

Earthly Eve, Heavenly Eve
Their connection to Mystery of Isis - Mary - Sophia
and the being of Anthroposophia

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Two Lectures
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Part I

Earthly Eve and the Heavenly Eve

This lecture will be given in two parts.

The first part will concern itself mainly with the question of Eve the human archetype of the heavenly feminine principle. In order that we might form an understanding of this principle we shall explore the origins of the human being and the world as it is given to us in Genesis from an Anthroposophical perspective. It is hoped that by doing so we will come to grips with the very misunderstood mystery of the differentiation of the sexes which is an earthly microcosmic reflection of a macrocosmic state of consciousness.

This will lead us to the second part of this lecture. Having formed a foundation for our studies we will then be ready to explore the nature of the two Eves, the Earthly Eve and the Heavenly Eve, their tasks, and their relationship to the three Marys – the Luke Mary, the Matthew Mary and Mary Magdalene - and their relationship to the being of Anthroposophia and the Wisdom of our Cosmos the Heavenly or Divine Sophia.

This theme is by no means an easy one. On approaching these mysteries the student of Spiritual Science experiences the greatest feelings of awe, reverence and a deep and profound sense of responsibility. There is the sense of lifting a veil that has been drawn for a long time and this inspires in the soul a reticence akin to fear. What shall we find and will we be capable of bearing in full consciousness what we see there? This is a question that weighs down the soul for there is the danger that we might imprint into what we see what we should like to see, our own wishes and desires, our prejudices etc...thereby distorting the picture forever. That is one of the reasons why this mystery has remained for so long the property of initiates who were permitted only to divulge certain easily understood aspects in a watered down allegorical form. Another reason for the veiling of this mystery lies in its purely supersensible complexity. A complexity that has required an evolution in the human capacity for thought before it could be understood. Thought had to become masculine.

What do I mean by this?

It is esoterically understood that the principle of the Feminine lives in all that works towards unity. It is the unifying force capable of working beyond the individual to a common consciousness that receives – through being one with spiritual truths – *passive revelation*. The Masculine principle on the other hand, tends towards division, towards individuality – it is an individualising force and is associated therefore with the individual ego.¹ Although the Feminine principle's unifying force (tribal, family, etc.) was initially necessary for survival, it was destined to move more and more into the background and into the sphere of the Will - into dreamless sleep. Why? Because it became more and more incompatible with material existence. Culture had to be fashioned from wide-awake Male forces if human beings were to forge an individual path through the world of matter independently, reaching down with their consciousness to the life of will. We can say, therefore, that the Masculine principle has plunged humanity into matter so that it might freely rise up to spiritual truths through *participation*.

¹ Rudolf Steiner *Theosophy of the Rosicrucian XII*

This participation will only occur when humanity has passed fully through the experience of the Consciousness Soul, which has been developing since the beginning of the fifteenth century and will not conclude until the beginning of the 6th cultural epoch. The development of this consciousness is necessary before an understanding of the mystery of Isis – Mary – Sophia can arise in the human soul. And it is because human beings are moving towards this consciousness that interest in this mystery is evident today in the rise of related books, films and documentaries. But as this consciousness is gained while humanity is experiencing an increasing immersion into the physical body and into matter, there is a tendency towards two polarities: on the one hand the Ahrimanic tendency to find materialistic answers to spiritual questions: and on the other, the Luciferic tendency to apply the gender principle to the entire Universe.² This creates a danger – without discernment and a store of spiritual knowledge to call on, many will fall prey to those Ahrimanic and Luciferic tendencies.

What can be done to help humanity overcome the allure of these tendencies?

There have always been those whose task it is to live the future in advance and in our times, Anthroposophists have been called to do so; to lead humanity towards the 6th epoch, when the general population of human beings will receive through the consciousness soul – and a direct and free participation in community with one another – the unifying force of the Spirit Self. Humanity will then have achieved a further step towards becoming the tenth hierarchy – the Spirits of Freedom – the lowest member of the being of the Divine Sophia, and it is at this time that all her mysteries shall be revealed.

The wisdom required to lead humanity in this task, can only be gained in our times through the study of Spiritual Science and Anthroposophy as it is given to us by the great initiate Rudolf Steiner. In Spiritual Science, Rudolf Steiner has given Anthroposophists the wherewithal to acquire a clear, conscious relationship to this wisdom, so that it is not tinted by Luciferic and Ahriman influence. Then, when this wisdom passes into the consciousness that is awake in the will – the Consciousness Soul - in the words of Sergei O Prokofieff, wisdom becomes our *spiritual teacher*.

Again however, we must remember that the fullness of these mysteries can only be known in the future, and that humanity was not yet destined in our time to approach the truths pertaining to the female principle, but was instead, to make preparatory steps towards this understanding. Notwithstanding this, two conditions have arisen whose character has both necessitated and made possible the transmission and understanding of many aspects of this mystery earlier than had been intended: firstly a redoubling of the efforts on the part of the adversarial powers to create ahead of time a distorted image of these mysteries; and secondly a surge of enthusiasm for an understanding of the being of Anthroposophia, which has merited a spiritual outpouring of confidence in the ability of human beings to approach these mysteries in the right mood of soul.

So with the above in mind, in all reverence, humility, and in the mood of thankfulness we shall attempt to understand these mysteries today as far as they have been made known to us.

Adam and Eve

The bible tells us in Genesis that God created man in his own image - in the image of God created he him: 'male and female created he them'. Jehova is said to have created the first man Adam from dust or from the clod of the earth. After that, wishing that Adam not be alone he created the first woman Eve from one of Adam's ribs. We are told that in Paradise Lucifer approached Eve and tempted her to take a bite from the fruit growing on the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil, which

² ibid page 255

had been denied them by the Lord God Jehova. Lucifer told her it would not cause her to die but would make her as wise as the gods.³ She saw that the tree did indeed seem to have good fruit and desired to be wise so she partook of it and gave it to Adam her husband so that he too could enjoy its effects. Upon eating it their eyes were opened and they 'knew they were naked'. This sudden awakening constituted the fall of Man from Paradise and it was the first act of selfishness or sin perpetrated by human beings, known to us through the ages as 'Original Sin'.

Thereafter God is said to have greatly multiplied woman's sorrow, firstly by making her responsible for bringing forth children, and secondly by making her submissive to her husband's rule. It is only much later, in the New Testament that we see three women step out from the background of happenings to take a prominent place in the forefront of the most important event in the history of earth evolution. These were the Luke Mary, the Matthew Mary and Mary Magdalene. We sense that despite the necessary domination of the male principle these women were able to enter into the hearts of the people and remain there for millennia as archetypes of goodness in the life of will, truth in the life of thought and beauty in the life of feelings. And it is only on closer study that we begin to sense the emergence of a deep relationship between Eve, Mary and Sophia.

In order to grasp this relationship we must first embark on a short but essential study of evolution in relation to the human being and to Genesis with the help of Rudolf Steiner and Spiritual Science.

Genesis

Rudolf Steiner tells us that the human being was created gradually, through many aeons and stages of world evolution. He tells us that the seeds for the Physical body were first implanted into what he called the 'Old Saturn' evolution of the world, mainly through the activity of the spirits of Will – or the Thrones, on behalf of the Father principle. On what Rudolf Steiner called the 'Old Sun' evolutionary phase, the seeds of the Etheric body were implanted primarily through the activity of the Spirits of Wisdom or the Kyriotetes working with the Principle of the Son. On the 'Old Moon' evolution of the world it was the activity of the spirits of Motion or the Dynamis that predominated in the implantation of the seeds for the human Astral body through the agency of the third person of the trinity the Holy Spirit.

Old Saturn = Physical body – Father – Thrones – Spirits of Will

Old Sun = Etheric body – Son – Kyriotetes – Spirits of Wisdom

Old Moon = Astral body – Holy Spirit – Dynamis – Spirits of Motion

We are told that it was not until Earth evolution that human beings acquired their highest member the Ego through the agency of the Elohim (God) or the Spirits of Form whose combined efforts raised them to a higher condition called Jehova-Elohim. Jehova, (The Lord God), is known to have created Man - a being possessed of the faculty of self-conscious awareness that is compatible with the acquisition of wisdom and human freedom working with the forces emanating from the entire being of the Divine Sophia.

Earth = Ego – Elohim – Exusiai – Spirits of Form – Divine Sophia

Rudolf Steiner tells us that each new planetary stage of world evolution represents a stage in densification or condensation and this is accompanied by a rarefaction. What does this mean?

Rudolf Steiner tells us that on Old Saturn there was only warmth (Ether). Warmth was therefore the lowest physical condition.

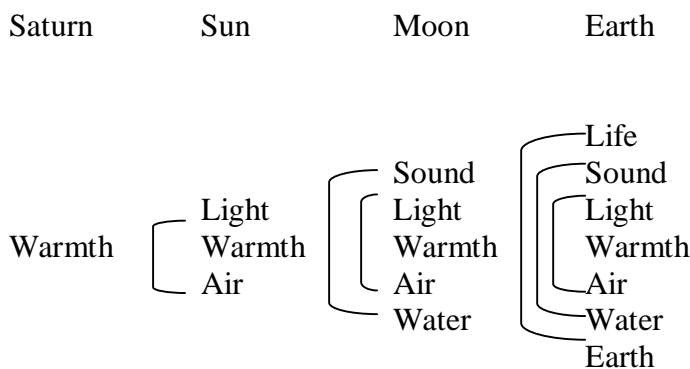
³ Authorised King James Version

In the next planetary condition, Old Sun, this warmth (Ether) condensed to air and rarefied to light. On Old Sun there was Light (Ether), Warmth (Ether) and Air – the three principles of Life – Air being the lowest physical condition.

During the Old Moon stage of planetary existence a further condensation and rarefication occurs. Now there was not only warmth, but below it air or gas and below that, what is condensed from air - Water. Above, Warmth (Ether), Light (Ether) appeared again and above that what was condensed from Water - Sound or Chemical Ether. By the end of the Old Moon stage there were Sound, Light, Warmth, Air and Water. Water being the lowest physical condition.

During Earth condition, Water condensed to Earth and what was separated out from this condensation was rarefied to Life (Ether). So now on Earth there is Life (Ether) Sound (Ether), Light (Ether), Warmth (Ether), Air, Water and Earth.

World Evolution:



Saturn - Warmth

Sun - Warmth condenses to Air and the Etheric aspect of Air rises up as **Light Ether**

Moon - Air condenses to Water and the Etheric aspect of Water rises up as **Sound Ether**

Earth - Water condenses to Earth and the Etheric aspect of Earth rises up as **Life Ether**

Rudolf Steiner tells us that during Old Sun evolution there was a point in time when it became necessary for an aspect of the more advanced 'fiery' part to separate from world evolution. When it did so it took with it those beings whose progress had reached a level of maturity not compatible with the rest. Had they remained connected with the earth it would have progressed too quickly, it would have burnt itself up, that is, its environment would not have supported the development of the human being whose progress moved at a slower pace. The next great moment was during Old Moon evolution when the hardest aspect of the Moon had to separate itself from world evolution in order that the environment not become too hard and too rigid for the normal development of the human being. In his book Occult Science Rudolf Steiner explains how at every stage there are recapitulations.

Earth evolution consists of seven great epochs:

Polarian

Hyperborean

Lemurian

Atlantean

Fifth – Post Atlantean

Sixth – Post Atlantean

Seventh – Post Atlantean

We are presently in the fifth Post Atlantean epoch of Earth evolution.

During the Earth stage of world evolution there occurred a recapitulation of the conditions on Saturn Sun and Moon but on a higher level, so that the Polarian epoch, the first epoch of world evolution, is a recapitulation of Old Saturn, the Hyperborean epoch repeats those conditions on Old Sun with the extrusion of the Sun from earth, and the Lemurian epoch is an overall repetition of Moon conditions with the final extrusion of the Moon from the earth.

Genesis, Rudolf Steiner tells us, begins at that point when there occurs a recapitulation of the separation of the Sun from the Earth, this marks the beginning or thereabouts of the Lemurian epoch⁴.

The Lemurian epoch itself is made up of seven time divisions and during these there are also further microcosmic recapitulations of these macrocosmic events.

