

**Faith Love and Hope as a Counterforce to Evil**  
**The Task of Anthroposophy**  
**In the 5<sup>th</sup> Post Atlantean Epoch**

Two Lectures given  
by  
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Sydney  
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# **Faith Love and Hope as a Counterforce to Evil: The Task of Anthroposophy in the 5<sup>th</sup> Post Atlantean Epoch**

## **Part I: The Mystery of Evil: Doubt, Hate and Fear. The Double and the Superdouble and the incarnation of the Antichrist**

Spiritual Science teaches us<sup>1</sup> that the task of Evil is to promote the ascent of man. Evil we are told resides both in us and in the outside world and is a necessary force in the perfection and liberation of the human being through the overcoming of hindrance and temptation.

This may seem a little strange at first, but in the same way we know that something is sweet because it is not sour and cold because we know hot, the freedom to unfold new forces and higher capacities could not have been possible had humanity remained always subject to higher spiritual powers who are only capable of knowing good.

The experience of Evil has given humanity a look a both sides and in this experience lies the secret of freedom and independence<sup>2</sup>. That is, by directing its gaze away from worlds of spirit towards the world of physical matter humanity would one day be able to discern for itself in freedom the difference between Good and Evil.

So you might ask the question: what do we do when we discover the difference? Do we root out all evil – as we are called on to do by many of the political voices of today? To believe that you should root out evil is about the same as saying that we should do away with gravity and have only levity. This way of thinking is based solely on dualism and creates more evil again. But how can we ignore it? What is the answer? Rudolf Steiner tells us that the answer lies in Balance, for opposing forces are necessary for our evolution, without them as we have seen above, we would not have been able to progress.

How then do we find a balance?

Rudolf Steiner tells us that the balance exists in the Being of Christ and that it is through Him, and following the middle way that we can begin to redeem evil.

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<sup>1</sup> Rudolf Steiner Evil – Editors introduction page 7.

<sup>2</sup> Rudolf Steiner The Deed of Christ and the Opposing Spiritual Powers

In the past man has been guided from external sources, that is, from church, priest and the law to know evil, but in our Epoch of the Consciousness Soul, we are called on to have a free, inner knowledge and conviction concerning evil as a principle task,<sup>3</sup> to the extent that we can prepare for the coming sixth epoch.

Tonight we will explore the mysteries of Evil as they were known to mystery schools of ancient times, made appropriate for today's humanity by Rudolf Steiner. We will explore evil on a macrocosmic and microcosmic level, that is, we will investigate the cosmic origins and existence of

1. **Luciferic beings – Lucifer - Devil**
2. **Ahrimanic beings – Ahriman - Satan**
3. **Asuric beings – Asuras**

Also, we will learn how they manifest within the microcosm of man paying particular attention to their influence on the development of Fear, Hatred and Doubt in preparation for the incarnation of the Ahriman in our present Post Atlantean age. This incarnation will pave the way for another being,

#### **4. The Antichrist – Sorath – The Beast**

who will attempt to replace the most important supersensible event of our Epoch - the manifestation of **Christ** - with his own physical manifestation on earth. Next week we will look at how we must go about redeeming evil through the Christ impulse working through the being of Anthroposophia and her physical manifestation on earth the Anthroposophical society.

### **What is Evil?**

Rudolf Steiner tells us that the forces that appear at the wrong place appear as evil.<sup>4</sup> What does this mean? In order to answer this question a study of Rudolf Steiner's cosmic evolution of the earth is necessary.

Rudolf Steiner calls the first rudimentary earthly aeon 'Old Saturn' in which the physical body of human beings was first elaborated. The second aeon is called 'Old Sun' where the human Etheric body was first elaborated. The third aeon is called 'Old Moon' where the human Astral

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<sup>3</sup> Rudolf Steiner The Reappearance of Christ in the Etheric page 173.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

body was elaborated. On Earth humanity has received its individual 'Ego' and become 'Human'.

### **Human Beings:**

**Old Saturn – Physical Body – Mineral like**

**Old Sun – Etheric Body – Plant like**

**Old Moon – Astral Body – Animal like**

**Earth – Ego – Spirit**

While humanity was passing through the condition of mineral, plant and animal other beings were undergoing their own evolution and their own 'human' stage. On 'Old Saturn' beings three stages higher than man - the Archai - were passing through their 'human' stage. On the 'Old Sun' those beings two stages higher than man from the rank of beings known as Archangels were undergoing their human stage and on the 'Old Moon', Rudolf Steiner tells us that Angels, only one stage higher than man, were undergoing their 'human' stage.

**Old Saturn – Archai – Human stage**

**Old Sun – Archangels – Human stage**

**Old Moon – Angels – Human stage**

**Earth – Man – Human stage**

This evolution however was only true for those beings that were able to reach the goal set before them. Those who fell short or could not rise to the task were left behind and had to make up for what they could not achieve 'normally' in their own time, at a future aeon. These beings suffer a great deal when they try to continue their evolution at a time when conditions are not suited to them as this means they have to work within incredible restrictions. The only way for these beings to alleviate their suffering is to step out of bounds, to overstep the boundaries<sup>5</sup> created by their retardation. This 'overstepping' can be seen as a hindrance to human beings for it occurs in the realm where humans are now developing their egos on Earth. This hindrance is what Rudolf Steiner refers to as 'evil'.

We will put aside for a moment the fact that these beings sacrificed themselves in this way so that human beings might develop through overcoming the hindrances that they cause, for this would lead us too far from our present topic. We will continue however, by saying that there are

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<sup>5</sup> Rudolf Steiner Four Mystery Plays – Guardian of the Threshold Scene 8 see Also Sergei O Prokofief the Occult Significance of Forgiveness page 63

three kinds of Spirits of Opposition who fell behind and they are named after their respective leaders:

**Asuric beings** – Fell behind on Saturn – Fallen Spirits of Form working as Archais

**Ahrimanic beings** – Fell behind on Sun – Fallen Archai working as Archangels

**Luciferic beings** – Fell behind on Moon – Fallen archangels working as angels

The **Asuric** beings make a particular endeavour to penetrate the physical body of man as this sphere relates to the sphere that was being elaborated on Old Saturn when these beings were developing their ‘human stage’ and fell behind.

The **Ahrimanic** beings desire to work in the Etheric body of human beings as this is the sphere that was being elaborated on Old Sun when these beings were developing their ‘human stage’

The **Luciferic** beings feel most at home in the Astral body of human beings as this relates to what was being elaborated on Old Moon when these beings fell behind.

In these respective bodies these spirits find an opportunity for their own development.

In the soul of human beings these ‘tempters’ or spirits of hindrance can be found:

In the three body members:

1. **Astral body** – Lucifer - Lemuria
2. **Etheric body** – Ahriman - Atlantis
3. **Physical body** – Asuras – Present Post Atlantean Epoch

In the Soul members:

1. **Sentient soul** – Lucifer - Egypt
2. **Intellectual soul** – Ahriman – Greco Roman
3. **Consciousness soul** <sup>6</sup> - Asuras – Anglo Germanic

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<sup>6</sup> Rudolf Steiner The Deed of Christ and the Opposing Spiritual Powers

In the Ego:

1. Sorath – in future times.

**Lucifer** began his approach on the human Astral body in the Lemurian Epoch of Earth evolution <sup>7</sup> through the nerves and senses and slipped into the unconscious elaboration of the ego on the Astral body which produced the Sentient Soul.

**Ahriman** made his foray into the human being during the Atlantean Epoch of Earth evolution and found a suitable influence on the Etheric body through the Intellectual soul that is the unconscious elaboration by the ego on the Etheric body.

**Asuras** have been making their approach towards humanity only since our Epoch into the soul faculty that results from the unconscious elaboration of the physical body, the Consciousness soul.

But there is another being. This being ‘the beast from the Abyss’ as the Apocalypse calls him had fallen behind in an epoch prior to Old Saturn and does not belong to Earthly evolution. Nevertheless he inhabits the sun and is known by the Greeks as the Sun Demon Sorath. He works contrary to the ‘Intelligence’ of the Sun as a fallen Elohim and therefore works contrary to the Sun being the divinity of Christ. His number is 666 (six being the number that denotes imperfection) and will only enter directly into the human evolution through the three categories of beings - three sets of sixes.<sup>8</sup>

Spiritual Science recognises the task of this being Sorath in our 5<sup>th</sup> Post Atlantean Epoch as that of co-ordinating the three streams of evil against the healthy development of humanity, in preparation for the incarnation of Ahriman who will attempt to distort the second coming in the Astral world of Christ in Etheric garment. This second coming began in the middle of last century and will continue until the 6<sup>th</sup> Epoch. It is imperative that a clear wide-awake consciousness concerning the workings of evil in the world be developed. It is the first and foremost task of Anthroposophy today to lead humanity in this task in the 5<sup>th</sup> Epoch as a preparation for the future.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Rudolf Steiner Ibid

<sup>8</sup> Sergei Prokofief Encounters With Evil page 14

<sup>9</sup> Rudolf Steiner The Reappearance of Christ in the Etheric page 173.

## Sorath's Attacks on Humanity

Sorath can be seen working into human evolution since the seventh century. The first onslaught on humanity occurred in 666 AD, three hundred and thirty three years after the middle of the Greco Roman epoch (333) through the establishment of the Academy of Gondhishapur. Created through a co-operation of Luciferic and Ahrimanic spirits this Academy sought to bring about a consciousness soul impulse ahead of time in order to Ahrimanise the Consciousness soul - a soul member that we are only developing in our present epoch. This would have prevented the proper development of the Spirit Self and as a result, affected the development of the other two higher members Life Spirit and Spirit Man. Jesus was born 333 years before the middle of the Greco Roman epoch – his future sacrifice as Christ Jesus in 33 AD counter balanced what was to occur in 666.

