

“NO GREATER LOVE THEN THIS”
CHRIST AND THE ARCHANGEL JESUS
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THE ROLE OF SACRIFICE IN HUMAN EVOLUTION

All that arises in time originates in the eternal, while the evolution of the created world proceeds only through acts of sacrifice. Christ’s descent from the heights of the spiritual world to dwell in a human body involved a series of acts and sacrifices. Every step in the direction of Earth implied entering a phase of consciousness that required a sacrifice of individuality to receive the Christ. Just as humankind had to offer the Christ a body in which he could live and work through the sacrifice of the Zoroastrian Ego, similarly the spiritual hierarchies also had to sacrifice themselves for Christ to descend into an earthly incarnation for the salvation of humanity.

The path of Christ as he approached his earthly life involved the renunciation and withdrawal on the part of certain beings of the spiritual hierarchies, and sacrificial offering of the whole being of others. Within the *second hierarchy*, the Sun elohim, Yahweh, renounced his Sun activity and left the Sun to work from the Moon sphere, allowing the elohim hierarchy to receive the Christ into the Sun sphere as the seventh elohim. By giving up his share in the spiritual Sun aura, Yahweh made it possible for the Christ not only to work through the hierarchy of the elohim, but also to be present in that hierarchy as the seventh elohim. Yahweh surrendered his “Sun body” to the Christ. But from the Moon he kept contact with the body that would become the bearer of the Christ. In this way he was able to receive the Christ light from the Sun and, with it, illuminate earthly events more deeply.

The continued descent of the Christ being through the *third hierarchy* was made possible by the sacrifices of an archangelic being. The nature of this being, the Archangel Jesus, provided the Christ a possibility of entry as far as to the angelic stage.

Prior to Christ’s descent into human form, the Archangel Jesus had devotedly sacrificed himself three times before the Christ in such a way that humanity was enabled to receive untold blessings of an incomprehensible magnitude. He then sacrificed his position as archangel and descended into the angelic hierarchy so the greatest dangers resulting from the fall of humanity could be averted for humankind.

The Archangel Jesus was the one who from the earliest times made it possible for the Christ to function in the *fourth hierarchy* of humankind. The special relationship between the Archangel Jesus and humankind arises from as early as the event of the Fall of humanity into evolution. The immaculate sister soul of Adam became the link that bound the Jesus being to humanity and to the Christ.

THE SISTER SOUL OF ADAM

At the time of the event described in the Bible as the *Fall from Grace*, Lucifer tempted humanity into allowing the Ego to descend into the Astral body by eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. The great danger arose that this descent of the Ego might reach as far as the Etheric body, which would make it impossible for human beings to progress in freedom, and therefore reach the level of development that was prepared for them. It was necessary before the actual event of the *Fall* that higher spiritual beings—the great Archangelic Bodhisattvas that exist in the great Mother Lodge of humanity—remove a part of the more refined aspects of the human being for safekeeping.

At the time of the *Fall*, the two individualities representing humanity absorbed evil into their Astral

body, Etheric body, and Physical body. The changes that affected the astral, ether, and physical bodies of Adam and Eve through the “Fall” concerned all humankind, forming the beginning of human karma, the “original sin” of biblical literature.

The whole process of the Fall of humanity was twofold; while the physical, etheric, and astral members of the human being succumbed to the *Fall*, the seeds of the Spirit body (atma), implanted in the physical body during the period of Ancient Saturn, the life spirit (buddhi) formed into part of the ether body during Ancient Sun, and the spirit self (manas) as part of the astral body fashioned during the phase of Ancient Moon, were *raised* and placed under “protection” in the higher regions, and “stored away” for the future. They were absorbed by higher spiritual beings. The spiritual being who was worshipped in Egypt as the goddess Isis, and in the Christian tradition as the Mother of God, the Queen of Heaven, the Sophia, received the immaculate astral nature of Eve. The archangelic being Jesus absorbed the immaculate etheric nature of Adam, also known as the sister soul of Adam. The immaculate physical nature of the human being was raised even higher and absorbed by a higher being above Jesus and Sophia. This immaculate physical body, called the “phantom” by Rudolf Steiner, was reunited with humankind by the highest elohim during His incarnation in Palestine. This is the resurrection body of the “last Adam,” a term used by the Apostle Paul.

