

Rudolf Steiner: Into the Future

Article by Martha Keltz

Opening Quotations, From Rudolf Steiner

“Love was the fundamental force of the ancient Oriental culture... In those ancient times there was in the Orient little of what was afterwards required of man when that word



resounded which found its most radical expression in the Greek saying ‘Know thyself!’... In Asia all this could not have been observed and studied at all. The inward-turning glance would have been paralyzed, so to speak. But by means of all that the men of the East brought to the Western Mystery centers, their gaze having long been directed outwards [‘That thou art’]... they were now enabled to pierce through into man’s inner being... [The] Ego must be tempered and hardened in that realm which lies within man as a center of destruction. And with this Ego one cannot live on the far side of the outer sense world.” – *Evil and the Power of Thought*.

“In relation to our moral life, our understanding of the world, and in relation to all the activities of our consciousness soul, we must first become selfless. This is

a duty of our present culture to the future. Mankind must become more and more selfless; therein lies the future of right living, and of all the deeds of love possible to earthly humanity.” – *The Four Sacrifices of Christ*.

“...In the sixth cultural epoch all materialistic beliefs, including science, too, will be regarded as antiquated superstition. Men as a matter of course will accept as science only such forms of knowledge as are based upon the spiritual, upon pneumatology.” – *Preparing for the Sixth Epoch*.

“...The human being, when he has achieved the highest spirituality, takes on the form of Michael fettering the evil in the world, symbolized by the dragon.” – *Occult Signs and Symbols*.

“You know that the moon will one day be reunited with the earth. By the astronomers and geologists, who live in a world of abstractions, this reunion of the moon with the earth is placed thousands and thousands of years ahead. But this is mere illusion. In

reality it is by no means so very far distant.” – *A Picture of Earth Evolution in the Future*.

Out of the Past

There is a wealth of information available today about Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925) and his life achievements, in thousands of individual and group initiatives all over the world, in hundreds of publications, and in the publications of his own lectures and books, many made freely available on the internet, in whole or in part, both in their original German language and in countless translations. To a vastly far greater degree than with the well-known lives of Aristotle and Saint Thomas Aquinas, then, it is beyond the scope of a concise article to adequately encompass the magnitude of the life of Rudolf Steiner and his achievements, achievements that could only have been made possible by an actively cooperating spiritual world, by innumerable helpers both human and Divine. Supposing it was possible to briefly summarize this lifetime – what might be written? The fact that, just prior to the most staggering and incomprehensibly horrific world events of the early and mid-twentieth century, Rudolf Steiner and his co-workers were exemplars for how human beings *could* live their lives on earth, at the highest and most productive and fulfilling levels despite difficult or pain-filled individual destinies. Renewals for nearly all aspects of outer and inner life were given and demonstrated. Outwardly, in spiritually uplifting architecture, in eurythmy, drama, art, wood sculpture, music, education and curative education, social life, political awareness, economics, science, religion, medicine and agriculture. Inwardly, through the most thorough guidance ever given toward direct experience of the living spiritual world, a world consisting of multitudes of spiritual Beings that are not physically visible, but can be perceived with awakened consciousness. The time to see divinity “in a glass dimly” has passed; face to face meetings become more and more possible.

Certainly such advancements as the above will not be easy of attainment. Painful sacrifices are necessary; Nature teaches this unassailable fact. Only the evil path promises to be easy, but evil can only simulate truth and goodness initially, can only deceive, as occurred in the 20th century, and this in absolute opposition to what had been offered through the new reigning Time Spirit, the Archangel Michael (c. 1879-2230).

“If socialism, in the crude materialistic form in which it appears today [1918] attempts to force itself upon mankind, it will bring the greatest unhappiness upon humanity. It is symbolized for us through the Ahriman at the foot of our Group, in all his forms.” – *Ancient Myths*.

What perceptions of the future could have borne, in deeper measure, what actually occurred as a result of wrong or outdated forms of government in the 20th century: an estimated 160 million deaths (from *Crimes Against Humanity*).

In order to move in consciousness into the future it is necessary to somehow bypass the 20th century, still looming in the past like some dark mammoth beast, still alive, still threatening. Who can doubt that the 20th century saw “a time of great decisions, the great

crisis to which the sacred books of all time have referred.” – *Karmic Relationships*. Millions of Europeans in particular who made decisions to act morally and for the good suffered torture, imprisonment or death, and these decisions became absolutely required in a given moment of sudden awareness, to move without hesitation in one direction or the other, away from or toward God.

The time period of the reign of evil on Earth, from approximately 1933 to 1945, sought to overshadow what Rudolf Steiner publicly revealed as early as 1910, the “Second Coming” of Christ that would begin “between the years 1930 – 40 – 45”; not a physical return of Christ, but a spiritual return in the **Etheric World**, the world of formative forces that sustains all physical life. However, “...The Christ event is not confined to one point of time only. In the case of Paul it came very early in order that through him Christianity might pursue its course.” The new perception of Christ in the spiritual world, similar to what Paul experienced on the road to Damascus, will occur among “the first forerunners of human beings possessed of these faculties...” The new faculties of fully conscious clairvoyant perception, both natural and cultivated, are referred to. – *The True Nature of the Second Coming*.

“I need only briefly mention that in the times directly after the Atlantean catastrophe, souls were endowed with a certain elementary clairvoyance in the bodies they then inhabited. This clairvoyance, once a natural faculty in man, was gradually lost, mainly as a result of the conditions prevailing during the Greco-Roman epoch of culture. Since then, man has developed in such a way that great progress has been achieved on the physical plane and during the course of the present post-Atlantean age clairvoyance will gradually be reacquired.” – *Buddha and Christ: The Sphere of the Bodhisattvas*.

The path given for both natural and cultivated expressions of clairvoyance is that of the “Three I-s” – Imagination, Inspiration, and Intuition. A resolve to work in these areas with discipline, patience and endurance will bring a meeting with the Etheric Christ, but the decision as to when or how such a meeting will occur can only come from the spiritual world, from Christ.

From the same lecture as cited above: “In our own fifth age which will last until the fourth millennium, souls will gradually become able, from the 20th century onwards, to experience the Christ Being in an etheric form on the astral plane, just as in the fourth age Christ was visible on the physical plane in a physical form.” What is meant by “an etheric form on the astral plane”? The astral body is the body of desires, wishes, passions, fantasies, originality, creativity, etc., and to the extent that the Ego and the intellectual soul effectively work on this surging, colorful, and dynamic body so as to bring it under control, its forces are transformed into Spirit Self (Hindu *Manas*), which means elevated, moral thinking; pure or untainted thoughts. This kind of thinking will enable a “face to face” meeting with Christ and with other higher Beings, which can mean a vision full of truth, a vision that is almost physical, but that is not physical. Elements of unmistakable life and sweetness identify the vision as originating from the etheric world, but pure thoughts (correct thinking) within the intellectual soul must facilitate this meeting so long

as humanity is dependent upon the physical body and physical life. This dependency will continue for a long time into the future, but must ultimately be overcome.

It happens frequently in our time that great crises in the lives of individuals, such as a near death experience, bring natural meetings with Christ, and this becomes a call to develop the dormant faculties while there is still time, for this development will bring fruition in the life after death and in future lives. We live at a turning point in time in the sense that a failure to develop the new faculties will bring a loss that will be very difficult to compensate for in the future. Such development brings with it increased responsibility for the needs of others, for social life and for an endangered natural environment, at first out of a sense of duty that requires discipline, but then out of a higher form of love, out of selflessness, and this in face of the intensification of the power of Individuality, of the Ego.

“The Christ-Individuality was on the Earth in the body of Jesus of Nazareth for three years only and does not come again in a physical body; in the fifth post-Atlantean age, He comes in an etheric body, in the sixth age in an astral body, and in the seventh in a mighty *Cosmic Ego* that is like a great Group-Soul of humanity.” – *Reference 10*.