Another onslaught came in the form of the complete and utter destruction of the Templar order. The Cathars, whose Manichean knowledge concerning good and evil stood in opposition to Sorath's goals were also hunted down, tortured and burnt. Their spiritual cousins the Templars whose task of inaugurating a 'Christened' social order in preparation for the 6<sup>th</sup> Epoch were incarcerated tortured made to confess to despicable crimes and murdered. The Order was abolished through the co-operation of Pope Clement (possessed by a Luciferic spirit) and Philip king of France (possessed by an Ahrimanic Spirit). In our times the above two attacks, the establishment of the Academy of Gondishapur and the destruction of the Cathars and the Templar order have been greatly strengthened by the entry of a new being in the service of the Sun Demon, Asuras who wishes to destroy humanity's connection with the Ego through the Consciousness or Spiritual soul.<sup>10</sup> It is the action of all three categories of beings: Luciferic, Ahrimanic and Asuric in the service of Sorath that resulted in the reflection of the above two attacks in Bolshevism (Gondishapur) and Nazism (Destruction of Templar order)<sup>11</sup> - National Socialism. The development of secret lodges over and against the impulse of Rosicrucianism and the rise of Jesuitism in opposition to the Grail impulses have been other incursions into the development of the human spirit.

A third manifestation of Sorath through the three streams of evil has already begun (1998) and will find its culmination in the near future seeking to materialise the human ego. It is important today in the 21<sup>st</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Rudolf Steiner The Deed of Christ

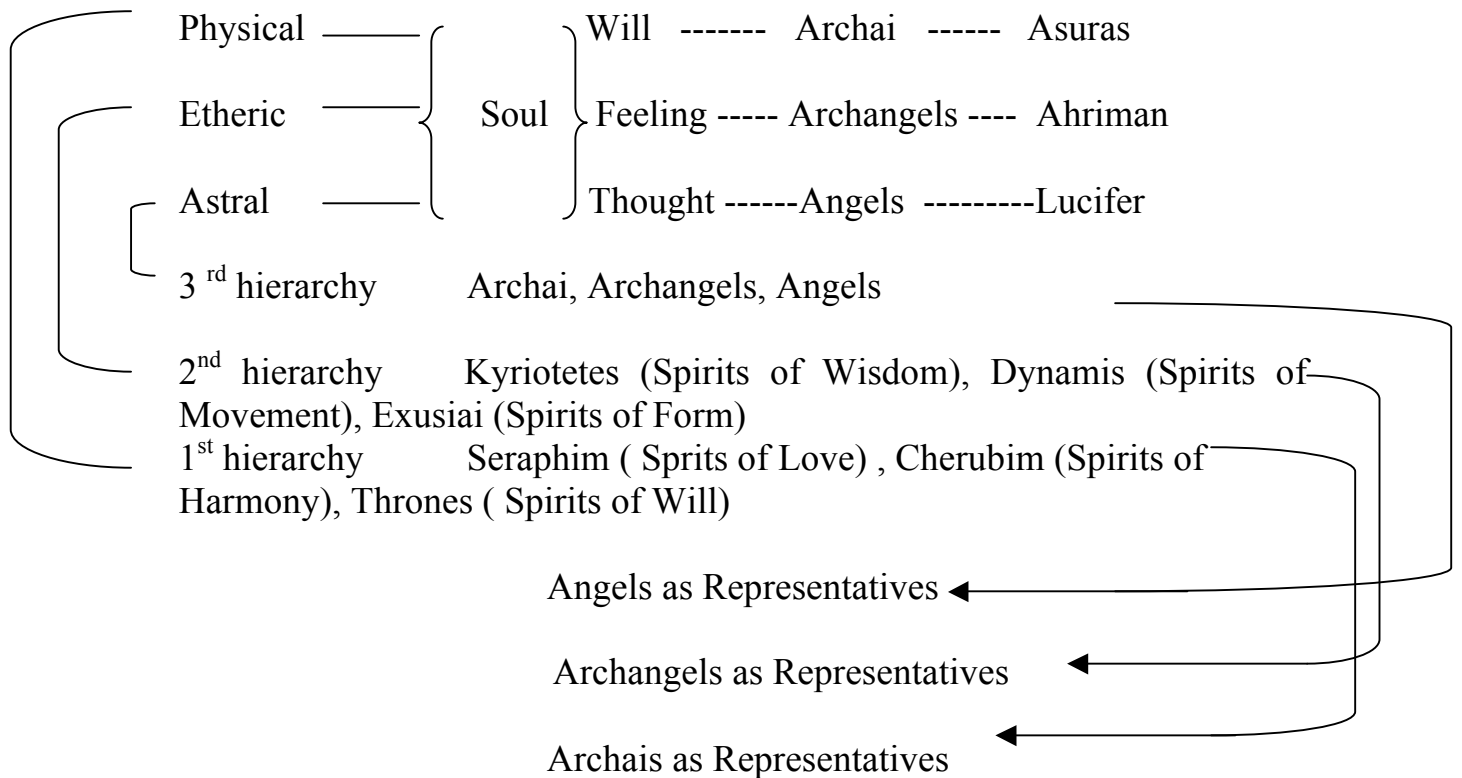
<sup>11</sup> Sergei Prokofief Encounters with Evil

century to know how these three streams of evil guided by a fourth present themselves in the human being, the outer world and in the cosmos

**The Three Streams of Evil in the Human Being.**

The human being is not so insular as he may imagine. In every breath, in every perception, in every intake of food, in every sensation, thought and act of will human beings are accompanied by beings of a spiritual nature.<sup>12</sup> We have seen how Luciferic and Ahrimanic beings have entered into the human soul during evolution, and it is a fact that they live side by side with elemental beings (detachments of higher beings) and higher beings that regulate our Physical, Etheric and Astral bodies.

Three Streams of Evil and Good and how they appear in man:



The divine powers or the first hierarchy are connected to our physical bodies and the will forces in our souls, the solar hierarchy or the 2<sup>nd</sup> hierarchy have more to do with our Etheric bodies and the feeling forces in the soul, the third hierarchy is more connected to the Astral body and the thinking forces in the soul. Therefore Angels as representatives of the

<sup>12</sup>Rudolf Steiner The Festivals and their Meaning IV Michaelmas III the Michael Inspiration see also Earst Hagmann World Ether - Elemental Beings –Kingdoms of Nature pg 15 and Theosophy of the Rosicrucians IV



third hierarchy in the soul have to do with thinking. Archangels as representatives of the 2<sup>nd</sup> hierarchy in the soul have to do with feeling. Archais as representatives of the first hierarchy in the soul have more to do with the will.

Apart from the higher and lower spiritual beings that have access to the human body and soul there are also offspring of higher hierarchies (detachments) these are the elemental beings that weave in and out of our physical bodies, in all our physical and soul processes. We will not go into this too deeply, suffice to say that the moral disposition of a human being is of the greatest importance to the above beings, since their own evolution is dependant upon it. If a man is moral then insofar as he is, he can liberate these beings so that they may progress to higher stages of existence. If a human being is not moral then he traps good elemental beings in his various sheaths and these beings become the prey (because they have no ego) of beings of opposition. Under the yoke of the opposing beings the elemental spirits become Ahrimanic, Luciferic or Asuric according to their disposition and where they have a scene of action,<sup>13</sup> and become detached from the human being as demons, ghosts and spectres.<sup>14</sup>

Rudolf Steiner tells us that we create three beings<sup>15</sup> that become a part of us throughout our lives. The Luciferic element allowed to take root in the thinking, inasmuch as it is connected to the Astral body<sup>16</sup> and the Astral realm of angels, creates a beast or double of 'Doubt'. Doubt in spiritual things prevents humanity from creatively working in knowledge<sup>17</sup> and leads to fantasy and illusion.

The Ahrimanic element allowed to take root in the feeling inasmuch as it is connected to the Etheric body and lower Devachanic realm of the Archangels creates a 'beast' or double of Hatred, which prevents human beings from working in love towards spiritual ends, this leaves the soul hollow.

The Asuric element in our will inasmuch as it is connected to the physical body and therefore the Higher Devachanic realm of the Archai leads to the creation of a beast or double of Fear or cowardice when it comes to the

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<sup>13</sup> Ernst Hagemann World Ether –Elemental Beings – Kingdoms of Nature

<sup>14</sup> Ibid page 52 -53

<sup>15</sup> Characterized in the red window of the new Goetheanum see Adrian Anderson The Way to the Sacred - illustration.

<sup>16</sup> Sergei O Prokofief The Cycle of the Year as a Path to Initiation page 155 where appropriate see also Lessons of the First Class

<sup>17</sup> Rudolf Steiner The Balance in the World Man, Lucifer, Ahriman

creative spiritual ‘being’, which leaves human beings vulnerable to attacks from earthly forces.

### **The Earthly Ethers and the Double**

The effect of the above beings of opposition on the Astral body, Etheric body and physical body weakens them, leaving the human being vulnerable to negative earthly forces.

In the same way that *retarded beings* influence the creation of *retarded soul forces* so too do *negative Etheric energies that exist in the world* influence the creation of *retarded Etheric forces* in the human being.



A combination of retarded forces created by the influence of retarded beings in the Physical, Etheric and Astral bodies and the retarded or degenerated Etheric energies that create retarded Etheric forces in the human being, these various doubles or shadow forces can be said to collectively form one being that Spiritual Science calls the personal ‘double’ or doppelganger. He forms, according to Rudolf Steiner, a part of the ‘Lesser Guardian of the Threshold’ whose existence in us from birth to death bars our spiritual progress:

‘...There arises the phenomenon known as the *Guardian of the Threshold* — the appearance of the *lower double* of man. The spiritual being of man, composed of his impulses of will, his desires and his thoughts, appears to the Initiate in visible form. It is a form that is sometimes repugnant and terrible, for it is the offspring of his good and bad desires and of his *karma* — it is their personification in the astral world...’<sup>18</sup>

Put another way we may say that the influence of Ahriman, Lucifer, and Asuras on the being of man cause there to arise: beings of doubt hatred and fear of the spiritual in the Astral body, the Etheric body and in the Physical body and that this attracts forces that help to create and maintain a collective personal double, one and the same as that being that Rudolf Steiner calls the Lesser Guardian of the Threshold, that becomes apparent to us as soon as we enter the spiritual world as a separate entity that is at

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<sup>18</sup> Rudolf Steiner An Esoteric Cosmology VIII

once composed of the three beasts of our creation and also separate from them. See Above image, called "The Doppelganger" from a drawing made by Rudolph Steiner for a stained glass window. It depicts the serpentine nature of the double showing the 7 Chakras. He comes from a crack in the earth, delineating his connection to the degenerated earthly forces.<sup>19</sup>The human being sitting on the mountaintop of objectivity must send out beneficent spiritual forces to heal and transform the double.

