

After the Eclipse

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The central theme of the solar eclipse on March 29, 2006 in the sidereal sign of Pisces is the healing of the human heart. Through the healing of the heart the destructive direction taken by modern civilization will be healed. It is above all the work of the Etheric Christ and Divine Sophia – also of the Master Jesus – which is directed toward the healing of the heart. The location of the Sun and the Moon at the eclipse – at 14° Pisces – is very close to the position of the Sun at the birth of the Master Jesus, whose birth is described in chapter 2 of the Gospel of St. Matthew. At the birth of this child, who was visited by the three magi, the Sun was at 15½° Pisces opposite the Full Moon at 15° Virgo.¹

With the vernal point now in Pisces, Pisces is very much connected with the work of the Etheric Christ and, complementary to this (on the opposite side of the zodiac), the sign of Virgo has particularly to do with Sophia – although, of course, it is also true that Christ and Sophia work through all twelve signs of the zodiac. The birth of the Master Jesus on the evening of March 5 in the year 6 BC with the Sun in the middle of Pisces – whereby this birth took place toward the end of the age of Aries – was oriented toward the Age of Pisces that started in AD 215, some two hundred years later. With regard to the incarnation of Christ into Jesus at the baptism in the River Jordan, John spoke the words: “Behold the Lamb of God...” – applying to Christ (the Lamb) as the higher aspect of the Ram. In this context it is significant that the Mystery of Golgotha took place when the Sun was in the middle of the sign of Aries – at 14° Aries at the crucifixion, and at 15½° Aries at the resurrection. The Mystery of Golgotha signified an outpouring of Divine Love.

It is the Master Jesus, born when the Sun was in the middle of Pisces, who represents “the principle of brotherly love”² and “who influences most of all the heart forces.”³ He is the teacher concerning love, and it is in this sense that the deeper significance of the solar eclipse in the middle of Pisces on March 29, 2006 can be understood as having to do with the healing of the human heart through love. Christ is Divine Love, and the Master Jesus is the master whose mission is to teach love.

Holding in consciousness that the Master Jesus was the reincarnated Zoroaster from the sixth century BC, who was the teacher of Pythagoras, and in turn that Zoroaster was the reincarnated Zarathustra from about 6000 BC, the founder of the ancient Persian culture, and that “Sirius is the heart of Jesus-Zarathustra,”⁴ it is clear that the star Sirius has much to do with the mission of the Master Jesus. In fact, although the following words refer to Horus: “I am Isis...I am the mother of

¹ Robert Powell, *Chronicle of the Living Christ* (Steiner Books: Gt. Barrington/MA, 1996), p. 146.

² Rudolf Steiner, *From the History and Contents of the First Section of the Esoteric School, 1904-1914* (Steiner Books: Gt. Barrington/MA, 1998), p. 204.

³ Ibid. p. 207.

⁴ Words of Rudolf Steiner recorded in *The Birth of a New Agriculture: Koberwitz 1924* (edited by Adalbert Keyserlingk; Temple Lodge Press: London, 1999), p. 89.

Horus, who was born with his head beneath Sirius,”⁵ they also apply well to the Master Jesus, whose eternal star is Sirius. In other words, one can imagine that he “was born with his head beneath Sirius” and that therefore the star Sirius is – imaginatively speaking – “above” the head of the Master Jesus. It is noteworthy that the name Zoroaster means “radiant star”.

In a more general sense, however, the appearance of a star above the someone’s head is a sign of the development of the Spirit Self (Manas) or the Higher Self, which is the transformed and purified astral body in the human being. Normally the astral body, which is the bearer of the soul forces of thought, feeling, and will, and also of passions, appears to be in chaotic movement in the aura of the human being. When transformed and purified, it appears as a star above the head of the human being. Certain astral forces in the human being, when transfigured, are raised up above the head and appear there in the form of a radiant star. This really was the case with Zoroaster, which is why he was called “radiant star” (Zoroaster). This is one of the deeper meanings of the following meditation given by Rudolf Steiner:

A star is above my head.
Christ speaks from the star:
Let your soul be borne through my strong force –
I am with you,
I am for you,
I am in you,
I am your I.