The First Day of Creation

During the first day of creation Rudolf Steiner tells us there was Warmth – a recapitulation of Saturn conditions, ‘the spirit of God radiated a brooding warmth over the face of the waters’. This Warmth was then condensed to Air on the one hand and rarefied to Light Ether on the other – ‘Let there be Light!’. This was a recapitulation of Old Sun evolution where there is a separation of Sun from the Earth. At this time the Human Sentient soul came into being⁵.

The Second Day of Creation:

During the second day of creation there was enacted a recapitulation of the conditions on Old Moon where Air condensed to water and water rarefied to Sound. In biblical terms God created the firmament - there was a ‘stirring up of substance’ through the work of ‘Sound’.⁶ At this time the Intellectual Soul was added to the atmosphere ‘around’ the human being.

The Third day of Creation:

Rudolf Steiner tells us solid matter appeared as water condensed to earth and earth rarefied to Life Ether.⁷ This life Ether burst into the Earth and brought about a stirring and unfolding of life. Plants sprung up from the ‘solid’ earth. The Consciousness Soul was added to the environment ‘around’ the human being.

⁴ ibid lecture 9

⁵ Rudolf Steiner *Genesis*, Lecture 8 page 108

⁶ ibid, Lecture 4 page 51

⁷ ibid

The Human being at the periphery of the Earth was now surrounded by the Sentient Soul, Intellectual Soul and Consciousness Soul but it needed a vessel for these. The Astral body had to be elaborated further so that it could embody the three soul aspects and form an outer garment for them.⁸

The Fourth day of Creation

On the fourth day of creation there was a recapitulation of the separation of the Moon from the Earth - two great lights were now seen in the sky, the Sun and the Moon. At this time the stars also came into being. The human Astral body was fashioned from forces emanating from the twelve-fold circle of the Zodiac and it is perhaps just before or at this time that the rarefied ethers of Sound and Life belonging to Eve/Adam were taken up into the Sun Sphere coinciding with the first Sacrifice of the Christ being which took place when he entered the sphere of fixed stars to prevent the senses from becoming independent.⁹ It was now possible for those human beings who had left the periphery of the hardened earth to conduct their evolution on other planets, to return.

On the Fifth day of Creation

The group souls of animals descended to Earth and the human physical body was created, not as dense as today's Etheric body.¹⁰

We have now two aspects of the human being: Below the Physical/Etheric body and an Astral body; and above, the Soul Spiritual aspects – Sentient Soul, Intellectual Soul and Consciousness Soul.

The Sixth day of Creation

On the sixth day of creation we are told that the Elohim say: 'let us make man'. At this stage the Physical/Etheric body of the human being condensed further to a 'warmth' body¹¹ and the human being was predominantly feminine with both Male and Female within it. This unisexual human being is able to reproduce asexually.¹²

The Seventh day of Creation

On the seventh day of creation the six aspects of the Elohim, those who had removed themselves to the Sun sphere ceased to work on the Human being and there was a rest or Pralaya.

Paradise

After the seven days the human being is in Paradise which marks the beginning of the Atlantean Evolution.

It was at this time that the seventh aspect of the Elohim that had remained behind on the Moon sphere - the Jehova Elohim called Lord God - was able to imprint the 'Group Soul' Ego referred to in Genesis as 'The breath of Life' into the Astral body which contained in it the three soul aspects. The human Physical/Etheric body now consists of Warmth and Air.¹³

⁸ ibid, Lecture 8 page 109

⁹ Rudolf Steiner *Four Sacrifices of Christ*, Basel 1st June 1914

¹⁰ Rudolf Steiner *Genesis*, Lecture 8 page 115

¹¹ ibid, page 116

¹² ibid

¹³ ibid, page 117

Thereafter Lucifer tempts the Human Ego down into the Human Astral body - further than intended by the Jehova Elohim. Luciferic influence causes a densification to occur in the Physical/Etheric human being, the air and warmth human being. The Physical/Etheric body of air and warmth densifies into a more solid substance on the one hand and a more fluid substance on the other causing a split to occur in two directions – Male and Female. Man or Adam has now an external masculine Physical body and internal feminine Etheric body an Astral body and Ego. The Woman or Eve has an external feminine Physical body and an internal masculine Etheric body an Astral body and an Ego.

In the warmth and air part of the human being is contained that which was pre-Luciferic.

Warmth and Air: Pre – Luciferic
Solid and Fluid: Luciferic¹⁴

Macrocosm:

Let us examine further the creation of Man from a Macrocosmic aspect.

We can see from the above that the human being on the 6th day was possessed of both Male and Female elements, that is, the human being had a twofold sexuality and reproduced through a higher Etheric form of asexual reproduction with help from the Gods. Rudolf Steiner tells that when the Bible states that God created Man ‘In his own image created he him; *male and female*’ what is meant is that God created Man ‘in his own image created he him; *male-female*’.¹⁵ In the series of lectures gathered together under the title of Temple Legend, Rudolf Steiner tells us that ‘before outward separation there were both sexes in one individual that outwardly – in physical expression and in all perceptions – was female’.¹⁶ The human being we are told was a female who contained man within her¹⁷ (the validity of this has recently been strengthened by modern scientific research into the X and Y Chromosomes - more later). We also see this mirrored in the word Wo-Man. Conception is said to have happened via the female aspect or the woman, that is the woman was able to fertilise her own eggs through the male seed contained within her.

In order to understand this we need to know a little about the Elohim and their task in creating the ‘preparatory human being’, the asexual human being, on the sixth day.

Who are the Elohim?

The Elohim are those beings of the second hierarchy designated by Spiritual Science as the Spirits of Form or Exusiai. They are the creators and leaders of Earth evolution as outlined earlier and give form to all that exists through a processes of hardening. They receive the forces for their work from the region of the Zodiac designated as Scorpion/Eagle,¹⁸ which forms the physical aspect of the Sun.¹⁹ Six Spirits of Form (Elohim) accompanied the Sun when it separated from the Earth. A seventh worked more closely with humanity on the Moon/Earth and moved to the Moon Sphere when it separated from the Earth. The Elohim worked in the element of warmth. Warmth was their

¹⁴ *ibid*, page 118-119

¹⁵ *Ibid*, lecture 10 - 26th August 1910

¹⁶ Rudolf Steiner *Freemasonry and Human Evolution*, Berlin 23 October 1905

¹⁷ *ibid*.

¹⁸ Sergei O Prokofieff *Twelve Holy Nights and the Spiritual Hierarchies*, page 13

¹⁹ Sergei O Prokofieff *Heavenly Sophia and the Being of Anthroposophia*, page 65

outer manifestation.²⁰ Rudolf Steiner tells us that at the time of the 6th day of Genesis the six Elohim on the Sun worked as a group, sacrificing to the warmth human being their individual forces.

What does this mean? Let us attempt to understand this.

Rudolf Steiner tells us that in the spiritual world, beings that have individualising forces as their directing principle – who work separately from out of their own knowledge – have a male quality. Those beings on the other hand that have as their directing principle a common consciousness – a sacrifice of the individual for all that leads to unity – have a feminine quality. As previously discussed, the principle spirits at work in the sphere of Old Sun were the Spirits of Wisdom. The most exalted of these spirits, during The Old Sun evolution had developed so far that it could form its parts into a Sobornal being, that is, a collective being, whose directing principle is a common consciousness that leads to unification, to wholeness. This being is known to Spiritual Science as the Divine Sophia.²¹

The Elohim we are told worked together as a group into the warmth human being from out of the body of the Divine Sophia, but each worked out of his own individual forces - each contributing something to the common resolve²² so that their character was male. What does this mean for the human being? This means they were able to fertilise the as yet only Female human being with their individual Male forces. Thus it was that in the human being was implanted the forces of the Male gods and with these forces a form of asexual reproduction could occur, akin to a ‘virgin conception’.²³ This occurred on the 6th day – now the asexual, androgynous, predominantly feminine human being was able to self-reproduce. In the Bible the result of this form of reproduction was Cain, who had as a result a male Etheric body – he was the son of the six Elohim on the Sun – the Male gods (This is the reason why his sacrifice is not recognised by the Jehova Elohim).

This was a preparatory stage. Something else had to occur in order to lead to the separation of the double sexed human being into two human beings of different sex.

Rudolf Steiner tells us that it was the task of the more advanced aspect of the Elohim, the Jehova-Elohim²⁴, to create the sexually differentiated human being.

But who is the Jehova-Elohim and how does this being relate to the other Elohim?

When it came time to create ‘Man’ as a likeness of God, the Elohim could not do so without raising their activity to a higher level. They had to ‘grow beyond themselves’, that is, to extend their consciousness beyond that which they had heretofore known²⁵, on the one hand to a consciousness that, through the being of the Divine Sophia, extended to the sphere of the Seraphim²⁶ and on the other to a consciousness that reached the region of the Bull or the first person of the Holy Trinity.

How did they achieve this?

On the seventh day of creation we are told there is a rest or pralaya. During this pralaya, the six Sun Elohim, who had sacrificed their maleness for the feminine human being on the sixth day, were now

²⁰ Rudolf Steiner *Genesis*, lecture 6 page 81

²¹ Sergei O Prokofieff *The Heavenly Sophia and the Being of Anthroposophia*, Appendix 1

²² Rudolf Steiner *Genesis*, page 89 Lecture 6

²³ Emil Bock *The Threefold Mary – The spiritual Aspect*, page 20 -21

²⁴ *ibid* Jehova-Elohim should not be confused with the Elohim that had previously worked on the being of man on the sixth day of creation.

²⁵ Rudolf Steiner *Genesis*, Lecture 6 page 89

²⁶ Sergei O Prokofieff *The Heavenly Sophia and the Being of Anthroposophia*, page 45

able to divert their consciousness – which was now feminine and a part of the Sobornal being of the Divine Sophia – and raise it upwards to a contemplation of the starry activity of the Seraphim²⁷. However a further element had to be added to this if they were to crown their creation with an Ego. The Elohim had to raise their consciousness higher still, to the dizzying heights of the region of the Bull²⁸. That is, to a unity not only of the six Elohim on the Sun, but a unity of six Elohim with the seventh aspect the Elohim on the Moon to form a seven-fold whole. By uniting their consciousness that now reached the sphere of the Seraphim with the seventh aspect of the Elohim residing in the Moon sphere²⁹ - insofar as this sphere is subject to the forces emanating from the sphere of the Holy Spirit - they were able to access the region of the Bull. This meant a progress, a promotion, for the Elohim on the Moon to Jehova-Elohim.³⁰ Jehova-Elohim was therefore that aspect that had progressed due to a unification of consciousness with the other six Elohim. All seven Elohim now worked through the Jehova-Elohim like organs of the one body with one consciousness, a deed accomplished through the sacrifice of their individual consciousness. It is this unified consciousness which enabled the Jehova-Elohim on the Moon to become fully conscious of the reflected forces of the Bull or the Holy Spirit. The entirety of the seven Elohim had grown beyond themselves on the one side to the hierarchy of the Seraphim and on the other to the reflected forces of the Bull or Holy Spirit, mirroring in a microcosmic way the work of the seven hierarchies from the region of the Spirits of Form to the region of the Bull. In this way the six Elohim on the Sun were able, through the seventh, to receive the reflected forces of the Holy Spirit into their body – that is, into the ‘Physical’ body of the Divine Sophia. The reflected Holy Spirit could then act as a medium for the *consciousness* or Principle of the Son, resulting in two things:

1. The Elohim were able to create Man in the image of God – through the Principle of the Son, becoming thereby the lowest and eighth member of the Cosmic Lamb the ‘Sun logos’³¹ who had His origins in the Son Sphere of the Holy Trinity. In doing so the entry of the forces of the Son (second sacrifice) into the Sun as a planet, that is, into the ‘Physical’ body of the Spirits of Form - the Divine Sophia - was made possible.³²
2. This marriage of Male Son Principle with the Divine Female Sophia resulted in the Cosmic birth of the Macrocosmic Sun Being through the fertilising medium of the Holy Spirit.³³ This *Cosmic Birth* was capable of implanting the potential for its reflection on earth in the human Virgin Birth – that is the potential for the purified human Astral body (the Virginal substance) to be fertilised by the Holy Spirit, with the Principle of the Son, the Cosmic Christ.

How does this Cosmic Birth of the ‘Sun Being’ relate to the birth of consciousness – the birth of the Ego in Human Beings?