The pure sister soul of Adam, who was preserved from earthly incarnation within the Archangel Jesus until the birth of the Nathan Jesus in Palestine, is not only an individual being, but also the individual being of the human buddhi principle. Through the repeated entry of the Christ into human destiny during the Lemurian, Atlantean, and post-Atlantean epochs, the sister soul of Adam formed both the link that bound the Archangel Jesus to humanity and the instrument through which he worked, since it united him with the sister soul of Adam, while he also surrendered himself unconditionally to the Christ.

The close connection between the Archangel Jesus and the sister soul of Adam—representing the pure life spirit of humankind—allowed him to heal the various consequences of the Fall of Humanity. It was possible to bring the fallen human organism into harmony again and again, because the forces of the human life spirit, which had not fallen, could be used for healing by Jesus Christ, since they represented the connecting channel through which the Christ could function in human destiny.

The Nathan soul, the sister soul of Adam, was the pure, archetypal human being, the epitome of innocence, a being who had never previously incarnated on earth until the time of Christ; and did not participate in the incarnational dynamic of human souls that had been happening since Lemuria. As a solar human soul who did not enter an earthly body he had therefore not succumbed to the earthly influence of adversary powers. “But when the human ‘I’ descended in Lemurian times into the three sheaths, this being, as a part of divine human nature, had remained behind in worlds of spirit and had not passed through the evolution of the ‘I’ in these three sheaths, nor its deduction by the luciferic-ahrimanic influx”¹. This pure soul, possessing unique powers of love and compassion, absorbed within the Archangel Jesus, grew to maturity as the Nathan child, and was pervaded by the Christ being.

THE ARCHANGEL JESUS AND THE FIRST SACRIFICE OF CHRIST

THE HARMONIZATION OF THE TWELVE SENSES IN THE PHYSICAL BODY

The Jesus-being was an Archangelic Being who descended to the Angel-hierarchy in order to be directly associated with Humanity. Since the Lemurian epoch the Archangel Jesus, then working from

¹ Steiner, Rudolf. *Approaching the Mystery of Golgotha*. P. 93.

the Angelic sphere exercised a harmonizing influence on the human organism through deeds of sacrifice. In the last third of Lemurian evolution the powers of Lucifer sought to impregnate the human senses in order to embed self-seeking or egoism into this realm of the human organism. This would have resulted in harnessing our sensory relation to the world to extreme forces of sympathy and antipathy—to forces of suction and stinging pain that would have plagued us with torment.

The Archangel Jesus, while still dwelling on the sun in the Lemurian era, heard the plight of the human senses crying up for help to worlds of spirit, crying the lament of the pain of tormented humanity. These cries of pain drove the Archangel Jesus toward the sun spirit at that time of ancient Lemuria in the same way that Jesus of Nazareth was driven much later toward the Jordan to the Christ-permeation that occurred there. The inner suffering undergone by the Archangel Jesus in experiencing the cry of pain of the tormented human senses of humanity affected and changed this soul so that he became a vessel fit to be permeated by the Christ.

To overcome Lucifer within the human being's sensory organism, Christ penetrated and ensouled himself in the Archangel Jesus, who sacrificed his soul being to Christ. Thus, a reciprocal, or shared process of sacrifice occurred, and the power of this sacrifice ultimately shone a quality that assuaged and harmonized the human senses down into earth evolution. The senses could, therefore, again become the selfless instruments of our perception of the world, and of its glories.

This first sacrificing interpenetration of the Christ Being and the Archangel Jesus attenuated the human sensory organism and formative powers from the cosmos that stream into the earth in a twelvefold way from the zodiac. As the Archangel Jesus sacrificed his etheric substance to the Christ, it became permeated with all twelve zodiacal forces. An Etheric image of the 'Ideal' human then arose in the lower regions of the spiritual world. The Being of Christ permeated the Archangel Jesus and brought into harmony the twelve senses. Each organ could now be selfless and say, "Not I but the Christ in us."

This first permeation of the Archangel Jesus by Christ also had consequences for the Archangel Jesus himself. Having until then possessed the "form of an angel," the Christ sacrifice of permeation endowed this soul with "etheric human form". After the sacrificial deed accomplished in the realm of the sun, the power of the etheric Christ being, henceforth inherent in the Archangel Jesus, streamed with physical sun radiance toward the earth and toward the "physical earth form" of human beings. This not only changed the structure of the senses but, also the whole of human corporeality.