Rudolf Steiner Characterises these beasts or doubles to imaginative consciousness:

The double or beast of doubt is red and has a glassy eye

The double or beast of hatred is spotted yellow and bares his teeth

The double or beast of fear is blue and has a bony mind

It is this third being that lies in our will and therefore our physical bodies that make us especially vulnerable to earthly forces and allows their entry into the human being.

### **The Three Streams of Evil in the Macrocosmic World**

Rudolf Steiner tells us that what forms a part of the inner man during life becomes the outer world after death, we can call this a law of 'Inversion':

“At first, man has *within* him what he later sees *around* him...All that lives today in the inner being of man, his thoughts, his feelings, will find expression in the outer world and become his surroundings. The future lies within man.”<sup>20</sup>

We can therefore say that human beings are instrumental in creating the outer world or cosmos, through inner work or lack thereof.

Having this in mind we will proceed in our exploration of the connection that exists between the double of man and the fallen ethers.

### **What are the fallen ethers?**

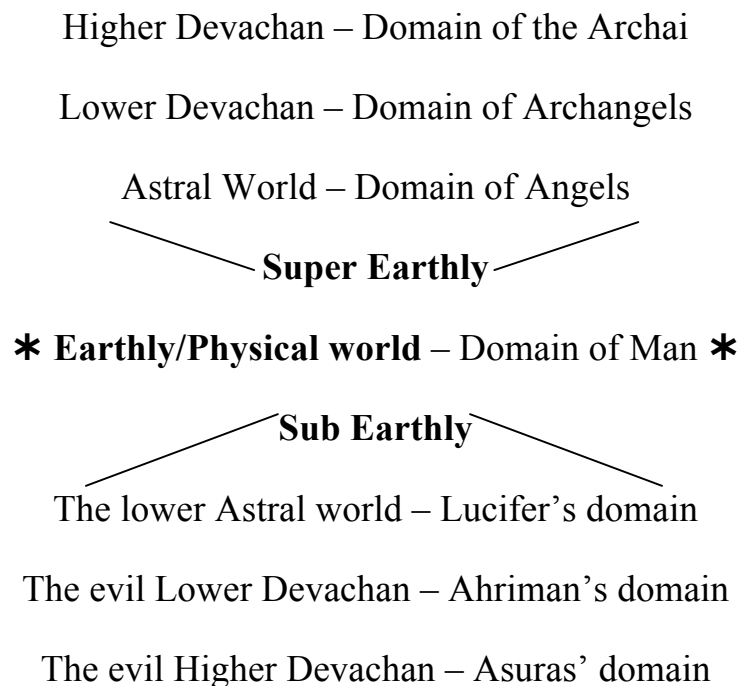
After the 'fall' when Adam ate from the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge or became a conscious being, through the entry of Lucifer into his Astral body, it was deemed that humanity should only retain knowledge of the

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<sup>19</sup> See also Rudolf Steiner The Templars (Dornarch) 02. 02 16 )and Inner Impulses of World Evolution – Mexican Mysteries.

<sup>20</sup> Rudolf Steiner, An Esoteric Cosmology XVIII

Warmth and Light Ethers, the other two; Sound and Life Ethers were protected and guarded in spiritual worlds (Tree of Life) lest they become the prey of retarded forces. Rudolf Steiner tells us that we have the physical world, the astral world, Lower Devachan and Higher Devachan. There is also what Rudolf Steiner calls the sub-physical world;<sup>21</sup>



When light Ether decays and is thrust down into the sub-material world, a stage deeper than the material world — *electricity* arises. Light therefore finds its reflection in the substratum of the earth in Electricity. In man this has its counterpart in Thinking.

When Chemical Ether decays and is driven down beneath the physical plane into the evil Devachanic world — *magnetism* arises. Sound finds its reflection in the substratum of the earth as magnetism. In man this has its counterpart in Feeling.

If what lives in higher Devachan as Life Ether decays and is thrust down further still, into the province of the Asuras, what arises is characterised by Rudolf Steiner as ‘an even more terrible force — which it will not be possible to keep hidden very much longer’. The realm of the *Atom*. He goes on to say,

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<sup>21</sup> Rudolf Steiner The Etherisation of Blood

‘It can only be hoped that when this force comes to be known — a force we must conceive as being far, far stronger than the most violent electrical discharge — it can only be hoped that before some discoverer gives this force into the hands of humankind, men will no longer have anything immoral left in them.’<sup>22</sup>

Life Ether has its counterpart, its reflection in the substratum of the earth in a kind of radioactivity. In man this has its counterpart in the human will.

- Warmth Ether – Physical world - Elemental world
  - Light Ether – Faith/Spiritual Thoughts -Astral
  - Sound or Chemical Ether – Love - Lower Devachan
  - Life Ether – Hope/Will to do the good/ Karma  
Higher Devachan
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- Fallen Life Ether - Subphysical Higher Devachan - Atomic energy
  - Fallen Chemical Ether- Subphysical lower Devachan - magnetism
  - Fallen Light Ether - Subphysical Astral world - electricity
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Fallen and materialised thoughts - doubt in spirit  
 Fallen materialised feelings - hatred of the spirit  
 Fallen materialised will - fear of the spirit

The above fallen thoughts feelings and will, use and intensify the fallen ethers in the same way that the spiritualised thoughts and feelings and will, use and add to the ‘higher ethers’.

Therefore we can say that the fallen forces in man (the double) are especially strengthened by coming into contact with their counterpart in the outer world, and that the degenerated Etheric forces in the world are greatly strengthened by coming into contact with their counterpart in man.

### **Why has this fall or degeneration occurred?**

As we have seen what was once out in the cosmos can at another time be found in the microcosm and visa versa. This relates directly to what we find on earth as remnants of what was present in the human being during the different evolutionary stages of the Earth.

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<sup>22</sup> Rudolf Steiner The Etherisation of the Blood

We are told that on Saturn the human physical body was created from warmth Ether. In this physical body of warmth was implanted the first principle of Life and also the seed of Spirit Man or Atma - the perfected physical body. On Earth this principle of warmth is what makes it possible for the Ego to exist in the human being. It is also what lives in the core of the earth in a degenerated form as the worst ego-centric-egoism<sup>23</sup> and will in future appear as the power that exists behind the creation and destruction of life – a substance more powerful than nuclear power.

We are told that the human Etheric body was created on Old Sun and that Light Ether came into being at the same time. Within the human being this Etheric body was then a body of Light and in it was implanted the potential for Life Spirit or Buddhi - the perfection of the Etheric body. On Earth the Etheric body is now connected to the Chemical Ether which is active in the fluid element. The Chemical Ether is connected to human feeling and <sup>24</sup>finds its decadent counterpart in the earth's inner layers as the power of Magnetism or fallen Chemical Ether.

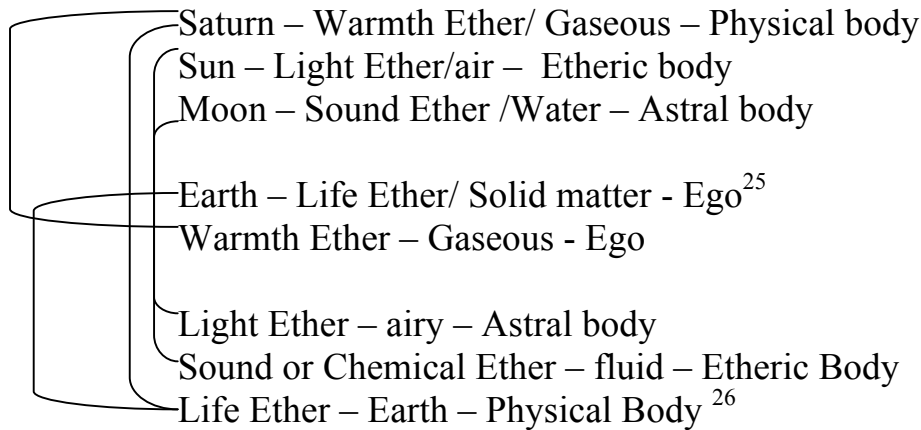
We are told that the human Astral body was created on Old Moon and that the Sound Ether came into existence at the same time through the sacrifice of the spirits of Motion. Within the human fluid Astral body was implanted the potential for Spirit Self or Manas the perfection of the Astral body. On Earth this Astral body is more connected to thought and the airy element, and through this airy element, the Light Ether. This Light Ether finds its degenerated counterpart in the layer closest to the earth's surface in a degenerated form as the power of electricity.

The Ethers that arose during different planetary conditions and their correspondence to the human being as he is on earth:

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<sup>23</sup> Rudolf Steiner Esoteric Cosmology Lecture XVI

<sup>24</sup> Rudolf Steiner December 17 1920



Rudolf Steiner tells us that in every age of the earth there are two phases of physical development, the generative and the degenerative. In the first half of Earthly evolution the Polarian, Hyperborean, and Lemurian, the physical substances of the earth were undergoing a generative phase or a process of generation very similar to the human being up to his thirty-fifth year. After that in our present Post Atlantean epoch and the succeeding two epochs there begins a degeneration. In Atlantean times there was an equilibrium of degenerative and generative forces, during Lemurian times the forces that would become electricity<sup>27</sup> and were present as a potential in the earth and in man from the times of old Moon were undergoing a generative phase, in Hyperborean times the old Sun forces that became Magnetism were undergoing a generation, and in Polarian times the Saturnine forces that would one day surface as the power behind the Atom were undergoing a generation. During our own Post Atlantean Epoch (a reflection of Lemurian times) electricity has emerged as a form of the decaying moon forces of Light and in future times though already begun in our times ie; Hyperborean Epoch reflected in the 6<sup>th</sup> Post Atlantean Epoch the old Sun forces of decaying Chemical or Sound Ether will emerge more and more as the power of Magnetism and in the Polarian Epoch the degeneration or decay of Life Ether will emerge more intensely than ever as the power of the Atom (all that causes a splitting up or Fission, a destruction of the ‘whole’) that will in the 7<sup>th</sup> Post Atlantean age finally destroy the earth.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Rudolf Steiner Genesis chapter 4