The Male Son principle, the individualising force was born into the Sobornal being of the *Feminine* Divine Sophia - the Physical body (Elohim) of the Sun. The Elohim’s *promotion* to Jehova Elohim, as mentioned above, meant that they were now able to manifest not in the element of warmth but in the element of air,³⁴ which is capable of carrying the Ego forces of the great Sun being. This element of air endowed with Ego is the lowest member of the Jehova-Elohim whose principal quality, as we have discussed, is now that of a unified consciousness - a feminine characteristic. This is the mystery of Jehova-Elohim. The Lord God works at unification of the Hebrew people – a

²⁷ *ibid*, page 87-88 and Sergei O Prokofieff *The Heavenly Sophia*, etc page 45
²⁸ Rudolf Steiner *Genesis*, Lecture 6 page 87
²⁹ *ibid*, page 89
³⁰ *ibid*
³¹ Sergei O Prokofieff *Twelve Holy Nights and the Spiritual Hierarchies*, page 56
³² Sergei O Prokofieff *Heavenly Sophia and the Being of Anthroposophia*, page 46
³³ *ibid*
³⁴ Rudolf Steiner *Genesis*, 24 August 1910

feminine quality – and at the same time inspires a religion that is essentially masculine and focuses on individuals who are men: Abraham, Moses, Elijah, etc.

Rudolf Steiner tells us:

Eve! Add to it the sign for the divine Being of Hebrew antiquity who is the Ruler of Earth-history, and we have a form which is quite as valid as any other - Jehve-Jahve, the ruler of the Earth who has his symbol in the Moon. If we bring this into conjunction with what has come over from the Moon period and with its outcome for Earth evolution, we have the Ruler of the Earth united with the Earth Mother, whose powers are a result of the Moon period...Jahve! Hence out of Hebrew antiquity there emerges this mysterious connection of the Moon forces, which have left their remains in the Moon known to astronomy and their human forces in the female element in human life. The connection of the Ruler of the Earth with the Moon Mother is given to us in the name Jahve.³⁵

So now we see this individualising ‘male’ Son force, the Cosmic Son principle, born into the body of the Divine Sophia, that is, into the body of the six aspects of the Elohim on the Sun, being transmitted downwards to the seventh aspect of the Elohim, the Jehova-Elohim on the Moon, through whom it acquires the feminine characteristic of ‘Group Soul Ego’.³⁶ The individualised Male Ego force now exists within the airy (pneuma)³⁷ member of the advanced Feminine Jehova-Elohim, who bestows it upon human beings,³⁸ as a preparation for the full force of the individual Ego (Fire). The individual Ego would only be fully received by humanity when the Christ being entered into the physical body of a human being.³⁹

John the Baptist foretold that Christ would baptise with fire.

At this stage the human being was still Male/Female when this ‘Group Soul’, the precursor of the individualising force of the Ego, was breathed into the human being, stimulating the Male aspect which became more prominent than before, bringing the two, male and female - Adam/Eve into balance. We must think of the Eve aspect of the human being as the less dense and more spiritual aspect and the Adam the more dense and less spiritual.

Taking into consideration what we have said above we can now imagine a point in time after the germinal Group Soul Ego the living Soul, has been breathed into the Male/Female, Adam/Eve still ‘floating’ within Astral element of the Cosmos, at the Etheric periphery of the earth, known as ‘Paradise’. At this point the ‘feminine’ aspect of Adam/Eve (that which is more receptive to the spirit)⁴⁰ is approached by Lucifer, the most exalted of angels, who as a retarded Archangel (spirits of fire or light) was cast down when the Moon separated from the earth by Michael during a war in heaven between retarded and progressive angels. On Earth now, Lucifer was seeking to enter the Astral body of the human being but it needed to be an Ego bearing Astral body because Lucifer had fallen behind on the Old Moon when his Ego was being elaborated. This meant that he and his hosts could only progress on earth - due to the fact that earthly conditions were ‘physical’ - in the ‘Astral’ body of human beings which had been elaborated on Old Moon. It was therefore important

³⁵ Rudolf Steiner Lecture Jan 2nd 1914

³⁶ Rudolf Steiner *The Gospel of St John*, lecture 5 page 84

³⁷ *ibid*, page 103 -104

³⁸ Eduard Reaugh Smith *Burning Bush*, page 468

³⁹ *ibid*, page 82

⁴⁰ Emil Bock *The Threefold Mary*, page 22

to his own evolution that he tempt the Ego down into the Astral body before he could use it as his tool.

The Jehova-Elohim had not intended the Ego to enter too far into the Astral body⁴¹ and had admonished Adam/Eve not to be tempted to do it. This is depicted in the Biblical account of the snake tempting Eve with the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge. The snake is a creature that crawls about on its belly and as such it is also representative of human Wisdom⁴², which can only be gained through a close bodily connection to the earth (also in Goethe's Fairy Tale of the Green Snake and the Beautiful Lily). The Tree of Knowledge is the Astral body through which the human being can begin to see the difference between the spiritual world (the Good) and the material world (Evil). When Lucifer had tempted Eve, that is that aspect of the human being more receptive to him because of her more spiritual nature, he tempted Adam also because they were in one being. Lucifer became *digested* by both Adam and Eve.

What happens now?

Lucifer and his hosts entered the human Astral body which could have resulted in the human being progressing too quickly. The human being would have acquired instant knowledge, instant spirituality without maturity and would have become an image of Lucifer a Luciferic angel, bypassing the human stage and freedom – just an ego residing in an individualised Astral body.

This could not be allowed to happen, so a counterbalance had to be put into place.

What was this counterbalance?

You must imagine the human Soul/Spirit residing above the earth and the Physical/Etheric body below.

Lucifer's influence on the Astral body caused it to become heavy and subject to gravity, it descended into the sheath of the human Physical/Etheric body below causing a condensation into a solid and liquid.

The result was a 'fall' from the periphery towards the earth.⁴³

The human being now consisted of a Group Soul Ego residing in an Astral sheath that had entered the Etheric/Physical sheath and began to condense it as a result. On a spiritual level the Astral body - which had once been embedded in the Cosmic Astral substance⁴⁴ and consisted of selfless currents or 'light' received from the world of stars - became dense through the infection of the 'selfish' Luciferic light, and was cut off from worlds of spirit. Self-consciousness and thereby selfishness was the result causing the independent Ego to feel itself in the material world. Its eyes were opened! On a physical level the condensation of the Etheric/Physical body resulted in a one-sided sexuality and this released part of the forces necessary for self-reproduction towards the development of the spinal cord and its extension, the human brain. This resulted in cognition through the senses and enabled the beginning of thought. We see this denoted in the symbolic Tree of Knowledge with its branches (nerves). At this stage humanity had not only descended to earth but had become differentiated as a result of this descent, entering the stream of heredity. No longer could it self procreate through a *virgin birth* an asexual form of reproduction, that is, the feminine aspect with the Male gods. Reproduction could only come about through a unification of a separate human male

⁴¹ See also Rudolf Steiner *Occult Science an Outline*, page 182 -184

⁴² Rudolf Steiner *Theosophy of the Rosicrucian*, lecture XII

⁴³ Rudolf Steiner *St John's Gospel*, page 102 -103

⁴⁴ *ibid*, 104

(Adam) physical body with a separate human female (Eve) physical body. The separation from the gods now extended to the experience of the physical world through the medium of the senses. It is now that the effects of the first sacrifice of Christ (when He left his abode in the regions of the Sun beyond the fixed stars to enter into the Sphere of the Twelve Zodiacs in Lemurian times) could be felt in order to avert the danger of the senses becoming independent.

The result of this densification and separation from worlds of spirit was physical death, which prior to this had not been experienced by the human being.⁴⁵

The above collectively worked to slow down Lucifer's influence on the human being.

The word 'Conception' therefore, is the same word used for both the process of creation and the process of cognition.

Rudolf Steiner tells us that in the Man the stronger influence on the Etheric body emanates from the Moon and the stronger influence on the Physical body from the Sun and in Woman the opposite is the case, the Physical body is influenced by the forces of the Moon and the Etheric body by those of the Sun.⁴⁶

Man – Physical body Sun – Etheric body Moon
Woman – Physical body Moon – Etheric body Sun

He also tells us:

“From this intermingling of the Sun-forces and the Moon-forces, which had previously been in the body of the Earth, but now streamed in from without, the sex-life made its appearance. For all the forces connected with sex come under the influence of the Sun and Moon.”⁴⁷

Microcosm:

How can we understand this in relation to Adam and Eve in their essential being?

With the above in mind let us picture Adam and Eve in the one complex at the point when the forces of individuation enter in. Two forces are at work now on the human being, the forces of the Sun and Moon, due to the fact that the Ego or Sun force enters in through the Feminine Moon aspect of Jehova-Elohim. These forces working from both Sun (Masculine) and Moon (Feminine) work now on Adam/Eve resulting in a differentiation of masculine and feminine.

Rudolf Steiner tells us:

“We saw warmth being condensed to air and rarefied to light air being condensed to water and rarefied to sound ether and so on. The same process takes place on higher levels in man. The Masculine/feminine element became differentiated into man and woman and further, the denser physical body moved to the outside and the more rarefied Etheric body, in an invisible condition to the inside.”⁴⁸

⁴⁵ Rudolf Steiner *Theosophy of the Rosicrucian*, lecture XII

⁴⁶ *ibid*

⁴⁷ *ibid*, lecture XI

⁴⁸ Rudolf Steiner *Genesis*, lecture 10 page 145

In the same way that the male sperm carrying half the human chromosomes necessary for life enters via the female into the egg carrying the other half, causing a stimulation for the division of cells to occur, so does the Spirit carrying the male forces of the Ego – the individualising forces - reflect downwards into the airy substance of the feminine Jehova-Elohim and through the sacrifice of this substance by the Jehova-Elohim into the human Astral body, create the conditions necessary for the Luciferic stimulation which caused a division of one being into two, Male and Female - Adam/Eve.

Man separates out from Eve and the one human being is now born into the physical world divided:

Individual Male physical body

Individual Female physical body.

When the physical body of each individual had densified into a more dense outer Physical body, a rarefaction accompanied it creating a rarefied Etheric body.⁴⁹ In the Male the densification of the Physical body into more material substance is influenced by Sun or Male forces and the rarefaction of the Etheric body into more spiritual or Female substance by Moon forces.

In the Female the opposite holds true the densification of the Physical body into matter is influenced by Female or Moon forces and the rarefaction of the Etheric body into a rarer more spiritual body by Male or Sun forces. This means that:

- Eve has a Physical body that is Feminine and an Etheric body that is Masculine
- Adam has a Physical body that is Masculine and an Etheric body that is Feminine

The fact that the Bible alludes to Adam losing a rib illustrates the connection that exists between the Ego or the ‘breath of life’ the substance of the Son Principle which works through the Jehova Elohim⁵⁰ to the solar plexus or rib area which is related to the sphere of Virgo and therefore the Divine Sophia, being that which protects the Sun of the heart.

The Female has retained the generative spiritual forces which in the Physical body are responsible for reproduction,, the forces which allow the conception of living spirit into matter, and in the Etheric body, the ability to think, imagine and remember, to receive *revelation*.

The Male has retained the creative physical forces, which are necessary in the Physical body for fertilisation, and in the Etheric body for the penetration of the outer world of natural forces, in order to create from the inanimate world – to shape matter into spirit through *participation*.

We can see this if we look with insight into the XX chromosome of the female resembling ‘as above so below’ while the male XY chromosome has an aspect that is cut off from what is above. His rib so to speak has been removed – his connection with spiritual worlds.

⁴⁹ Rudolf Steiner *Genesis*, lecture 10

⁵⁰ *ibid* lecture 8 page 115 -116, remember the Jehova Elohim are those more advanced and able to progress from the element of Warmth to the element of Air

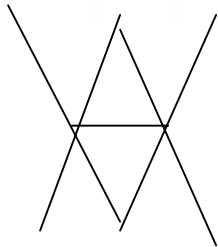
Human Chromosomes



Female (XX)

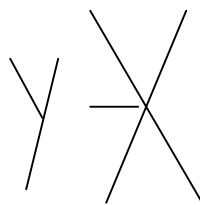


Male (XY)



As above so is below

Light of consciousness streams up
Spirit fashioned into matter
Wisdom of Spiritual world



Cut off and individual

Light of consciousness is trapped below
Matter fashioned into spirit
Wisdom of Physical world

Now we must turn our attention to what was rarefied from the Adam/Eve complex before the differentiation of the sexes, before the Fall.