The spirit form of the physical body—the phantom—was strengthened through this first sacrifice of Christ and the Archangel Jesus, and safeguarded from premature destruction. At the same time, through the instreaming power of the etheric Christ being, human beings were endowed with the power to raise themselves upright. The developing human child standing upright is only possible because the first Christ sacrifice occurred in ancient Lemurian times, and because the Archangel Jesus, a spiritual-etheric being, took on human-etheric form through this permeation by Christ.

As a result a force was released that acted within human evolution upon earth. Its effect was a quieting and harmonizing of our senses so that today we can use them in their selfless form. It is what makes it possible for us as sensory beings to enjoy without pain all the splendor of surrounding nature. That was the first sacrifice leading to the Mystery of Golgotha.

THE ARCHANGEL JESUS AND THE SECOND SACRIFICE OF CHRIST
THE HARMONIZATION OF THE PHYSICAL ORGANS IN THE ETHERIC BODY

The second great threat to humanity occurred at the beginning of the Atlantean Epoch when Ahriman and Lucifer began their assault on the Etheric forces or life forces of the seven organs in the human physical body.

This assault would have led to a selfishness in the seven principal organs in the human body and therefore illness without resolve. This would have created unbridled desires and the distortion of human language. Language would have expressed only the inner subjective experience of pain or pleasure of the individual organs and would not have related to the outside world. Human beings would never have been able to work creatively through the Word.

In order to harmonize these Etheric forces Christ had to perform another sacrifice. He had to sacrifice his Macrocosmic Etheric body in order to descend to that sphere which is the source from which the human organism's life organs draw their founding etheric forces, the region where the spiritual archetypes for our physical body reside.

Once again Christ entered into the Archangel Jesus who once more sacrificed his own Etheric nature to Christ. This second interpenetration of the Christ being and the Archangel Jesus occurred not on the sun, but in the planetary region, as part of a successive approach to the earth by both the Christ being and the Archangel Jesus. In the early period of Atlantean evolution, the Archangel Jesus was most deeply moved within by experiencing how the luciferic-ahrimanic powers were inducing an abnormal development of the life forces, and were in the process of influencing the human being's organic state, formerly ordered with great wisdom, to degenerate into greed and revulsion. Moving from planet to planet, the Archangel Jesus anguished within by the impossibility of allowing human evolution to continue as it was. The effect was so strong upon the Archangel Jesus that Christ once again permeated him, which led to strength radiating into the earth aura. The Archangel Jesus received the forces of all seven planets into himself, the macrocosmic archetype of the human's Etheric body, to affect a harmonizing influence on the physical organs—the brain, lungs, kidneys, heart, gall bladder, liver, and spleen—so that they remained selfless.

The resulting reconfiguration of the life organs in their nature and functional interplay changed the human being's physiological organization such that the further evolution of human speech became possible above and beyond reflexively determined or dominated sentient utterances. In this way the human being became not only an upright, standing, and walking being but also the bearer of a capacity of speech that limits and transcends our organic existence. In consequence we later became capable, through further evolution, of "selflessly" identifying or perceiving objective realities. These developments were achieved after dramatic battles and conflicts during early Atlantean evolution.

The human Etheric body could now come in contact with the external world without experiencing illness. Human speech was thus freed from the bondage of the selfish expressions of each individual organ and could express its own inner experiences concerning the world - its inner world - with the help of the word.

THE ARCHANGEL JESUS AND THE THIRD SACRIFICE OF CHRIST REORIENTING THINKING, FEELING, AND WILLING IN THE ASTRAL BODY

The third threat to humankind and subsequent sacrifice occurred in the last half of the Atlantean epoch. At this time humanity's astral body was threatened by Lucifer and Ahriman in the three principles of Thinking, Feeling, and Willing. If Christ had not descended further and sacrificed his own Astral body in order to bring about a harmony between these three soul principles, human beings would have separated into three kinds of animal nature, Thinking would have manifested in an Eagle-like nature, Feeling in a Lion-like nature and Willing in a Bull-like nature. In an inner sense they would have been dragon-like in their Astral nature.