What truly was Rudolf Steiner’s mission from the beginning of the 20th century until his death in March, 1925? Certainly part of this mission was the union of the Eastern understanding of karma and reincarnation with the Western path of Christianity. If this leads to a study of Rudolf Steiner’s own past lives, however, something vastly more encompassing emerges, something that connects events from the third cultural age to our own time. Endeavors that were then of a universal nature have reappeared, transformed, in our own fifth post-Atlantean cultural age. What Rudolf Steiner was calling for and working towards in his lifetime was a unification, a fusion, of two streams within Western culture that had heretofore run separately or parallel to one another: the hidden or **esoteric** stream of knowledge and the **exoteric** stream that was taught to the people and entered into daily life and religious observance. Here is recalled Gilgamesh’s failure to complete his initiation in the third cultural age. The result of this failure prevented the hidden mysteries from entering into the external culture of Babylon, unlike the achievements of Hermes. “Hermes gazed into the very depths of the holiest secrets and became the great inaugurator of ancient Egypt, but because of Gilgamesh’s failure to go through the Initiation successfully, Babylon had the external culture and the esoteric culture running parallel to one another... Enshrined within this culture were the sacred, most hidden mysteries of the Chaldeans, but these were only able to flow through the external culture as a tiny stream.” – *Occult History* (see *The Epic of Gilgamesh*).

Schionatulander and Thomas Aquinas lived in time periods in which esoteric or occult Christianity did indeed remain hidden, carried in subsequent centuries by Rosicrucianism. Thomas called for *Faith* in acknowledgement of what the intellect could not then give by way of answers to questions concerning the deepest mysteries of life. The ending of *Kali Yuga* and the emergence of the new age of Michael has brought forth, through the beginnings of an attainment of a higher form of clairvoyance, the hidden Wisdom (“Isis

Unveiled”), and, through the anthroposophical or spiritual science movements, has united this Wisdom with the outer culture and with all exoteric Christianity.

Initiates at the level of Christian Rosenkreutz (see *Lives of Schionatulander and Saint Thomas Aquinas, Part Two*), who had been John the Evangelist during the life of Christ on Earth, and who was the author of *Revelation*, can see the future. Christian Rosenkreutz - who was also called “Father CR” - and Rudolf Steiner are brothers in spirit, while Christian Rosenkreutz most often works behind outer events, whereas Rudolf Steiner, as with Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas, becomes a well-known public figure and teacher.

The formal or traditional title of Father is explained thus: “If we now go back once again to the beginning of the Fifth Root Race [the Fifth post-Atlantean Great Epoch] we find the superhuman Manu, by whom the great impulse was given. But in the course of the Fifth Root Race, something very significant comes to pass, namely that men themselves progress so far that a few of them will be able to take into their hands the spiritual guidance of the human race. Those whom we call ‘Fathers’ or ‘Elders’ will then be able to guide and lead men as formerly they were led by superhuman Beings. Thus the guidance and leadership of mankind passes over from the Manus to those who are ‘Human Brothers,’ ‘Brothers of Men.’

“The Holy Spirits, the Sons of God, the Fathers, became the leaders of the human race in the successive ages of time. The Fathers are also called *Pitris*: “[They] are those who as human beings were still children, but were nevertheless the most advanced among those early men.” – *(On) Apocalyptic Writings*.

As for the *future* Pitris and Sons of God:

“But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” – *John 1:12*.

The Bodhisattvas are of the Holy Spirit; they will advance to Buddha.

“Now it is of the greatest importance for us to know that whenever the Rosicrucian inspiration is given, in each century, the bearer of the inspiration is never outwardly named. His identity has been known only to the very highest initiates. Today, for example, it is only permissible to speak of happenings of a hundred years ago; for this is the period of time which must elapse before they may be spoken of openly. The temptation to pay fanatical veneration to authority vested in some personality – of which there is no greater evil – would be too great. The danger is too near at hand. Silence is a necessary precaution not only against the wiles of ambition and pride – which it might be possible to resist – but paramourly because of the occult, astral attacks which would be directed all the time against such an individual. Hence the rule that these things may not be spoken of until a hundred years have elapsed. Such studies may help us to realize that the fulcrum of historical development is contained in Rosicrucianism.” “For it can be substantiated from the Akashic Record that the day which represents the pivotal point in

the evolution of mankind is the 3rd of April in the year 33 AD. Knowledge of the fact that the pivot of evolution lies at this point is an essential part of Rosicrucianism.” – *The Mission of Christian Rosenkreutz (1912)*.

In a very similar lecture to the above, but given earlier, in 1911, Rudolf Steiner stated: “Christian Rosenkreutz is an individual who is active both when he is in incarnation and when he is not incarnated in a physical body; he works not only as a physical being and through physical forces, but above all spiritually through higher forces.” “Christian Rosenkreutz is incarnated again today.”

“Strictly speaking the Rosicrucian movement began in the thirteenth century. At that time those forces worked extraordinarily strongly, and a Christian Rosenkreutz stream has been active in spiritual life ever since. There is a **law** that this spiritual stream of force has to become especially powerful every hundred years or so. This is to be seen now in the theosophical movement. Christian Rosenkreutz gave an indication of this in his last exoteric statements.” From a *Note 24* included in the publication of this lecture: the Count de Saint Germain stated, in Vienna in 1790: “I shall disappear from Europe towards the end of the century and proceed to the regions of the Himalayas. I shall rest; I must rest. In 85 years time I shall be seen daily.” – *Isabella Cooper-Oakley*. – see **Note 1**.

Referring to the book *Isis Unveiled*, written by Helena Petrovna Blavatsky (1831-1891) in 1875, Rudolf Steiner stated that the first part of the book, written in symbols, was especially inspired by Christian Rosenkreutz. However, “In the second part Blavatsky deviates a little from the Rosicrucian stream. In her later works she departs entirely from it, and we must be able to distinguish between her early and her later publications, even though something of H.P. Blavatsky’s uncritical spirit already appears in the early ones. That this is said can only be the wish of H.P. Blavatsky, who is not in incarnation now.”

From approximately 1902 to 1912 Rudolf Steiner and his great friend Marie von Sivers (1867-1948) had been active in the Theosophical Society in Germany, although he made it very clear that from the beginning he was teaching out of the Rosicrucian or esoteric Christian stream. In *The Course of My Life* he writes of how he and others were forced to depart from the Theosophical Society: “But after 1906 there began in the Society upon whose general direction I had not the least influence, practices reminiscent of the growth of spiritualism, which made it necessary for me to warn members again and again that the part of the Society which was under my direction should have absolutely nothing to do with these things. The climax to these practices was reached when it was asserted of a Hindu boy that he was the person in whom Christ would appear in a new earthly life. For the propagation of this absurdity there was formed in the Theosophical Society a special society, that of ‘The Star of the East.’ It was utterly impossible for my friend and me to include the membership of this ‘Star of the East’ as a branch of the German section, as they desired and as Annie Besant, president of the Theosophical Society, especially intended. We were forced to found the Anthroposophical Society independently.”

In later years, in maturity, the Hindu boy, Jiddu Krishnamurti (1895-1986), became a philosopher and rejected and denied Annie Besant’s claim.

Rudolf Steiner never met H.P. Blavatsky, as he was only 30 years old when she died and he had not yet become involved with the Theosophical Society.

Abraham, Moses, and Solomon

“It is impossible to know anything of the present and future of human and cosmic evolution in the sense of spiritual science without a knowledge of this evolution in the past. For what presents itself to the perception of the spiritual researcher when he observes the hidden facts of the past contains simultaneously all he can know of the present and future.” – *An Outline of Occult Science*.