What was rarefied of the Solid and Liquid aspects of Adam and Eve, the Life and Sound Ethers untouched by Luciferic intrusion, were carried away to the great Sun Lodge, the Mother lodge on the Sun and thus protected.

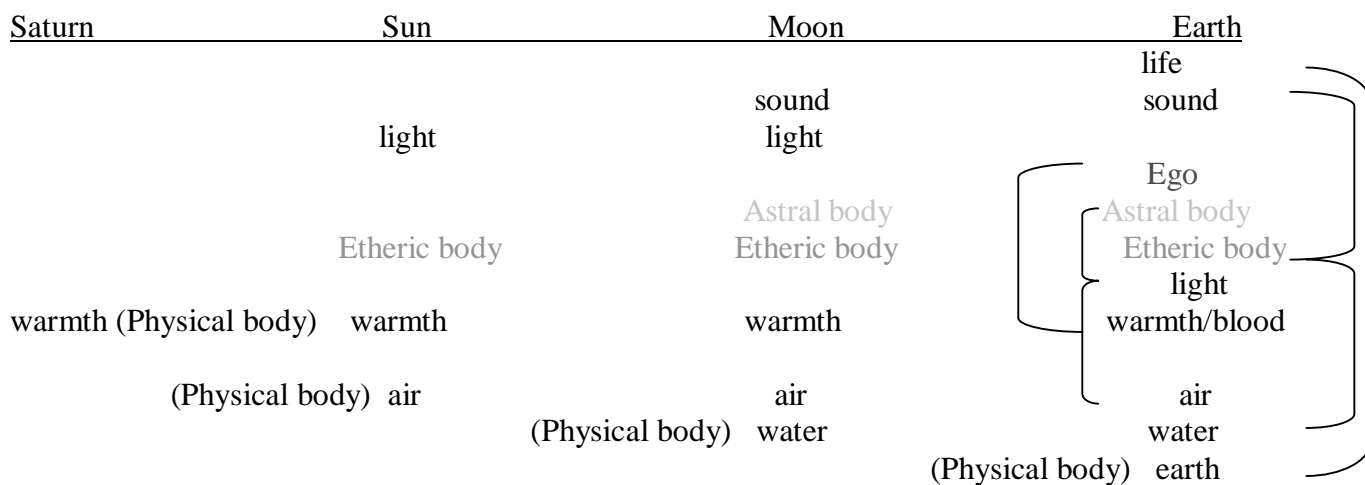
In the outer world and in the human being there only remained a slight connection between:

Sound Ether - Etheric body - Water/liquid

Life Ether - Physical body - Earth/Solid

The other two Ethers were Light Ether and Warmth Ether. The Light Ether became related to the human Astral body and air, and the Warmth Ether became the bearer of the Ego through the blood organism.

Human Evolution:



If you will remember we spoke about these rarefied ethers when we discussed the days of creation. We spoke about how they had been removed at around the fourth day. What had they been removed from? At the same time as the Life and Sound ethers were rarefied on Earth from the Solid and Watery elements so too were the Life and Sound ethers rarefied from the human being (Eve/Adam) which at this stage, had not yet been impregnated with the fullness of the Masculine forces of the six Elohim on the Sun. What was separated out (spiritual separation) that which was refined out of the Physical/ Etheric body of Eve/Adam was a mirror image (though on a higher, more spiritual level) of these two archetypal beings, the ‘Sister Souls’ of Adam and Eve. This had to occur prior to the physical separation of Adam and Eve caused by Luciferic temptation in Paradise.

The earthly Adam and Eve were to become human beings possessed of Physical body, Etheric body, Astral body and Ego. The heavenly Adam and Heavenly Eve became beings possessed of the Paradisal forces, that is those forces untouched by Luciferic influence - the Life and Sound Ethers. These innocent aspects of the Adam/Eve that had not taken into themselves the experience of an Ego (for this can only be obtained by incarnating in a physical body) had, none the less, all the Wisdom that could have been gained from Old Saturn, Old Sun, and Old Moon evolutions – the wisdom which in human beings corresponds to Physical, Etheric and Astral bodies respectively – and were also possessed of all the love of which a human soul is capable’.⁵¹ These shall be referred to from here on as the Nathan Soul and the Heavenly Eve.

Why were they preserved and what was their task?

The Sister soul of Adam: The Nathan Soul

Rudolf Steiner tells us that the sister soul of the earthly Adam the youngest soul was destined to become the bearer of the forces of the Son on His descent to earth. The first level of this descent occurred in Lemurian times when the Son Being entered the sphere of the Sun as a star through which He had access to the entire sphere of the Twelve Zodiacs in order to prevent the individualisation of the twelve senses which could have been the result of the ego entering the Astral body. The second level of descent occurred during the beginning of the Atlantean Epoch when the Son Being entered the body of the Sun through the six Elohim in order to avert the individualisation and materialisation of the seven organs. A further descent occurred during Atlantean times when the Son Being entered the Sphere of the Moon through the gate of the

⁵¹ Rudolf Steiner *The spiritual nature of Maya. Krishna — the Light-Halo of Christ. The Risen One*

Archangels, in order to prevent the individualisation and materialisation of the soul principles – thinking feeling and willing.⁵² This descent was accompanied by the Archangelic Paradisal being of the Nathan Soul who under the protection of the greatest of all Archangels on the Sun, Michael, became a Christoferos, a Christ bearer – the Astral garment worn by the Cosmic Christ during three stages of His descent.⁵³ It is for this reason that the Nathan Soul did not incarnate into a physical body until the turning point in time, when he would perform a further sacrifice. This time he would incarnate into the lineage of Nathan, son of David, into the stream of priests - the Jesus of the Luke Gospel.⁵⁴ Once again this being was destined to be the bearer of the forces of the Macrocosmic ego of Christ on His descent to the Earthly sphere at the baptism in Jordan.

The Earthly Adam:

In contrast to his sister soul, the earthly Adam is the oldest soul. As the oldest soul it was his task to be the forerunner of Christ both as Elijah the prophet and later as John the Baptist who would recognise and baptise, that is, make possible the descent of the Christ being into the physical sheaths of Jesus of Nazareth, through the agency of both the Being of Anthroposophia working on behalf of the Divine Sophia and the fertilising medium of the Holy Spirit (the Dove).

We are now led to the following questions: If the Nathan soul, the unspoilt Etheric forces of Adam became the Archangelic bearer of the Son Forces of the Cosmos – the Christ being, and if the earthly Adam was destined to make the descent of the Christ being into the physical sheaths of his sister soul possible, what were the tasks of the unspoilt Etheric forces of Eve - the Heavenly Eve and of her earthly reflection, the Earthly Eve?

Moreover, where in this picture do we find the three Mary's - the Luke and Mathew Mary and Mary Magdalene? And what is the connection of the three Marys to the being of Anthroposophia and through her the Divine Sophia?

These questions will be explored in the second part of this lecture.

⁵² Rudolf Steiner *The Four Sacrifices of Christ*

⁵³ See present Author's Lecture Trinity of Nathan Soul, Vidar and Michael in the Past Present and Future Sacrifices of Christ Sydney 25th of November and 3rd December 2003

⁵⁴ Rudolf Steiner *Gospel of St Luke*

Part II

The Mystery of Isis – Mary - Sophia And the Being of Anthroposophia

In the last lecture we were left with the following questions:

If the Nathan soul, the unspoilt Etheric forces of Adam, became the bearer of Son Forces, the Macrocosmic Christ being, and if the earthly Adam was destined to make the descent of the Christ being into the physical sheaths of his sister soul possible - what were the tasks of the unspoilt Etheric forces of Eve, the Heavenly Eve, and her earthly reflection the Earthly Eve? Moreover what is their connection to the being of Anthroposophia?

Rudolf Steiner speaks little of the Heavenly Eve. He does however speak more concerning the Nathan Soul, its twin, and from this it may be possible to construct an understanding of this illusive being.

We must remember that these two Paradisal souls, the Nathan Soul and Heavenly Eve, were really the rarefied ethers or that aspect of Adam/Eve not touched by the 'Fall'. These were (possibly) separated from the earthly Adam-Eve around the fourth day of creation. Rudolf Steiner relates this separation of those higher Etheric aspects of the human being Adam:

Then we must picture further, that side by side with that human soul-nature which incarnated in Adam's body, there was a human part, a human being, that remained behind and did not then incarnate, that did not enter a physical body, but remained "pure soul." You need only now picture how, before a physical man arose in the evolution of humanity, there was one soul, which then divided itself into two parts. The one part, the one descendant of the common soul, incarnated in Adam and thus entered into the line of incarnations, succumbed to Lucifer, and so on. As to the other soul, the sister-soul, as it were, the wise rulers of the world saw beforehand that it would not be good that this too should be embodied; it was kept back in the soul world; it did not therefore take part in the incarnations of humanity, but was kept back.

That being that was separated out of Adam is known to spiritual science as the Nathan Soul and *his* destiny⁵⁵ was to ascend to the highest region of the Sun sphere, to those regions where the sun itself appears a fixed star amongst fixed stars in order to participate in the descent of the Christ being on his journey to earth to prevent a materialisation of the twelve senses, as discussed in the previous lecture.⁵⁶

⁵⁵ Why has the sister soul of Adam suddenly acquired Male characteristics? This seems strangely paradoxical. We can answer this perplexing question thus: The Nathan Soul began as a feminine being because her separation from the human being occurred at a time before the Masculine forces were injected into Eve/Adam by the six Elohim. This means that the Nathan Soul, composed as she was of those Ethers refined from the Physical/Etheric aspect of Adam/Eve, had a predominant 'soul-like nature', capable of: the raying out of the light of Cosmic Truth (Astral body equivalent); sounding forth of the purest most beautiful Cosmic Love - (Etheric body equivalent); and capable of the deepest and most solemn reflection of Cosmic sacrifice (Physical body equivalent). These qualities formed the perfect vessel or sheaths for the Cosmic Christ Being in His first descent towards earth. And it is through the Nathan Soul's embodiment of the Cosmic Christ, His individualising force, and the subsequent surrender of her 'Feminine' characteristics that the Nathan Soul acquired 'Male' characteristics. Therefore we can speak of two aspects of the Nathan Soul: First aspect - prior to embodiment of the Cosmic Christ - feminine characteristics; and second aspect - after the embodiment of Cosmic Christ - masculine characteristics.

⁵⁶ Sergei O Prokofieff *The Cycle of the Year as a Path of Initiation*, page 40

What nature could such a being have possessed in order to perform such a lofty task?

We are told that those Etheric forces separated from Adam were the higher Sound and Life Ethers belonging to the Solid and Watery aspects. These were kept back before the effects of the 'Fall' and protected in the Mother Lodge of Humanity - the Sun lodge – in the sphere of the Sun.⁵⁷ Rudolf Steiner relates the Nathan Soul to the Archangels⁵⁸ because the Nathan Soul's pre fall Etheric body is of like-substance to the pure Life Spirit or spiritualised Etheric body, which is acquired in its cosmic fullness by the Archangels.⁵⁹ The Nathan Soul has therefore a kinship to the sphere of Archangels through the embodiment of Sun Laws. We are told then that these forces came into the guardianship of the Sun Archangel Michael – the highest of all Archangels on the Sun. It was this spiritual kinship that enabled the Nathan Soul to become the bearer of the Christ being in the cosmos, to be His Astral garment accompanying His descent from the Sphere of the Stars to that of the Planets and the Moon Sphere. To do this the Nathan Soul had to sacrifice his Archangelic nature and also his Angelic nature⁶⁰, finally incarnating into the physical body of a human being on earth as the Nathan Jesus of the Luke Gospel and participating in the fourth sacrifice of Christ – the Mystery of Golgotha.

Now we may make a tentative step at exploring the possible nature of the Heavenly Eve.

The Heavenly Eve, being the twin of the Nathan soul would have had a similar destiny. It had also been in possession of the separated higher Sound and Life Ethers rarefied from the Etheric/Physical body of Eve, and so too must have been in the possession of a pure Life Spirit. This being must also have possessed similar attributes to an Archangel – embodying similar laws.⁶¹ It stands to reason that the Archangel Michael would also have had a particularly important relationship to this being.