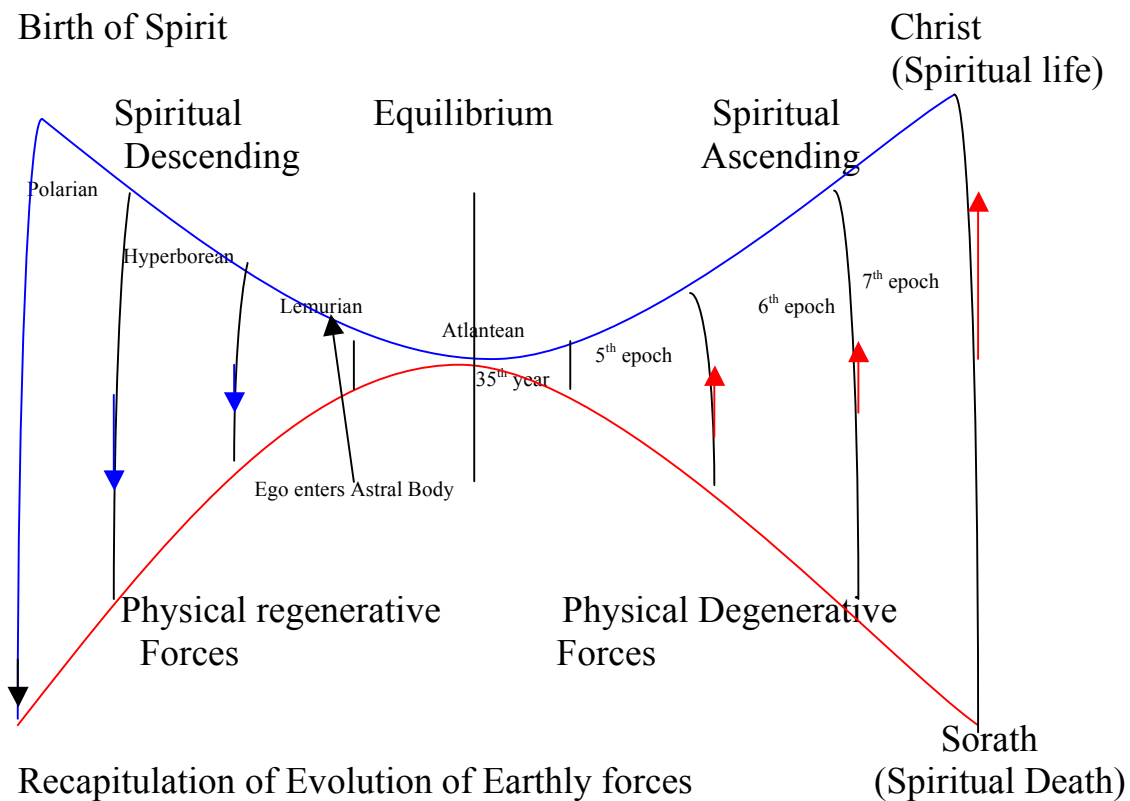
<sup>26</sup> ibid

<sup>27</sup> Rudolf Steiner The Templars ( Dornarch 2/10/16) see also Rudolf Steiner’s Scientific Lecture Courses.

<sup>28</sup> Rudolf Steiner The Deed of Christ and the Opposing Spiritual Powers – Mephistopheles and Earthquakes.

However as this physical aspect is generating and degenerating so to does the spiritual aspect descend and ascend. So that in the fifth sixth seventh epochs the counter forces of these fallen ethers will need to be cultivated in order to raise humanity collectively from its 35<sup>th</sup> year onwards to an ascent toward the spirit.

See Diagram below:



The extent to which humanity does or does not achieve this task will determine the conditions that will be made possible for, on the one hand the physical manifestation of the Antichrist and on the other, the spiritual incarnation of the Christ being.

**How does this relate to the Sub-Suprahuman double Ahriman?**

In our own 5<sup>th</sup> Post Atlantean Cultural Epoch there occurs a similar curve on a microcosmic level. At the beginning of this Post Atlantean Epoch the Indian Epoch there was a reflection of the physical generation of ether forces until the Greco Roman Epochs - the mystery of Golgotha. If not for the mystery of Golgotha mankind would not have been able to climb upwards to the spirit due to an increasing influence on man from the degenerative forces of electricity, magnetism and the power of the Atom. These would have



gained the upper hand. Christ however, descended into the Plutonian depths on Easter Saturday that is, into the sub nature of the earth and there ‘fettered’ Ahriman and Asuras for a time (a European aspect of this is the ancient Rite of the Sacrificial King as practiced within the cultures of the Celts) and as a consequence Sorath. This made it possible for man to overcome the forces of physical death with spiritual life. For if Ahriman had not been bound then materialism would not just be an attitude of life but an evil disease.<sup>29</sup> From the time of the Mystery of Golgotha onwards man was given a choice, he could begin to prepare himself for his future task of ennobling the evil degenerative forces of death and decay by working with the forces of light (Faith) chemical or sound (Love) and life (Hope) Ethers or he could reject this possibility and sink down to the abyss.

If man rejects this possibility (taking into account that each individual human being creates for himself the double as an aggregate of the materialistic thoughts feelings and deeds of will that attract and add to the negative Etheric in his being), it stands to reason that the creation and nurturing of this double will not merely have an effect on the individual human being but also on the world around him – in the surrounding Ether – in the creation of a super or sub suprahuman double – the great double that will provide a fitting vehicle for the incarnation of Ahriman.

### **How will it provide for the incarnation of Ahriman the emissary of the Sun Demon?**

- Deadened materialistic thoughts that become corpses in the human brain feed the degenerated light Ether – electricity or darkness – in the sub physical or Evil Astral world from which the Astral body will be created into which the demonic ego of Ahriman can light up.
- Hatred of the spirit and a lack of love for the spiritual, including the spiritual work of others, hollows out and deadens the human soul and will intensify the degenerated Sound or Chemical Ether – Magnetism – in the sub-physical or Evil Lower Devachan from which the opposing powers will weave the Etheric body of Ahriman.
- Fear paralyses human moral will and this will further intensify the power of degenerated Life Ether – power of the Atom – in the sub-physical or Evil Higher Devachan. From it will come the knowledge necessary for creating the physical body of Ahriman.

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<sup>29</sup> Rudolf Steiner The Book of Revelation page 147.

The three bodies of Ahriman will be formed from: the Astral corpses of human thoughts, vibrations issuing from the hearts and larynxes of human beings filled with hatred and immoral feelings and the division and separation of human beings from the moral deed, the higher hierarchies and their Karma through fear.

Ahriman is destined to incarnate around three thousand years after the birth of Christ in a physical body, as a counterbalance to Lucifer's incarnation three thousand years before the birth of Christ<sup>30</sup> in China. His birth has been in preparation since the year 1998. He will not be an ordinary man, he will be a super or sub-suprahuman. This means that he will not only have a physical body, but also a sub-supraphysical body a body of elemental and Luciferic, Ahrimanic and Asuric beings that possess higher members (eg Spirit Self and Life Spirit Spirit man)<sup>31</sup> at his disposal. If this incarnation follows those laws that guide the incarnations of higher (Bodhisattva) beings, then Ahriman will ascend into the three sheaths created for him by a human vessel. This time however, this human vessel will have no ego<sup>32</sup>. This physical 'being', will allow the ego of Ahriman to enter into it, around its twenty ninth to thirtieth year and Ahriman will begin the work of elaborating these three sheaths into an Ahrimanised retarded form of microcosmic Spirit Self, Life Spirit and Spirit Man.<sup>33</sup> Through him will work the intentions of the being of Sorath the Beast of the Apocalypse. Sorath a being who fell behind before Old Saturn, does not belong to our earthly evolution and will enter into Earthly evolution only in the Apocalyptic future. He will need all the hosts of Lucifer, Ahriman and Asuras and the sub-earthly ethers that have been intensified by the sub-suprahuman Ahrimanic double and the individual human beings that have taken his impulses right down into their various sheaths. These shall be his limbs his organs of sense his internal organs, and they will bring his thoughts and intentions, his hatred and his unwavering will to incarnation.

This may very well happen sooner than later depending on the strength of the Ahrimanic double. For it may be possible for Sorath to enter into the physically incarnated Ahriman even in our own epoch and inspire him in his sheaths – a pseudo-incarnation for Sorath.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> Rudolf Steiner The Ahrimanic Deception.

<sup>31</sup> Rudolf Steiner Cosmic Ego and Human Ego – Microcosmic Supersensible Beings – The Nature of Christ – The Position of the Antichrist to Christ – Christ the Resurrected.

<sup>32</sup> Rudolf Steiner The Book of Revelation and the work of the Priest.

<sup>33</sup> Rudolf Steiner Cosmic Ego and Human Ego – Microcosmic Supersensible Beings – The Nature of Christ – The Position of the Antichrist to Christ – Christ the Resurrected.

<sup>34</sup> Sergei O Prokofief The Spiritual Origins of Eastern Europe and the Future Mysteries of the Holy Grail Note 134 Part III.

The totality of beings working for Sorath/Ahriman over and against the impulse of Christ is what John describes as the ‘Antichrist’<sup>35</sup>. However it must be pointed out that the strength of such an attack on the Christ impulse will depend on whether humanity is able to raise itself toward the spirit.

