

Anthroposophia
And the
Mystery of the Human Heart

Two Lectures given by
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In the forthcoming lectures we will be exploring the deep mysteries of the human heart and it will be our intention to journey towards understanding how the Being of Anthroposophia has mediated and continues to mediate the Divine Cosmic Wisdom into human souls in order that this wisdom might fashion a new Etheric Organ of Imaginative and Inspirative Cognition.

This journey will be undertaken in two parts.

Part 1

We will recap on what we know concerning the being of Anthroposophia and her relationship to Christ. We will explore the two mystery streams in human evolution that have been responsible for disseminating the Divine Cosmic wisdom. We will explore how the two great initiates; Christian Rosenkreutz and Rudolf Steiner, have come 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 see how it is only through this unification that the human being can fashion the human soul and, as a result, a new soul organ, the Etheric Heart, a 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 more I must remind us of the words of our great teacher Rudolf Steiner concerning the study of Anthroposophy. He told us that we must 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. 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 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.

To begin with we will recite the last panel of the Foundation Stone Meditation, whose meaning, by the end of our time together, will hopefully become clear to us:

At the Turning point of Time
The Spirit-Light of the World
Entered the Stream of Earthly Being.
Darkness of Night
Had held sway;
Day-radiant Light
Poured in the souls of men;
Light that gives Warmth
To simple Shepherds Hearts
Light that enlightens
The Wise Head of Kings (Magi)

O Light Divine
O Sun of Christ
Warm thou
Our Hearts
Enlighten Thou
Our Heads,
That good may become
What from our Hearts would found
And from our Heads direct
In Conscious Light-filled
Willing

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.

We shall start as always with our first question:

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 1913.¹ 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 lecture² he told us that Anthroposophia is a human being that has a destiny.

This morning 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. For the benefit of those not familiar with this mystery we will commence our exploration at the beginning.

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 paradisaal, Etheric forces (Chemical Ether and Life Ether). Rudolf Steiner tells us that like the human being the Nathan Soul had passed through the four planetary stages of Saturn, Sun, Moon and 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 into matter, and protected in the Mother Lodge of Humanity - in the Sun lodge, or the sphere of the Sun.³ Similarly, another being

¹ Rudolf Steiner The Being of Anthroposophia Berlin, February 3 1913

² Rudolf Steiner The Anthroposophic Movement Lecture Seven Dornach 16 June 1923

³ Rudolf Steiner Lecture 30 December 1913 in relation to the Paradisaal soul of Eve or the heavenly Eve see Sergej O Prokofieff Heavenly Sophia and the Being of Anthroposophia page 246

was separated out from the Earthly Eve, and can be called the Heavenly Eve, or the heavenly twin of the Nathan Soul.⁴

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

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

Rudolf Steiner connects the Nathan Soul with the Archangels.⁵ This is because the Nathan Soul's pre-fall Etheric body is of like-substance to the Life Spirit (spiritualised Etheric body/Buddhi), which is only acquired in its cosmic fullness by the Archangels.⁶ 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 firstly into the sphere of the stars, from the Sphere of the Stars to the sphere of the Planets and then to the sphere of the Moon. In order to follow Christ in his sacrificial descent the Nathan Soul had to sacrifice his Archangelic nature and also his Angelic nature⁷ when he incarnated into the physical body of 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 laws⁸ - and also a similar destiny.

⁴ See present author's lecture Earthly Eve and Heavenly Eve and their connection to the Mystery of Isis, Mary, Sophia

⁵ Rudolf Steiner – *The Four Sacrifices of Christ*

⁶ Sergej O Prokofieff – *The Cycle of the Year as a Path of Initiation* page 46

⁷ Rudolf Steiner Lecture December 30th 1913

⁸ '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

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 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 sacrificing her Angelic nature in order to become a human being.

And in the same way that the Archangel Michael participated in the macrocosmic sacrifices of the Nathan soul, in bearing the Sun Being of Christ, 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. The difference being that the Heavenly Eve's

descent did not so much occur in the macrocosm, it was 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.⁹ This substance of the Heavenly Sophia is the composite Wisdom, or the creative world thoughts pertaining to the entire significance of the Being of Christ and His deeds for the whole of earthly evolution, past, present and future. This 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 from the time of the Mystery of Golgotha.¹⁰

Two preparatory steps were needed before this 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, which ended in Lucifer tempting the human ego into the Astral body - known in Biblical terms as 'The Fall'. This casting out of Lucifer was important, since it was to be through this Luciferic temptation that human beings were able to acquire freedom, through a differentiation into sexes and the creation of the human brain and spinal cord. The mighty being of Michael knew this was important since the brain was needed if human beings were to develop that independent faculty of logical thinking necessary for understanding the 'Cosmic Intelligence' since this

⁹ Sergej O Prokofieff - Heavenly Sophia and the Being of Anthroposophia page 77

¹⁰ Rudolf Steiner - The Archangel Michael

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 entailed the descent of the Heavenly Eve to Earth. Her task was to carry the Wisdom into the human soul that would enable the human being to transform the Astral body (thinking feeling and will) and so develop the human faculties capable of *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 create a soul chalice (Grail) into which the Archangel Michael could pour the Cosmic 'Memory' of Christ. We can say, therefore, that the Heavenly Eve is like a beacon that lights up the pathway or bridge in the human soul that connects the memory or Intelligence of Christ to the experience or union with him.

Having said this she was responsible not only for creating this soul vessel or Holy Grail from the transformed Astral body of human beings, but also responsible 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 Mazda, the great Sun being.¹¹ This was a reflection of the first Sacrifice of Christ, when he entered the sphere of the stars that related, microcosmically, to the human Astral body.

Egypto-Chaldean Times

She 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 Spheres¹² with understanding, that is, to that sphere in which the Christ or the Cosmic 'Word' could (due to the second sacrifice of Christ) now be found - 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 particular the Sentient Soul¹³ of human beings, carrying with her the forces of the Divine Sophia. This unification of the human Sentient Soul with the forces of the Divine Sophia created the Heavenly Eve's Physical, Etheric and Astral sheaths. At the same time this unification stimulated forces in the soul that were capable of knowing God - this is the beginning of the Gnosis we spoke of earlier. This understanding full of feeling/reverence formed 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'.¹⁴

Greco Roman Times

¹¹ Rudolf Steiner, *The Gift of Isis Berlin February 5 1913*

¹² *ibid*

¹³ Sergej O Prokofieff, *Heavenly Sophia and the Being of Anthropsophia* page 94.

¹⁴ Rudolf Steiner, *Perception of the Nature of Thought* 10th January 1915

When the Heavenly Eve, the mediator of the being of the Cosmic Sophia, passed through the human Intellect in Greco Roman times, she was born for the first time as an Ego bearing human being (Luke Mary) and was able to fashion her own Sentient, Intellectual and Consciousness Souls, she also created the potential in human beings for the development of their Intellectual Soul and part of their Consciousness Soul. This development enabled the human being to understand the world and this wisdom was made objective and known as 'Philo-Sophia'.

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. Her task in the Consciousness soul has been to inspire human beings to acquire a conscious wisdom through a unification of will with feeling and thinking, thereby bringing to fulfilment the perfection of the entire Astral body, that is, transforming it into the body of a Virgin Sophia, a purified vessel, a Holy Grail for the inoculation of the Holy Spirit individualised - the Spirit Self.

This passing of the Cosmic Sophian Wisdom through the Consciousness Soul was seen objectively and introduced to the world through the work of Christian Rosenkretz and Rudolf Steiner. The Ego of this being incarnated during the Christmas Conference into the physical and soul sheaths of the Anthroposophical Society and is seen by human beings 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.

As before, this has meant a progression for the being of Anthroposophia, she began to make her ascent from Human being to Angel.

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.¹⁵ When 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 6th day of creation from the inoculation of Eve with the male forces of the 6 Elohim on the Sun - a form of asexual reproduction.¹⁶ 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 7th Jehova/Elohim on the Moon.

Cain = Sun - Elohim

Abel = Moon - 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 two polarities.¹⁷ 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.

¹⁵ Sergej O Prokofieff *May Human Beings Hear it the Mystery of the Christmas Conference*, page 315

¹⁶ See Author's lecture, *Heavenly Eve and Earthly Eve and their connection to the Mystery of Mary*, Isis, Sophia

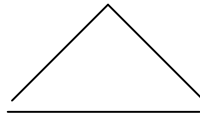
¹⁷ Sergej O Prokofieff, *Encounters with Evil*, page 112-111

Intensification

Synthesis

Polarisation

Thesis



Antithesis

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. 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.¹⁸ 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 substances and the plants.¹⁹ This knowledge was acquired through the faculty of perception (Astral body) made possible by the brain and nervous system²⁰ and is the result of the entrance of the Male individualising force of the Ego, the force of plurality,²¹ that is, Sun forces. And we can see therefore, the connection with the Greeks and Pagans. Plato reached up to the heights with his philosophy, or love,

¹⁸ Sergej O Prokofieff, *Encounters with Evil*, page 110, Rudolf Steiner, *The Search for the new Isis the Divine Sophia*, lecture III

¹⁹ Rudolf Steiner Dornach December 25, 1920

²⁰ Rudolf Steiner, *lecture*, June 13, 1916 see also Rudolf Steiner *The Search for a New Isis the Divine Sophia*, lecture III

²¹ Rudolf Steiner, *Mission of the Folk Souls*, page 83

of wisdom, in order to experience the archetypal forms of the universe. He was thus one representative of this stream.

