner says, 'Face to Face'. The Act of Transubstantiation was the result of the communion of Man with the Gods, the knowledge that was gained was a Revelation of the Gods to man. The God 'Revealed' was the knowledge itself.

How did this happen?

The Gods sent down their forces during the 'Holy Times', and through Astrology, the priests could know what these times were. A remnant of these Holy times are what we call our 'Holidays'. At these 'dead' times the priests sought to preserve the forces of the Gods, of sun and moon that had entered the earth and transformed it. In order to do this the priest took himself to a cave and in the cave he experienced a refined 'breathing in' of the forces of the Gods, which had transformed the Silica in the cave. The Silica was like a vessel for the intentions, of the will of the Gods and the priests became one with these intentions. The priest then united these intentions with the earth through their physical bodies. The priests breathed these will forces into their very limbs and outwards. This was an inner 'Communion' a Meal with the Gods, the taking in of the will of the Gods into their own vessels and the 'Breathing out' of this will to the living earth through the will of the priests, through the limbs.

The Priest who achieved this level of communion with the Father Gods was called 'The Father' or Saturn Initiate, who could experience the Alpha and the Omega; the beginning and the end. That is, the taking in and the giving away.

Semi Ancient Mysteries: Etheric Body.

In the Semi Ancient Mysteries Temples were no longer under the ground but above in the open air and Gods no longer descended to the earth into the Silica but continued in a more aloof way to send their forces down into the fluid substance of the earth: Water outwardly and inwardly into the Etheric body the fluid element in the human being. The secret was now sought not in the earth transformed by way of Sun and Moon but in the leavening agent; that is, in the substance of growth, in everything that sprouts and grows and decays and becomes seed again, and does so through the fluid element. These substances were placed inside vessels made of Quartz Crystals and the forces of the gods in them sent forth a sun radiance. Interestingly Christ Jesus speaks of the

leaven many times in the New Testament. In many different ways he alludes to the leaven of the priests, he says it won't make good bread but that His leaven will feed them. He spoke in this way because the time of the Hebrew priests was essentially over and He, Christ Jesus, had brought to earth a new priesthood.

At any rate, the quartz vessel containing the little sun, or sun forces, which was later transformed into the Catholic Monstrance, was seen by the priests of those earlier times as an organ of perception, the organ of perception for Apocalypse or Revelation of the substances transformed by the forces of the Gods in the fluid element. A priest united his Etheric body with the forces in these transformed substances and because of this he was able to see the sun radiance in the substances. In these mysteries a priest only became a priest when he could see this radiance, which indicated he had united his Etheric or mercurial element with the Etheric or mercurial element of the Gods.

These mysteries were those mysteries of the Baptism and the consecrated water and of ablutions. They were related to the 'Dying and Becoming' of everything in the world, nature and man. This gave the priest an experience of eternal in the music of the Spheres, the feelings of the gods in the rhythm of his heart, which died and was born again with every heartbeat.

Those who could experience this were Sun/Son Priests, Initiates who could experience the beginning the middle and the end. The Alpha and Omega in the universal Cosmic Word.

Semi-New Mysteries: Astral Body.

In the Semi -new mysteries things were different. In the Ancient Mysteries the Gods and their forces were observed through the element of the earth, in the Semi Ancient Mysteries only the forces of the gods were present in water element of the transformed substances, but in the semi-new mysteries the priests were able to perceive only through the airy element, that is, what could be seen through the awakening of the Word in the human soul itself.

What do I mean by this?

The cultus or ritual now included cultic speech or prayer. The intonation of prayer or the magical word, the cultic word, in a holy place was the first ascent from the human being to the gods. At Samothrace the substances in the vessels were not leavening agents that transformed the substances but the inner spiritual nature of the substance itself. When the substance was set alight its inner nature was released in the smoke which rose upwards. Into the smoke the priest he would intone the words. He would then see the patterns or shapes his breath had made visible, outwardly. He could see that what he was able to allow to stream into the smoke, the word of the gods, had been transformed in him by his own effort and that this upwards sacrifice back to the gods allowed the gods to stream into the smoke and reveal themselves through the Astral Element. This was an Imagination of the Gods. The priest saw how the Word of Gods that was living in him allowed the thoughts of the gods to Reveal themselves to him.

These were the Moon/Holy Spirit Priests.

In the first two stages man experiences revelation from the outside in and in the third stage the priest experiences Revelation for the first time from the inside out. This is an important point.

However the spiritual truths behind all of the above became gradually forgotten and by the time of the *Mystery of Golgotha* the priestly role had reached its lowest ebb, hence as I mentioned above, Christ Jesus' many polemics against the priests of his day.

New Mysteries, Soul and Spirit:

During the last supper, Christ Jesus explained to his disciples the new mystery of the Transubstantiation of Bread and wine into the substance of the spirit of a God who for the first time had descended into the soul and body of man Jesus and had transformed him.

