



Dear Friends,

This is Joel Matthew Park, writing to you on behalf of the Sophia Foundation. I am very excited to invite all of you to the Sophia Foundation's 26th Annual Meditation Retreat here at Camphill Village Copake, where I live and work.

This year's Annual Meditation Retreat is a celebration of and a deepening into the origins of the Sophia Foundation. At the founding of the Sophia Foundation at New Year's Eve 1994, Robert Powell delivered lectures on the Three Great Teachers of the 20th Century. These lectures are contained in the book *Most Holy Trinosophia*. They describe a process of transition and transmission, from the development of Anthroposophy through Rudolf Steiner, to the Christian Hermeticism of Valentin Tomberg, to the impulse flowing from the reincarnated Novalis individuality from the late 20th century into our own time. Robert's lectures from the founding of the Sophia Foundation in *Most Holy Trinosophia* would be very important to read in preparation for this retreat (see here: <http://shop.steinerbooks.org/Title/9780880104807>).

I have elaborated upon and expanded this picture of the Three Great Teachers in an article called "The Seven Miracles: A Guiding Image for the Future of Our Movement" in the Holy Nights 2019 edition of *Starlight*, the annual journal of the Sophia Foundation (available here: <https://sophiafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Starlight-Holy-Nights-2019-20sm.pdf>)

This article would be valuable to read prior to attending this year's retreat. There I describe the successive activities of the different teachers as unfolding the seven archetypal miracles of the Etheric Christ in our time. The Great Teachers of the 20th century have aided the manifestation of the first three archetypal miracles of our time: Anthroposophy as the Changing of Water into Wine; Christian Hermeticism as the Healing of the Nobleman's Son; and the Sophia Foundation as the Healing of the Paralyzed Man.

This year's retreat will take us on a journey through time, and therefore through these miracles—from the past, into the present, and together forming the future. We will begin with an exploration of the Anthroposophical Movement. Thursday evening, after supper, we will experience presentations from the Mystery Dramas by a group from the Village. On Friday, Markku Maula will be our guide as we take a look in particular at the time after Rudolf Steiner's death and the tragic split in the Movement that occurred in 1935, followed by an open conversation around this theme. On Friday afternoon, we will go on a small pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy (<https://www.shrineofdivinemercury.org>). There we will experience the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, recited there daily at 3 P.M., the time of Christ's death on the cross. For more information on the Divine Mercy Christ in connection to His second coming, see here: <https://sophiafoundation.org/a-special-easter-2020-novena/>.

On Friday evening, Harrie Salman will take us into the biography of Valentin Tomberg, the spiritual teacher who successfully took up the mantle of Rudolf Steiner. Harrie is currently finishing the first biography of Tomberg in English, which we hope will be available by the time of the retreat.

On Saturday morning, we will have another open conversation regarding the previous evening's presentation from Harrie. During this discussion I hope to introduce everyone to a new way of working with the Tarot of Marseilles based on an organic, collaborative, and intuitive understanding of Meditations on the Tarot. Karen Rivers will then take us through the biography of her friend and colleague Robert Powell. Karen and Robert co-founded the Sophia Foundation in 1994; and so Robert's biography will from that point on also interweave with a biography of the Sophia Foundation up through the present day. We will see clearly how the mission of the Sophia Foundation from the moment of its founding was explicitly to build upon the work of Rudolf Steiner and Valentin Tomberg, while bringing into the world the new impulses streaming from the Novalis individuality. It is the only organization on Earth to have done this in full consciousness.

Audrey Wiebe will lead us in eurythmy throughout Friday and Saturday. The Morning Meditation in Eurythmy will lead us into Markku's talk, and the "Our Father" and "Our Mother" prayers will accompany Harrie's. On Saturday, Audrey will introduce us to Robert's latest pioneering in sacred practice: the Path to Shambhala (see here: <https://sophiafoundation.org/product/the-shambhala-path/>).

On Sunday morning, we invite participants to join the rest of Camphill Village Copake in celebrating the Festival of Offering, our weekly church service. After this, Natalia Haarahiltunen will lead us through some of the songs written by Beinsa Douno (Peter Deunov). I will then lead an open-ended conversation in which we will look to the future. The following articles may also be of interest in preparationz

<https://treehouse.live/2017/09/19/the-four-fold-teachers/>
<https://treehouse.live/2017/09/23/the-four-fold-teachers-pt-2/>
<https://treehouse.live/2017/09/30/the-four-fold-teachers-pt-3-valentin-tomberg/>
<https://treehouse.live/2017/10/13/the-four-fold-teachers-pt-4-robert-powell/>
<https://treehouse.live/2017/10/24/the-fourfold-teachers-pt-5-what-next/>

It is the task of our current generation to engage in new forms of activity on behalf of Christ in His Second Coming—we must find our way to the Fourth Miracle, the Feeding of the Five Thousand. What is being asked of our generation—from nature, from our fellow human beings, from the spiritual world? And what fires our will—what is it that arises within us, from the depths of conscience and creativity, that we can offer enthusiastically to the world?

We will end on Sunday evening with an experience of the "musical horoscopes" of these great teachers—Rudolf Steiner, Valentin Tomberg, Novalis—facilitated and conducted by Ian Clyne.

We look forward to seeing many faces, both new and familiar, at this event!

Pax et Bonum,

Joel Matthew Park