Since the time of the Mystery of Golgotha this stream has become known as the stream of the Magi (maeji).

This stream sought to use the wisdom it acquired by rising up to the Cosmos, to use the fire of enthusiasm to transform or shape matter into a substance compatible with Spirit. Hiram Abiff, who was related to Tubal Cain, was the builder of the Temple of Solomon and belongs to this stream.

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 Mazdao 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.²²

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.²³

²² Rudolf Steiner, *The Search for the new Isis the Divine Sophia*, Lecture III

²³ Sergei O Prokofieff - *May Human Beings Hear it - The esoteric Archetype of the Original Council*.

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

During the Greco Roman Epoch, 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 capable of Imaginative Cognition, a higher vision of the 'Gold Star' in their souls. This vision was the reflection in the soul, of the light²⁴ 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 prepare the Physical and Soul sheaths of the Nathan 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 was alight 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.

To redeem this through the power of the Ego is the renewed task of the Magi.

The Southern Stream The Stream of the Depths:

²⁴ Rudolf Steiner Dornach December 25, 1920

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, the microcosm, to gain an understanding of spiritual worlds.

When the initiates of this stream descended into the soul they had an experience of the inner will forces, and by way of these, to the forces of the Earth's depths. The initiate of this stream reached the spiritual world from the other side, through the earth, that is, from above downwards.²⁵ 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 - these are but a few examples. The initiates of this stream penetrated through the 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.²⁶ 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 look more to the future.²⁷ We could also call this the stream of unity. This stream has that feminine aspect of consciousness, which 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 Aristotle²⁸ who, as an archetype of the future, could, through an exact scientific outlook, enter into the details, into

²⁵ ibid

²⁶ Rudolf Steiner Lecture Dornach December 25 1920

²⁷ Rudolf Steiner *The Two Christmas Annunciations, January 1st 1921*

²⁸ Sergei O Prokofieff, *The Heavenly Sophia and the Being of Anthroposophia* page 168-169

the depths of the will forces behind the workings of the human soul and animal life.²⁹

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 in the case of 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.³⁰

Buddha's initiation entailed sitting beneath a Bodhi-tree, which is the Astral inner image of the nervous system,³¹ the brain and the cerebellum.³² In a meditation lasting several days he saw what exists below his purified Astral body. He penetrated to the inner life - to his bodily inner life (his organs), his Etheric body. The Etheric body, or body of time, was projected or 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 became moral will, or conscience (consciousness of will impulses). 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 Nathan soul. We can see how the southern stream of Buddha has its links with the Shepherd stream, which is depicted in the Luke gospel and the Luke Jesus. The conscience, or inner morality experienced by

²⁹ Rudolf Steiner *ibid*

³⁰ Rudolf Steiner, *East in Light of the West, Christ and the Bodhisattvas*

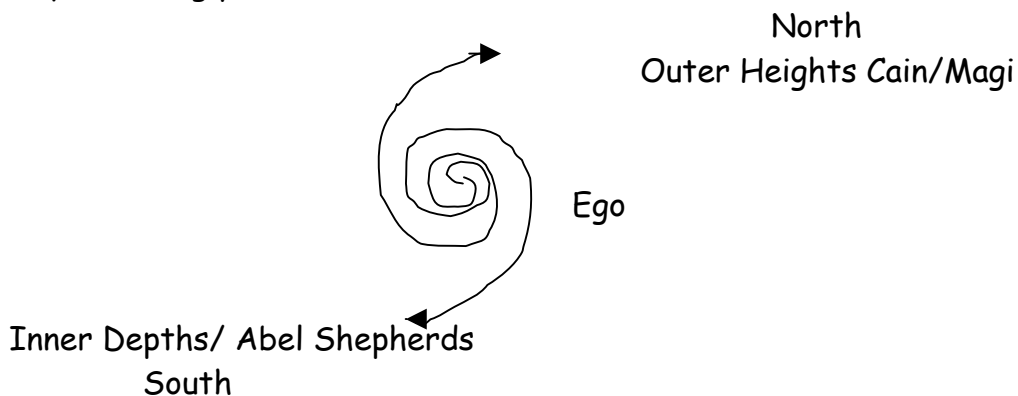
³¹ Rudolf Steiner *The Gospel of St John Third Lecture*

³² Rudolf Steiner *Foundations of Esotericism XII*

the Shepherds in the field, exemplifies the Hebrew people's connection to this stream. The Hebrew people, through such inner initiations were able, through reaching back into former incarnations, to strengthen themselves in such a way as to be able to see into the future - prophecy.³³

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, a moral law that is 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.



³³ Rudolf Steiner *Lecture Dornach 25 December 1920*

We can say therefore:

Northern Stream: Sophia > Anthroposophia > Zarathustra

Southern Stream: Sophia > Anthroposophia > 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 and the Jesus of the Luke Gospel 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 to enable the lighting up of living spirit consciousness in the purified Astral body, that through the agency of the Holy Spirit will unite the human being with the Christ Being.

Rudolf Steiner tells us,³⁴ 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) will in future times be transformed to become the forces of Imagination 'Vision' and Inspiration 'Communication or understanding' in the soul of all human beings. And in our times, with the beginning of Michael's reign in our epoch, he allies himself with this task of unification.

In our times, there are two human initiates who are representatives of this stream and work on behalf of this unification. These two high initiates are thus the servants of the Sophia, Michael and the being of Anthroposophia her emissary. They come together to unite both paths

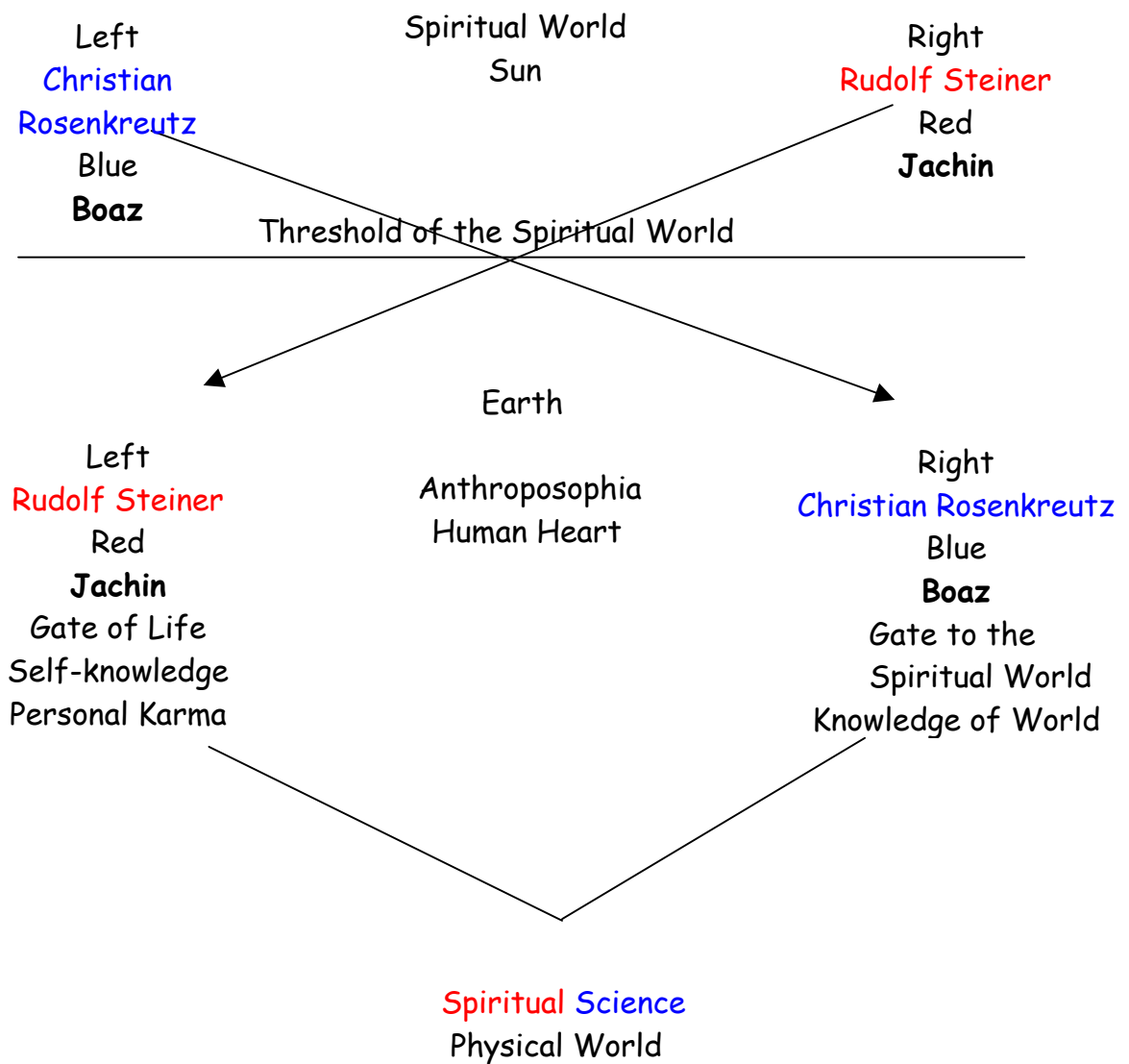
³⁴ Rudolf Steiner *Christmas Lectures*, 1920, Dornach

into one path of spiritual development - *Spiritual Science*. These two initiates are Christian Rosenkreutz and Rudolf Steiner:

The Servants of the Divine Sophia and of Michael:

Rudolf Steiner once characterized his relationship to Christian Rosenkreutz thus:

Think of a supersensible altar in the spiritual world. Beside it on the left stands Christian Rosenkreutz wearing a blue stole, on the right stands Rudolf Steiner wearing a red stole.