### What will Ahriman be like?

- He will be extremely intelligent. Possessed of a great powerful genius and cold intellect that will assure the *faith* of the unwary. He will set up a great school of Occultism (Lodges) where black magic will be taught. Those who follow him will take the ‘materialism’ that exists in thought (Astral body) all the way down into their Etheric bodies and will harden them so that these Etheric bodies remain intact after death (Ahrimanic immortality). These hardened Etheric bodies will distort the image of the Etheric Christ in the Astral world bordering the earth.
- He will exude a profound *magnetism* that will draw human beings with its power - his ‘voice’ will have the ability to mesmerize and hypnotise those who listen without discrimination and he will make what is immoral ‘sound’ honourable, good and justified (The Sauruman of JRR Tolkien’s Lord of the Rings comes to mind) Hatred will guide his every action, but from him will come the teachings concerning the nature of the lower passions and their connections to clairvoyance – Kundalini Tantra that leads to ceremonial sexual rituals accessing the lower Etheric forces are an example of this. Also, consenting ritual murder and cannibalism, which is of a sexual nature, is another step again. He will be responsible for promulgating only the biblical version of Christ’s life as a literal, material account of a man’s life, rejecting His divinity and resurrection (note the film ‘The Passion’ and its obsession with the death and failure to continue on towards an understanding of the resurrection and the becoming). Ahriman will be more charismatic than the powerless human Jesus that will everywhere be portrayed.
- His will shall have no restraint and he will yield the power of the members (suprahuman) of his being with a violent and concentrated force that will *encourage* those who are weak of spirit to follow him Those who do not will be made to suffer unbearable persecution. This will be made possible by firstly destroying the will, through the will preventing the elaboration of the consciousness soul which finally

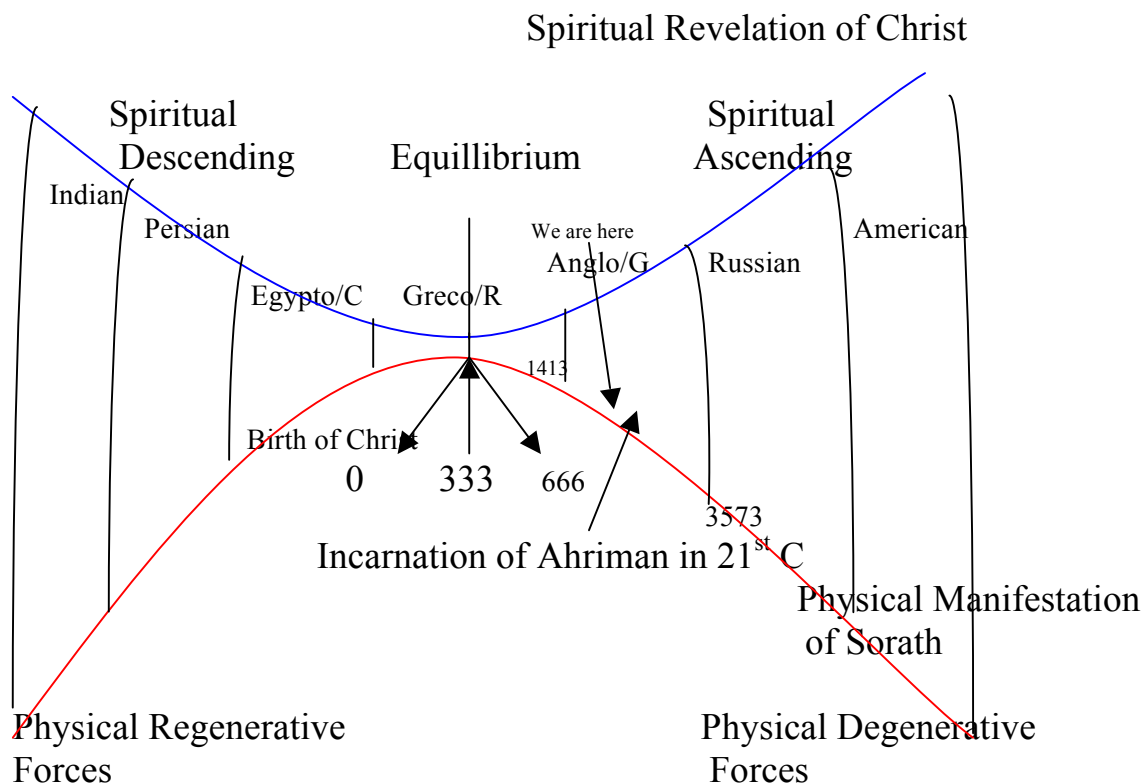
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<sup>35</sup> Not to be confused with the human Antichrist who will be possessed by a Luciferic being of heightened intelligence Rudolf Steiner Cosmic Ego and Human Ego – Microcosmic Supersensible Beings – The nature of Christ – The Position of the Antichrist to Christ – Christ the Resurrected. See also Sergei O Prokofief The Spiritual Origins of Eastern Europe and the Future Mysteries of the Holy Grail Note 130 Part III.

leads to either a bonding of the Ego with the physical body or a driving out of the ego altogether. A pale example of this destruction of the 'will' of a people occurred in Eastern Europe during the reign of the Bolsheviks when sixty million people were murdered and many more were sent to work camps in Siberia. Today we see a very subliminal form in the new laws against terrorism that give the State unprecedented powers over suspects. The holding of suspects at the military institution at Guantanamo Bay without trial is a prime example of the beginnings of the attack on human civil rights and liberties, which will spread across the world like a wild fire through Fear. From there, it is a short step to the entire domination of human will and its subsequent subjugation to the powers that wish to destroy the ego.

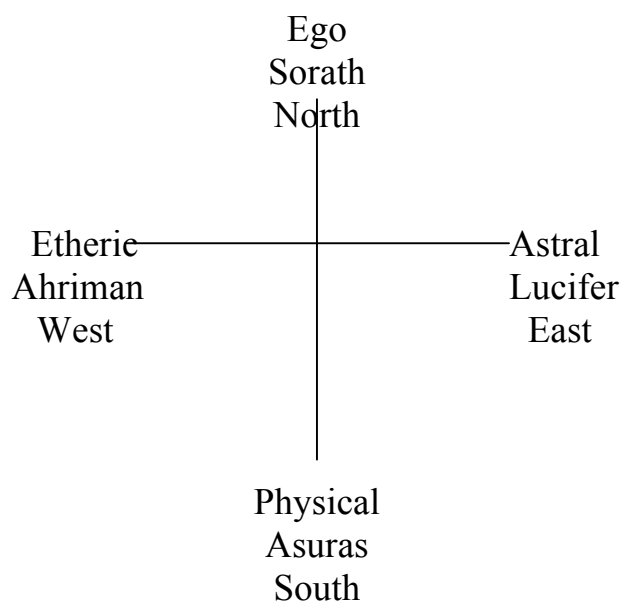
In 1780 Galvani began experiments leading to the discovery of electricity. In 1845 Faraday concluded that all matter must contain magnetism and in 1932 the artificial splitting of the lithium nucleus by neutron bombardment led to the discovery of atomic power. The degeneration of ethers has begun in our Post Atlantean Epoch and will have its culmination in the seventh Age of Earth Evolution.

Cultural Epochs:



Today we see the signs of the preparation for Ahriman's arrival. We see the signs of his coming. Materialism has reached its zenith in the middle of the last century. The materialistic thoughts<sup>36</sup> feelings and will of human beings entering the world between death and rebirth then spread a dark cloak over the spiritual world, creating a darkening in the realm of the First hierarchy, leading to a certain intensification of the fallen ethers in the Sub-physical realms which resulted in a manifestation of the power of the Beast in Nazism, Bolshevism and the discovery of the power of the Atom. This caused a sacrifice of Christ consciousness in the Astral world.

In the Rosicrucian Mysteries initiates have always known regarding the cross upon which Christ is and will continue to be sacrificed in the Spiritual world.



If human beings do not open their eyes and acquire concrete occult knowledge as a counterforce to evil then humanity will be helpless in the face of the future incarnation of Ahriman and the physical manifestation through Ahriman of his master Sorath.

Already, in our 5<sup>th</sup> cultural Epoch we observe Ahriman's incarnation, a worldwide web of electromagnetic currents criss-cross the earth's surface.

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<sup>36</sup> Sergei O Prokofief The Cycle of the Year as a Path of Initiation page 327.

Microwave towers and high-rise buildings pulsing with electricity replace the ancient pyramids and obelisks on the horizons of human cities. Sky Satellites have taken the place of the divine worship of the Stars that have guided our ancestors on their journeys. We seek to explore the planets (corpses of the past) instead of learning in a meditative way to come to a communion with the living spiritual counterparts of these corpses. Pulse generators, lasers and Nuclear medicine have taken the place of healing with the hands and the heart. Digital processors pump out numerical formulas that drown out the harmony of the spheres. The premature destruction of the physical sheaths through, Drug addiction, the building up of the animalistic nature through sport, vitamin and mineral supplements, the use of animal steroids and through sexual rituals, heavy metal music, television etc. The destruction of the physical sheaths of the earth through, pollution of the air water and soil, the cutting down of rainforests, unsustainable farming practices, the raping of the seas and the mineral earth.

All of it can be seen even with the eye not focussed on the spiritual. Everywhere the human being is surrounded by fallen ethers that have been allowed to break out of their rightful domains. Everywhere elemental beings enter into humans from the kingdom of nature spirits to be enchanted and released according to the moral disposition of their host. Everywhere the spiritual researcher can see the created phantoms (Asuras), ghosts/spectres (Ahriman) and demons (Lucifer) that have become detached from human beings as a result of prejudice (the forces of Fear in the Will life), lovelessness (the forces of Hatred in the Feeling life), untruth and hypocrisy (the forces of Doubt in the Thinking life).

All of the above has its place in human evolution as the earth is meant to die and become a corpse,<sup>37</sup> however human beings are not meant to follow the earth into the abyss, they are meant to rise up in consciousness and spiritually, taking with them what they can redeem (as a seed) of the Luciferic the Ahrimanic and Asuric elements towards a future evolutionary stage when the earth will be reborn anew.

How are we meant to accomplish this task?

The answer to this question lies in what we as individuals can do who gather together in the name of Anthroposophy through the work of the four mystery streams renewed by Rudolf Steiner at the Christmas Conference in 1924. To learn to recognise and overcome Doubt, Fear and Hatred of the spirit in our own souls, by replacing them with Faith, Love, and Hope must become our

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<sup>37</sup> Rudolf Steiner The Etherisation of Blood see also page 131 The Reappearance of Christ in the Etheric.

standard and it must begin in our epoch if we hope to weaken the power of the Ahriman and subsequently the Antichrist in future times. Otherwise we will incarnate in the Sixth Cultural Epoch to find we are like the farmer who did not sow seeds and bemoans the lack of a harvest. We shall have not prevented the great calamities that will come, and the resulting inevitable human suffering.