In the lecture *The True Nature of the Second Coming*, the individuals of Abraham, Moses, and Solomon are connected with the three millennia prior to the founding of Christianity, millennia that began in the year 3101 BC. The year 3101 BC is an *approximate* date for the beginning of the great dark age, *Kali Yuga* (3101 BC-1899 AD), “...For in the process of development, qualities of one kind pass over gradually into others; but before that time the last vestiges of ancient clairvoyance were still present... We can say that the development then begins of those faculties of soul which on the one hand confine [man’s] power of judgment to the sense-perceptible world, while, on the other, they promote his *self*-consciousness; all these powers begin to operate in Kali Yuga.”

Abraham, in the third millennium BC, was an individual with a special organization of the physical brain that enabled him to have consciousness of the spiritual world *without* the old faculties. While direct vision of the spiritual world became lost, the Divine entered more deeply into the Ego, and the Deity, Jahve, is then revealed as the *World-Ego*.

In the second millennium BC, the Deity was revealed to **Moses** in the burning bush as the God of the Elements, and such emanations as lightning and thunder that were seen with physical eyes were understood to be emanations of one World-Ego [‘I Am the I Am’]. During earlier periods man beheld a multiplicity of Beings that he could not comprehend as a unity, but now the World-Ego – grasped for the first time with the physical instrument of the brain, a faculty that had developed in a specially marked way in Abraham – confronted him, and he conceived the World-Ego as manifesting in the different kingdoms of Nature, in the Elements.”

In the **Solomon** epoch, in the first millennium before Christ, the understanding of the One God intensified, and the same Divine Being beheld by Abraham and Moses in Jahve takes on human form.

“Jahve is the reflection which precedes Christ in *time*. Just as the moonlight reflects the sunlight, so was the Christ Being reflected for Abraham, Moses, and Solomon.”

“A repetition of these three pre-Christian ages takes place in the Christian era, but now in reverse order.”

In the first Christian millennium it was the wisdom of Solomon through which men endeavored to grasp the nature and essence of the Christ Event. In the second millennium after Christ the experience of Moses comes to life again as a mighty revelation from *within* man. The Abraham epoch, that will “inevitably bring momentous consequences in its train,” began in the year 2000, and in this third millennium after Christ, in this new Abraham epoch “the first signs of a natural faculty of clairvoyance will become evident.”

The advent of the Abraham epoch is one of the profoundest reasons as to why Rudolf Steiner stated that the “thinking of the heart” should begin in the year 2000. “What Abraham brought down for men into the physical consciousness he will bear upwards again for them into the spiritual world.”

A Review: The Great Epochs and Their Cultural Ages

Here, a review of some content from the previous articles in this series will be helpful, as well as new material. The lists of the Great Epochs and Cultural Ages (from *The Atlantean Cataclysms*) can be referred to quickly.

The Great Epochs are as follows:

Polarean
Hyperborean
Lemurian
Atlantean
Post-Atlantean
Sixth Great Epoch
Seventh Great Epoch

The seven post-Atlantean Cultural Ages:

Indian Age – Crab, Cancer
7227 – 5067 BC

Persian Age – Twins, Gemini
5067 – 2907 BC

Egypto-Chaldean-Babylonian Age – Bull, Taurus
2907 – 747 BC

Greco-Latin Age – Ram, Aries
747 BC – 1413 AD

Anglo-Saxon and Germanic Age – Fish, Pisces

1413 – 3573 AD

Russian, Slavic Age – Water, Aquarius
3573 – 5733 AD

American Age – Sea-Goat, Capricorn
5733 – 7893 AD

There were three prior planetary embodiments of Earth, called **Saturn**, **Sun** and **Moon**, and after Earth (Love and the Ego), in the future, there will be three further embodiments, called **Jupiter**, **Venus**, and **Vulcan**. The three future embodiments will serve to complete the development of the three higher bodies of humanity: Spirit Self (*Manas*), Jupiter; Life Spirit (*Buddhi*), Venus; Spirit Man (*Atma*), Vulcan. The transformation of the astral body into Manas, the etheric body into Buddhi, and the physical body into Atmas is the higher work of the Ego, and occurs continuously. For example, overcoming a bad habit develops Buddhi.

Saturn developed the physical body, Sun the etheric body, and old Moon the astral body.

From the early to the middle period of the Lemurian epoch the Moon was gradually extruded from Earth, from the area that is known today as the world's largest body of water, the Pacific Ocean. – *Cosmic Memory*.

In the evolution of humanity, the Indian age is related to the American age, the Persian to the Russian-Slavic age, and the Egypto-Chaldean-Babylonian age to the Anglo-Saxon and Germanic age (our time), while the Greco-Latin age, during which occurred the Mystery of Golgotha, is unique and incomparable.

A Summary: The Polarities of Lucifer and Ahriman

The present world, planetary and heavenly movements, the World-Concept, are in cosmic place for the sake of spiritual and human evolution. The universe of spiritual Beings might be said, if metaphorically, to be almost breathless in anticipation of the next freely-elected moves of human beings, those creatures at bottom of everything, especially those numbers who are morally and spiritually awake, but also those innumerable well-intentioned if still indecisive individuals. All too often it requires an act of courage to manage a truly selfless deed against the usual onslaught of smug, self-seeking, conventional materialists (bourgeois defined: conventional, smug, materialistic, etc.). Yet many are beginning to stem the awful tide. In a thousand and more unsung little community centers, Faith, Hope, and Charity, and Truth, Beauty, and Goodness are still very much alive.

“The connection of man with the world is proclaimed to us by the tears upon his face, and his liberation from all lower things which seek to hold him down, in the smile upon his countenance.” – *Paths of Experience*.

The large wood carving of the Group, *Die Gruppe*, that survived the arson's fire on New Year's Eve of 1922/1923 is still to be seen at the "Second Goetheanum" in Dornach, Switzerland. In this carving, created by Rudolf Steiner and Edith Maryon, can be seen a triad of cosmic forces. The "Representative of Man" at the center controls the powers of the two poles at the extremes, and hence this is likewise a depiction of Christ between the two extremes of Lucifer and Ahriman. The first and highest association that can be brought to this sculpture is the image of the crucified Savior on the middle of the three crosses on Golgotha. "There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them." – *John 19:18*. The two others are ordinary men who fell into imbalance and error through the dark aspects of the pole forces.

The two opposite polarities of the triad are actually the present dwelling places of the Beings of Lucifer (on the dark side, the Devil) and Ahriman (on the dark side, Satan). Lucifer once inhabited Venus, and Satan is still familiarly associated with the dark side of Saturn. Christ, in the three years of His life in the sheaths of Jesus, and in His Death, overcame the power of Lucifer. However, He did not overcome the power of Ahriman, for He knew that mankind would still have need of Satan for a long time into the future. This indicates that Lucifer and Ahriman, in their rightful places – where they do not wish to remain – are essential to human and cosmic evolution.

Lucifer, who has brought freedom and freedom of choice to humanity, and many other gifts and greatnesses, incarnated in China in the third millennium before Christ; Ahriman will incarnate early in our third millennium AD. He will not go through childhood but will inhabit a prepared human body that has reached the age of 30. Christ incarnated at the center point of time between the incarnations of Lucifer and Ahriman. As previously quoted, "The pivotal point in the evolution of mankind is the 3rd of April in the year 33 AD." Christ walked on Earth in the flesh for only three years.

Ahriman, who is an agent of *Angra Mainyu* (hostile Spirit, evil Spirit) in **Zoroastrianism**, is a spirit of destruction and is the god of our modern technology and materialism. Lucifer revels in the "entertainment industry" that technology has made possible through film, radio, television, the computer, etc. A list of the examples and variations in cultural life stemming from these two would require volumes.