This 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). 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. We can understand the reversal in the above diagram, when we take this into consideration. 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. We can also see here a connection with the human heart where:

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

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

We can see how the Temple of Solomon is a representation of the human heart as an earthly Temple.

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 to come together in the one human being.

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 that are not connected to sensory objects³⁵, higher thoughts. This is the *shadow image* of divinity, the manifestation of divinity.³⁶

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 that are akin to tones, as higher feelings. This is divine guidance that comes from the *Soul reality of Divinity*, from the being itself.³⁷

Imaginative Cognition = shadow image or manifestation of divinity

Whereas:

Inspirative Cognition = soul reality of divinity

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

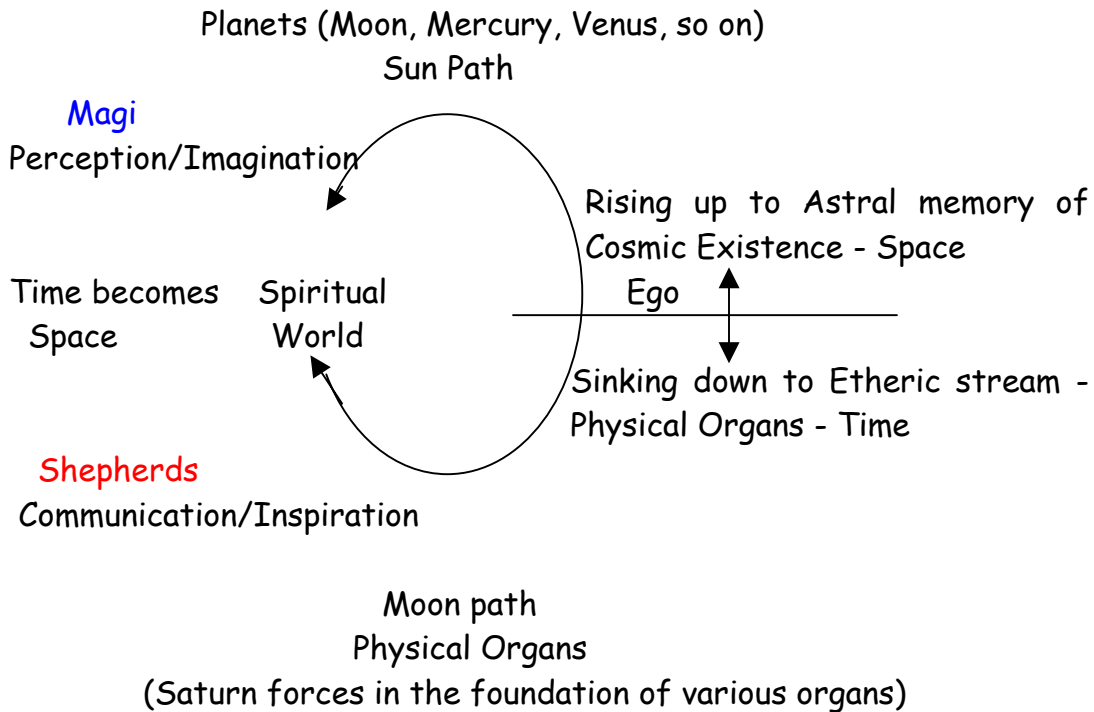
In the past, the two streams worked differently. They came from different directions as we heard in our previous lecture, and through

³⁵ Rudolf Steiner *Stages of Higher Knowledge* GA 012

³⁶ Rudolf Steiner, *The Reappearance of Christ in the Etheric, Lecture IX – The Etherization of Blood.*

³⁷ Rudolf Steiner, *Stages of Higher Knowledge, Imagination, GA 012*

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 into the depths of the soul to karmic experiences that form a gateway to 'Understanding', or hearing. Both streams met in the Sun Sphere.



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 'seen' in the outer world by the Magi has now turned inward and has become an inward perception through the faculty of thought - Mathematics³⁸.
- The Wisdom experienced inwardly in the soul of the Shepherd, has turned outward to become an understanding through the senses, a perception of the material world of nature - Science.³⁹

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

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

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

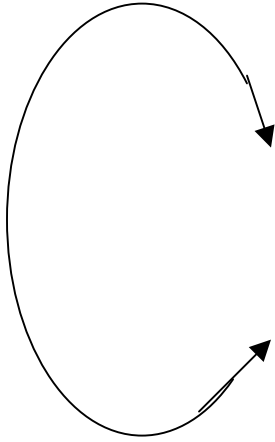
The old Magi must become new Shepherds and in so doing they bring the heights into the depths - thoughts are fructified by feelings and strengthened by will in order to be freed from the corporeal nature, from the brain. In this way the modern Shepherd traces out the whole cosmos in the realm of spirit and soul.⁴⁰ The new Shepherd permeates the picture of the cosmos (Cosmic Image) that lived in the soul previously as *Imaginations* with the warmth of the heart and fire of the will in the soul to ennoble Mathematics.

The Shepherds must become Magi and in so doing they bring the depths to the heights - that is, the fire of love and the impulses of goodness that had once existed in the old Shepherd as *Inspirations* now combine with the light of thought in the modern Magi. This combination of will feeling and thought creates the possibility for a perception of what exists behind nature and this ennobles Natural Science.

³⁸ Rudolf Steiner, Lecture, *The Two Christmas Annunciations January 1st 1921*

³⁹ Rudolf Steiner *The Search for the New Isis*

⁴⁰ Rudolf Steiner *Lecture Bern, December 14 1920*

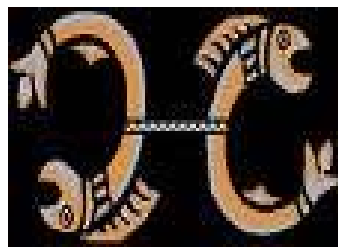


Thought (Light) + Feeling and Will (Warmth)
 New **Shepherd** Descends into the human soul
 Inspiration is added to Imaginations

Initiation = Imagination + Inspiration - Time
 becomes Space

Will and Feeling (Warmth) + Thought (Light)
 New **Magi** Ascend into the soul of the world
 Imagination added to Inspiration

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



Shepherd

Magi

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.*

This work of ennobling 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 Rosenkreutz

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

Christian Rosenkreutz 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 of the purified Astral body, the forces that were compatible with those which had made Christ's Astral body capable of being a vessel for the Holy Spirit. This was the Virgin Mother. He did this as an archetype for all humanity.⁴¹

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 it was in the middle of the thirteenth century (1254) when he became the first human being to receive into

⁴¹ 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.

his purified Astral body, that is, into the Virginal Sophian substance of his soul, through the activity of the Holy Spirit that had become individualized as Spirit Self, an imprint of the Ego of Christ.⁴² This was achieved through 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. He reached this sphere by way of his purified Etheric body and the down-pouring forces of the Son (Buddhi) individualized 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 was the substance of Christian initiation, which had been gained 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).⁴³

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

Christian Rosenkreutz had to rise up into the Cosmos in order to bring down into his soul a Cosmic Image that he would later give to selected

⁴² Rudolf Steiner lecture Hamburg May 1908 The Nature of the Virgin Sophia and the Holy Spirit.

⁴³ *Rudolf Steiner Rosicrucianism and Modern Initiation* Dornach 5th January 1924

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 Abraham⁴⁴ we can see a wonderful connection to this stream and the stream of the old Hebrew prophets discussed in the previous lecture. As Abraham he was preparing 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,⁴⁵ 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, Etheric 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 Aristotle⁴⁶ 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,⁴⁷ 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.

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. Thus taking what existed in the soul and in small circles, outwards to the Macrocosm, to be reflected back into his soul

⁴⁴ See Edward Reaugh Smith, *The Burning Bush - Chapter Entitled Pillars on the Journey* and Sergej O Prokofieff *Rudolf Steiner and the Founding of the New Mysteries* Chapter 4

⁴⁵ See Sergej O Prokofieff, *Eternal individuality Towards a Karmic Biography of Novalis*

⁴⁶ Sergej O Prokofieff, *The Heavenly Sophia and the Being of Anthroposophia* page 168-169

⁴⁷ Rudolf Steiner *ibid*

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.

Therefore we can say:

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

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

What is Spiritual Science?