The best counterforce is to work in knowledge. Knowledge (Michaelic intelligence), is the first step in recognising and redeeming these forces. Ahriman himself tells us in Goethe's Faust,

“I will not grudge my praise before thou goest, for well I see that thou the Devil knowest.”<sup>38</sup>

Next week we will discuss the renewed Mystery Streams that work through the being of Anthroposophy in leading mankind to the four paths of knowledge:

1. To awaken spirituality in human beings - Rosicrucian stream
2. To announce the Cosmic Christ – Grail Stream
3. To uncover and redeem evil – Manichean Stream
4. To create conditions for the future – Templar Stream

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<sup>38</sup> Goethe's Faust

## **Faith Love and Hope as a Counterforce to Evil: The Task of Anthroposophy in the 5<sup>th</sup> Post Atlantean Epoch**

### **Part II: The Mysteries of the Good. Faith, Love and Hope. The four mystery streams renewed and the four tasks of Anthroposophy.**

I will begin today with a quote by Rudolf Steiner.

“The only way to combat the influence of these Ahrimanic Beings is to realise that against certain aims of Ahriman nothing avails except to see through him, to know that he is there. I have indicated this repeatedly in the Mystery Plays; think only of the end of the last Play. The Fifth Post-Atlantean epoch must evolve to the stage where many human beings address the Ahrimanic Powers and Beings as Faust addresses Mephistopheles: “In thy Nothingness I hope to find the All.”<sup>39</sup>

Last week we explored the mysteries of Evil. We saw how human beings are the scene of action for spiritual beings of hindrance and Etheric forces and how insofar as we are influenced by them we bring into existence a being that Spiritual Science calls the ‘Double’. We also saw how this double is made up of forces that are derived both from man and the outer world with respect to the fallen ethers. We looked at how this double that exists in every human being will contribute to the forces that will build up the bodies of the great sub - suprahuman Ahrimanic double that will incarnate in a physical body in our century. We also saw how Ahriman will create not only the perfect conditions for the inspiration of Sorath in his three sheaths, but also the physical manifestation of the ‘Antichrist’ as a totality of the forces of evil that will be in direct opposition to the spiritual manifestation of Christ.

Rudolf Steiner has said<sup>40</sup> that we do not have the right attitude towards these spirits of opposition when we merely say that something must be done about them! That they must be fought! He says this is no different to asking a stove

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<sup>39</sup> Rudolf Steiner Behind the Scenes in External Happenings – The Fall of the Spirits of Darkness

<sup>40</sup> Rudolf Steiner The Fall of the Spirits of Darkness page 153



to become nice and warm but neglecting to turn it on. For just as we must engage our feeling in the need for heat and we have to engage our thinking in order to understand the workings of the stove we must also engage our will in turning it on!

This is what we must do tonight, engage our feeling thinking and will in order to recognise the need, understand the workings so that we might do the deed.

Tonight we will explore the specific nature of the mysteries of the Good working through Faith, Love and Hope to redeem evil in the world and in Man through the inspiration of the four mystery streams working through the being of Anthroposophia.

### **The Sun Mysteries of the Good – The Cosmic Christ**

The mysteries of the Good, the mysteries of the Cosmic Christ have been known since the first Cultural Epoch of our 5<sup>th</sup> Post Atlantean Age. The Indians saw the Redeemer descending to earth, the mighty sun being, as Rama or Vishvakarman or Krishna, the Persians saw the Redeemer as Ormuz, the Egypto Chaldeans saw Him as Osiris, the Jewish people saw Him as Jehova, and the Greeks as Apollo. It was only in the late Greco Roman times that the human being experienced the physical incarnation of this Cosmic God.

### **The Mysteries of Death**

Rudolf Steiner tells us that the single most significant event in world evolution was the ‘Mystery of Golgotha’ or the death of Christ on the Cross. A God had to incarnate into a physical body, to know death and overcome it as an archetype for the rest of humankind.<sup>41</sup> A God had to pass through the experience of birth and death, something unknown to the gods in order that His body might enter into the earth and become one with it. Human beings then, through having taken this body of Christ into their own sheaths, would one day be able to overcome death, the death of consciousness in spiritual realms<sup>42</sup> - through Christ man overcomes Death.<sup>43</sup>

Since that time humanity has been preparing for the possibility of working consciously with the Christ Impulse, passively accepting the help of the Christ Being because it had not yet developed the necessary faculties. In our

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<sup>41</sup> Rudolf Steiner The Festivals and their Meaning V The Mysteries of the Risen Christ

<sup>42</sup> See my lectures on The Trinity of the Nathan Soul – Part II page 2.

<sup>43</sup> Rudolf Steiner The Festivals and their Meaning II Easter III Death of a God and its fruits in Humanity see also VIII the Birth of Christ Within Us

5<sup>th</sup> Post Atlantean Cultural Epoch, the Epoch of the Consciousness Soul or Spiritual Soul humanity is called on to stand beside Christ in the battle against Evil. Human beings will stand together with Christ as His brothers and sisters and will overcome evil with Christ as they overcame Death through Him. And it will be through the Christ within man that the gods will come to understand the meaning of Evil<sup>44</sup>, as they once understood Death through Him. The difference is that this time humanity will not be a passive participator but an active participator. This is a most important point.

### **What does this mean to be an Active Participator?**

Firstly we must bear in mind what we have said before. Human beings are constantly influenced by spiritual beings that live in their three sheaths. These beings find their scene of action where it suits them from the standpoint of their evolution. That is Luciferic beings that should have undergone their human aspect on the Moon where the Astral body of human beings was elaborated, find in the human Astral body and particularly the sentient soul a suitable environment for furthering their evolution. This goes for the other two categories of beings: The Ahrimanic beings seek to further their evolution in that part of the Etheric body they can access through the Intellectual soul and the Asuric beings in that part of the physical body accessed through the consciousness soul. We've seen how the fallen Etheric forces work on the three sheaths when they are weakened by these beings of opposition and how a composite of these results in a double which, in the Astral world represents the lower aspects of the human being that are yet to be redeemed.

The mysteries of the Good as taught in the mystery schools of ancient times teaches concerning the good counter-forces to evil.

### **What are these good counter - forces?**

In the same way that negative spiritual beings help to create, and at the same time are attracted, to the negative forces in man, so do the higher (good) spiritual beings help to create and are attracted to the positive counterforces that arise in the developing human being.

Firstly we must understand how higher spiritual beings relate to man.

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<sup>44</sup> It is important to note that the Gods do not understand Evil and it is through Christ and Man that they will come to know it.

- In the thinking human beings are connected primarily to their Angel as a representative of the entire third hierarchy (Angels Archangels Archai). Through thinking individual human beings guided by their angels are connected to the whole of humanity.
- In the sphere of Feeling human beings are connected to the Archangelic sphere as a representative of the second hierarchy (Spirits of Form, Spirits of Motion, Spirits of Wisdom). Through the feeling life individual human beings are connected to their country or folk or group.
- In the sphere of Will human beings are connected to the Archai who represent the entire first hierarchy (Spirits of Will, Spirits of Harmony and Spirits of Love). In the will the individual human being lives alone in himself.<sup>45</sup>

It is therefore to these three categories of beings Angels, Archangels, and Archai, (insofar as they come from the closest hierarchy to human beings and therefore can work directly with them as representatives of the higher hierarchies) that we must turn to for help.

How do we attract the attention of these sublime spiritual helpers?

Since 1879 when the Archangel Michael cast out the spirits of darkness from the Astral world, knowledge of the spirit could be imparted to humanity in general.<sup>46</sup> Since that time the task fell upon Rudolf Steiner as a pupil of Christian Rosencreutz to renew the four mystery streams that have since ancient times imparted the knowledge concerning the Mysteries of Good and Evil to the world. This he accomplished through the being of Anthroposophy working as a daughter of the Divine Sophia guiding modern mankind in the development of the soul towards self-knowledge (knowing the nature of the individual double or the composite of negative Etheric forces and Soul forces).

Human beings who awaken spiritual faculties by working on the life of the soul experience consciously what others experience in sleep or in the time between death and rebirth in a less conscious way. This means that such human beings are in a position to develop a closer relationship – or a more conscious relationship – to their guiding Angel. And it is through the Angels working as representatives of the entire third hierarchy of angels that the human being is able to interact with all three of the categories of beings,

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<sup>45</sup> Serge O Prokofief The Occult Significance of Forgiveness.

<sup>46</sup> Rudolf Steiner The Reappearance of Christ in the Etheric page 172

Angels, Archangels and Archai who work as helpers to higher hierarchies in overcoming evil. We see how important our relationship with our guiding angel is, as the ‘first line’ of communication.<sup>47</sup>

When human beings imbue their thoughts with spirituality so that they attain the quality of universal imaginations, it is perceived in the realm of angels as light. In the same way we perceive the stars, do higher beings perceive our spiritual thoughts as a lighting up of their spiritual sky. This light is elaborated by these messengers of the first hierarchy (with the help of the entire first hierarchy) into the gift of Spiritual Consciousness<sup>48</sup> as a protection against the doubt that Lucifer<sup>49</sup> instils in man that manifests as a choking or strangulation of spiritual thoughts.

All enthusiasm and fire of Love that strives earnestly towards the spiritual, all devotion and reverence acquired for spiritual things flows out and is experienced as a cosmic harmony in Lower Devachan that is heard by the Archangels. This cosmic harmony is the food of the gods. This universal fire of love in which both human beings and Archangels are working is further elaborated by the entire second hierarchy (Exusiai, Dynamis, Kyriotetes) as the gift of Inspiration, as protection against the Hatred of the spirit that is inspired by Ahriman.

When human beings develop courage born from knowledge of the Spirit that enters right into the very ‘moral fibre’ as the power of Hope, this is experienced as the reflected word or knowledge of Christ – Michaelic intelligence - in Higher Devachan by the Archais. This creative intelligence is elaborated by the entire first hierarchy (Thrones, Cherubim, Seraphim) into the gift of the faculty of Intuition that works to protect man from the power of Asuras which exposes the being of man to negative Earthly forces.