He said look at the Bread you eat after I die the earth will become my body, and the wheat that comes from the earth is also a part of me so when you eat it remember that I have transformed the earth for you and you can transform your soul in order to see me again. Look at this wine, this wine is of the vine when I die the vine too will be a part of me and so when you drink it, remember that what comes from the earth has been transformed by the Blood I will shed for you, the blood that will transform the earth.

After that beneath the Cross it became a reality when the blood of Christ in Jesus the human Grail, entered the earth and the vessel of the Last Supper beneath the cross, and later when the body itself was taken by the earth through the earthquake which struck Jerusalem.

Here we have three Grails:

Jesus of Nazareth as a Grail

The Cup of the Last Supper as a Grail

The Earth as a Grail.

From the ritual of the last supper Christians developed the ritual of the Holy mass. It was meant to be a reminder of what human beings would only be capable of understanding much later, when they had developed a consciousness that could know how this transubstantiation happens in the will and metabolism, in the feelings and heart and in the breathing in and out - in the thinking life at every moment. In fact the High Mass was not celebrated before Acolytes but only before initiates because in it was given a Revelation of the evolution of the world and the karma of the human being who, returns again and again at each stage, in order to transform him or herself. In time this too was forgotten and the high mass was celebrated before even the laity.

Human beings were passing through a time of darkness, the intellect had to be born so that a new fully conscious initiation could arise out of the ashes of the old, but the down side was that this intellect brought with it the darkness of materialism. Human beings could no longer understand transubstantiation and soul transformation and we see this reflected in the various church councils that tried to deal with the problem. This meant that Revelation was not understood either, because men had completely lost the ability to see or to remember what others had once seen for themselves. Without Transformation and Initiation there can be no knowledge of Revelation. For this reason the knowledge of Karma disappeared from the Bible.

In recent times with the passing of the Kaliyuga or age of darkness it is possible again for human beings to rise up from the intellect to consciousness and to become Initiated. This initiation as all others in the past leads to Revelation but it is very different.

John the Divine, Apostle of Christ Jesus, was the vanguard of this initiation. He was the beloved of Christ and he was able to absorb the content of the Revelation of Christ, not merely in his Physical body or limbs like the priests of the Ancient Mysteries, or his Etheric body or blood like the priests of the Semi-ancient mysteries, or his Astral body or breath like the priest in the semi-new mysteries, but in his very Ego, in his I itself. This required a different initiation, one that was conducted by Christ himself. John was made a priest a Presbyter, by Christ and it was for this reason that he was able to unite his I with Christ in a communion that enabled him to be filled with the content of the Revelation of Christ completely Consciously. This enabled him to see how in the Past - in the beginning - was the Word of Christ, and how His word, Alpha, was with the Father Gods, and how this Word became flesh and walked with men and how this Word became the Light and life of men and would be so until the end of time - Omega. He could do this because at the foot of the cross he had firstly united with the Wisdom of the Divine Sophia.

In fact beneath the cross his Ego was supported from below by the three Mary's each representing one aspect of the past priestly initiations now renewed in the soul:

Magdalene - the Sentient Soul - Etheric through the *Astral* Renewal of Semi-new Mysteries in the soul.

Mary of Cleophas - The intellectual Soul - Astral through the *Etheric* Renewal of Semi-Ancient Mysteries in the soul

Mary Mother of God - The Consciousness Soul - Physical body through *Etheric and Astral* Renewal of Ancient Mysteries in the soul.

And he was supported from above by those who represented future initiations in the spirit:

John the Baptist - Manas - Spirit in the Astral Body - that is Spirit Self in the Astral body.

Zarathustra - Budhi - Spirit Self in the Etheric Body - that is Life Spirit in the Etheric Body.

Abraham - Atma - Budhi in the Physical body that is Spirit Man in the Physical Body.

Because of the above John was transformed as a human being way ahead of time and this meant in his breath blood and body he was a Grail, a transformed human being who could be filled with the content of: the Karma of the world; and of human beings and what he 'saw' he wrote down in a book his Apocalypse or Book of Revelation.

He saw Revelation not with his body or with his soul but with his Ego, or spirit.

When Rudolf Steiner gave 'Occult Science' to the world, he was able to do this through his connection with St John the Divine, the same individual whom we know later became Christian Rosencreutz. Christian Rosencreutz experienced another initiation in the 13th century which made him capable of Christianizing all the wisdom of the world and this transformed content of Apocalypse or Revelation of world evolution and man's place in it he inspired Rudolf Steiner, to give in a Scientific way, as a Science of the Grail.

When Rudolf Steiner himself gave 'Knowledge of Higher Worlds', this was a guide book to Self Transformation, or 'Spiritual Alchemy'. It was the way to the transubstantiation of the soul so that it might be fashioned into a Grail for the spirit filled with the content of Revelation in the human I or Ego.