Spiritual Science stimulates knowledge of man 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), towards a unification of the two streams Magi and Shepherd.

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*.

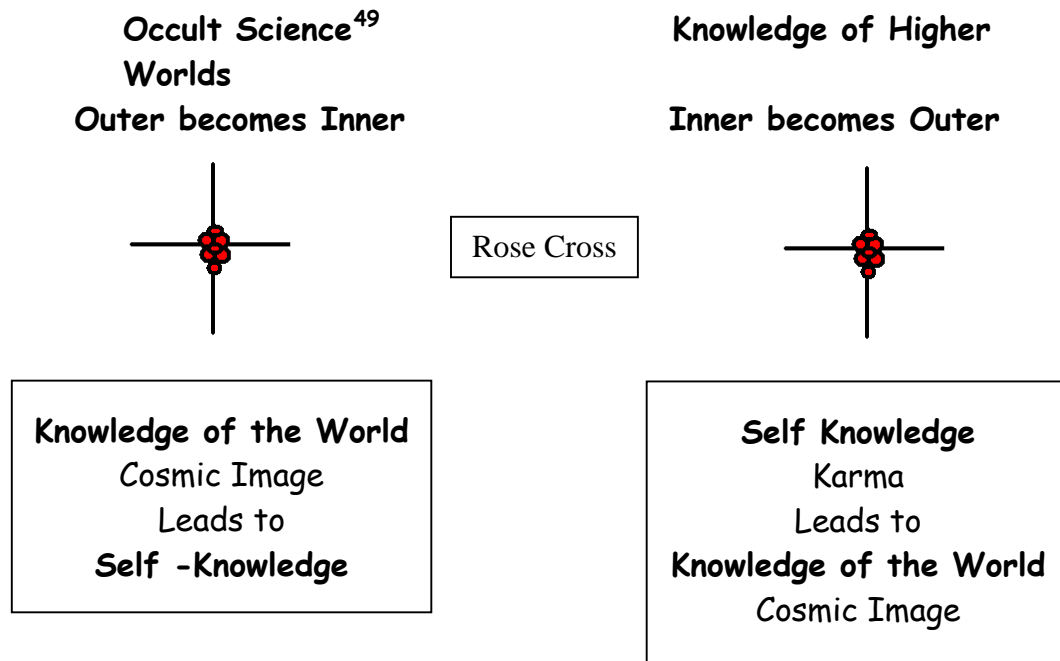
Occult Science:

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 thought.⁴⁸

⁴⁸ Lecture Dornach September 18, 1916

Knowledge of Higher Worlds:

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



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.⁵⁰

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 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 Wisemen externally perceived the secrets of the Mystery of

⁴⁹ Rudolf Steiner *Lecture, The Two Christmas Annunciations 1st January, 1921*

⁵⁰ Rudolf Steiner, *Dornach September 18th 1916*

Golgotha. The external has become an inner thing, has become mathematical abstraction; and in like manner the inner must be widened out until it becomes a universe around us, until inner vision leads us to a new astronomy experienced within.⁵¹

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

We will return this afternoon to explore Initiation and how it relates to the new Magi and the new Shepherd and the creation of the new human heart.

⁵¹Rudolf Steiner *Lecture, The Two Christmas Annunciations 1st January, 1921*

Part II

What is Initiation?

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) the expression 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 ego⁵² of the being and lives into what exists in the Being as an active potential for *future creation*.⁵³

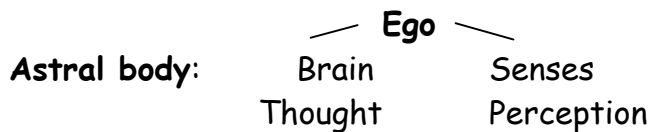
⁵² Rudolf Steiner *The Stages of Higher Knowledge Inspiration Intuition GA 012*

⁵³ Rudolf Steiner 18th May 1924

Nerves / Senses System - Thought and Perception

Thought and Perception as an Ego experience in the **Astral Body** or the Nerves and Senses occurs thus:

The physical aspect of the Astral Body, the nervous system, needs to be permeated by the Ego for thought and perception to occur. Thought occurs through the brain while perception occurs through the senses.



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.⁵⁴ Rudolf Steiner also tells us that air is the material aspect of spirit (light)⁵⁵ that is, in air the Ego 'light' entered into the human being. The Ego 'light' breathed into human beings needed a warm vessel - this was blood. Blood was 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.

On the other hand, the interaction of air (Ego 'light'), blood and the physical senses, stimulated perception. In this way did the Ego or 'Light' in the human blood fashion the nervous system.

⁵⁴ Rudolf Steiner, *Occult Science and Outline* chapter 4

⁵⁵ Rudolf Steiner lecture April 1st 1907 Berlin

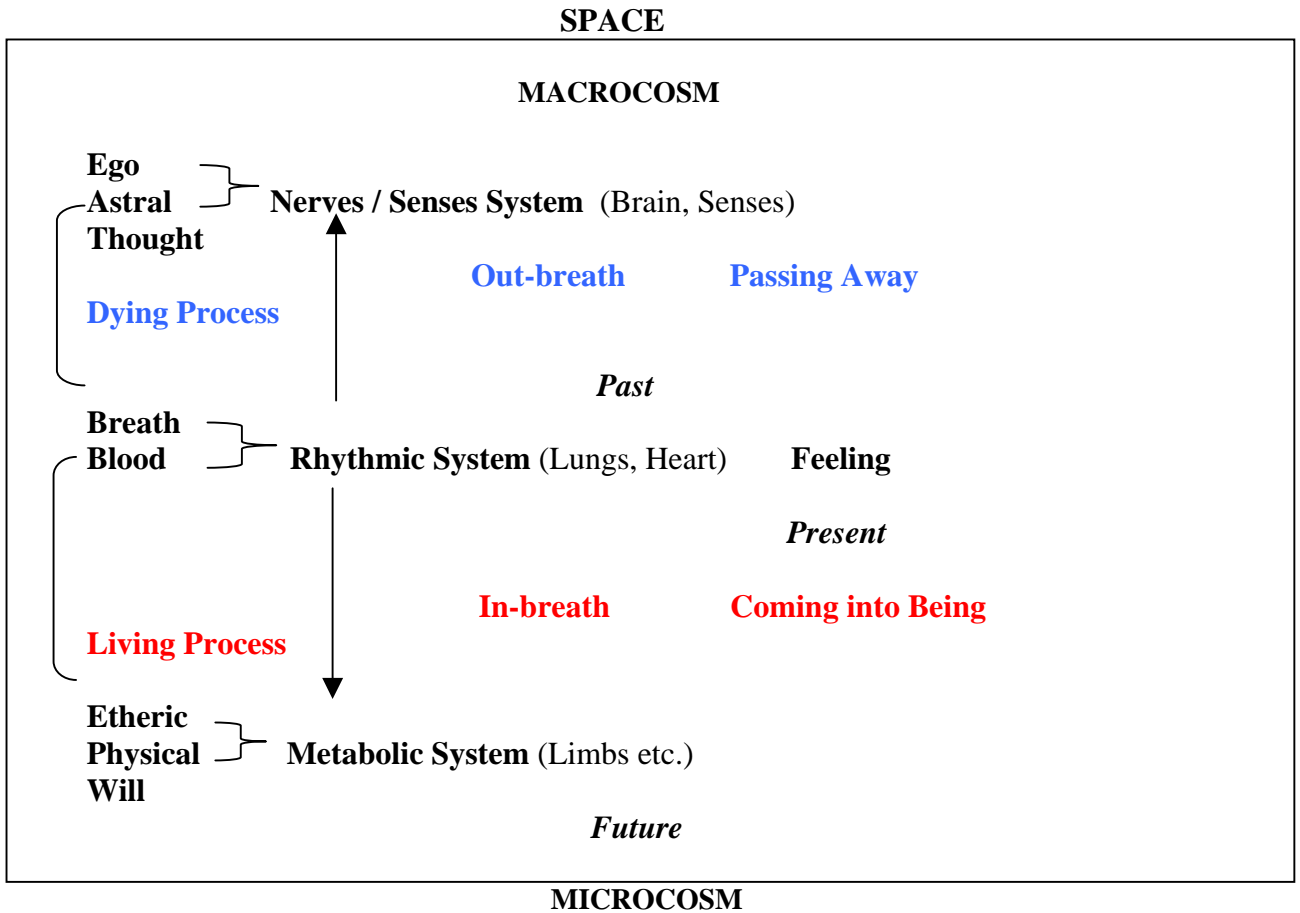
Astral body:	Air	Light/Thought	} Consciousness
Nervous System:	Lungs	Brain	

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 Etheric Body and therefore the Metabolic System in the way 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 (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 (Senses) to experience the Ego's physical separateness from the outside world by way of **perception** i.e. through the twelve senses - Selfhood.



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.

We can say that Ordinary thought and perception are a *dying process*.

Why?

During the performance of ordinary thought and ordinary sense perception, Oxygenated blood (red blood) is carried into the nerves. This interaction of blood and nerves brings about a depletion of Oxygen leaving Carbon Dioxide in the blood (blue blood), which has to be

carried to the lungs for re-Oxygenation. This means that thought and perception are a kind of breathing out process, in Alchemical terms, a 'salt' forming process - a death process in life.