Faith, Love and Hope therefore light up, resound and become creative in the soul through Universal thoughts, Love and Moral Courage. This opens the gates of our Astral, Etheric and physical bodies<sup>50</sup> to the third hierarchy as representatives of the other two hierarchies in readiness for the Christ-impulse or consciousness. It is precisely at this point - when the Christ impulse enters in - that a transformation of the evil forces of the spirits of opposition and our own double occurs. For we are told that once Evil forces come into contact with the Christ Impulse working within soul sheaths of

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<sup>47</sup> Rudolf Steiner The Human Being's Relationship to his Angel. 27<sup>th</sup> Nov 1921

<sup>48</sup> Rudolf Steiner The Human Being's Relationship to his Angel – found in the compilation entitled - Angels.

<sup>49</sup> Rudolf Steiner The Freedom of Man in the age of Michael – Anthroposophical Leading Thoughts

<sup>50</sup> Sergei O Prokofief The Cycle of the Year as a Path of Initiation page 141

human beings these evil forces are immediately transformed! This happens because retarded beings cannot evolve further unless they can become united with the Christ Impulse as the central impulse of our cosmos. They cannot do this on their own and need to do it through us.<sup>51</sup> Through us they find the right relationship to the hierarchies of beings to which they once belonged and from which they chose to distance themselves in the past.

We can say it again another way thus: inasmuch as we oppose every temptation by the three beings of Doubt, Hate and Fear in the soul that come from Lucifer, Ahriman and Asuras, by counteracting them with the power of Faith – Imagination, Love – Inspiration and Hope – Intuition, so shall it result in a transformation of the Astral body into its spiritual counterpart the Spirit Self. The consciousness, which enters at the transformation of the Astral body when we overcome temptation, is the consciousness of Christ, which begins to descend even in our epoch, into the Spirit Self as the power of Faith *fully* realised, whose light will redeem Lucifer and convert him into a servant of the Christ Being<sup>52</sup>. This transformation of the Astral body into Spirit Self finds its culmination at the end of the future Jupiter incarnation of the earth.

Once this takes place in the Astral sheath of an individual he or she begins an ascent in spirit while at the same time redeeming those elemental and spiritual beings that have found a dwelling place in him or her, so that there is a reduction of the effect that Ahriman's incarnation<sup>53</sup> will have, and therefore the attack on humanity by Sorath by directing the degenerative forces to the service of the good. Rudolf Steiner calls this transformation of Evil into good, Spiritual Alchemy.

“It was taught in Manecheism that from our age onwards the souls of men would begin to transmute into good the evil which will manifest in full

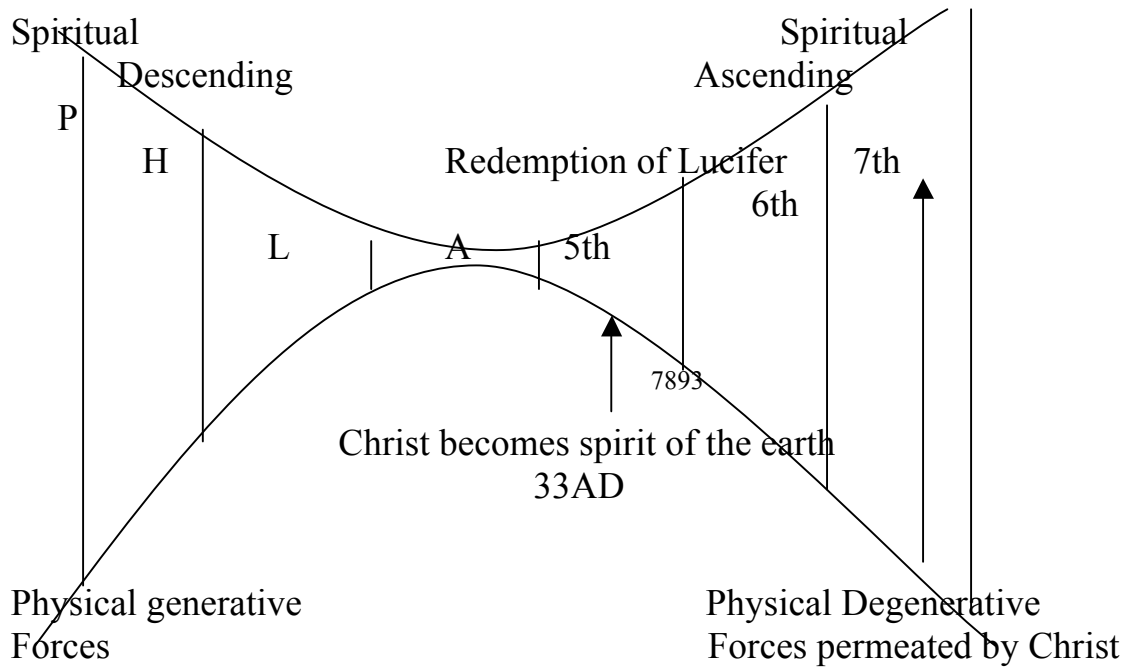
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<sup>51</sup> Sergei O Prokofief The Occult significance of Forgiveness

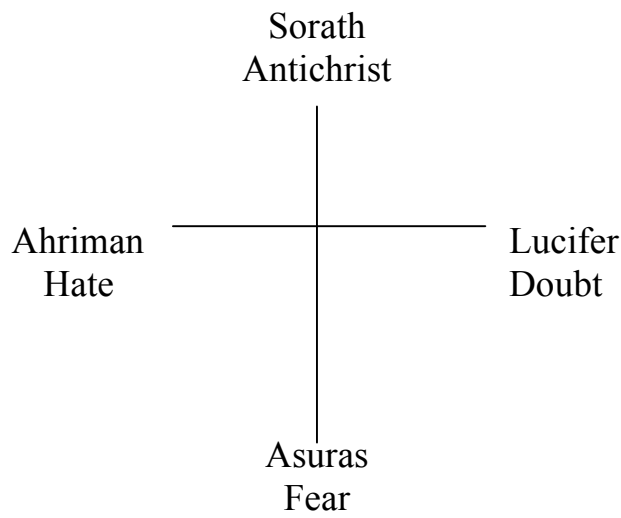
<sup>52</sup> This has been in preparation since the council of the four leading initiates Manes, Scythianos, Zarathustra and Buddha met in the fourth century. A document is kept in the Vatican library which points to the mystery of the redemption of Lucifer. See Sergei O Prokofief The Occult Significance of Forgiveness page 68 and end note 74. Also on mount Golgotha Christ Jesus forgives one of the men crucified with him. It is Lucifer who turns to the Christ being and is forgiven, the one who turns away from Christ is Ahriman.

<sup>53</sup> Ahriman's redemption by human beings will only be possible in the far distant future. Initiates of the rank of masters of Wisdom, and of the harmony of feelings and sensations are the only ones who can attempt to begin to do this today individually. His redemption however can be brought about by social communities of human beings. The redemption of Asuras lies even further into the future than that of Ahriman. The ability to redeem him will depend on the strength or weakness of the Ahrimanic incarnation. See Sergei O Prokofief The Occult significance of Forgiveness page 69. Human beings can only begin this today by working actively with the guiding spirit of their times or cultural epoch - Michael.

force in the sixth epoch. In other words: human souls must be strong enough to bring good out of evil by a process of spiritual alchemy.”<sup>54</sup>



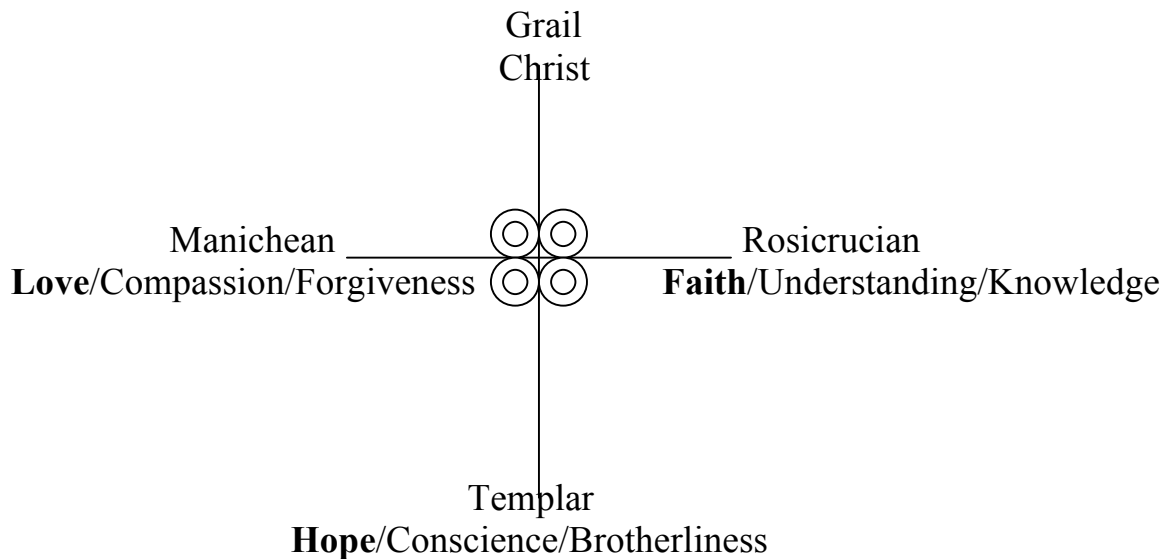
Spiritual Science imparts knowledge concerning the sacrifice of Christ in the Astral world in the last century through materialistic thoughts – doubt and the subsequent resurrection of Christ in the Astral body of man that is beginning in our time. The future will see two more sacrifices through hate – egoism, and fear of the spirit, in Lower Devachan, and Higher Devachan.



<sup>54</sup> Esoteric Cosmology XVIII

However the ancient mysteries have always known of the four streams that would one day come together in order to combat the opposing forces and it was always portrayed to its postulants in signs like the sign below.

### The renewal of the Four Mysteries



The renewal of the four mystery streams and their synthesis out of the Modern Michaelic Spirit, occurred at 1924 Christmas conference in the form of the setting of the Foundation Stone of the Good over and against Evil by Rudolf Steiner.

### What are the modern tasks of the Four renewed Mystery Streams?

All of us who are gathered here tonight belong to one of these streams and we should acquaint ourselves with the modern tasks that are set before us by our various masters.

**The renewed Rosicrucian Stream** works with the light of spiritual thinking that descends into the will and leads humanity towards the path of modern initiation. This will enable the awakening and transformation of human thinking.