Although Rudolf Steiner could not, as an Initiate, reveal certain details of Ahriman's incarnation, he did say it would behoove Ahriman to remain unknown, thus Ahriman will have an ordinary appearance and a common Anglo-American name, such as William Smith. Ahriman will incarnate in a geographical area "where forces streaming up from below have the most influence on the double." The most kinship with the double occurs where the mountain ranges run from north to south, where one is in the vicinity of the magnetic North Pole: "This is where kinship is developed with the Mephistophelian-Ahrimanic nature through their outer conditions." – from *Geographic Medicine*. Such conditions suggest that Alaska and Western Canada would serve Ahriman very well in his incarnation. These areas also have extensive ice-locked environments. When exactly in the early third millennium will Ahriman incarnate? He will not want to lose too much time as Michael and spiritual science continue to make advances in the world culture;

indeed *he* will offer access to an extraordinary school of occultism, and those gains in knowledge and faculties that normally require long and difficult development, as well as sacrifices, will be available for the taking; it will all be easy. – see *The Influences of Lucifer and Ahriman*. The drawback will hardly be recognized as the taker inexorably becomes trapped in a dark Luciferic kingdom (*Parzival's* “Castle of Marvels”) that will seem wonderful, however, not as potentially combined with hidden activities similar to what was witnessed as only one of the outcomes of 20th century Nazism. – see **Note 2**. Those individuals who remain awake and alert in these circumstances, however, can accept what Ahriman offers and use it for advancement on the middle path of Christ, an advancement that also serves human, earthly and cosmic evolution.

East and West

The following quotations from the lectures *An Esoteric Cosmology*, and *Evil and the Power of Thought* will serve to deepen understanding of the Beings of Lucifer and Angra Mainyu/Ahriman and certain of their respective lawful roles in human evolution.

“The fact that his senses give man an objective consciousness of the world around him is due to the Luciferian spirits. Human thought is the gift of the Gods; human *consciousness* is the gift of Lucifer. Lucifer lives in the astral body of man, and Lucifer’s activity comes to expression at the point where the nerves give rise to feeling and perception. That is why the Serpent in *Genesis* says: ‘Your eyes shall be opened.’ These words must be taken literally, for it was by the Luciferian Spirits that the senses of man were opened... All science, all knowledge of the outer world by means of the senses owes its existence to the Luciferian Spirits. In man, the Luciferian principle and Divine Intelligence are combined. It is this fusion of opposing principles which makes evil possible for man, but it also gives him the power of self-consciousness, choice and freedom...

“If when he descended into matter, man had only received the form given by Jehovah, he would have remained an *impersonal* being. And so it was due to Lucifer that man was able to become truly man, a being independent of the Gods. Christ, or the Logos made manifest in man is the principle which enables him to ascend once again to God...

“Thus three principles are inseparable from and essential to man’s evolution – Jehovah, Lucifer, Christ.” – *An Esoteric Cosmology*.

From *Evil and the Power of Thought*:

“In the ancient East, man’s inner glance was captured by all that he experienced in the surrounding world, and he had a special motive for giving over his entire being to it. It was cosmic knowledge that wove in the ancient Oriental wisdom...” But the teachers and pupils of “the Mysteries coming from Asia were faced, by virtue of the geographical features of the West and its entirely different elemental configuration, with the necessity of cultivating self-knowledge and a true inner vision... They were enabled to pierce

through into man's inner being. And it was only the strongest souls who could endure what they perceived."

Breaking the "inner mirror memory," the thought-forces penetrate first through the etheric body and work there in such a manner as to cause a complete transformation of "that material existence which is within the physical body of man. In the outer world, matter is nowhere completely destroyed. That is why modern philosophy and science speak of the conservation of matter as valid only for the outer world. Within the human being matter is completely dissolved into nothingness. The very being of matter is destroyed. It is precisely upon this fact that our human nature is based: upon being able to throw back matter into chaos, to destroy matter utterly within that sphere which lies deeper than memory..."

"It is only after one has spoken to mankind for many years of the interests connected with spiritual scientific investigation that one can draw attention to what actually exists within man. But today we *must* do so, for otherwise man would consider himself to be something different than what he is within Western civilization. Enclosed within him he has a fiery center of destruction, and in truth the forces of decline can be transformed into forces of ascent only if he becomes conscious of this fact..."

What if humanity should not become aware of this center of destruction? – "This center which is isolated in man and should work only *within* him, at the one single spot within where matter is thrown back into chaos, now breaks out and penetrates into human instincts. That is what will happen to Western civilization; yes, and to the civilization of the whole Earth. This is evidenced by all the destructive forces appearing today..." Yet this center "*must* be there for the sake of the development of human thought... In truth the forces of decline can be transformed into forces of ascent only if [man] becomes conscious of this fact."

The Fifth and Sixth Cultural Ages

The Hindu Yugas are a measure of development eras in the evolution of consciousness that differ from the cultural ages, the latter based on ancient Chaldean astronomy, yet the two systems have many parallels. In a list of the Yugas it is possible to see how development quickens after the attainment of self-consciousness:

Golden Age – Krita Yuga – about 20,000 years
Silver Age – Treta Yuga – about 15,000 years
Bronze Age – Dvapara Yuga – about 10,000 years
Dark Age – Kali Yuga – about 5,000 years
Our age encompasses a future 2,500 years – *Reference 9*

Gold signifies the development of Manas, silver the development of Buddhi, and bronze the development of Atma. Some Hindu beliefs name the new age as an ascending Dvapara, a Copper Age.

As Rudolf Steiner describes the re-attainment of etheric perception, it is gradually experienced as an awareness of being outside of the physical body, and of perceiving the physical body spiritually. This may be accomplished through concentration in meditation. Guidance and explicit directions through the stages of these processes are given in the book *Knowledge of the Higher Worlds and Its Attainment*. The book stresses the necessity for a corresponding moral development in both inner and outer life as prerequisite for progress in spiritual perception. Humility and reverence should become natural components of the temperament.

For the development of this spiritual perception or new clairvoyance, humanity has 2,500 years from the date of 1899. These years extend to 4400 AD, well into the sixth cultural age. As previously emphasized, the Individuality of Abraham returns in our time and will enable powerful impetuses for returning consciousness to spiritual perception.

“The height of post-Atlantean culture is reached in the fifth age. What will follow in the sixth and seventh ages will be a descending line of evolution. Nevertheless, this descending evolution... will be inspired, permeated by the Spirit Self [Manas]...

“The whole purpose of spiritual science is to prepare in this sense for the sixth age of culture... The mission of Western and Central Europe is to introduce into men qualities that can be attained by the consciousness soul. This is not the mission of Eastern Europe. Eastern Europe will have to wait until the Spirit Self comes down to the earth and can permeate the souls of men...” – *Reference 3*.

“The Russian, on account of his love of the soil – not what streams up from below earth – has a certain ability to conquer the double nature. This is why Russia will be important in the sixth cultural age.” In America, “forces streaming up from below have the most influence on the double.” “People must not be separated according to territory, but must receive from one another what is good and great in each territory and what can be produced only there... People must advance in the mutual exchange of their spiritual treasures; this is the important point.” – *Reference 21*.

The knowledge and wisdom acquired in our time will become selfless love in the sixth age; this will bring about a true community of human beings, a community that is not united by blood but by the spirit. The sixth age is called the church or age of *Philadelphia* in *Revelation 3:7*. “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one shall shut, who shuts and no one opens.’” This passage is a reference to a higher stage of the development of the Ego or Higher Self through selflessness, which within a community of others receives the knowledge and power of the Word so as to further evolution for all humanity. Who is “the holy one, the true one”? According to this interpretation of the passage, this would be **Christ-Maitreya**.