Occult Science - Revelation - Macrocosm
Knowledge of Higher Worlds - Grail - Microcosm

Renewal of the Mysteries:

All of knowledge of Higher Worlds and Occult Science can be rediscovered in the Foundation Stone Meditation. All the content of Past initiations and how they can be renewed and transformed in the body soul and spirit of the human being to create the possibility for this new experience of Revelation can be found in it: The Father God, the Son God and the Holy Spirit God; the evolution of the world in Saturn, Sun Moon and Earth; the hierarchies of angels. All of this in relation to: the limbs, heart/lungs, nervous system of the physical body; the thinking, feeling and willing in the soul; and the Manas, Budhi and Atma which are purely spiritual. In other words - Macrocosm and Microcosm.

Those who meditate practically, sound out and body forth this meditation will eventually, as karma permits, if not in this life in the next, be capable of transforming body and soul to experience a 'Revelation' in the spirit. Rudolf Steiner says 'There are as many Revelations as there are human I's devoted to god'. (The Book of Revelation and the Work of the Priest page 35).

The soul prepares itself to be the vessel for the 'I', which is filled with the content of the Holy Spirit of Revelation by working on self-transformation or Transubstantiation. Then, when little by little we absorb the content of revelation or Imagination, this imagination more and more fashions the eye of the spirit in us, or the vessel of the higher I. After that, when through our own work we bring the content of our higher I forth again into the world as a sacrifice to the spiritual world, this means Revelation is Multiplied and instead of the gods 'feeding us' we feed the gods with the content of our Revelation as a reverse cultus.

Revelation or Apocalypse is therefore the Vision of Karma - Alpha and Omega - Past, Present and Future, through Self Transformation of the soul or the Holy Grail - Initiation. That is how the Grail or Holy transformation of the soul leads to Revelation of the karma of human beings and the world.

But in our times the dragon seeks to snatch away this new clairvoyance, this new initiation and seeks to devour the mystery of Apocalypse. The Woman with the sun in her belly and the moon at her feet ready to give birth to the child is a picture of this.

When we become our own priests we are capable of transforming this evil, which is really in ourselves, to good. For this reason next time we meet I would like to talk about the three great mysteries of the Apocalypse:

The Michael Mystery
The Mystery of the Etheric Christ
The Mystery of 666 the Antichrist

Until then, I will leave you with some words by Rudolf Steiner:

'If you take the impulses of the Book of Revelations into your work, as priests, in a truly spiritual sense, then you are the ones, dear friends, about whom the Book of Revelation has been speaking as being the ones who come to turn aside the might of the Beast, of the False Prophet, of Satan.' (The Book of Revelations and the Work of the Priest page 258).

May it be so.

Thank you and Goodnight.

The Foundation Stone Meditation

Soul of man,
Thou livest in the limbs
That bear thee through the world of space
Into the ocean being of the Spirit
Practice *Spirit-recollection*
In depths of soul
Wherein the wielding
World creator life
Thine own I comes to being
Within the I of God
Then, in the all-world -being of man
Thou wilt truly *live*.

For the Father-Spirit of the Heights holds sway
In the Depths of Worlds begetting life
Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones!
Let there ring out in the heights
What in the depths is echoed,
Speaking:
Ex Deo Nascimur.
The elementals hear it
In the East and West and North and South
May human beings hear it!

Soul of Man!
Thou livest in the beat of Heart and Lung
Which leads thee through the rhythmic tides of time
Into the feeling of thine own Soul being,
Practice *Spirit-mindfulness*
In depths of soul,
Wherein the surging

Deeds of the Worlds Becoming
Thine own I unites
Unto the I of the world
Then 'mid the weaving of the soul in man
Thou wilt truly *feel*.

For the Christ will in the encircling round holds sway
In the rhythms of worlds blessing the soul
Kyriotetes, Dynamis, Exusiai,
Let there be fired in the East,
What in the West is formed
Speaking:
In Christo Morimur
The Elementals hear it, in the East and West and North and South
May human beings hear it!

Soul of Man!
Thou livest in the resting head
Which from the ground of the Eternal
Opens to thee the thoughts of worlds
Practice *Spirit-vision*
In quietness of Thought,
Where the eternal aims of Gods
World-being's light
Upon thine own I unite
For thy free willing.
Then from the ground of the Spirit in Man
Thou wilt truly *think*

For the Spirits Universal Thoughts hold sway
In the beings of all worlds craving for light.
Archai, Archangeloi, Angeloi!
Let there be prayed in the depths,
What in the height is answered,
Speaking:
Per Spiritum, Sanctum, Reviviscimus
The Elemental Spirits hear it,
In the East and West and North and South,
May human beings hear it!

At the turning point in Time
The Spirit Light of the World
Entered into the sphere of Earthly being
Darkness of night had held sway;
Day-radiant Light
Poured into the souls of men:
Light that warms simple Shepherd's Hearts
Light that enlightens the Wise Heads of kings

Oh light divine,
Oh sun of Christ!
Warm thou our Hearts,
Enlighten Thou our Heads,
That good may become,
What from our hearts we would found,
And from our heads direct
In conscious, light filled, willing.