What then could have been the Task and the Sacrifices of the Heavenly Eve?

The heavenly Eve was also preserved for a lofty task. This being composed of the pre fall forces of the primordial Eve, had a nature particularly suited to the task of being the bearer of the forces of another sublime being of the cosmos – the unified forces of the Divine Sophia. This meant that the Heavenly Eve was possessed of a feminine characteristic. Moreover, she too would have had 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.

In the same way that the Nathan soul was destined to become the bearer of the Masculine individualising forces of the universe - the great and mighty Macrocosmic Christ being – then the heavenly Eve would have the task of becoming the bearer of the Feminine unifying wisdom of the manifest universe.

Nathan Soul – Masculine – Christ Bearer
Heavenly Eve – Feminine – Sophia Bearer

⁵⁷ Rudolf Steiner Lecture 30 December 1913, also, in relation to the Paradisal soul of Eve or the Heavenly Eve see Sergei O Prokofieff *Heavenly Sophia and the Being of Anthroposophia*, page 246

⁵⁸ Rudolf Steiner *The Four Sacrifices of Christ*

⁵⁹ Sergei O Prokofieff *The Cycle of the Year as a Path of Initiation*, page 46

⁶⁰ Rudolf Steiner Lecture December 30th 1913

⁶¹ 'Then we consider how this has evolved from philosopher to philosopher we say to ourselves: there are active within not earthly laws, but Sun laws! The laws which at that time held sway between the Spirits of Wisdom and the Archangels come to light again on earth in the philosophical search for wisdom.'

How would the Heavenly Eve accomplish this task?

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

Why was it necessary for Michael to follow this descent?

Rudolf Steiner tells us that the Archangel Michael was the guardian of the substance, which the Heavenly Sophia had created in our cosmos from above downwards - from the sphere of the Spirit of Wisdom.⁶² This substance of the Heavenly Sophia - the composite of the creative world thoughts of the hierarchies, which contain the entire significance of the Being of Christ and His deeds for the whole of earthly evolution, past, present and future - is what is referred to as the Cosmic Intelligence of Christ. It was Michael's task to sacrifice his dominion of the Cosmic Intelligence to humanity when it was ready to receive it.⁶³

Two steps were needed in order that this might happen.

1. Casting out of Lucifer from Old Moon:

We must remember that it was Michael, who working with the Jehova-Elohim (whose task we have seen was to implant the ego in the human being) cast Lucifer down to Earth from Old Moon so that he might tempt humanity to descend. This casting out of Lucifer was important since it was to be through Lucifer that human beings would acquire freedom through a differentiation into sexes and the creation of the brain and spinal cord. Michael knew this was important since the brain was needed if human beings were to develop independent logical thinking as a pathway to understanding the 'Cosmic Intelligence' he guarded and would one day sacrifice, since this 'intelligence' could only become the possession of human beings when it was taken up in full consciousness and in complete freedom.

2. The descent of Heavenly Eve:

The second step entailed the descent of the Heavenly Eve to Earth, whose task was to carry that aspect of the Wisdom originating from the Divine Sophia. This wisdom creates the conditions in the Astral body necessary for a development of the human faculties capable of receiving and understanding the Cosmic Intelligence safeguarded by Michael in the Sun. In other words, the Heavenly Eve had the task of carrying the necessary forces for creating the soul chalice (Grail) into which Michael could pour the Cosmic Intelligence - the substance of Christ. It was necessary for the Heavenly Eve, the bearer of the Wisdom of the Divine Sophia to descend from the Sun accompanying the cosmic descent of her twin soul, the Nathan Soul and his descent bearing the Macrocosmic being of Christ. Therefore we can say that the Heavenly Eve is a beacon which lights up in the human soul to enable its understanding of the descent of Christ.

⁶² Sergei O Prokofieff *Heavenly Sophia and the Being of Anthroposophia*, page 77

⁶³ Rudolf Steiner *The Archangel Michael*

How does the Heavenly Eve do this?

Persian Times

Before she made her descent she was responsible for reflecting the forces of 'Ea' towards the earth, so that the Persian initiates in the Zoroastrian mysteries could form an understanding of the Sun 'Life' forces, that is, those forces capable of creating the human brain as an expression of the work of Ahura Mazdao or the great Sun being.⁶⁴

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 Spheres⁶⁵ with understanding - that is to that sphere in which the echo of Christ or the Cosmic Word could (due to his own descent) now be heard in those regions where the spheres are resounding through space by way of the 'Sound' Ether – the sphere of the Sun as a Planet.

Once the Heavenly Eve had reached the threshold of the Moon sphere, the sphere of the Angels, she sacrificed her Archangelic nature and as an Angel began to enter directly into the human Astral body, in particular the Sentient Soul⁶⁶ of human beings, carrying with her the forces of the Divine Sophia. This would have a two-fold effect.

1. It was through this unification with the human being that the Heavenly Eve, as bearer of the forces of the Divine Sophia, was capable of creating her Physical Etheric and Astral sheaths.
2. It was through this unification with the human being that the wisdom of the Sophia could pass through the human Sentient Soul and stimulate the forces capable of understanding God. This understanding, full of feeling/reverence, created an independent being, whose Physical, Etheric and Astral bodies contained all that the human being had accomplished through having experienced her in the Sentient Soul. This was reflected back towards the human being as an image of the Wisdom of God and given a name – Theosophia⁶⁷.

Greco-Roman Times

Her next descent was from the Angelic sphere to the Earthly sphere and occurred at the Turning Point in Time in the middle of the Greco Roman times. At this time human beings were as if standing before a crossroad: would humanity become more and more entangled in matter or would it be capable of creating the forces necessary for understanding the greatest event in earthly evolution - the descent and birth of the Christ Ego into the sheaths of a human being and His subsequent sacrifice and Resurrection?

What had to occur in order to help humanity to pass through this transition?

1. Firstly, the Heavenly Eve imbued with the Wisdom of the Divine Sophia had to incarnate into the physical body of a human being.
2. The Nathan Soul had to incarnate into the physical body of a human being so that it might become the vessel for the Macrocosmic Ego of Christ.

⁶⁴ Rudolf Steiner *The Gift of Isis*, Berlin February 5 1913

⁶⁵ *ibid*

⁶⁶ Sergei O Prokofieff *Heavenly Sophia and the Being of Anthropsophia*, page 94.

⁶⁷ Rudolf Steiner *Perception of the Nature of Thought*, 10th January 1915

What was the incarnation of the Heavenly Eve at the Turning Point of Time?

Emil Bock tells us⁶⁸:

- In Mary Paradise is fully present on earth once more.
- The motherly figure of the Luke Gospel Mary is the personification of the ancient virginity of Paradise.
- She is much more important as the representative of Paradise.
- In (Mary) her being and countenance there is a reflection, in the most serene purity and perfection of a divine archetype, which hovers over mankind in the spiritual world. Just as the child that she is to bear, who reflects and embodies the archetype of the child, is the embodiment of everything that is childlike – a focal point of everything that pertains to childhood on the Earth- so is the Luke Mary an earthly image of the archetype of virginal womanhood, the embodiment of the eternal feminine, the virgin of virgins...and just as the Paradisal being of Adam preserved from the fall in the spiritual sphere was to incarnate in the Nathan Jesus-child, so was the Paradisal being of Eve preserved from the Fall to become visible in earthly form in the mother of the Nathan Jesus; and like her son, she incarnated for the first time in a physical body at the Turning Point of Time.⁶⁹

Sergei O Prokofieff tells us:

- But whereas the entelechy of the future Nathan Jesus was connected more with the Christ and was the mediator between Him and mankind in the three preparatory stages of the Mystery of Golgotha, the entelechy of his future mother was already then the mediator between mankind and the forces of the heavenly Sophia.⁷⁰

We see from the above that the Heavenly, Paradisal Eve, was incarnated at the Turning point of time, as the *Mary of the Luke Gospel*. This incarnation was necessary because she was destined to give birth to her 'heavenly twin', the Nathan Jesus child who would, on his thirtieth birthday embody the sublime Macrocosmic Ego of the Christ being enabling the Christ Being to accomplish His sublime sacrifice on Mount Golgotha.

This descent/sacrifice by the Christ Being, would have the effect of redeeming the human Ego and creating the possibility for its return from entanglement in matter, through thinking, to worlds of Spirit. Christ was responsible for the redemption of human thought by awakening the human ego and bringing it into connection with the entire spiritual cosmos. This redemption of the human Ego now created two possibilities:

1. Michael was now able to make his own sacrifice of the cosmic intelligence to humanity
2. A 'human Chalice' could now receive the contents of this sacrifice.

⁶⁸ Emil Bock *The Threefold Mary*, page 28

⁶⁹ Emil Bock *The Childhood and Youth of Jesus Part V, The Lives of the Two Marys*, the chapter 'The virginal Being'

⁷⁰ Sergei O Prokofieff *Heavenly Sophia and the Being of Anthroposophia*, page 246

What was this Chalice?

Sergei O Prokofieff tells us that this chalice was that being who had acquired a human ego in her brief incarnation as Mary,⁷¹ and the being that we have come to know as the incarnated Heavenly Eve. Having developed her body (Physical, Etheric, Astral) in previous epochs her next task in order to create this chalice was to develop her Soul by passing through the undeveloped human Intellectual soul and part of the human Consciousness Soul. What the Heavenly Eve accomplished from this unification with the human Intellectual Soul and part of the Consciousness Soul was the fashioning of her own soul members, Sentient, Intellectual and Consciousness Souls respectively. What the human being accomplished through this unification with the Cosmic Wisdom of the Divine Sophia through the Heavenly Eve was separated out and seen as an independent being of body and soul – Philosophia. Rudolf Steiner tells us:

And when we consider how this has evolved from philosopher to philosopher we say to ourselves: there are active within not earthly laws, but Sun laws! The laws which at that time held sway between the Spirits of Wisdom and the Archangels come to light again on earth in the philosophical search for wisdom.⁷²

And again:

Thus you see at least one example of the working of the Sun-evolution in human earthly life. I said that one could encounter these sun-laws if one studied the course of philosophical evolution, though one does not always recognise that it is sun-law which is active in it. This must be recognised by Spiritual Science. Just reflect that in reality a Being is evolving which little by little acquires the same members as man himself.⁷³

The faculty of thinking, made possible by the Heavenly Eve had to be developed before the human being could begin to take up the Cosmic Intelligence of Christ in full consciousness and in total freedom. By the time humanity had reached the Epoch of the Consciousness Soul in 1413, the Heavenly Eve had also entered upon this path and it is from this time onwards that she was able to become the receptacle or the spiritual Etheric Chalice for the Cosmic Intelligence, which began to enter into the spiritual cultural development of humanity directly through her. This has led to the development of the free, inner control of thought in the Soul.

By participating in this development of the Consciousness Soul the Heavenly Eve initiated a process that would lead to a loss of her conscious connection (Ahamot) to the Wisdom of the Divine Sophia. From this time this wisdom could only stream into her as a ‘spiritualised memory’.⁷⁴

At the beginning of the 1840’s Michael began his gradual ascent to Time Spirit and this made possible his descent towards the earth.⁷⁵

⁷¹ Sergei O Prokofieff *Heavenly Sophia and the Being of Anthroposophia*, page 80 - 81

⁷² Rudolf Steiner *Perception of the Nature of Thought*

⁷³ Ibid

⁷⁴ Sergei O Prokofieff *Heavenly Sophia and the Being of Anthroposophia*, page 183

⁷⁵ Rudolf Steiner *The Mission of the Archangel Michael*, February 17th 1918

What does this mean?