The return of Christ in the sixth age in the astral body would bring the power of the purification of this body – of *Kama* – by way of preparation to receive the Word. In the words of Rudolf Steiner in *Occult Science*, “...Love will reveal itself in all phenomena as

a new nature force,” and he is certainly referring to a higher love, to a selfless love. “... Individuals will experience the suffering of another human being as their own suffering. If they see a hungry man they will feel the hunger right down into the physical body, so acutely indeed that the hunger of the other man will be unendurable to them.”

In addition, in this age human beings “will only be considered to have real knowledge when they recognize the spiritual, when they know that the spiritual pervades the world and that human souls must unite with the spiritual.” – *Reference 3*.

“The main characteristic of the sixth age will be that very definite feelings regarding what is moral and what is immoral will arise in the souls of men. Delicate feelings of sympathy will be aroused by compassionate, kindly deeds, and feelings of antipathy by malicious actions. Nobody living at the present time can have the faintest conception of the intensity of these feelings.” – *Reference 10*.

Maitreya

“He who was incorporated in Jeschu Ben Pandira – the Bodhisattva who has repeatedly reincarnated, and who succeeded Gautama Buddha – has prepared himself for his Bodhisattva incarnation so that he can reappear and rise to the Buddha dignity exactly 5,000 years after the illumination of Gautama Buddha under the bodhi-tree. Here again occult investigation fully agrees with Oriental tradition. So, 3,000 years from now, this Bodhisattva, looking back on all that has happened in the new age [the 2,500 year period] and looking back on the Christ-Impulse and all that is connected with it, will speak in such a way that his speech will make into a reality what has been characterized: intellectuality will become directly moral. The future Bodhisattva, who will place all that he has at the service of the Christ-Impulse, will be a ‘Bringer of the Good’ through the Word, through the Logos.” – *From Jesus to Christ*. In Christ the Word became flesh; through Maitreya the flesh will again become the Word.

Jeschu Ben Pandira, who has been maligned in history, was a Jewish teacher and a noble Essene figure who worked in preparation for the Christ Event in the century before Christ. One of his pupils became the teacher of Matthew, author of the Gospel of Matthew. Jeschu Ben Pandira suffered a martyr’s death.

A Bodhisattva never fully incarnates until his last life on earth, during which he ascends to the level of Buddha. “It is permissible to speak of ever-recurring incarnations of the Bodhisattva, but we must understand that behind all the men in whom the incarnations took place, the Bodhisattva stood as part of that Being who is the personified All-Wisdom of our world.” – *The East in Light of the West*.

A careful study of the past lives of Rudolf Steiner reveals him to be very closely connected to the Maitreya Bodhisattva, especially in the transition from Cratylus to Aristotle, and in the life of Thomas Aquinas, the “mendicant friar.” In light of the fact that throughout his life Rudolf Steiner was engaged in the speech arts, for which he had occult knowledge as well as the power to utilize speech and sound for healing and moral

effects (from *The First Esoteric School*), it seems certain that he was at times deeply inspired by Maitreya, and that Maitreya was to him an intuitive Presence.

In the *Buddha and Christ* lecture, probably in response to a question posed earlier, he stated: “Much that I have said today can be substantiated only by means of occult investigation. Yet I beg you not to give credence to these things because I say them, but to test them by everything known to you from history – above all by what you can learn from your own experience – and I am absolutely certain that the more closely you examine them, the more confirmation you will find. In this age of intellectualism, I do not appeal to your belief in authority but to your capacity for intelligent examination. The Bodhisattva of the 20th century will not rely on any herald to announce him as the Maitreya Buddha, but upon the power of his own words; he will stand on his own feet in the world.” The “incarnation” referred to would not have been a physical birth, but a descent or an incorporation into a personality who had reached the age of 30 or 31. This would have been a predestination of the personality and would have been established in the existence before life. Others “...who will take possession of the personality of some human being in this way and will not incarnate as children are, for example, Individualities such as Moses, Abraham, Ezekiel.” – *Reference 10*. The age of 30 often brings remarkable changes and new levels of attainment in normal life. Rudolf Steiner’s Individuality and personality are recognizable as a continuation of his past lives. When he wrote *The Philosophy of Freedom* between the ages of 30 and 33 it was without doubt a new level of achievement, but he was then already an established philosopher of high standing.

It is important to recognize Maitreya Buddha as an archetype, and an archetype can manifest in many different personalities. Maitreya may have both an East and a West persona. It is difficult, for example, to dismiss the possibility of Nagarjuna (1st-2nd century AD) as having incorporated the Maitreya. The Eastern beliefs regard Maitreya as having the qualities of a dual figure; he is compared with Janus, who sees both the past and the future, and also with Mount Meru in the Himalayas, which is said to have its roots in hell and its summit in heaven.

A study of the lectures from *The Principle of Spiritual Economy, In Connection with Questions of Reincarnation* will cast light upon the mysteries referred to here and will deepen understanding of complex spiritual processes in regard to incarnations of highly advanced Individualities.

The Duality of Good and Evil

The time of the Ascent of Maitreya Bodhisattva to Buddha, in the year 5000 AD, marks the advance of changes in the physical and etheric constitution of humanity, as well as environmental and climatic changes on earth that will very gradually lead to the ice age of the Sixth Great Epoch. The conceptual words of “water,” “Aquarius” and “ice” point to the necessity for flexibility within the etheric body, a body of life-sustaining currents that somewhat resemble the moving and rippling flow-forms of water. The materialistic world-view causes increasing inflexibility and hardening of this etheric body, which

means that human beings of the sixth age may suffer the fate of having their moral qualities expressed in their countenance, in their whole bodily appearance. – From *The Tragic Wrestling with Knowledge*. This is the mark of materialism or the “mark of the beast” that is referred to in the *Atlantean Cataclysms* article. “But this world-view must not, shall not, gain the day – this must be our unshakable conviction. We must know: if our etheric bodies are to be so strong that they are able to correct the mistakes of our physical body, this strength must come from the fact that men learn to take in an earnest and true way what will come to them from the etheric world. This will then work more and more as a factor of healing as we move towards the future. But above all we must receive spiritual science into our hearts in order to prepare ourselves to see the Christ in His etheric form, and to take this event with true earnestness.”

Ahriman, the *Beast from the Earth* “...causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. This calls for wisdom: let him who has understanding reckon the number of the beast, for it is a human number, its number is six hundred and sixty-six.” – *Revelation 13:16-18*. The number 666 can be interpreted as a number indicating the period of time that has just passed two-thirds of the duration of the sixth age, to around the year 5013. Emil Bock, in his book *The Apocalypse of Saint John*, interpreted the number 666 to signify critical nearness to the end of a certain time period, a time period that offers opportunity to advance ones soul life. Beyond this point of time it will be very difficult, in the future, to make up for the opportunity that has been lost. – see *Note 3*.

In our time there has been a strong increase in public awareness of the existence or reality of evil, and the deeds of certain human beings are so heinous that they can hardly be said to be human at all, but something other than human. A major contributing factor to this awareness is the literature of the Holocaust, the *Shoah*, in both historic accounts and in the memoirs of the time period. Periodic eruptions of evil occur in our time, but a retrospective view of the years from 1933 to 1945 reveal, in the clear light of day, an historic time period when evil controlled nearly the entire world.

The sixth cultural age is related to the second cultural age, the Persian age, during which the sun was rising at the spring equinox in the constellation of Gemini, the Twins. This indicates that the spiritual impetuses and events of the second age will return at higher levels of evolutionary development in the sixth age. Conflicts caused by the duality of good and evil will then be greatly enhanced, as will the need for moral choices, particularly the choice to move in the direction of goodness, on the middle path, while there is still time.