Carbon Dioxide, which is taken back to the heart and lungs to be expelled by the human being into the world, is a poison. This means that with every ordinary thought and sense perception that is breathed out, the human being is performing a 'killing' action in the outside world.

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.⁵⁶

Ordinary thought and sense perception is therefore an Egoistic process. The Ego feels itself by way of the Astral body. Meditation is a form of thought and perception in the Astral body that frees the human being from this dying process.

Spiritually speaking there is a connection with the second Mystery of Golgotha and the crucifixion of Christ in every Sense Perception and Ordinary Thought. 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 in three dimensions, prevents the human being from seeing a fourth dimension, it kills the ability to see the delicate Etheric light in the Astral world.

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.⁵⁷

Thus we might say: The light streams towards us and brings about in us the sensation of light; but looking deeper into our

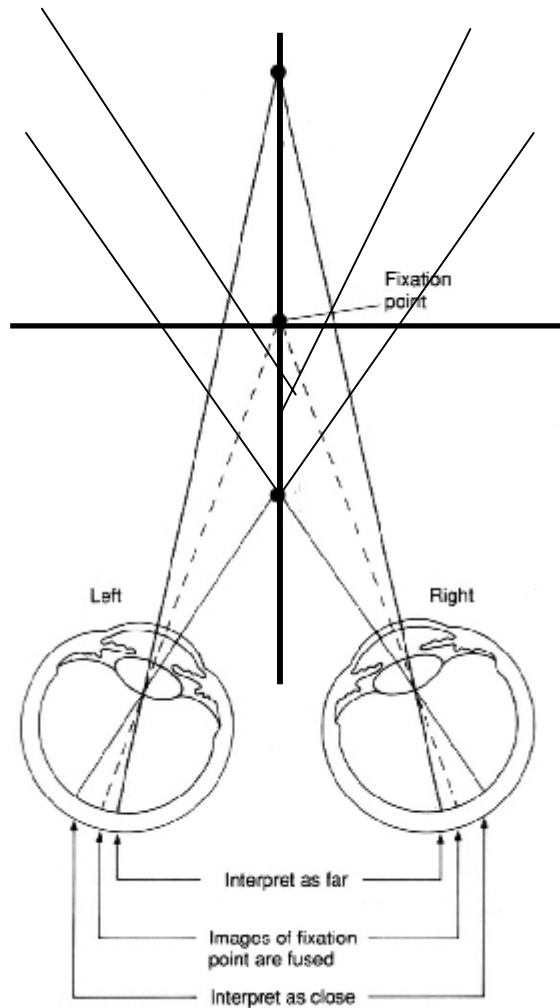
⁵⁶ Rudolf Steiner *Origin of Suffering*, Berlin, 8th November 1906.

⁵⁷ Rudolf Steiner *Lecture 16 July 1914*

being we discover that while we are conscious of light, our 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.

This killing off of the Etheric light or Light Ether so as to see material light reflected from objects in physical space creates a sensation of physical time⁵⁸ in the Astral body and means that human beings are crucifying the living Etheric Christ, his Etheric or Time image which in the stream of time takes on a spatial characteristic in the Astral World, with every material sense perception. His resurrection is therefore achieved 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. Outer Inspirative Cognition redeems this process.

⁵⁸ 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*



There is also a dying process in the creation of thought in relation to memory in the Etheric body. By imprinting living thoughts on the memory or time element an opacity and obscurity is created, a 'killing' off of the human being's ability to perceive the living beings behind the thoughts directly. The human being sees only the corpses of those thoughts, their shadow images as they are reflected back to the Ego by the Etheric body.

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 Etheric 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 Etheric body is filled with a spiritual obscurity and that which thus fills our Etheric body is the treasure of our thought.

And:

This treasure of thought arises through thoughts being reflected, as it were, in our Etheric 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.⁵⁹

It is a spiritual truth that by obscuring or making opaque the Time body, the Etheric body, with rejected dead thoughts the Ego can experience Space, however this prevents the human Etheric body from experiencing the Etheric substance of Christ which lives within it. Thus we can see how in every ordinary thought we are crucifying the being of Christ with dead thoughts. His resurrection is effected when this process is reversed. When human beings begin to overcome thinking with the physical brain. Inner imaginative cognition redeems this process.

How do we do this?

Lets look at the physical process again.

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.⁶⁰

⁵⁹ Rudolf Steiner, *The Inner Nature of Man and Life Between Death and Rebirth*, Vienna 11th April 1914

⁶⁰ Rudolf Steiner lecture Vienna, 2 June 1922

The 'Dream' consciousness and the 'Sleeping' consciousness must to a degree become awake during outer and inner 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.

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.

- Awakening** {
1. Willed thought > concentration
 2. Willed thought in Feeling > equanimity
 3. Thoughtful feeling in Will > conscious action
- } Astral Body
4. Will brings Feeling into Thought activity > 'open mindedness'
 5. Thought brings Will activity into Feelings > positivity
 6. Bringing together the 5 exercises > to create a unified 'balance' which becomes a daily life task.
- } Etheric body

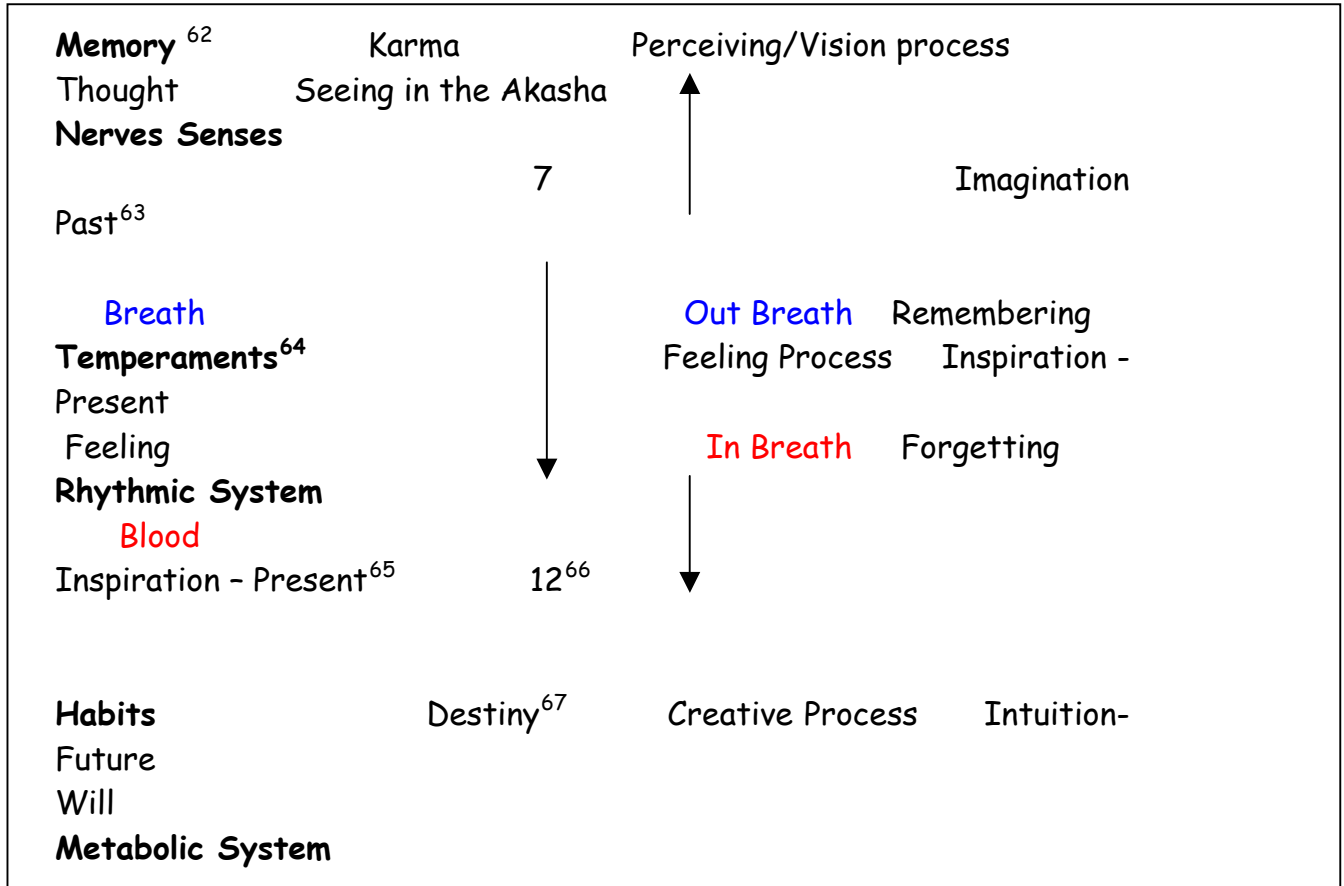
Review of daily Karma.