For some of us who worked meditatively with the solar eclipse on March 29, 2006, this meditation took on extraordinary significance. For it is precisely through the experience of the true “I AM” (Christ consciousness) that the deeper healing of the human heart takes place. And this eclipse gave a powerful impulse toward Christ consciousness and the healing of the human heart through Divine Love.

A shadow side of the eclipse was also noticeable. Something of this shadow side is indicated in my article “The Eclipse of March 29, 2006”.⁶ It is possible for a spiritual being of incredible magnitude to project his image into those who are open and unprotected by Christ and Sophia. Precisely through the solar eclipse attention was focused upon the disk of the Sun, rather than upon the sublime spiritual beings of the second hierarchy (Kyriotetes, Dynameis, and Exusiai or Elohim) who work from the Sun. For the ancient Egyptians the entirety of the colony of spiritual beings working from the Sun was called “Ra”. For them “Ra” signified the spiritual beings raying out from the Sun. They also had a perception of the raying in of Christ (the Heavenly Lamb) at that time through the sign of Aries, when the vernal point was in Aries (from 1946 BC to AD 215), and they referred to this raying in as “Amen” whom they perceived as united with the Sun beings (“Ra”). Thus they referred to “Amen-Ra”. The worship of Amen-Ra developed during the Age of Aries from the great temples dedicated to Amen-Ra at Karnak and Luxor (the Temple of Man), which were linked by an

⁵ Isis Meditation given by Rudolf Steiner, *Concerning the History and Content of the Higher Degrees of the Esoteric School, 1904-1914* (Etheric Dimensions Press: Switzerland and Scotland, 2005), p. 262.

⁶ Posted on the website of the Sophia Foundation of North America: www.sophiafoundation.org

avenue lined with ram-headed sphinxes on either side of the processional way between the two great temples. From here the worship of Amen-Ra spread to the whole of ancient Egypt.

The relationship of Amen with the Lamb of God is indicated in the words of the Lamb spoken in the Book of Revelation: “These things saith the AMEN, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God” (Revelation 3:14). And as expressed by Valentin Tomberg, the word “Amen” reveals the essence of Christ’s nature:

The word AMEN...the individual sounds of which it consists can lead to the inner recognition of the individual currents of the Resurrection body. Thus, the A sound leads to the understanding of the “risen head” – that is, of the current of relationship to the cosmic heights. The M sound reveals the “risen hands” – that is, the current in cosmic space. The E sound leads to the inner life of the Resurrection body, and the N sound reveals the force of the denial of evil – the strength of resistance to evil, as shown in the Descent...as the N force was specially revealed in the Descent..., so was the E force revealed in the Passion and especially the night of Gethsemane. The M force showed itself particularly in the healings and miracles; and the particular point at which the A force is clearly perceptible is the Baptism in the Jordan. Thus the word AMEN is the epitome of the work of Christ, just as the Resurrection body is the epitome of cosmic evolution.⁷

In my article on the solar eclipse of March 29, 2006, I drew attention to Pharaoh Akhenaten of the eighteenth dynasty (fourteenth century BC), who at the height of the worship of Amen-Ra throughout Egypt broke with the Egyptian religion and instituted his own religion focusing upon the disk of the Sun (Aten), leading away from perception of the spiritual beings working through the Sun (Amen-Ra) to focus attention upon the outer appearance of the Sun, the Sun’s disk.⁸ An analogy may be drawn with the present time: on the one hand Christ (“Amen, the faithful and true witness”) is present in the ethereal realm and it is now possible to create a connection with him, and on the other hand the “religion” of materialism (which could be symbolized by the imposing appearance of the disk of the Sun as this appears at the time of a solar eclipse) has swept our planet and holds human consciousness to the physical appearances without penetrating through to the spiritual beings behind the phenomena of existence. In this sense a parallel may be drawn between our time and the time of Akhenaten, whereby it has to be said that Akhenaten’s mission in the fourteenth century BC was justified in that he had the task of leading humanity out of the ancient clairvoyance into an appreciation of the sense perceptible realm. Now, however, the reverse evolutionary movement needs to take place.