Rudolf Steiner tells us that the Archai are also responsible for the unfolding of free human Self-Consciousness through their connection to the physical body, because Self-Consciousness can only come about in those beings that have created a physical body of form and figure out of an inner impulse of the soul.⁷⁶ Therefore, when Michael made his ascent from Archangel to Time spirit or Archai, he was able to gain access to that aspect connected to the physical body which in the individual human being has a relationship to Will and Consciousness, that sphere in which the Consciousness Soul is elaborated.⁷⁷ After relinquishing of the Cosmic Intelligence he had waited for human beings to develop the above faculties of free thought through the Heavenly Eve in order that he might, through human 'Conscious-Free-Will' lead humanity from the chains of sense perception to a free ascent to perception of the supersensible.⁷⁸

We might suggest that on his ascent Michael was able to work into the earthly sphere through the developing Consciousness Soul of the Heavenly Eve, as a human 'starting point'.⁷⁹ The Heavenly Eve was able to unite her own Consciousness Soul in which worked the Michaelic Cosmic Intelligence with the Human Consciousness Soul and it is this passing of the youngest member of the Cosmic Sophia through the human being that has made it possible for thought to become fully self-conscious, that is, self-aware, and it is by means of this Self-Consciousness that a seed is sown for the capacity in the human being for a fully conscious experience of the spiritual world.

Rudolf Steiner was the first person to receive this Michaelic Intelligence in full consciousness from the spiritual chalice which he called by a name.

This brings us to the question: - Who is this being who was once the Heavenly Eve who descended through long ages and was seen by human beings as Theosophia and Philosophia; who is this being who once incarnated her Ego briefly as the Virginal Mary of the Luke Gospel in order to give birth to the Nathan Jesus? Who is this being that in our times leads us and is fashioned objectively from all that man has learnt of his own humanity?

The above being was given a name by Rudolf Steiner. He called her Anthroposophia – the Wisdom of Man.

Anthroposophia is therefore the same being as the being of the Heavenly Eve.

Theosophia – Wisdom of God

Philosophia – Wisdom of the World

Anthroposophia – Wisdom of the Human Being

The relationship between Michael and the being of Anthroposophia now becomes clear: Michael, the Son of the Sophia, sacrifices the Cosmic Intelligence to humanity while the daughter of the Sophia, the Heavenly Eve, the being of Anthroposophia, prepares the faculty of human thought in the human being for receiving it.

⁷⁶ Rudolf Steiner *Anthroposophical Leading Thought* 148

⁷⁷ *ibid* 78

⁷⁸ *ibid* 105

⁷⁹ Sergei O Prokofieff *ibid*, page 99

By thus passing through the Human Consciousness Soul carrying the wisdom of the Divine Sophia and the Cosmic Intelligence of Michael, Anthroposophia was able to fully develop her own Consciousness Soul. This now meant that her Consciousness Soul could work in a purifying way on her entire Astral, transforming it into the body of a *Virgin Sophia*. This purification restored her connection with the sphere of the Divine Sophia and it enabled Anthroposophia to begin the process of receiving the Spirit Self as an archetype for all humanity. In this way the virginal soul becomes unified in consciousness with the Holy Spirit, which becomes individualised to Spirit Self by the individualising force of the Ego Consciousness of Christ. This evolution created a potential for all human beings who seek to be her pupils and marked the beginning of her ascent from Human being to Angel⁸⁰ culminating in the Christmas Conference when Rudolf Steiner elaborated the Physical, Etheric and Astral sheaths of the Anthroposophical Society to such an extent that it was capable of being a vessel for Anthroposophia's higher Ego, who as a consequence has become its guardian.

Anthroposophy is therefore an advanced human being and we, the Anthroposophical Society, since the Christmas Foundation Meeting, are her human body and soul members. Her further development therefore depends particularly upon Anthroposophists. She, like our individual angels, stands before Anthroposophists and shows us what we have created from having had her wisdom (that same wisdom that is reflected from the being of the Divine Sophia) pass through us for the benefit of all humanity. This is self-knowledge for the Anthroposophical Society - a necessary step in the transition from Consciousness Soul to Spirit Self for every individual and also for the society itself.

This brings us to the tasks of the Earthly Eve

If the earthly Adam had the task of being forerunner of the Christ being, the medium by which the sheaths of Jesus of Nazareth became en-filled with the Ego of Christ, what task did the Earthly Eve perform?

Let us recap on what we know so far concerning Eve. In the last lecture we saw how Eve was the human being created by the six Elohim from the sphere of the Sun on the sixth day of creation. We saw in the last lecture how the six Elohim impregnated Eve with their male aspect so that she had both male and female aspects within her. It was this characteristic that made her capable of self-procreation, that is, the female egg being fertilised by the male seed within the one body. We saw also how the product of this internal union was a separate human being whom the bible calls 'Cain'. Cain was possessed of a male Etheric/physical body imbued with the creative Sun forces conducive to living in the outward world and capable of shaping lifeless matter into spiritual substance.⁸¹

We mentioned that it was in Paradise that the 7th Elohim, the Jehova-Elohim, breathed 'life' into the human being whom we called the Eve/Adam complex. We saw how this combined with Lucifer's intervention to stimulate the separation of the sexes, that is, to create a physically separate Adam and Eve. The union of the physically separate Adam and Eve created Abel. Abel was possessed of a feminine Etheric body and a male Physical body. Abel's feminine Etheric body was capable of a passive intuition that is in direct connection with the Wisdom of the Gods, a priestly wisdom capable of shaping spiritual substance and bringing it to expression in the physical world of lifeless matter.

Cain – product of asexual reproduction, is capable of shaping lifeless *matter* into spirit, male Etheric/Physical body

⁸⁰ Sergei O Prokofieff *Heavenly Sophia and the Being of Anthroposophia*, page 66

⁸¹ Eduard Reaugh Smith *Burning Bush*, page 469

Abel – a product of sexual reproduction, is capable of shaping *spirit* into lifeless matter, female Etheric body male Physical body

Now we see why the Elohim Jehova accepted the sacrifice of Abel - because he was created from the union of Adam and Eve. That form of procreation that was related to his work on the human being. He rejected the sacrifice of Cain because he was created through the 'older' and now inappropriate form of asexual reproduction activated by the other 6 Elohim on the Sun.

Cain is then said to have killed Abel.

What does this mean? It means that the Male (Cain) wisdom, that is, the wisdom acquired through sense perception of the physical world, was destined to rule over the Female (Abel) wisdom, that is, the passive wisdom acquired through the spiritual perception of the gods. The ego bearing human being was therefore destined to 'kill off' the female (Abel) wisdom within because this passive wisdom of the gods was incompatible with the evolution of an active wisdom acquired through perception of the world. This cognition of the world was necessary to enable the development of clear, logical thinking that in turn creates physical and spiritual independence.

In context with the Earthly Eve we can say therefore, that she had to be 'forgotten' for a time. The Male principle of Adam, the ego bearing being (the Cain wisdom) became dominant and the Female Eve principle of oneness or unity (the Abel wisdom) had to die away. Wisdom became increasingly materialised and increasingly Masculine. The Feminine had to withdraw quietly into the background and await a turning point in time when Eve, the oldest 'Feminine' human being, could incarnate as *Mary of the Matthew gospel*.

Heavenly Eve: Mary of the Luke Gospel

Earthly Eve: Mary of the Mathew Gospel

The Mary of the Matthew gospel was destined, like the Mary of the Luke gospel to become the vessel for an exalted being. This exalted being had his most significant incarnation as Zarathustra. It was this being of Zarathustra who became the Jesus of the Matthew gospel. The Matthew Jesus is known to Spiritual Science as the Solomon Jesus, whose ego, Rudolf Steiner tells us, left the body of the Matthew Jesus to enter, at the age of twelve, into the physical Etheric and Astral sheaths of the Luke Jesus.⁸² This unification of Zarathustra Ego and Nathan Soul (Matthew Jesus and Luke Jesus) became known as Jesus of Nazareth, a composite being. Jesus of Nazareth would come to sacrifice his ego (Zarathustra ego) once more, in order to become the vessel for the Macrocosmic Ego of Christ at the baptism in the Jordan.

The Mary of the Matthew Gospel who was raised at the Temple, the Mary who, unlike the Mary of the Luke Gospel, was clever and wise, an old soul, watched her child die and then became the stepmother of Jesus of Nazareth when the Mary of the Luke gospel also died. She came, in time, to recognise in this child the ego of the child she had lost, the Zarathustra Ego, and through a deep and profound relationship to Jesus of Nazareth was able to unite, through compassion and suffering, with the discarnate being of the Luke Mary, the Heavenly Eve, who would one day become the being of Anthroposophia. The two Marys were destined to become one - the two Eves became one again. Emil Bock describes it thus:

⁸² Rudolf Steiner *The Fifth Gospel*

It is as if this wonderful divine Soul originating in Paradise (Luke Mary) were now incorporated in the *ancient soul* of the Solomon Mary (Mathew Mary).⁸³

The Heavenly Paradisal Eve united with her sister soul, the Earthly Eve, and the two become one again, joined together.

⁸³ Emil Bock *Threefold Mary*, page 74

How does this happen and what does it mean?

The Soul of the Paradisal Eve, the Nathan Mary of the Luke gospel (The being of Anthroposophia) after her death, was able, due to the qualities we have explored above, to unite with the full forces of the Divine Sophia in the Sun sphere. By uniting without hindrance with all the higher hierarchies up to and including the highest of the spirits of the Sun, the spirits of Wisdom, she was able to carry the Sophian forces right down into the physical body of the Mathew Mary, her earthly sister, the Earthly Eve. As a result of this embodiment (Luke Mary within the Matthew Mary) the Matthew Mary was made *virginal*, that is, she now resembled the Divine Sophia in all her wisdom from her physical body up to her spiritualised Astral body. This was a kind of *incarnation* of the Sophia on earth.⁸⁴ As a result of this the Mathew Mary was now able to stand in full consciousness with the disciple John at the foot of the cross upon which hung the being of Christ incarnated in the body of Jesus of Nazareth. For this reason Mary becomes the central figure amidst the disciples at the Pentecost⁸⁵ since it was through her own Virginal Soul that it became possible for the disciples to receive into their souls the substance of the unifying Holy Spirit - because they were united with her, the representative of the Divine Sophia on earth - with her consciousness. We may say that she acted like a conduit on earth for the forces of the Holy Spirit, through the mediation of the Divine Sophia.⁸⁶

The Earthly Mary, who as Eve was subject to the fall and was the *oldest feminine soul*, was destined to embody her heavenly sister soul, the *youngest feminine soul*, the Heavenly Eve, and it is this unification of Earthly Eve with Heavenly Eve that enabled the Mary of the Matthew gospel to become the archetype of the divine feminine in human form. The human soul that strives to become through effort and earthly toil *virginal* towards a resurrection of the individual Spirit within.

Emil Bock describes it thus:

The one possesses a virginity so strong that it carries over into motherhood, while the other possesses all the inner qualifications for earning the mystery of resurrection, or, put a different way, the motherly figure of the Luke Gospel Mary, is the personification of the ancient virginity of Paradise, while in the other Mary, we see the possibility of regaining virginity by working our way through the darkness back to the light.

In the Paradisal Heavenly Eve we see Anthroposophia, Raphael's Sistine Madonna, the pure virginal soul, who as a gift of grace gives birth to the spirit of humanity the Spirit Self.

In the Earthly Eve we see the Pieta of Michelangelo, the mother who suffers and mourns the death of her son, that part of her which has been killed through the fall through consciousness of the world and must suffer through purification to be resurrected again as consciousness of the spirit.

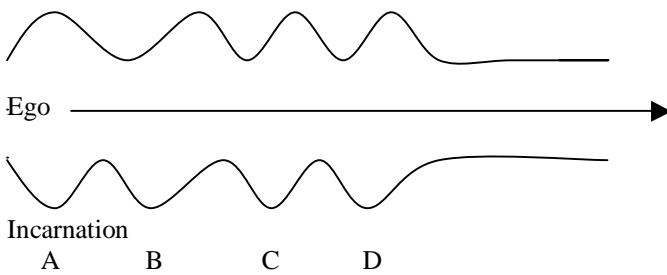
⁸⁴ Sergei O Prokofieff *Heavenly Sophia and the Being of Anthroposophia*, page 247 – 248 see also Emil Bock *Threefold Mary*, page 75.