This is one of the most important exercises Rudolf Steiner has given and it can be found in Knowledge of Higher Worlds. It has the effect of awakening Will through thought and loosening thought from its forward movement in time and therefore from the physical brain and the power to create memory. It also loosens feelings (sympathies and antipathies) from events, which can lead to self-lessness. By virtue of this exercise as well as the above basic exercises we begin to enter into the stream of time - the Etheric Body.

Taken together the above 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.⁶¹

⁶¹ 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 to the world and to community with others. However when seen Through the Astral body it is as shown in the diagram.

Stream of Time



⁶² Rudolf Steiner *The Senses and Temperaments in Esoteric Training*, March 22 1913

⁶³ Rudolf Steiner *Macrocosm and Microcosm* 30th March 1910

⁶⁴ Rudolf Steiner *The Effects of Esoteric Development*

⁶⁵ Rudolf Steiner, *The Being of Man and his Future Evolution, Forgetting*, Berlin 2nd November 1908

⁶⁶ 'When we pass from the World of Spirit into the World of Reason we meet with something similar to what has already been experienced if we are revealed to ourselves as beings who are mastering our temperaments and developing balance from one life to another. Thus do we approach the boundary of the World of Spirit. When we reach it we find spiritual facts and Beings expressed as if in a cosmic clock through the movements of the planets. The Beings are expressed in the constellations of the Zodiac, the facts in the planets. But these analogies do not take us very far; we must pass on to the Beings themselves — the *Hierarchies*'. Rudolf Steiner, *Macrocosm and Microcosm* 28 March 1910

⁶⁷ Rudolf Steiner Essay, *Incarnation and Karma, How Karma Works, to see how destiny is linked to the future see Theosophy addenda number 7*

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 - Self Love. This is open gaze perception, a concentration 'looking away' or forgetting of what the physical senses experience to what lies 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:

Magi becomes Shepherd

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.⁶⁸ By way of this Mysticism he turned away from the outer world and gained knowledge of the 'inner self'.⁶⁹ This sense of self was united with what came from

⁶⁸ Rudolf Steiner *Lecture Vienna 1 June 1922*

⁶⁹ Rudolf Steiner, *Lecture Basle February 1st 1921*

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 Etheric 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 taking the Gateway of Life or through 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 time between falling asleep and waking up and the time after death which 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.⁷⁰

New Shepherd:

The old Magi, who wishes to become a new Shepherd, must take what he or she 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 soul like the Shepherd of old. The new Shepherd though must in full consciousness take thoughts that have a universal Cosmic significance (which one can find in Occult Science) and use them for the purposes of inner Meditation. 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 outer memory pictures thus creates conscious Inner Spiritual Perceptions or Imaginations.

⁷⁰ Rudolf Steiner *The Two Christmas Annunciations Lecture 1st January 1921*

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 Thought⁷¹

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 pictures are intensified and thus released from the physical brain and the rhythm of the breath this Imagination warmed in the soul by feelings and ignited by the fire of Will (individual Karma) allows 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. This is the opposite pole to the old Shepherd - who wished to unite thought with the rhythm of the breath⁷².

Old Magi becomes new Shepherd - by uniting thoughts of Worlds with warmth of heart and fire of will = Initiation

Thus the new Shepherd brings the heights (Shadow Cosmic Image/Memory/Imaginations) into the depths; that is, what he/she had once gained as an old Magi - through the observance of outer spiritual facts - he/she now brings into the depths of being (Karma/Will/Inspiration) in order to thereby trace the whole cosmos in the realm of spirit and soul. This leads to a perception of the real being behind the shadow images of Thought - Inspirations through higher Imaginations.⁷³

⁷¹ 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'.

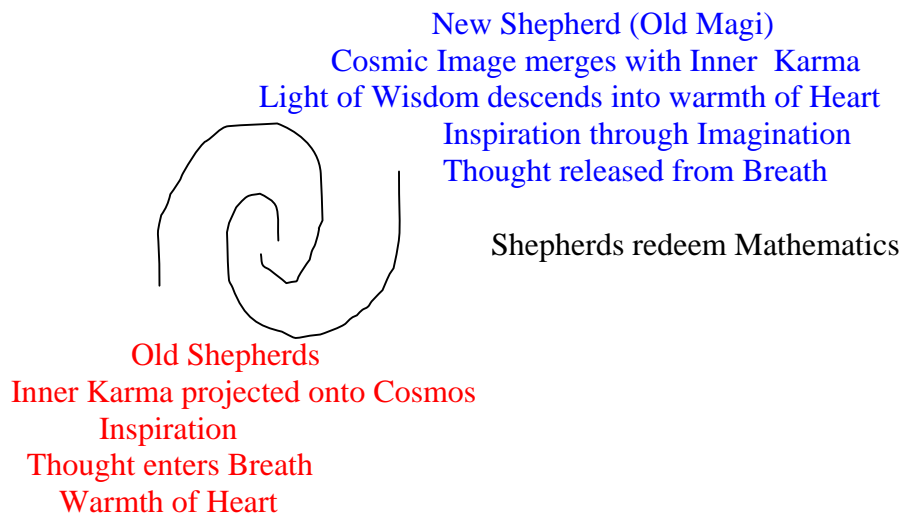
⁷² Rudolf Steiner Vienna 2 June 1922

⁷³ Rudolf Steiner *Lecture Bern, December 14 1920*

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

Sergei O Prokofieff tells us that it is the Divine Sophia who is primarily concerned with turning the old Magi into new Shepherds, that is, through the being of Anthroposophia the Wisdom of the cosmos is passed through human souls, and this light of Wisdom is brought into contact with the warmth of the heart.

The two streams thus merge in the one human being: ⁷⁴



Shepherd becomes Magi

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; the Greek Pythia used

⁷⁴ We can see also the brain's connection with Cancer. The brain like the crab has an exoskeleton.

sulphurous fumes which produced ecstatic visions;⁷⁵ much later a 'Soma drink', a juice made from plants, was taken to create similar conditions.⁷⁶ The Soma drink consisted mainly of Carbon⁷⁷, which is the product of a process of Photosynthesis (the synthesis of Sunlight and Carbon Dioxide which separates out Carbon and Oxygen).⁷⁸ 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.⁷⁹ They saw this through the faculty of magical (**magical**) vision (**imagination**) - which was experience in the time before birth when they sojourned in the spiritual worlds, which is akin to waking or day consciousness.

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.⁸⁰

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

New Magi:

The old Shepherd who is becoming a new Magi, has to rise up with the product of the recapitulated inner soul life (Shepherd) at a higher level, that is consciously (without losing Ego Consciousness), the

⁷⁵ Rudolf Steiner *Macrocosm Microcosm* 21 March 1910

⁷⁶ Rudolf Steiner *The Search for the New Isis, the Divine Sophia* page 61 Dornach Dec 26 1920

⁷⁷ 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.

⁷⁸ Rudolf Steiner *The Search for the new Isis the Divine Sophia*, Lecture IV

⁷⁹ Rudolf Steiner *Dornach Dec 24 1920*

⁸⁰ Rudolf Steiner, Lecture *The Two Christmas Annunciations* January 1st 1921

Shepherd must enter into the soul of the world (Magi) - into what exists behind sensory objects. The 'fire of will' in which underlies Individual Karma now consciously rises up through the Temperaments and the life of feelings and moves outward through thought that is vitalized to Imaginations to enable the recapitulation on a higher level of his/her former Inspirations. 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 to a Cosmic Inspiration in the new Magi. This is an Inspiration that occurs through Imagination of the outer spirit in the world and 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 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, enters into conscious communication, or conversation with the 'heart' of sense phenomena, the creative process in the soul of spiritual beings, not as a picture memory or shadow Image (Magi of old) but as a conscious experience of the present soul reality 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. This is the important point the new Magi must:

Overcome Self-love⁸¹ through Higher Sense Perceptions.

⁸¹ Rudolf Steiner *The Stages of Higher Knowledge*, GA 012

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...It is released (thought) 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 environing world of spirit...⁸²

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.⁸³

The two Streams become one:



⁸² Rudolf Steiner Article *West-East Aphorisms*

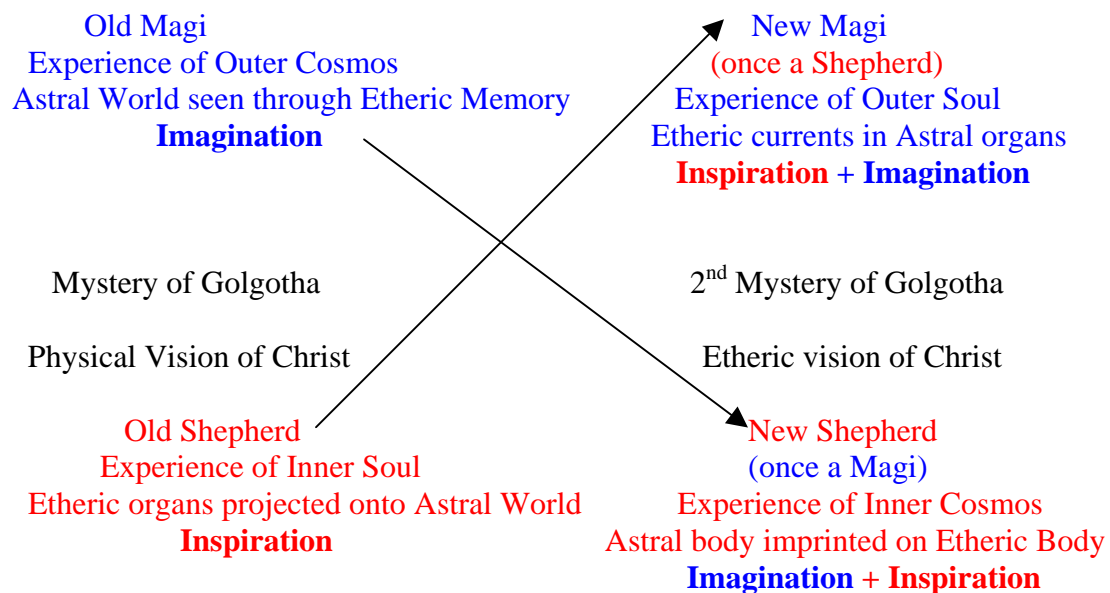
⁸³ Sergej O Prokofieff May Human Beings Hear it page 136-137

When the Shepherd turns Magi, he is redeeming the dry materialistic sense perception that has led to Natural Science.