Zoroastrianism taught the duality of good and evil as perceived in the Beings of *Ahura Mazda* (the aura of the Sun Being, the benevolent God of Wisdom) and *Spenta Mainyu* (holy Spirit, good Spirit), and their opposite, *Angra Mainyu* (evil, destructive Spirit), or in the Persian language, Ahriman.

A 1993 publication, *The Zoroastrian Faith*, brings to light sources from antiquity, such as Xanthus, Xerxes, Hermodorus, Plutarch, Pliny the Elder, and Diogenes Laertius, who place the life of Zoroaster or Zarathustra in the transition period from the first to the second cultural ages, around 6300-6200 BC. According to Rudolf Steiner, Zarathustra was one of the incarnations of the Master Jesus (into whose prepared sheaths the Christ entered at the Baptism at the Jordan River). From the pantheon of Indian and Iranian deities Zarathustra upheld the supremacy of Ahura Mazda, the Lord of Life and Wisdom, the first and last for all eternity.

In the *Avesta*, the surviving Zoroastrian scripture written in the Avestan language, the name of the originator of the faith is *Zarathushtra Spitama*. The name Zoroaster is derived from Greek and Latin, and this name contains reference to the starry world. “What is generally agreed is that the Avestan form of the name Zarathushtra consists of two compounds, namely *zarath* and *ushtra*, the latter meaning ‘camel’ while the precise derivation and meaning of the former remains uncertain.” Spitama means “brilliant white.” Even without knowing the meaning of Zarath, knowing only the description “brilliant white camel,” the mysterious figure called “Faithful and True” from *Revelation 19:11* comes to mind: he who sits upon a white horse, which signifies the purification and transformation of the physical body. This figure, whose name is known only to himself, is associated with anticipated events of great spiritual magnitude that will occur in the transition from the sixth to the seventh cultural age. Horse Kalki is “a mystery that has been celebrated ever since the time of the ancient Indian Rishis.” – *Reference 12*.

“It was through the energy of fire that Ahura Mazda assigned judgment to truth-followers and to evil-followers.” Zarathustra taught that “...there are two fundamental spirits, twins, which are renowned to be in conflict, the good and the bad. Between these two the beneficent have chosen correctly, not so the maleficent.” – *The Zoroastrian Faith*. – see *Note 4*.

The Manichean transformation of evil will not involve punishment, but gentleness, as the light enters into the darkness. Imagine the strength of soul and spirit that this will require. Nikola Tesla (1856-1943) understood well the mission of evil in the sense that without resistance, without friction, the soul has nothing to struggle against, and hence will not develop. “A mass that resists the forward movement of man, once set in motion, greatly aids his progress.” – *The Ambient Medium*.

The Seventh Cultural Age

In the seventh cultural age, through the leadership and guidance of Maitreya Buddha, and through many individuals who will be working efficaciously with the wisdom and power that his great Spirit bestows, the connection of the soul with the physical body will gradually loosen. In the first age, the Indian age, the soul descended and worked upon and united with the physical body.

Humanity was aided in this process by the drinking of the *Soma* juice that was facilitated by the High Priests. The ritual consumption of the Soma juice continued into the Persian

age. “*Vivahvant* (Indian Vivasvant), originally a sun god, established a rite in which the juice of the god-plant *hoama* (Indian Soma, a species of ephedra) was extracted and ritually consumed. In return Vivahvant was granted a son whose name was Yima (Indian Yama), who was responsible for the destiny of the human race.” – *Reference 31*. In Hinduism, Yama is a god of death and a judge of deeds who sometimes assumes the form of a dog. In ancient Zoroastrianism the dog was considered sacred.

In the seventh age – and in fact beginning in our time – opposite processes will occur, and the soul will begin to experience the fulfillment of its essential existence only through detachment from the mineral body.

As with Gautama Buddha, Maitreya Buddha, after his Ascent, will function purely from the spiritual sphere of existence. In Eastern beliefs this sphere, called *Tusita*, is considered to be Maitreya’s own unique sphere.

In the advanced lecture, *A Picture of Earth Evolution in the Future*, it is described how the powers of the physical body will decline, a description that at first seems strange, a feeling or an effect that occurs, even at the personal level, with any true glimpse of the future: “Humanity is becoming younger and younger. Human beings are coming to a point when their development of body and soul will proceed only up to a certain age in life. At the time of the death of Christ, of the Event of Golgotha, human beings in general were capable of development in body and in soul until the 33rd year of life. Today this development is possible until the 27th year. In the fourth millennium a time will come when men will be capable of development only until the 21st year. In the seventh millennium the bodily nature will be capable of development only until the 14th year of life. Women will then become barren. An entirely different form of earthly life will ensue. This is the age when the moon will again approach the earth and become part of it.

“It is high time for man to turn his attention to such mighty events of the realm of existence beyond the earth. He must not go on dreaming, vaguely and in the abstract, of some form of divinity, but he must begin to be alive to the great happenings that are connected with his evolution. He must know what it means to say that the moon once left the earth and will enter the earth again.

“Just as the separation of the moon is a decisive event, so too will be its re-entry. It is true that as human beings we shall still be inhabiting the earth, although birth will no longer take place in the ordinary way. We shall be connected with the earth by other means than through birth. We shall, however, have evolved in a certain respect by that time.”

Rudolf Steiner refers here to the transformation of the larynx and the re-emergence of the creative powers of the Word. He has described how certain groups in America, in the seventh cultural age, will try to hold back the normal evolutionary processes by enabling the artificial continuance of physical birth. These are the great dangers of a materialistic science in which practitioners refuse to admit of spiritual science, for example, the modern sciences of genetics, eugenics, and fertility.

The seventh cultural age in *Revelation 3:14* is named *Laodicea*. “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: the words of the Amen; the faithful and true witness the beginning of God’s creation.” This passage refers to an ending and to a new beginning. The symbol of Capricorn, the Sea-Goat, depicts a saturnine hardening, aging and finality in the creature’s head and forefront, while the bodily components that were once the back limbs signify a future within the watery or flowing element. The new components are embryonic in appearance, curled, as though awaiting their unfoldment. The masculine goat, with its head and horns in a position of battle, will stubbornly resist change, will continue to cling to material existence, and this in the midst of an icy, hardened environment. From Emil Bock: “In the country near the cities of Hierapolis, Laodicea and Colossae, the surface of the Earth is like an inverted stalactite cave... In our day something of the Plutonian principle has spread over the whole of modern civilization. We have had to learn on a large scale how to work with subterranean forces such as gases, electricity, or latterly, atomic energy. A kind of glazed crust covers every landscape in which Nature has been thrust back by industry. In Laodicea, a prophetic anticipation of modern conditions may have been at work.” – *Reference 29*.

The principal text of Hinduism, the **Mahabharata** (Maha means great, and Bharata was an ancient king after whom India was named), contains 90,000 verses, and the section on the *Drona Parva* describes a major war with a magnitude of destruction that has been compared with the results known today from the detonation of nuclear weapons. *Dronacharya* is described as a great warrior, however, he utilized the spiritual knowledge and power at his disposal as a weapon. These events may have occurred in the prehistoric time period of the first cultural age, but they also contain echoes of the Atlantean cataclysms and their causes.

Directed towards the future, the Mahabharata clearly signals dire warnings to the American age.

Regarding the quotations below, it is again helpful to refer back to the first article in this series, *The Atlantean Cataclysms*, where it is stressed, from spiritual science, that the planetary and cosmic bodies and organizations are the dwellings and reflections of the activities of spiritual Beings. Imagine being able to perceive and hear them – that moment will come.