The spiritual being of incredible magnitude referred to above is the Antichrist, the incarnation of Satan, whose advent has long been expected. It is his plan to become world ruler. There is a particular vibration associated with this being, which suddenly broke into world consciousness through the events of September 11, 2001, announcing his presence in the world. The war on terror is one aspect of his “signature” upon our time. Shortly after 9/11, as referred to in a message of the

⁷ Valentin Tomberg, *New Testament Studies* (Candeur Manuscripts: Spring Valley/NY, 1985), p. 179. The *New Testament Studies* are to be republished in a larger volume by Steiner Books in the summer of 2006.

⁸ This, of course, is an over-simplification of the new religion introduced by Akhenaten, and a more extensive study is required to fully appreciate his innovation in relation to the worship of Amen-Ra.

Virgin Mary at an appearance at Medjugorje, Bosnia, from September 25, 2001: “Also today I call you to prayer, especially today when Satan wants war and hatred. I call you anew...pray and fast that God may give you peace. Witness peace to every heart and be carriers of peace in this world without peace. I am with you and intercede before God for each of you. And do not be afraid, because the one who prays is not afraid of evil and has no hatred in the heart.”⁹ Two months later the words of Mary again drew attention to this new presence in the world: “Peacelessness has begun to reign in hearts and hatred reigns in the whole world. Pray and prepare your hearts for the coming of the King of Peace, that with His blessing He may give peace to the whole world.”¹⁰ Thus there is another being, the King of Peace, who is infinitely more powerful than the Antichrist (Satan), and who is now active in the etheric realm of life forces. Moreover, there are ways of coming into connection with him.¹¹ Even if the world seems to be full of evil, hatred, violence, and egotism, the moment we lift our consciousness to Christ in the ethereal realm – to the infinite space of the heavens surrounding us, with the help of prayers and meditations (such as the one already referred to: “A star is above my head...”) – we come into connection with extraordinary peace and strength: the peace and strength of the Risen One (summarized in the word “Amen”, as described above by Valentin Tomberg). Therefore, just as I closed my article on the solar eclipse of March 29, 2006 with this meditation, so now I would like to close this short postscript “After the Eclipse” again with this wonderful meditation by Valentin Tomberg:

[Meditation on the Etheric Christ, the new Osiris] ¹²

Christ is already here.

He is standing in the south of the Earth, and waves are proceeding from Him.

Every human being is now able to create a connection with Him.

The human being has to do this [out of free will].

He is still standing...

However, human beings are able to approach Him, to create a connection with Him.

For this, two things are necessary:

⁹ <http://www.medjugorje.org>

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Robert Powell, *The Morning Meditation in Eurythmy* (Sophia Foundation of North America: Palo Alto, 2005) describes how – through Christ’s words, set to eurythmic movement – it is possible to create a relationship with the Etheric Christ, if one does the Morning Meditation in the right spirit – slowly, deliberately, and consciously to create this relationship. This is best done each morning in consciousness of the words: “*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away*” (*Matthew* 24: 35). This is *one way* of creating a relationship with the Etheric Christ and, of course, there are many other ways. See also Lacquanna Paul & Robert Powell, *The Prayer Sequence in Sacred Dance* (Sophia Foundation of North America: Palo Alto, 2003), which is complementary to the Morning Meditation. The Prayer Sequence in sacred dance is best done each evening – again: slowly, deliberately, and consciously to create a relationship with Christ and Sophia and, through them, with the Heavenly Father and the Divine Mother.

¹² From an esoteric lecture held by Valentin Tomberg at Easter 1941 for a small group of people in Amsterdam during World War II. Translated from the German lecture notes by Robert Powell. Title and words in [] added by RP. In this meditation a parallel is drawn between between Osiris and the Etheric Christ, and between Seth/Typhon and the Antichrist. This parallel, which is not drawn in the lecture itself, offers a key to understanding the present time.

knowledge of Christ and Antichrist;
and aligning oneself with Christ.

If one chooses one of the two streams which are [now] streaming through the world:

Christ or Antichrist

— a radiant blue stream, and a black stream —

when one chooses one is already taken into one of the two streams.

Through the Power of Christ one is immeasurably strengthened.

With Him one can pass through terrible trials and remain peaceful.

Through His Power one can bear [things] to an unbelievable degree.

He bestows great Power.

[AUM]