The New Magi thus redeems Natural Science.

He 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.

Thus let us see once again how the Magi and Shepherd have moved inside out and outside in:



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 a knowledge of Imagination and Inspiration to a spiritual understanding of the living Christ.⁸⁴

⁸⁴ Rudolf Steiner *lecture 25 December, 1920*

As we have said the unification of Magi and Shepherd in one human being results in Initiation but what does this mean in relation to the human heart?

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 occurs in the physical heart where blood (physical blood) is continuously being converted or rarefied to an etherised Substance (etherised blood).⁸⁵ 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.⁸⁶

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.⁸⁷

⁸⁵ Rudolf Steiner *Etherisation of Blood – The Reappearance of Christ in the Etheric*

⁸⁶ *ibid*

⁸⁷ *ibid*

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.⁸⁸ 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 the Etherisation of blood. Etherisation of blood is like an *ensoulment* of the blood, that is, the blood merges with the soul permeated by the spirit.

How does the blood merge with the soul?

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 when Imaginations become 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.⁸⁹ 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 (Etheric 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

⁸⁸ Rudolf Steiner Dusseldorf June 15 1915

⁸⁹ Rudolf Steiner Lecture Berlin, 2nd October, 1906

fashions the outer spirit, individualises it according to our level of development. This fashioned spirit, which is the product of Imagination, outside of us, can now be gradually 'inspired' - this is what is called, Inspiration, an in-breath of the fashioned spirit.⁹⁰ The spirit then begins to enter the blood.

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

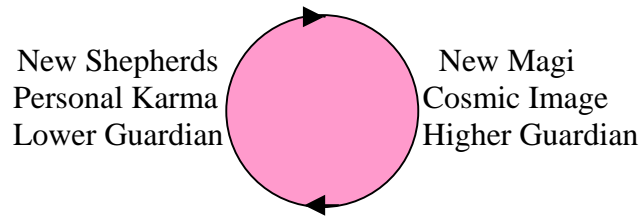
However the spirit that is fashioned outside can be barred from entering the human being because it does not find a suitable vessel in the blood.

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 that was impure in the Etheric body or blood, the personal karma imprinted during the period between death and rebirth and seen during meditation (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 Astral world before birth - where they had experienced the *Higher Guardian* (Cosmic Image of goodness).⁹¹

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 lower and higher guardians during initiation.

⁹⁰ This is why we must let go of the Imaginations; we must inspire them if we are to reach the level of Inspiration.

⁹¹ Rudolf Steiner Knowledge of Higher Worlds and its attainment



How does this take place?

This occurs through two experiences:

- An awakening of Dream consciousness in the day
- An awakening of Sleep 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 'woeing' of the night into the day and it occurs thus:

When Dream consciousness (that is usually experienced at night) is experienced in the day when fully awake, Imagination occurs through Spiritualized 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 - Spiritualized sense perception - Higher perception - Outer meditation.

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.⁹²

Night

Dream Consciousness
Sleep Consciousness

Day

Imaginations⁹³ opposite of Thought
Inspirations opposite of Sense Perceptions

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 Lower Guardian of the Threshold, and it usually occurs at the moment of waking up 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 Higher Guardian of the Threshold. We undergo this experience each night on falling asleep but we are not conscious of it.

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 - Spiritualized 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 - Spiritual Perception.

⁹² *Rudolf Steiner GA33*

⁹³ *Rudolf Steiner Leading Thoughts - 86*

⁹⁴ *Rudolf Steiner Leading Thoughts - 87*

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:

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 influences) enters the physical heart and is Etherised.⁹⁵ 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 Etheric and Physical body. In the evening 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 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 breath and blood, it is repelled by it and cannot unite with it, thus the person falls asleep.

⁹⁵ Rudolf Steiner *lecture 20 August 1924*

Gateway of Life: Lower 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, i.e., the day becomes over-shone by the light of the Moon or dream Consciousness is awakened.⁹⁶ The human being then awakens to the shadow images of Cosmic Thoughts - Imagination. In this case the Shadow Image is an angelic being, the Guardian of the Threshold, the Moon Angel⁹⁷ 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, as it becomes imprinted body on the Etheric body, into the substance of Time to experience the rhythmic balance between karma and Destiny in the soul.⁹⁸

* 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.

⁹⁶ 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 1st of January, 1921*

⁹⁷ 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.

⁹⁸ Rudolf Steiner *Leading Thought 29*

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.⁹⁹

In the day this meeting can occur during meditation. The human being must continue to persevere in spiritual development so that he or she may awaken enough to the Moon or vision of Karma in the day, in order to redeem it through moral impulses.

If the consciousness is able to redeem Karma in the day through higher thought, the Etherisation of this Karmic Essence (Moon) in blood becomes a suitable vessel for the Holy Spirit in the evening. Then, insofar as this is possible, the Higher Guardian allows the individual to enter 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 into the human being, the possibility arises to experience the spirit behind matter in the day in 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:

Gateway of the Spiritual World: Higher 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 to the physical body.¹⁰⁰ The individual is then faced with the upcoming entry again to earth through the Gateway of Life or the Etheric Body.

⁹⁹Rudolf Steiner *20 August 1924*

¹⁰⁰ Rudolf Steiner *Knowledge of Higher Worlds*

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, this is 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 between death and rebirth.

This Sleep Consciousness, which lights up in the day has a nightly counterpart and it is called Sun Consciousness, or seeing the Sun at midnight. This now signifies an awakening of wide-awake 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.¹⁰¹

As we see it is at this point that the Christ Force, or Higher Guardian, shows us how our inner Sun forces, that is what is in our Etheric bodies, compare with the Divine Archetype (Cosmic Image) the image of Christ - this experience is a living picture of how much the individual

¹⁰¹ ibid

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.

But at this stage (which also occurs in the life between death and rebirth) 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 physical senses and one day ascend to higher regions.

We can say therefore that:

The Lower 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 Higher 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.

<p>Old Shepherd Inner Union Self-consciousness/Karma (Perception of Self) Lower Guardian</p>	<p>Overcome Self-Love Through self-less Perception of Spirit in Nature Cosmic Image</p>	<p>New Magi Meets Higher Guardian Gateway of Spiritual World Evening Experience</p>
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<p>Old Magi Outer Union Perception of Cosmos Higher Guardian</p>	<p>Overcomes Old Memory Clairvoyance Through Spiritualised Thought and Heightened Self-Consciousness Individual Karma</p>	<p>New Shepherd Meets Lower Guardian Gateway of Life Morning Experience</p>
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How is the Spirit Self and Initiation related to the formation of the new Etheric Heart?

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.¹⁰²

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

¹⁰² Rudolf Steiner *The Human Heart Dornach 26 May 1922*

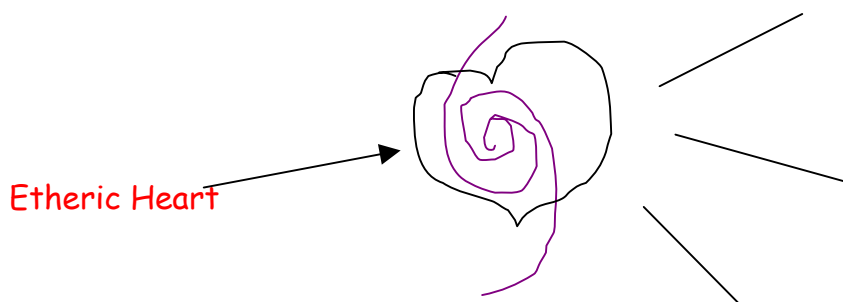
heart — and in that which has grown out of the pictures of the stars, out of the images of the cosmos.¹⁰³

This Microcosmic Image of the cosmos, the inner Sun in the Etheric heart is fashioned by the Spirit Self or spirit light in the Astral body for perception of the spirit, in the same way that that the “eye is formed by the light for perception of the light”.¹⁰⁴ This inner Sun image is fashioned as a result of the individual 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 Etheric 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.¹⁰⁵

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 Etheric heart as the Image of the Cosmos (Sun), capable of uniting with the Inner Sun substance of Christ - His etherised blood.