**The renewed Grail Stream** works in the spirit and leads humanity to a knowledge of Christ and the Mystery of Golgotha through the Free Ego.

**The renewed Manichean Stream** works through a self-less Love that streams:

1. Upwards into thought as compassionate understanding – recognition of Evil
2. And downwards into the will as a deed of redemption through forgiveness and love – Transformation of Evil

**The renewed Templar Stream** works in the sphere of the will as it rises upwards into the imaginations towards the creation of a new social future in the threefolding of the social organism - brotherhood.<sup>55</sup> A social future where the individual will work conscientiously for the good of the whole.

### **But what does this really mean for Anthroposophists?**

It is a fact that to whom much is given, from him much is expected. That is, that those who are blessed to have knowledge concerning these things, those who gather in communities to learn concerning spiritual matters and to prepare for the future<sup>56</sup> will experience now, much that will come only in the next epoch to affect the greater part of humanity. This occurs because knowledge that is given through the Being of Anthroposophia is specifically intended to cause a transformation in the soul faculties, a loosening of the connections between thinking feeling and will that will only occur naturally in the next epoch. It is for this reason that Rudolf Steiner admonished that an increase in knowledge must always be accompanied by a strengthening of moral forces, for it is only by strengthening the moral forces in our thinking feeling and will through the conscious power of the free ego that we can prevent the egoism and confusion that is the inevitable result of the acquisition of knowledge.

If we are mindful of the law of inversion which tells us that everything that man experiences inwardly at one point will be experienced outwardly at another we can say that those who are working on their souls through the act of acquiring knowledge and through the exercises for bringing balance to the soul will experience the torments trials and temptations inwardly that will be experienced by the general population of the world outwardly in the 6<sup>th</sup> epoch.

This transformation of the soul through knowledge and soul spiritual exercises given to us by Rudolf Steiner in the supremely important books Occult Science, Knowledge of Higher Worlds and Theosophy will cause a

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<sup>55</sup> See also Sergei O Prokofief Encounters with Evil page 87

<sup>56</sup> Rudolf Steiner Preparing for the Sixth Epoch



transformation of the human soul that will be opposed directly and rejected inwardly by those very beings and influences mentioned in our last lecture, that have taken root in the being of man. The opposition of the 'double' to transformation is not only relative to the effort applied in learning and in ennobling, but will also be influenced more and more by where a person lives geographically in relation to the fallen ethers, power lines, microwave towers, etc. Therefore it is imperative that Anthroposophists today work consciously to strengthen their moral forces using the subsidiary exercises and the eight-fold path given by Rudolf Steiner for we may not run away from the future and from technology. We must instead become aware and work to strengthen ourselves.

Suffering will occur in the social life as a result, for all efforts will be made by the powers of opposition to prevent human beings from coming together in groups, especially those who wish to work in the name of 'Self Transformation'. However, if the soul life is strengthened these powers of opposition will not be victorious. If this strengthening does not occur, and if knowledge is taken up without sufficient attention being paid to the moral life it will be a dark hour of the soul for communities devoted to spiritual development for the inward battle waged in thinking feeling and willing may become an outward battle between human beings in these communities, a kind of 'war of all against all'. This will strengthen the collective double that belongs to the Anthroposophical society created by the doubt, hatred and fear that dwells in the inner recesses of the soul of the individual.<sup>57</sup>

Therefore it is necessary that Faith, Love and Hope be developed even to the smallest degree if the Christ Impulse is to make its descent into the three soul sheaths so that work can begin to ennoble this collective double that prevents us from coming together, for Rudolf Steiner tells us that the future will be a social one<sup>58</sup> and the only thing that will sustain humanity is the power of groups that gather together in the name of Christ.<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>57</sup> The occult clouding' (much thanks goes to John Pater of the Anthroposophical Society in Sydney for raising my awareness to this) that has been in recent times experienced by the society, which has been duly noted by the spiritual world and by many members around the world is due to the collective Karma of individual members (the double) caused by the break with The Theosophical Society, the lack of spiritual wakefulness or 'consciousness' that failed to prevent the catastrophe of the burning of the first Goetheanum which led ultimately to Rudolf Steiner's death, and the chaos and struggle for power that ensued amongst the various factions in the membership. Here we must also include the ongoing struggle (in Australia) between local and national bodies of the society leadership which points to the difficulties that are experienced in reconciling the two streams, Aristotlean and Platonic which should have occurred by the end of the last century as mentioned by Rudolf Steiner in his various lectures on Karma compiled under the name of Karmic Relationships.

<sup>58</sup> ibid

<sup>59</sup> ibid

Doubt in the spirit, hatred of the Spirit and Fear of the spirit will need to be conquered by the society and by individuals in the 5<sup>th</sup> epoch if Anthroposophists are to prevent a strengthening of fallen forces which will contribute to creating and strengthening the physical Etheric and Astral bodies of Ahriman and enabling through him, the incarnation of the Antichrist through whom works Sorath.

Ahriman will incarnate into a physical body, Ahrimanic powers have been preparing the evolution of humanity in such a way that it can fall a prey to Ahriman when he appears in human form,<sup>60</sup> but the strength of his influence on humanity will rely on whether we undertake the tasks set before us individually and as a community.

### **The Individual Tasks of every Anthroposophist in the 5<sup>th</sup> Epoch:**

- To have Faith in the spirit - faith in knowledge of the spirit. This means that we must have faith that spiritual experiences did not die with Rudolf Steiner, that healthy spiritual experiences can and will be the possession of more and more of its members, since this was after all the intentions of Rudolf Steiner.
- To have Love for earnest striving towards the spirit. That means we must also have love for the spiritual work of others. Love for the effort made by those who are striving for the fire of knowledge. Tolerance of the viewpoints of others and compassion for those who are undergoing their own 'dark night' of the soul by grappling with their own demons, even when this impacts on us. For it is our task in this fifth age to breathe into ourselves the evil of our brother and to breathe out from ourselves our love for them as the true Manichean ideal in the same way a plant breathes in poison and breathes out pure life giving oxygen (the mystery of Sacrifice).
- To have the courage borne of knowledge of the spirit to;
  1. Speak out concerning those things that we have acquired as fruits of our own spiritual endeavours for it is only by communicating with each other that we learn and teach one another. It is only by communicating our spiritual experiences that they cease to be our egocentric possessions.
  2. Seek to honestly change through self-knowledge<sup>61</sup>, true self-knowledge. For it is only self-knowledge that allows us to know and understand our own

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<sup>60</sup> Rudolf Steiner The Ahrimanic Deception

<sup>61</sup> Etherization of the Blood – found in Reappearance of Christ in the Etheric page 116

demons, for unless we know our own demons we may mistake them for the demons of others!

### **The Task of Anthroposophy in the 5th Epoch :**

1. To awaken mankind to the spiritual nature of the human being
2. To teach concerning the mystery of Golgotha and the Cosmic Christ
3. To recognise and redeem Evil
4. To build the new social forms for the future

We live in a time when such tasks must be undertaken by individual people guided as they are by their Angels, working within groups guided by Archangels in an epoch that stands under the guidance of a Spirit of the times - an Archai - Michael. Over and above which stands the cosmic Christ.

So we must continue to work together, understanding, loving and encouraging each other, even if at first we fall and make mistakes and watch others fall and make mistakes. It is not always possible to avoid mistakes as it is not always possible to avoid falling when you take that first step, but where there is love there is tolerance forgiveness and compassion and the fall can lead to a further attempt this time more assured. We must prevent our spiritual groups, our society from becoming rigid, from living in an atmosphere of doubt, hatred and fear of the spiritual itself, relying only on what is written and handed down from the past, neglecting to imagine possibilities, rejecting an enlivening of the heart and a strengthening of the will. For this will strengthen our own doubles and collective double which will contribute to that great Ahrimanic sub supra-human double that will find its incarnation in the not too distant future and will prepare the way for the Antichrist and Sorath.

However if our spiritual groups manage to raise themselves to their task in the 5<sup>th</sup> post Atlantean epoch, of preparing for the sixth by cultivating the beginnings of the three great virtues then there shall be a renewed Whitsuntide - a resurrection in the heart of the living Christ as the spiritual sun of redemption in the ego in the 6<sup>th</sup> Epoch, for Christ himself will be there in every person and in the midst of the group to cast His word into

such gatherings.<sup>62</sup> And through Christ's descent will there be a possibility for redeeming and for overcoming every difficulty (this is especially true of the society itself as a living being).<sup>63</sup>

It is at this time, during lent and Easter that it is especially possible to experience the penetration of the Christ impulse into our human sheaths into our Astral body as the power of faith, into our Etheric body as the power of love and in our physical body as the power of hope. Christ stands side by side with us at this time as our brother, waiting for us, in freedom to allow him entry into our body soul and spirit – ‘Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any man hear my voice and open the door I will come into him.’<sup>64</sup>

I leave you with Rudolf Steiner's words.

“The whole purpose of spiritual science is to prepare in this sense for the sixth epoch of culture. We try to cultivate spiritual science in order to overcome materialism, to prepare the kind of science that must exist in that epoch. We found communities of human beings within which there must be no dogmatic beliefs or any tendency to accept teaching simply because it emanates from one person or another. We found communities of human beings in which everything, without exception, must be built upon the soul's free assent to the teachings. Herein we prepare what spiritual science calls freedom of thought. By coming together in friendly associations for the purpose of cultivating spiritual science, we prepare the culture, the civilization of the sixth post-Atlantean epoch.”

....and

“We may therefore picture to ourselves that by uniting in brotherliness in working groups, something hovers invisibly over our work, something that is like the child of the forces of the spirit self — the spirit self that is nurtured by the beings of the higher hierarchies in order that it may stream down into our souls when they are again on earth in the sixth epoch of

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<sup>62</sup> Rudolf Steiner The Reappearance of Christ in the Etheric

<sup>63</sup> This can be seen in our present impulse for renewal.

<sup>64</sup> Revelations, ch3, v20.

civilization. In our groups we perform work that streams upward to those forces that are being prepared for the spirit self.”<sup>65</sup>

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<sup>65</sup> Rudolf Steiner – Preparing for the Sixth Epoch