The principal threat was in the Thinking realm since the Luciferic powers in the Feeling realm and the Ahrimanic powers in the realm of the Will tried to gain mastery over thought to prevent humanity from obtaining Ego-consciousness. This would have meant a complete extinguishing of the human Ego. Human beings would have reverted again to the animal state that they had left long ago when the animal forms were separated off after the moon separated from the earth. Human beings would have been seized by unruly desires and unbridled activity in the will.

The third interpenetration of Christ and the Archangel Jesus took place in the earth's immediate vicinity as the Mystery of Golgotha drew nearer. The Archangel Jesus had by this point assumed a cosmic soul form such that his life was now neither on the earth, nor the moon, nor the sun but, as if circling the earth, and felt itself dependent on the influences of sun, moon and earth all at once.

Once again there cried up to the Archangel Jesus what human thinking, feeling and willing would inevitably have become, and within himself he sought to fully experience and feel this tragedy of humanity's evolution. He did not merely passively witness the suffering of human evolution, but intentionally sought to fully experience it. "He immersed himself in the human soul that was brimful with passions, he had to become these passions, become a dragon, in order to transform the soul forces and, for a third time, to let himself be illumined by the Christ spirit."²

Only through this process did the next step become possible—consisting in the gathering and transformation of sun, moon, and earth forces, as the macrocosmic equivalents of microcosmic thinking, feeling, and willing, and in the union with the Christ being. Only through his inner processes and deeds was the Archangel Jesus able once again to call down to him the Christ sun spirit to accomplish his sacrifice and perform the necessary soul-permeation, so he could become the bearer of the forces of Sun, Moon and Earth.

This third sacrifice of the Christ and the Archangel Jesus once again sent shining influences to the earth and signified a renewed cosmic-therapeutic intervention in the evolving human organism. Here a triad was definitive, encompassing sun, moon, and earth; thinking, feeling, and willing, were reoriented to each other, preparing to receive a further principle, the unity of the "I", which would become ever more apparent as evolution continued. For its forthcoming arrival the "I" needed a harmoniously ordered soul organism. Connected with this was a finer development of the human speech organs. Human beings could now fashion speech to express the things of the outer world and a higher capacity for 'naming' became possible, as well as the human capacity for speech to become a means of communication across diverse regions of humanity. Human beings from this time on became potentially capable of being the bearers of the divine Logos or Word.

THE FOURTH SACRIFICE OF THE ARCHANGEL JESUS HARMONIZING THE "I" THROUGH THE SEPARATION OF CONSCIOUSNESS AND CONSCIENCE

The Archangel Jesus, who had been permeated three times with the Christ Sun forces, became the Nathan Jesus³ of the Luke gospel, who incarnated for the first time directly into a physical body. He did not possess an ordinary Ego; it was what Rudolf Steiner called a provisional Ego—an Ego that had not passed through the fall—innocent and untouched by human error. His Etheric body was the Etheric body that in Lemurian times had been preserved from the fall. The Nathan soul had only the earliest beginnings of the sentient soul and so it was necessary that his nascent Astral body be protected, preserved, and kept

² Steiner, Rudolf. *Approaching the Mystery of Golgotha*. 1914.

³ Steiner, Rudolf. *Pre-earthly Deeds of Christ*. 1914.

in a child-like state by his mother, Mary. His Astral body possessed child-like youthful forces that, when the child turned 12 years of age, united with the perfected astral body of the Buddha, his Nirmanakaya⁴. It was this 'Nirmanakaya' that hovered above the Luke Jesus as Angelic hosts announcing his birth from the heights to the shepherds. It is this body that united with the nascent Astral body of the Nathan Jesus at 12 years of age.

When the Nathan Jesus, at the age of twelve, was visiting the Temple in Jerusalem and discussing matters of scripture with the rabbis, the Solomon Jesus of the Gospel of Matthew sacrificed his Ego to unite with the physical, etheric, and astral sheaths of the Nathan Jesus. Henceforth, he no longer bore the child-like Nathan 'provisional Ego' but the Ego of Zarathustra of the Solomon line, that encompassed the wisdom of many earthly lives. This unification of Zarathustra's Ego with the Nathan Archangel Jesus, infused in his Astral body with the Nirmanakaya of Buddha, signifies a union between the two streams in the one human being: the inner Buddha stream, and the outer Zarathustra stream.