Inner Sun Substance - Etheric blood of Christ



¹⁰³ ibid

¹⁰⁴ Rudolf Steiner *Microcosm and Macrocosm* lecture 8, 28 March 1910

¹⁰⁵ Rudolf Steiner *The Human Heart Dornach* 26 May 1922

Inner Moon substance - Spirit Self - Etherized human blood

In our times Blue blood and Red Blood enter different chambers of the physical heart (Intellect and Will) 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 Etheric 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 Etheric 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 Cosmic Image, the substance of the Sun, the Etheric blood of Christ and the Etherised blood of the human being, the karmic inner image of the Moon do not mix until development begins to fashion the Etheric Heart into a suitable vessel through the individualised Holy Spirit Self. The conscious experience of sleep and dream conditions (Magi and Shepherd) must occur 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. Moon Consciousness must arise in the day and insofar as this is achieved to redeem karma in the Etherised blood of the individual human being, it can then become permeated by the Holy Spirit, that is the Holy spirit can be inspired

into the etherised blood which, when individualised as Spirit Self and Sun consciousness can occur which will create the inner Cosmic Image of the Sun - the Etheric Heart centre in which the substance or blood of Christ can unite with the Substance of the Spirit Self in the Etherised blood of the human being.

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.¹⁰⁶ Now the blood will not be red or blue but peach blossom.

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 Sentient Soul, Intellectual Soul and Consciousness Soul and this has raised itself to Imagination Soul. Through this the human being can refashion the entire Astral body with the help of the third hierarchy of angels.

Etheric Body

Memory, Temperaments and Habits, are transformed and through this transformation the human being can perceive karma and participate with the help of the second hierarchy, in the creation of balance between karma and destiny.

Physical Body

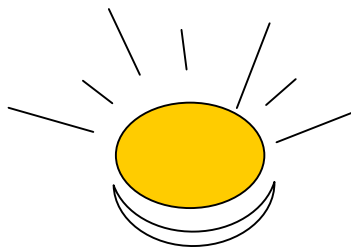
Gaseous, Liquid - that is breathing and blood are so transformed that they are capable of working into the Solid, that is an aspect of the physical (mineral) body to create something higher, a new organ.

¹⁰⁶ Rudolf Steiner *Etherisation of Blood – The Reappearance of Christ in the Etheric*

Intuition now can begin. That is, by uniting the creative World thoughts of the Magi and the warmth of heart of the Shepherd within, the human being can become one with the free, self active and potent creative force that exists in the depths of the will where live the 'creator Gods' that is the first hierarchy, with their help we fashion a new organ from out of mineral substance in the breath and 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 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. Then the human etherised blood can become imprinted with His 'name' or Ego, His Blood, a redemption of the dying process in the human breath and in the blood since 'In Christ Death becomes Life'¹⁰⁷

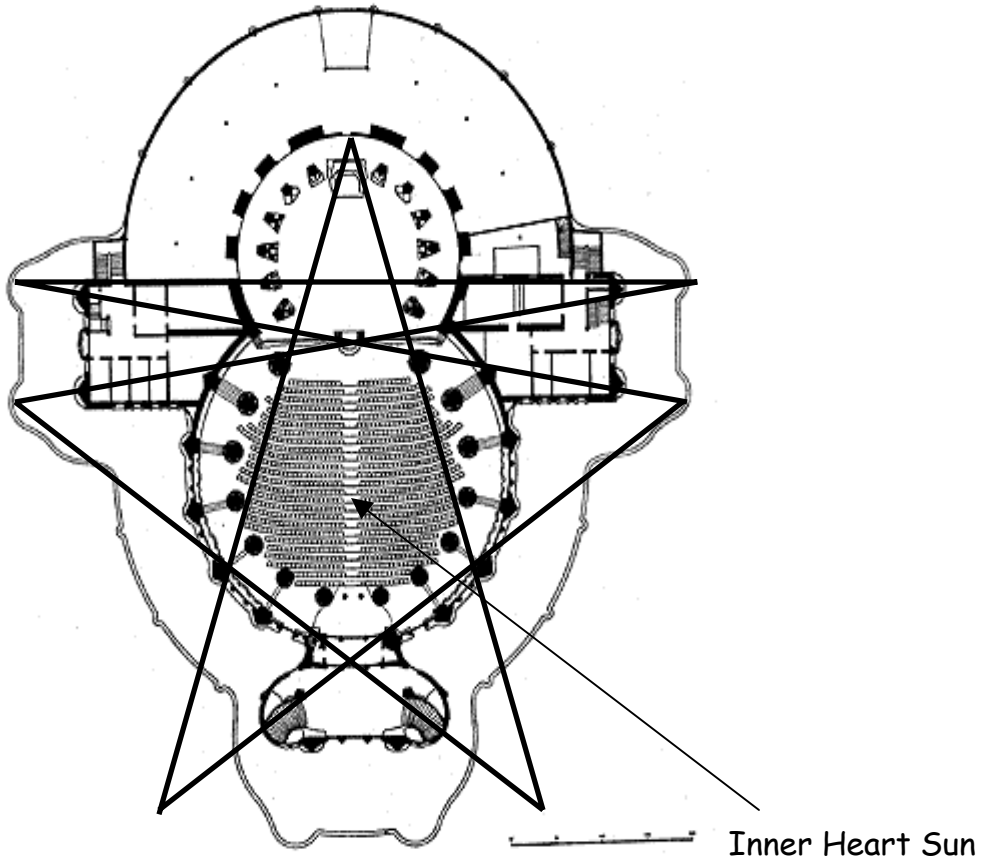
We see this in the German word for I:

I - C - H

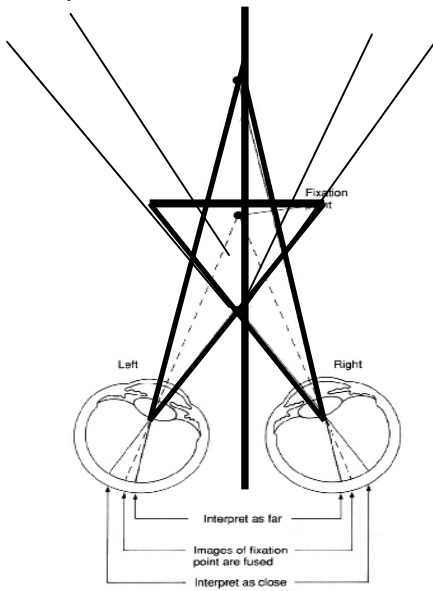
'I'-ness (Ego) - Christus - Hertz (Heart)

We also see in the first Goetheanum an image of the human heart. That is when the seven or the Etheric body, becomes twelve, a dodecahedron that is acquires the characteristics of a zodiac, through the unification of the Hexagram Astral body and the Pentagram Etheric body.

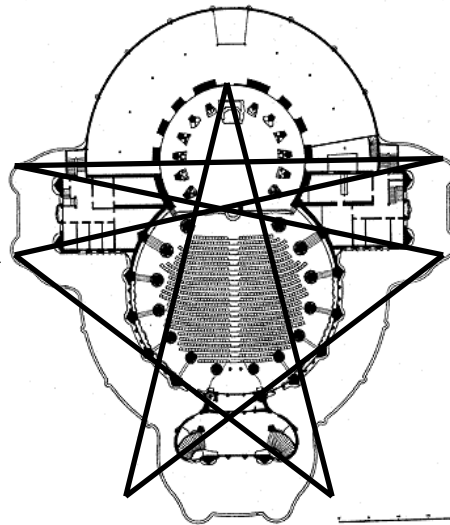
¹⁰⁷ Rudolf Steiner *Foundation Stone Meditation*



Shepherd



Magi



If you look at this in relation to the eye which sees objects in space, you will see that the Etheric heart leads to a new form of sense perception through an interrelationship between Magi and Shepherd, Left eye Right eye, Right side Left side. It will be a new organ that perceives and thinks in Time.

Anthroposophists are vanguards of the future and should now be working towards the achievement of these 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 it do this?

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 second of all 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 Sophia (Anthroposophia) the Isis of

Christ 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 in the united soul of the World.

In Paul's epistle he tell us:

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all Amen.

Walter Johann Stein tells us that if we read it backwards it reveals the Holy Grail through the power of Grace. What is Grace if not the Spirit Self? We now understand its meaning.

So shall it be that when the Holy Spirit (Grace) communes with you, and it is warmed by the Love of God in you, you will unite through the Individual Spirit Self (Grace in your blood) with our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is what is depicted in the Foundation Stone Meditation:

At the Turning point of Time
The Spirit-Light of the World
Entered the Stream of Earthly Being.
Darkness of Night
Had held sway;
Day-radiant Light
Poured in the souls of men;
Light that gives Warmth
To simple Shepherds Hearts
Light that enlightens
The wise Heads of Kings (Magi)

O Light Divine
O Sun of Christ
Warm thou
Our Hearts
Enlighten Thou
Our Heads,
That good may become
What from our Hearts would found
And from our Heads direct
In Conscious Light-filled
Willing

I humbly thank you.