“Now an event of great significance came to pass at the end of the last century... other Beings – not of a human order – have been descending to the earth for the purposes of their further development. From cosmic realms beyond the earth they come down to the earth and enter into a definite relationship with human beings. Since the eighties of the nineteenth century, super-earthly Beings have been seeking to enter the sphere of earth existence. Just as the Vulcan men were the last to come down to the earth, so now Vulcan Beings are actually coming into the realm of earthly existence. Super-earthly Beings are already here, and the fact that we are able to have a connected body of spiritual science at all today is due to the circumstance that Beings from beyond the earth are bringing the messages from the spiritual world down into earth existence.” – *Reference 5*.

The home of the Vulcan Beings is the sphere between the Moon and Mercury. Other Beings that are descending are from the spheres of Venus, Mercury and the Sun. Moon, Mercury and Venus are referred to as the inferior or inner planets; they form a lemniscate-loop-curve at the center of which is the Earth and Sun. The superior planets, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn, follow their own lemniscate path that is outside of – or surrounds and embraces – the path of Sun, Earth and the inferior planets. “Venus and Mercury are far more akin to what is living as a cosmical reality in ourselves; the others are more akin to the fixed stars.” – *Astronomy in Relation to Other Sciences*. Moon, Mercury and Venus are related to the lower physical body and (respectively) to the 4-petalled, 6-petalled and 8-petalled “lotus flowers” or *Chakras* of the astral and etheric bodies. Vulcan is concerned with physical, mineral Earth. The descending Beings “desire nothing else than to be the advance-guards of what will happen to Earth existence when the Moon is once again united with the Earth.” – *Reference 5*.

It is significant that Nikola Tesla, in the course of his experiments, believed that he was in contact with intelligent Beings, particularly from Venus. Copper, the metal of Venus within the Earth and human beings, is the metal related to the conduction of electricity.

Silver is the metal of the Moon, Quicksilver is the metal of Mercury, and Gold is the metal of the Sun.

“...This is a destiny that is very emphatically part of human evolution upon the earth, and it is quite well known today by many of those who try to hold humanity back from the knowledge of spiritual science. For there are men who are actually conscious allies of this process of the entanglement of earth existence. We must no longer allow ourselves to be shocked by descriptions of this kind. Such facts are the background of what is often said today by people who out of old traditions still have some consciousness of these things and who then see fit to surround them with a veil of mystery... However great the resistance, these things must be said, for as I constantly repeat, the acceptance or rejection of spiritual scientific knowledge is a grave matter for all mankind.

“...To think that the form and structure of an animal can be understood by the means employed by anatomists and physiologists is nonsense. And so long as we fail to realize that it is nonsense, the shadowy intellect cannot be transformed into a living, spiritual comprehension of the world.

“...There are men in existence who imagine that they will gain their ends by promoting their own spiritual development and leaving the rest of their fellow-beings in a state of ignorance.”

“...The body of knowledge that is regarded today as science is essentially a product of Ahriman, leading man on towards earthly destruction and preventing him from entering the sphere which the Beings from beyond the earth have been trying to place within his reach since the last third of the nineteenth century.” – *Reference 5*.

From An Outline of Occult Science

The Present and Future Cosmic and Human Evolution

“After the seventh cultural age has run its course, the earth will be visited by a catastrophe that may be likened to what occurred between the Atlantean and post-Atlantean ages, and the transformed earth conditions after this catastrophe will again evolve in seven time periods [the Sixth Great Epoch].”

What is referred to as “The War of All Against All” will bring about the cataclysmic end of the Fifth Great Epoch. This will be a massive destruction of fire storms. Rudolf Steiner has described the participants of this War as *groups of one* involved in frightful, devastating, moral entanglements, those who are still using the Ego for egotistical purposes. These groups of one may become part of the evil race.

“Only those human beings, however, in whom are incarnated souls that have developed in a manner possible through the influences of the Greco-Latin age, and the subsequent fifth, sixth, and seventh cultural ages of the post-Atlantean evolution, will be able to cope with the newly-formed earth conditions. The inner being of such souls will correspond to what the earth has then become. Other souls will then have to remain behind... Souls who will have created the possibility for themselves, in the transition from the fifth to the sixth post-Atlantean period, of penetrating supersensible knowledge with the forces of intellect and feeling, will have the maturity for the corresponding conditions following the next great catastrophe.”

Extending from the time of the seventh cultural age into the Sixth Great Epoch, the sphere of the moon will reunite with the earth. “The good humanity will through its development acquire the use of the moon forces and thereby so transform the evil part also that, as a special realm of the earth, it may participate in further evolution. Through this work of the good humanity, the earth, united with the moon, will be able after a certain period of evolution to reunite also with the sun and with the other planets [in the Seventh Great Epoch]. Then, after an intermediate stage, which presents itself as a sojourn in a higher world, the earth will transform itself into Jupiter.”

During the Venus evolution that follows Jupiter there will be an ascending scale of three human kingdoms of different degrees of perfection. Late in the Venus evolution “a special cosmic body splits off that contains all the beings who have resisted evolution, a so to speak ‘irredeemable moon’... The evolved mankind advances in a completely spiritualized existence to the Vulcan evolution, the description of which does not lie within the scope of this book.”

“Freedom will not depend upon what has been predestined by antecedent conditions, but upon what the soul has made of itself.”

During the Sixth Great Epoch Christianity will be able to emerge fully into its true forms and purposes. “We see that the highest imaginable ideal of human evolution results from the ‘knowledge of the Grail,’ the spiritualization that man acquires through his own

efforts.” – see the section “Contra Faustum and the Manicheans” in *Part Two: Friar Thomas* from *Lives of Schionatulander and Saint Thomas Aquinas*.

The Seven Seals

In the lectures *The Apocalypse of Saint John*, Rudolf Steiner describes the content of *Revelation* as a Christian initiation on the path of Imagination, Inspiration and Intuition. On this path the Initiate John ascends through the three worlds, for he is enabled to have “a certain higher degree of vision within his Ego and astral body while outside of the physical and etheric bodies.” The First Seal of the Son of Man (who is a prototype) reveals him to be pointing with his right hand to the seven planets and this is an initiation sign of a higher degree of vision. “I was in the spirit on the Lord’s day,” writes John in *Revelation 1:10-11*, “and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, ‘Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches...’ ”

During the life of Christ on earth, John, as Lazarus, had been initiated by Christ, not secretly in the temples, as had always been done by the Hierophants or High Priests, but openly, for the people to see. This is described as “The Death of Lazarus” in *John 11:1-44*. It is for this reason that Rudolf Steiner refers to John (Christian Rosenkretz) as the world’s highest Initiate.

The description of the **Seven Seals** marks the stage of the Imaginative world, the **Seven Trumpets** that of the world of Inspiration, and the **Seven Vials of Wrath** the world of Intuition. Emil Bock (*Reference 29*) addressed the question as to why the Angels pour Wrath from the Vials, and concluded that the Vials actually contain the healing liquid of God’s loving beneficence, but when poured on those unprepared to receive it, the liquid has the opposite effect and is felt as a terrible, scorching punishment. Here, one is reminded of the Archangel Oraphiel (associated with Saturn), called the Angel of Wrath, who will reign as Time Spirit after Michael, around the year 2230.

It is moving to realize that a person of the simplest Christian faith who studies *Revelation*, or a person who is not a Christian at all, can still soar in thought and vision to the loftiest heights of



spirit, perhaps also wondering or dreaming about the meaning of “He who has an ear, let him hear...”

The Seven Seals will be opened during the seven ages of the Sixth Great Epoch. However, spiritual aspects of the Seals, Trumpets and Vials ray forth from the future, from eternity, and pierce down into the history of the world. *Revelation 9:13-21*, the sounding of the sixth Trumpet, describes the horrific events of the 20th century, and *Revelation 10*, the sounding of the Trumpet of the seventh Angel, occurs at the end of the 20th century. Michael then comes down from heaven with his little book, that “the Mystery of God, as He announced to His servants the prophets, should be fulfilled.”