The Nathan Jesus child's task was to prepare a perfected vessel for the descent of the Christ being.⁵ The inner foundation for receiving the Christ being at the baptism was marked by His despair at the fate of earthly humanity, and by an infinite suffering comparable to no suffering on earth that human beings must ever bear. No one prior to the Nathan soul/that of the Archangel Jesus, had been able to perceive in this way the degree of intensity that human misery can attain. The Archangel Jesus, incarnated in Jesus of Nazareth, suffered from the cultural loss of a true image of the human being and the world. He experienced the whole degenerating condition of humanity, and anticipated what the future would bring in the coming centuries and millennia if the decline could not be reversed. In this situation his soul longed for a new influx from the world of spirit, one of deep elemental power, a macrocosmic illumination of the earth. His absolute longing for macrocosmic illumination was directed toward the approaching Christ being as the solar universal "I," with whom he wished to unite on earth for the redemption of humankind. A harmonizing of the "I"—inwardly and in its relationship to the surrounding world—along with the necessary further evolution of healthy thinking in accord with truth, was possible only through the appearance of the Christ Sun being on earth within a bodily human organism.

This became possible through the incarnation of the Christ being at the baptism in the River Jordan, as the fourth sacrifice of both Christ and the Archangel Jesus. At this initial stage the Christ entered as the Ego of the Nathan Jesus and for the next three and a half years there after a continual pressing of the Christ spirit into the corporeality of Jesus occurred. The Christ being thereby continued to penetrate the incarnated Archangel Jesus until the events on the hill of Golgotha. Only then was the incarnational descent of the Christ being into Jesus of Nazareth completed; only then did he fully penetrate the physical body of Jesus, right into his bones, enabling the gradual reversal of humanity's decline through a resurrection process.

This fourth sacrifice, the Mystery of Golgotha, was an act of Jesus Christ through which the human "I" was harmonized, just as the preceding acts of sacrifice harmonized the human astral, etheric, and physical bodies. The human "I" was threatened by the power of the fourth temptation, the confrontation with the Luciferic and Ahrimanic influences upon the human "I". The human being had become an upright, speaking, and, increasingly thinking being. Connected with this capacity for

⁴ Steiner, Rudolf. *Foundations of Esotericism*. 1983.

⁵ Steiner, Rudolf. *The Gospel of Mathew*. 1985. page 96.

thinking was the means to develop “I”-consciousness, against which ahrimanic and luciferic powers were battling with all their might.

This temptation would cause the human “I” to develop a degree of self-determination, which would make it an expression of the antichrist principle. An ideal of freedom would arise in the human “I” as absolute self-determination—an ideal of freedom from God, which is not in harmony with the intentions of the deity.

At the time of the Mystery of Golgotha the human “I” being was inwardly mingled with the spirit. The self-determination that could have entered the human “I” at that time would have been a kind of spiritual poisoning, whereby the spirit would become machine-like. This would have happened if something had not interceded to separate the spirit from the “I,” just as the previous sacrifices separated the “higher” from the “lower.”

Because the ego or “I” at this time was to take its place as a living factor in human evolution, an effort was made to establish harmony between the “I” and the powers of the cosmos lest it become the plaything of the anti-evolutionary forces. The “I” might have so developed that it could not keep a hold upon itself, and had it been delivered to these forces, everything that came from the soul would have been overpowered by various elemental forces. They would have driven the human being violently in all directions.

The condition of humanity was such that the human “I” was incapable of knowing the spiritual world. The “I” being stood between the human soul and the spirit world as a concealing factor. The “I” had to be extinguished before an experience of the spiritual world could arise. The “I” was essentially a closed door when one wanted to experience the reality of the spiritual world.

Consequently, the mood that reigned in mystery centers was one of almost unutterable despair. The “I” was becoming increasingly powerful, increasingly egocentric. The sacrifice of the Mystery of Golgotha altered human nature to such a degree that the human “I,” which previously concealed and closed the way to the spiritual world, now became an open gate into the spiritual world. The harmonization of the “I” made it possible, without extinguishing the “I,” to see into and experience the spiritual world through the “I” itself.

Through the fourth sacrifice of Christ and the Archangel Jesus, the higher “I” was separated from the lower ego. One was lifted, and the other had to descend gradually, so that the lower ego could no longer influence, or govern, the higher “I.” The relationship between one’s consciousness and one’s conscience arose. The voice of conscience stands and calls out in judgment over us, and our lower ego can come into conflict with our higher “I,” or conscience.