⁸⁵ *ibid*, page 76-77

⁸⁶ Emil Bock *The Childhood of Jesus the unknown years*, page 193

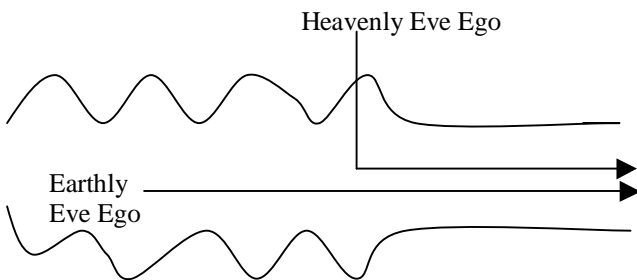
Thus does the earthly Eve become an Avatar, a Bodhisattva-like being:

Life of an Initiate



The incorporation of earthly Eve by Heavenly Eve

Life of a Bodhisattva



When the Earthly Eve, Mary of the Matthew gospel, died, what was redeemed was carried upwards to the Sun sphere to dwell in the sphere of Bodhisattvas. She portrays what humanity must become.

Rudolf Steiner tells us:

Above all other lights, all other gods, shines the holy vessel, the Moon mother now touched by Christ, the new Eve, the bearer of the Sun-Spirit Christ.

But there are three Marys – What of Mary Magdalene?

Now that we know how the two Eve's, The Heavenly Eve, Mary of the Luke Gospel (The being of Anthroposophia) and Earthly Eve, Mary of the Matthew Gospel, came together, we have to understand them in relation to Mary Magdalene.

Isis – Mary – Sophia

Rudolf Steiner tells us that in the Bible the assigning of names occurs on the basis of a person's inner being,⁸⁷ a reflection of the level of purification of an individual's soul, and that this assigning of names therefore pointed to an initiatory experience.

⁸⁷ Rudolf Steiner Lecture November 20 1907 Basle

Before the Mystery of Golgotha a candidate for initiation had to pass through a long preparatory period in which he or she worked consciously on his/her astral body,⁸⁸ elaborating its members: the Sentient Soul; the Intellectual Soul; and Consciousness Soul. This conscious elaboration of the soul members of the Astral body by the Ego is possible for the majority of individuals living in the world today but in pre-Christian times only very advanced human beings, those whose consciousness was more 'wide awake', were capable of uniting this Ego consciousness with these various soul members. When the candidate was able to unite his or her Ego consciousness with the Sentient Soul, that is, the life of feelings in the soul, that aspect of the candidate's soul was then named Mary Magdalene, the mother (wisdom) that gives birth to the Ego in the Sentient Soul. Mary was that aspect of the soul, which in the candidate for initiation, could unite with his/her Ego. She was the mother (wisdom) that gives birth to the Ego in the Intellectual Soul or the life of thought. Likewise, the candidate for initiation whose Ego consciousness could unite with the Consciousness soul, that is, with the life of will, of consciousness in the will, had that aspect of the soul named the 'Sophia', the Virgin Mother, Virgin Mary, Mary Sophia or Mother of God.⁸⁹ This aspect of the soul was the mother (wisdom) that gives birth to the Ego consciousness that is capable of receiving the Holy Spirit (individualised as Spirit Self) in the entirety of the Astral body.

Once the soul had achieved the level of *Virgin Mary* and the entire Astral body was purified the candidate was ready for the 'widowing of the soul'. A form of initiation which entailed the 'killing' or separating out of the paternal element, the Physical body (Male cognition of the Physical world) in order to unite with the mother element, the Etheric body (Feminine Cognition of the Spiritual world). In the Isis Mysteries this is depicted in the death of Osiris whose wife Isis is the widow. Initiation into the Isis Mysteries meant that a candidate became a 'Son of the Widow'.

During such an initiation the candidate's spiritualised Astral body, the Virgin or Virgin Sophia, was imbued with the Holy Spirit individualised as Spirit Self and the imaginations received through the spiritual organs of the Astral body were impressed upon the Etheric body. Thereafter the Etheric body was sealed with these impressions. That is why in the mysteries this Etheric body was associated with the Holy Spirit. The fruit of this interaction between Holy Spirit, which enters in, and Virgin, which is impregnated by it, was called 'the Son of Man'.⁹⁰ Rudolf Steiner also has stated that the 'The Son of Man' referred to that aspect of the soul - the *Consciousness Soul/Spiritual Soul* - that has received into itself, through a catharsis of the Astral body, the Spirit Self.⁹¹ Such an impression of the Etheric body by the purified Astral body spiritualises it into Buddhi or Life Spirit – and the human being is able to retain all the knowledge of the meaning of Christ for world evolution – knowledge of the Son.

This however was not yet a conscious process. The Astral body could only imprint its impressions on the Etheric body after the human being had entered into a trance-like state which lasted three and a half days.

⁸⁸ Rudolf Steiner Munich November 1906

⁸⁹ Rudolf Steiner Hamburg May 1908

⁹⁰ Rudolf Steiner Munich November 1906

⁹¹ Emil Bock *The Three Years*, page 146 – The Son of Man, also Rudolf Steiner *Gospel of St Matthew*, page 188 and *The Gospel of St John*, page 105.

How does this relate to the Three Marys?

Let us look more closely at the names, Mary Magdalene, Mary and Mary Sophia (the Virgin Mary).

Mary Magdalene – Isis

The name Magdalene has its origins in the meaning ‘servant’ or ‘maid’. In the esoteric schools of Dionysus the Arapogite this name was associated with the penetration of the Ego’s individualising force into the Astral body, which transforms it and leads to the birth of a new member, as a mediator or servant, a ‘maid’ of the Ego in the Astral body. Through this ‘servant’ the ego can obtain two things:

- Wisdom in the feelings – The Sentient Soul; and
- Its further and more developed elaboration, wisdom or intuition of the spiritual world – Intuition Soul.

Rudolf Steiner tells us:

As sentient soul, it receives the impressions of the outer world and carries them to the spirit in order that the spirit may extract from them the fruits that are permanent. It plays, as it were, the part of intermediary, and its task is fulfilled when it is adequate to this part.⁹²

The Mary Magdalene of the Gospels had a Sentient soul that through its contact with the Christ Being and the events of Palestine had reached the highest level of maturity⁹³. This meant a transformation of her passionate nature into a deep devotion, a Servant or ‘Magdalene’ capable of intuitive cognition.⁹⁴ A transformation of the Sentient Soul to Intuition Soul. This spiritualised Sentient Soul carried within it an intuition of Christ and it developed a power of *faith* so great within her, that it enabled Mary Magdalene to be the first to understand that what had lived in the body of Jesus of Nazareth was present after his death – the risen Christ.

Here there must be a mention of the Egyptian Mysteries. The Sentient Soul having been primarily elaborated during Egypto-Chaldean times, is deeply connected to the Isis Mysteries. Mary Magdalene’s anointing of Christ Jesus’ feet with oils, the drying of them with her hair and the anointing of the body of Christ Jesus, is a reflection of this.⁹⁵ There is a higher reflection of this ‘*service*’ during the meal in **Bethany**, in the upper room in **Jerusalem**. Here during a second meal it is Christ who washes the feet of his ‘*friends*’, the Apostles.

Meal at Bethany – Mary Magdalene washes Christ Jesus’ feet as a symbol of *Service*

Meal at Jerusalem – Christ washes the feet of his disciples as a symbol of *Friendship*

This relationship between Christ and Mary Magdalene, between Servant and Master, is an outer reflection of an inner connection or marriage between the Ego and Sentient Soul. In this case the higher Ego of Christ and the Sentient Soul of Mary Magdalene. This is why their relationship is often mistaken for a romantic or a sexual one. But it must be remembered that for Mary

⁹² Rudolf Steiner *Theosophy*, chapter II Re-Embodiment of the Spirit and Destiny

⁹³ Rudolf Steiner Hamburg May 1908

⁹⁴ Rudolf Steiner *The Gospel of St John*, The Nature of the Virgin Sophia and the Holy Spirit

⁹⁵ The priestesses of Isis were known to be able to affect the weather by braiding their hair – here there is a connection with the natural forces of the earth and the elements whose spiritual reflection are the moral forces of the cosmos. This kinship was especially felt by the pagans whose sentient souls were highly developed and connected them more to the six Elohim or the Sun gods than to Jehova the Moon God – hence the association of Mary Magdalene with Pagan gods. Here also we see Egyptian funerary rites making their transition by coming into direct contact with the being of Christ.

Magdalene's Sentient Soul to have reached the level of maturity necessary for her to become an intimate pupil or servant of Christ⁹⁶ it must have overcome all its carnal desires, wishes and wants, what is felt in their place is a deep spiritual devotion and love.

Mary

The name Mary means 'bitter' and has been, as previously discussed, linked in the mysteries with the elaboration of the Intellectual Soul. As we have seen in these lectures the Earthly Eve was the first aspect of the human being that took into itself the Luciferic influence that enabled human beings to evolve into thinking beings. This knowledge of good and evil however caused suffering – 'and thou shalt eat the herb of the field'.⁹⁷ It is also this 'bitter' herb that is eaten at Passover in order that the Hebrew people might remember the tribulations and sufferings in Egypt and subsequent freedom (a Microcosmic reflection of the great Macrocosmic suffering of Man and the acquisition of freedom through the fall of Eve). The Intellectual Soul *is* that Bitter Herb, the Mary, that enables the human being to acquire a wisdom that leads to 'freedom' through the organ of thought, the brain, which was created through the separation of the sexes. We see now two possibilities:

- Wisdom in thought - Intellectual Soul. Thought and intellect are also connected with that aspect of the Etheric body that is capable of contemplating a retained wisdom through memory; and
- The Intellectual Soul's further and more developed elaboration, capable of receiving inspiration from Spiritual Worlds - the Inspiration Soul.

Mary of the Matthew gospel, whom we have seen was the same being as the Earthly Eve, was possessed of the highest gifts of the Intellectual Soul. These became transformed for her through the events in Palestine to Inspiration, which gave her the necessary forces to bear her suffering (*Pieta*) in order to transform the bitterness of the 'Fall' into the world of matter, into a 'Resurrection' of the spirit. This inspiration of the meaning of Christ for the world – the inspiration of the *Wisdom* of the Divine Sophia – was mediated to the Matthew Mary by the heavenly Eve (the discarnate Luke Mary).

Virgin Mary - Sophia

The Virgin Mary, the Sophia, the Mother of God, stood for the highest wisdom acquired by the Ego in the Soul; it stood for the lighting up of Ego consciousness in that aspect of the human being related to the will, the bones, whose task it is to keep a man upright – physically. This is the consciousness of the moral force which, working as goodness, creates a Consciousness Soul and finally a Spiritual Soul capable of transforming the entire Astral body into a Virgin mother, a 'good soil' capable of giving birth to God through the fertilisation of the Holy Spirit. At this level the initiate is ripe for the lighting up of Truth in the Soul – the Holy Spirit.

⁹⁶ Rudolf Steiner The Gospel of St John The Nature of the Virgin Sophia and of the Holy Spirit

⁹⁷ Genesis *Authorised King James Version*, Chapter 3 verse 18

The name Virgin Mary represents therefore, the elaboration of the Soul, its perfection and purification and its reception of the Holy Spirit of Truth.⁹⁸ This leads to two possibilities:

- Wisdom in the Will - Consciousness Soul; and
- Its higher aspect – Imagination of Spiritual Worlds – Imagination Soul

The Heavenly Eve (The Being of Anthroposophia) was through grace, the first human archetype of this initiatory condition. The second archetype was the Matthew Mary or the Earthly Eve who could only have achieved this level of initiation consciously through the co-operation of three other human beings, two living and one discarnate.

What do I mean by this?

Beneath the cross upon which hung the being of Christ there stood three representatives of the highest levels of initiation into the mysteries of the Soul possible in those times (the Lower Isis Mysteries). The fact that the two Marys' became one, that is, the Heavenly Eve – *Luke Mary* united from the spiritual world with the Earthly Eve the *Matthew Mary* and shone into her the Divine Sophia in her fullest form, meant that she was from that time on no longer known as Mary, she had been initiated and was now the 'Mother of Jesus' which denotes her promotion to a 'Virgin' a mother of God – one who has so transformed her entire Astral body into a vessel capable of bearing the wisdom of the being of Christ through the agency of the Holy Spirit Self. Because of this, another representative of the Intellectual Soul had to be found to stand beneath the cross. This was the wife of Cleophas who took her place as 'Mary'.