“The coming of the Sixth Root Race [the Sixth Great Epoch] is announced by the sounding of Trumpets. From *Revelation 8:12*, ‘The fourth Angel blew his Trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light was darkened; a third of the day was kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night.’

“...At the end of the Fifth Root Race [the Fifth Great Epoch] only one third of those who began evolution will have reached the necessary stage of development.”

In addition, “Seventy-two Elders were called upon to enter into evolution and to develop to further stages. The admonition to the Communities which it devolved upon the Elders to lead, indicates that only a third reach the goal. If we take a third of 72 Elders, we have 24 Elders who will still be there when the seven seals of the book are opened.” – *Reference 12.*

Selections from *Occult Signs and Symbols – The Seven Seals:*

The First Seal: “That Being who spoke forth all that is in the world today is the great prototype of men. He spoke forth Saturn into the universe, the Sun, Moon, Earth, Mercury, Venus and Jupiter. The seven planets in the seal point to this. They are the sign that indicates the height to which a man will be able to develop himself. His planet will then consist of fiery matter, and he will be able to speak creatively into this fiery matter. The fiery sword that projects from the mouth of the figure represents this. All will be fiery, hence the feet of flowing metal.”

The Second Seal: “...In the second picture, in the apocalyptic animals, lion, eagle, cow and man, we are shown an evolutionary stage of mankind. There is, and always will be as long as the earth shall exist, a group soul for the higher manifestation of men, which is represented by the lamb in the center of the seal, the mystical lamb, the sign of the Redeemer.”

The Third Seal: “Were we to go back millions of years in human evolution, another picture will come toward us... During those times men went through not only physical transformations, but spiritual and astral transformations as well. To follow these requires that we rise to spiritual worlds. There the music of the spheres can be heard, tones that

swell and flood through space in this world... the harmony of the spheres, called by the occultist 'the trumpet tones of the Angels,' will sound forth."

The Fourth Seal is the picture of Michael with the book: "[Man] will ultimately unite his head with the sun and receive higher forces. This is to be seen in the fourth seal in the sun's face that rests on the body of clouds, on the rock and columns. In that future time, the human being will have become self-creative. As symbol of the perfect creation, the many colored rainbow surrounds him."

The Fifth Seal: "When men will have attracted the sun power, the sun will once again be united with the earth. Men will become sun beings, and through the power of the sun they will be able to bring forth suns. Hence, the woman that bears the sun in the fifth seal."

The Sixth Seal is the picture of the human being who has taken on the form of Michael fettering evil in the world, symbolized by the dragon.

The Seventh Seal: "What the human being will have developed as purified snake body will no longer work upwards, but from above downwards. The transformed larynx will become the chalice known as the Holy Grail... It will be an essence of the world force and of great cosmic essence."

Notes

1. The "law" that Rudolf Steiner speaks of, whereby the historic personality who was the incarnation of Christian Rosenkretz cannot be known for one hundred years after that incarnation (CR was incarnate in 1911) indicates that the time is approaching in which his early 20th century incarnation can be known, but this could probably only be revealed by "the very highest Initiates." On the basis of this law, the prior incarnation date of 1911, and knowledge of his inspiration for *Isis Unveiled* in 1875, a return in our time may be occurring, with activity beginning in the years 2002 to 2012, and extending well beyond that time. James Gillen has offered the following notes on the statement of the Count de Saint Germain from the Cooper-Oakley book: "This interval suggests a Uranus period (84 years) which Rudolf Steiner refers to as the cycle related to new impulses. In the summer of 1875 (HPB trance reception of *Isis Unveiled*) there is an interesting constellation on August 10th, where the sun is conjunct Uranus (this is a major Rosicrucian signature also in the horoscope of Rudolf Steiner), Mercury is conjunct Venus (new content received into soul) and Mars stands in opposition to Pluto (disruptive initiative). Mars, Venus and Mercury can be associated with Master Morya who self-identifies with the inspiration of *Isis Unveiled* – the renting of the veil to enable intuition to work through the historical narrative. The Uranus – Sun conjunction definitely speaks Christian Rosenkretz to me, so I think that we can see that at least two Masters were involved, if not more as has been historically suggested by the theosophists. Rudolf Steiner says (GA 262) that

the inspiration for *Isis Unveiled* came from Western Initiates – the same who inspired the Rosicrucians – into HPB’s soul which had been prepared by the Eastern Initiates in a way that HPB could receive the wisdom and secrets which were flowing in. Nevertheless, through this process the actual content was distorted by HPB’s constitution and manner of reception.” – *James Gillen*. It may be that the interval period was considerably lessened during our “time of great decisions, the great crisis to which the sacred books of all time have referred.” In this *Karmic Relationships* lecture, Rudolf Steiner states that leading anthroposophists would return at the end of the 20th century; that this was “written in spiritual letters above. Have gladness in your spirits because of this.”

2. From the book *After Daybreak: The Liberation of Bergen-Belsen, 1945*, by Ben Shephard, Schocken Books, Random House, New York, 2005: “...It is only now, after sixty years, that we are able to get a clear sense of what went on in the camp day by day, because over the last decade a mass of new material has become available, diaries and letters written at the time by British nurses, doctors, soldiers and relief workers so overwhelmed by what they saw that they felt compelled to record it... Only after their deaths in the 1990s have these available accounts surfaced.” “Major Ben Barnett had written: ‘There are no words in the English language which can give a true impression of the ghastly horror of this camp.’ The bulk of the women were Jewish, however, in the large men’s section in Camp 1: “There were 15, 287 in all. The largest group was the Russians, followed by the Poles. Together they made up 60% of the inmates. There were some 500 Greeks and about the same number of French and Belgians and Czechs, and 120 Dutch, plus a good number of Yugoslavs. The Germans together numbered 1600 and 1800, and there were several hundred Gypsies.” “70 % of the inhabitants of Camp 1 [that contained 41,000 people] required hospitalization and of these at least 10,000 would die before they could be put in hospital. Every form of disease was prevalent, but the ones mainly responsible for the frightful conditions were typhus, starvation and tuberculosis.” Many prisoners died from being given the wrong food in the beginning. An estimated 2000 perished from the wrong food.
3. In Lecture XXVI of *Foundations of Esotericism*, 1905, Rudolf Steiner describes the evolutionary Epochs and Ages using theosophical terms and teachings of the Rounds, Kingdoms, and Globes or Forms. From this description the sixth cultural age may only foreshadow the ultimate events of the Sixth Great Epoch in regard to the number 666: “In this Sixth Round on the Sixth Globe, in its Sixth Stage of development, corresponding to the Sixth Race [the Sixth Great Epoch], an important decision will be taken. Everything will have reached the Devachanic condition that has been able to develop out of all the Kingdoms. If anyone has not progressed to the point that he can be raised to the stage of Devachan, he will remain in the animal state. This will take place according to the number 666, the number of the Beast.”
4. In a 1911 lecture, *Zarathustra*, Rudolf Steiner does not view good and evil as a duality as such: “...The doctrine of Zarathustra is not mere dualism, a teaching of

the two worlds of Ormuzd and of Ahriman. He taught that underlying these two currents in the universe there is one power whence both the realm of light (Ormuzd) and the realm of darkness (Ahriman) proceed. Old Greek writers tell us that the unity behind Ormuzd and Ahriman was worshipped by the ancient Persians as a *living unity*, but it is difficult to re-create this idea nowadays.”
 “Taking the concept of Time, we look into the future on the one side and into the past on the other. Time, however, is welded into a circle; the completion takes place in infinity. This is symbolically represented as the serpent biting its own tail...”

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Illustrations by Martha Keltz

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