The Christ impulse also descended into the human faculty of memory, to enhance human ability to orient in the stream of cosmic evolution. Humanity was losing its ‘memory’ of the spiritual world. As humanity was descending further and further into matter, the danger arose that it would not be able to regain a vision of the Spiritual World. The fourth sacrifice of Christ opened up the possibility for humankind to progress to ever higher stages of consciousness, to remain conscious in higher spiritual spheres.

In order to create a harmony between the Ego or “I”, and the powers of the cosmos, a God had to come to know death. An impulse had to enter into humanity to prevent it from becoming deranged or torn by the elemental forces.

Through Christ’s acts of sacrifice human beings would perceive all that guides them toward the good.

The human ego, through the fourth Christ event, the Mystery of Golgotha, can come to true unselfishness. The senses have said, "Not I, but Christ in us." The vital organs have said, "Not I, but Christ in us." In our moral and intellectual life, we as human beings, must learn to say, "Not I, but Christ in me." Every step into the spiritual world shows us this.

THE FIFTH SACRIFICE OF CHRIST AND THE ARCHANGEL JESUS THE BATTLE BETWEEN MATERIALISM AND THE AWAKENING OF CHRIST CONSCIOUSNESS

After the Archangel Jesus lived as the man Jesus of Nazareth, having entirely absorbed the Christ being into himself, every single human "I" could henceforth gain access to the Christ and his impulses. This also meant that human thinking could finally and fully unite with the "I" and thus continue the process that had begun prior to the Mystery of Golgotha, but had been gravely endangered.

Human beings continued to face a great danger, the danger that through materialism human thinking might sink into darkness because it is diverted to hard and abstract material concepts, a sclerosis of thinking where no spiritual thoughts can exist. This battle is waged on all fronts by a cooperation of Lucifer, Ahriman and Asuras. These developments have had grave consequences for the world of spirit, in regards to the earth's spiritual aura.

In the midst of the nineteenth century Christ once again experienced a sacrifice in the realms closest to the earth, in the Astral sphere, the sphere of the angels. Christ experienced a second crucifixion by the materialistic nature of the thoughts and imaginations of those who entered the spiritual world in the life between death and rebirth. Christ, with the Archangel Jesus, was driven out of the spiritual worlds by the efforts made by materialistic souls who had crossed the threshold, compelling Christ to undergo a sacrifice comparable to the Mystery of Golgotha now in the etheric realm. On Golgotha he passed through death. Now he has been expelled from his existence in the spiritual world and translated into the sensory world, that of humankind, not in the form of a new incarnation but in an intensified presence there, visible through the outer form of an angel.⁶

The materialistic thinking, feeling, and willing that the dead carried with them into the world of spirit as a destructive sphere of materialism created an extinction of the consciousness of Christ in the Astral world. The Archangel Jesus has undergone an extinction of his consciousness, suffering a kind of death by suffocation, not a final death in the earthly sense, but a qualitative change of limited duration. The temporary destruction of the consciousness of the Archangel Jesus was caused by a deed of Christ, who decided to take up the deadening sphere of materialism into his own being, and thus also that of the angelic being so closely connected with him, so as to be able to transform these forces. The extinguishing of Christ consciousness in the spiritual world signified that the Christ being lost awareness of his own history, including memory of his connection with the Archangel Jesus.

Rudolf Steiner described that when we die our etheric body, the bearer of our thinking, disperses into the world ether after three days. The pollution of the etheric world, with the 'dead' electromagnetic thinking of human beings who died during the last half of the 19th century (the time when in the spiritual world Michael was battling the 'Dragon of Materialism') was the cause of the asphyxiation of the being we call the Nathan Jesus who is the bearer of the Christ 'I'. This was the cause of the second Mystery of Golgotha which occurred in the Etheric worlds. Human thinking caused the second Mystery of Golgotha.

⁶ Steiner, Rudolf. *Approaching the Mystery of Golgotha*. 1914.