Beneath the cross we now have:

- Mary Magdalene – the result of a unification of the individualising force of Christ with the Sentient Soul – Intuition Soul, capable of *faith* in Christ's 'life';
- Mary wife of Cleophas – the result of the unification of the individualising force of Christ with the Intellectual Soul – Inspiration Soul, capable of inspirations concerning the *meaning* of Christ's 'death'; and
- the Mother of God, the Matthew Mary/Luke Mary, the Virgin Sophia – the result of the unification of the individualising force of Christ with the Consciousness Soul resulting in the perfection of the entire Astral body which was now capable of Imaginations –

⁹⁸ The Mary Magdalene, Mary, Virgin Mary Mystery is depicted by the three great painters of the Renaissance, Raphael, Michelangelo and Leonardo Da Vinci. Raphael, because of his previous incarnation as John the Baptist had the highest connection to the region of the Sophia of the three painters and could depict the Heavenly Eve, the Virgin or purified Astral body full of Love that through Grace bears the Spirit Self. Michelangelo was able to depict the Pieta or the Earthly Eve, who, through suffering and hardship, was able to transform Wisdom into Love to achieve the purification of her Astral body, which in turn imprints itself on the Etheric body and Physical body. Leonardo Da Vinci could only depict Mary Magdalene, the lowest aspect of the Soul, the Sentient Soul purified to Intuition Soul - the servant whom he connected with Lazarus/John to show the polarity of lowest soul aspect to the highest - the servant of the Ego or I of Christ and the Beloved or friend of the Ego or I of Christ. This is the dichotomy between the servant and the friend. Armed with this knowledge we can now explore the current interest in Leonardo Da Vinci's portrayal of Mary Magdalene. Due to the Ecumenical Council of 869AD and the abolition of the Spirit, Marian devotion became connected only to the lowest aspect of the Soul *as an end in itself* and not to the higher principles of the Soul, which are transformed to make way for the *Spirit*. When seeking the Divine female Archetype, Leonardo Da Vinci, due to peculiarities of his previous incarnations, struggled with, and could not move beyond the Sentient Soul. We see how even in his Madonna of the Rocks he uses the same female type that he used for the figure of John in his last supper. He was unable due to his soul constitution to see beyond the Sentient Soul archetype, Mary Magdalene, that he even transposed onto the face of the Mona Lisa. The general population of the world, being immersed in matter is also like Leonardo Da Vinci, struggling to find the highest female archetype of the pure soul, and due to the above influences by the Catholic Church and the materialisation of the Intellectual soul, finds only Mary Magdalene.

Imagination Soul. Whose imaginations were like a testimony to human beings (made possible by the Holy Spirit of Truth) concerning the spiritual *significance* of Christ's 'resurrection' for world evolution.

Mary Magdalene – Faith – Belief – Life
Mary – Meaning – Knowledge – Death
Mother of God – Significance – Wisdom – Resurrection

Let us look at it more closely.

As we have seen until the time of the Mystery of Golgotha the only initiation available to human beings necessitated the separation of Etheric body from the Physical body. This meant a darkening of consciousness. Upon undergoing such an initiation in the mysteries the candidate was known as the *Son of the Widow* because the Etheric Body, the mother, became widowed from the physical body, the father. The successful candidate was called the *beloved*. Lazarus was initiated in this way by Christ Jesus and was given a different name, he became John the 'beloved'. Rudolf Steiner tells us that the name 'John' signifies 'he who announces the *Buddhi*', the principle of the *I am* of Christ, that can only occur when the Etheric body is imprinted by the purified Astral body through the forces of the Son of Man (Spirit Self) within the human being.⁹⁹ Through John's initiation, the potential was then implanted in him to become not a 'Son of the Widow' but the first 'Son of the Sophia', that is, to take into himself all the knowledge concerning the Cosmic Mysteries of Christ, an impression of Christ's ego, and imprint it onto his Etheric body consciously so that he could remember it and understand it with his intellect.

This however could only be the culmination of a two-step development.

Bethany

The first step was enacted at Bethany, where Lazarus had to undergo the Temple Sleep initiation alone without the help of a priest or hierophant. In order to achieve such an initiation without dying in his physical body,¹⁰⁰ Lazarus needed help from the discarnate spiritual entities of John the Baptist, Zarathustra/Matthew Jesus, and Aristotle/Abraham who bestowed upon him the forces of their higher spiritual members - the Spirit Self, Life Spirit and Spirit Man, respectively (this belongs to the initiation into the higher Mysteries of Osiris).¹⁰¹ These adopted forces gave Lazarus the strength to undergo initiation without succumbing to a death of his physical body. Christ came to him at the end of the three and a half days and called him forth. Marking the initiation complete.

Golgotha

The second step occurred at Golgotha, at the foot of the cross. Here it was necessary to call on the help of the three representatives of the Lower Mysteries of Isis and their connection to the Intuition, Inspiration and Imagination Souls.¹⁰²

Why?

In the same way that the forces of John the Baptist, Zarathustra and Aristotle descended into Lazarus during his initiation at Bethany to give him the strength to transform himself from Lazarus to 'John', he who announces the *Buddhi*, a 'beloved', so too was it necessary for Mary Magdalene,

⁹⁹ Rudolf Steiner Munich November 5 1906

¹⁰⁰ The task of the priests in the mysteries was to not only to guide the candidate through the necessary initiatory steps, but also to keep watch over the physical body, to keep it from 'dying' or succumbing to the forces of death.

¹⁰¹ Sergei O Prokofieff *The Mystery of John the Baptist and John the Evangelist at the Turning Point of Time*, page 31

¹⁰² It is not possible at this time to elucidate this mystery further.

Mary and the Virgin Mary to play a part in the second aspect of his initiation which would now occur consciously, at the foot of the cross.

What was their role?

Together the collective purified forces of their soul members - Intuition Soul, Inspiration Soul, Imagination Soul, were able to give strength to the being of the Matthew Mary so that she could withstand being permeated right into her physical body by the Divine Sophian forces that were mediated to her by the Being of Anthroposophia - the Luke Mary.¹⁰³ The Matthew Mary, 'The Mother of God', was capable thereby, of becoming the human vessel of the Divine Sophia.

The 'Mother of God' was able to stand beside John at the foot of Christ. The Bible tells us that Christ Jesus tells John to take the 'Mother', into his house. This is the Sophian Wisdom of Christ which resides in the vessel of the Virgin Mother, in her Astral body, whose essential purity is now the same as the spiritualised Astral body that belongs to the being of Christ Jesus. John is told to take this spiritualised Astral body this 'Mother' and make it his own.¹⁰⁴ This conscious *unification* in the soul of John with the 'Mother of Jesus' created the conditions necessary for John to be able to imprint the Sophian Wisdom of Christ onto his Etheric Body (his body of memory) *consciously* – this is the important point, for it is what subsequently enabled him to write his Gospel. The Gospel is the Sophian Wisdom of Christ *remembered*.

John the Beloved became the first 'Son of the Sophia':

- Firstly through the forces bestowed upon him in Bethany by John the Baptist, Zarathustra/Matthew-Jesus and Aristotle/Abraham (who were supersensible witnesses to the Mystery of Golgotha through John), an initiation that had its parallel in the higher mysteries of Osiris; and
- Secondly, at the foot of the cross through Mary Magdalene, Mary wife of Cleophas and the Mother of God (the unified Earthly and Heavenly Eves) who were the physical witnesses to the Mystery of Golgotha and representatives of initiation into the lower Mysteries of Isis.

After this initiation John is not only known as John the 'Beloved' – the disciple whom Jesus loved, but also as John the 'Divine' who had seen the *pleroma*¹⁰⁵ of the Divine Sophia from Virgo to Fishes, the wisdom which is the revelation of the majesty of The Son of God who became The Son of Man.

It is possible now to say that the forces contained within the purified soul members of the three Marys became one, spiritually, in order to strengthen the 'Mother of Jesus' – the purified soul, for the descent of the Wisdom of the Divine Sophia, in the same way that the forces of the higher spiritual members of John the Baptist, Zarathustra and Aristotle strengthened Lazarus at Bethany for his reception, at the foot of the cross, of the Sophian Wisdom of Christ. And in the same way that Lazarus/John became a pillar connecting the depths of the earth (Fishes) with the Sun (Virgo), so did the 'Mother of Jesus' become a pillar connecting the highest heavenly wisdom of the Sun (Virgo) with the depths of the earth (Fishes). A mystical marriage of Human Soul (Sophia) with the I of Christ (John).

Thus was created the seed for future times, when human beings would see into spiritual worlds without leaving the soul widowed; in other words, while still maintaining full consciousness. This was the divine marriage of the Human Soul with the I of Christ.

¹⁰³ Sergei O Prokofieff *The Heavenly Sophia and the Being of Anthroposophia*, page 123

¹⁰⁴ Rudolf Steiner Hamburg May 1908

¹⁰⁵ Greek word for *fullness* which in this case refers to the substance of the six Elohim or Sun Logos - the Word or physical body of the Divine Sophia

As we have noted before, in the Bible the same word is used to denote knowledge and conception. One word is used to describe the conception of a thought and the conception of a human being. Wisdom or *knowing* engenders love, and this love acts like a creative force. The dictum ‘know thyself’ therefore becomes clear – a human being must come to ‘Know him/herself’: to acquire wisdom of all that is good and all that is evil within. This stimulates the desire for perfection through a love of goodness. Once this perfection is achieved in the Astral body so that it becomes a Virgin Mary, it can be fructified with the content of the Spiritual world, it can be fertilised with the Holy Spirit, which is the medium that bears the Cosmic Ego of Christ. This spirit enters the human being and becomes individualised as ‘Spirit Self’.¹⁰⁶ Looked at in another way, the Holy Spirit is the medium or the ‘Divine Groom’ through which the Child, the being of Christ is conceived within the human being in a form of asexual reproduction. A unification of what had been separated by the fall, Male and Female, in a conscious, divine Marriage in the one human being. This is ‘knowing’ yourself in the truest form and will lead to a future in which this unification will extend to physical reproduction. Human beings will once more become ‘asexual’ that is, they will conceive through spiritualised thinking; through Manas or the Holy Spirit within, and give birth to another human being through ‘The Word’; through being stimulated by Buddhi – the Son (Sun) within.

Therein my dear friends, lies the mystery of the two Eves and Isis – Mary – Sophia and their relationship to the being of Anthroposophia and the Divine Sophia as it can be known in our times.

For all that remains – it is better left hidden.

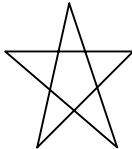
Thank you and goodnight.

¹⁰⁶ Rudolf Steiner *The Gospel of St John* The nature of the Virgin Sophia and of the Holy Spirit.

Mystery of Golgotha

Christ

Etheric Body

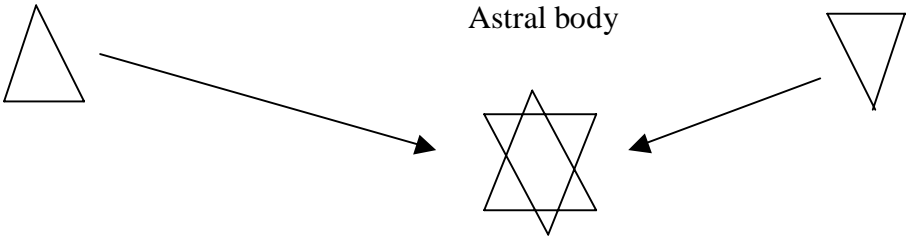


Supersensible witnesses

John the Baptist – Spirit Self
Zarathustra/Matthew Jesus – Life Spirit
Rudolf Steiner/Abraham – Spirit Man

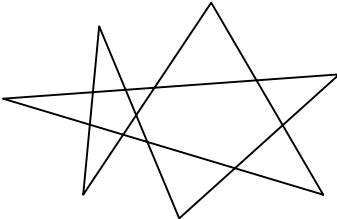
Physical Witnesses

Mother of God – Imagination S
Mary Wife of Cleophas–Inspiration S
Mary Magdalene – Intuition S

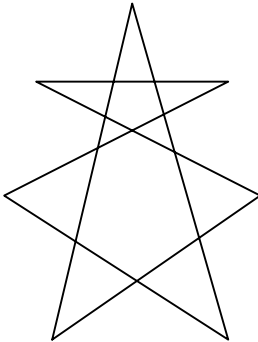


Astral body

John



Imprint of purified Astral body onto Etheric body



Christ-like Human being
John