It was Rudolf Steiner's mission at the beginning of the apocalyptic twentieth century to reverse this process. He drew from the Akashic records the memories of Jesus of Nazareth, humanity's sister soul, and the prelude to the Mystery of Golgotha in which Christ united with the sister soul in the body of Jesus of Nazareth. As he brought this to his own awareness and that of his listeners, the consciousness of Christ Jesus began to reawaken just before the outbreak of World War I. In order to facilitate the rekindling of the previously concealed Christ consciousness in human souls on earth, Rudolf Steiner had to sacrifice his consciousness to the time spirits of the archai, and first and foremost to the archai Michael. He said, "Higher research is not possible without inner tragedy, inner suffering."

After a time of metamorphoses, the Christ impulse is descending into the Astral sheaths of humanity, and the consciousness of Christ is gradually being resurrected in human beings purified astral sheaths as the power of Faith. By virtue of this, human beings will regain consciousness of the Astral world where Christ will be seen in an Etheric garment.

The force of these illuminated thoughts is felt by the spiritual hierarchies to be a lighting up of a new spiritual sky and a consciousness of Christ begins to dawn in the sphere of Angels this time through the vehicle of human thoughts. These thoughts are then gathered by the Archangel Jesus who weaves a new radiant aura out of light Ether. This is a new garment of Astral light which will surround the Etheric image of Christ in the Astral world. In this way humanity is directly working to create the new Macrocosmic Astral body of Christ. At the same time humanity participates with Michael in battling with Lucifer for the purity of the Astral world and the Astral body of human beings where Christ can be found.

With eyes that are trained you can look to the sky, and there you can see His form within the light fashioned out of human spiritual thoughts by the Archangel Jesus. You can look to a seed or a plant or an animal and there shining above it or along side it is that very same image that you see when you enter into that quiet space in your meditations. The Christ impulse exists in everything in the material world, even in a seed. For this we must have Faith since faith united in the astral body with cosmic intelligence is the first moral virtue that human beings must acquire in order to progress towards the next epoch. If we don't acquire this virtue of Faith we become consumed by fear. Fear will become the next epidemic – fear of the future. Faith is the only way to counteract fear, worry, and anxiety that paralyse human beings.

SELFLESSNESS, THE FUTURE OF RIGHT LIVING

The mighty deed of sacrifice by Christ and the Archangel Jesus, the second "crucifixion" in the etheric realm, formed the basis for a new Christ consciousness to arise in the human being. Since this new sacrifice Christ and the Archangel Jesus have been united with the destiny of human beings on earth in a still more intimate way. Christ will be able to approach human beings more closely in the future because they will increasingly find their way to him and the Archangel Jesus.

In the further evolution of consciousness increasing numbers of people will be able to perceive the appearance of the etheric Christ, who will approach human beings in the form of an angel, in union with the Archangel Jesus. The consciousness of Christ will pour itself into the moral and intellectual lives of human beings in such a way that we may become students of selflessness, that Christ may live within the human soul so that He may be felt vitally in every word that is uttered.

"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 overcome the self-seeking desires that still influence our moral, intellectual and emotional life. This is a duty of our present culture to the future. Humankind must

become more and more selfless; therein lies the future of right living, and of all the deeds of love possible to earthly humanity. Our conscious life is and must be on its way to selflessness."⁷

Through the sacrifices of the Archangel Jesus, a new knowledge of Christ, a renewing of responsibility, and a deepening of our moral life beckons us. By contemplating the Mystery of Golgotha, by permeating our knowledge of it with all our feeling, we may acquire with our whole being an education in selflessness. If we reflect on the entire evolution of the cosmos, we can find no more profound example of selflessness than that given us in Christ's appearance upon earth, which was only possible through the selfless sacrifices of the Archangel Jesus. In the whole of human evolution there has been no being who was, is, and will remain so intimately connected with Christ both on earth and in the spiritual cosmos. What Christ and the Archangel Jesus did for earthly evolution may become for the conscious development of the human soul the school of selflessness.

Christ intervened three times, making the human senses, life organs, and psychic forces, selfless, in order for us to live rightly. It is now humanity's task to learn selflessness in our moral life.

Christ said, "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." "Christ, as the great Sun Spirit, descended from super-physical worlds through the Mystery of Golgotha in order to find a dwelling in the souls of human beings. If Christ will find His abode in human earthly souls, then the Christ power will stream back from the earth's aura into the worlds that He forsook for the salvation of humankind, and the whole cosmos will be permeated through and through by Him."⁸

⁷ Steiner, Rudolf. *The Four Sacrifices of Christ*. 1914.

⁸ Ibid.