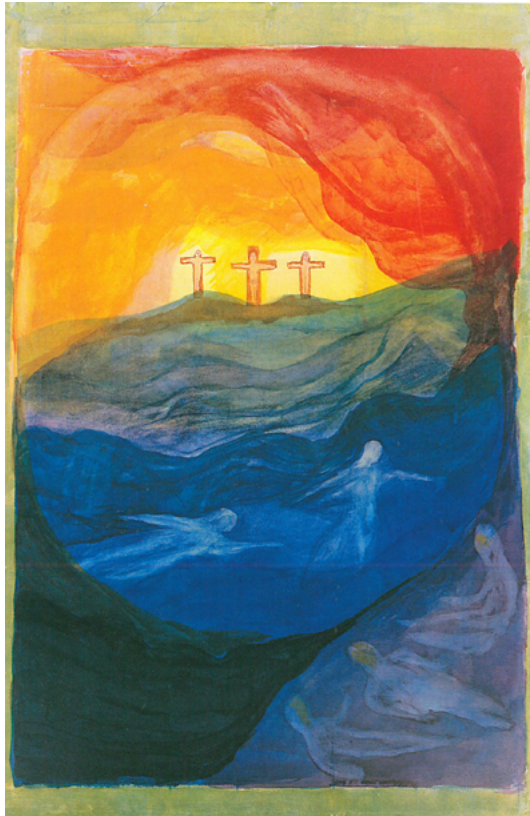

What *else* ist happening at the Goetheanum!

No. 80 / 29 March 2024

On Rudolf Steiner's farewell to earth 99 years ago



Eastern - Rudolf Steiner

Licht ist Liebe / Light is love

*Licht ist Liebe .. Sonnen-Weben
Liebes-Strahlung einer Welt
schöpferischer Wesenheiten -*

*die durch unerhörte Zeiten
uns an ihrem Herzen hält,
und die uns zuletzt geben*

*ihren höchsten Geist in eines
Menschen Hülle während dreier
Jahre: da Er kam in Seines*

*Vaters Erbteil - nun der Erde
innerlichstes Himmelsfeuer:
daß auch sie einst Sonne werde.*

Christian Morgenstern

Holy Saturday, 30 March 2024

The 99th anniversary of Rudolf Steiner's death this year falls on Holy Saturday, the day of Christ's "Descent into Hell". Can we read this as a special signature speaking to us? What spiritual impulses will be "resurrected" or renewed from this event, Rudolf Steiner's departure from the earthly plane?

Holy Saturday at the turning point of time

Deathly silence and darkness reigned on Earth. - But the sun rose in the realm of the dead. Christ redeemed the deceased from their shadowy existence. Then began his descent into the depths of the Earth, he had to pass through hosts of demons, endure unbridled hatred and the will to destroy. The abysses of the Earth had to be completely penetrated by his consciousness, by his spiritual light, his love, his life, because the Earth was to become his body and has been ever since. Only when he had reached the centre of the Earth could the construction of the new body, the spiritual form of the physical body, for the salvation of humanity on Earth begin. - Christ has been the spirit of the Earth since the turning point of time.

Rudolf Steiner repeatedly emphasised the significance of this event for the entire development of the Earth and humanity from various angles. The following statements are perhaps less well known. The cycle "The Temple Legend" speaks of the Asuras. During the transition from the Lemurian to the Atlantean epoch, they were transformed from once high gods into "ungods". Suras became Asuras by becoming rebels who wanted to conquer their independence. Similar beings to the Asuras were the rakshasas, a type of giant demon called by the ancient Indians. "They are the diabolical beings" through whom the human race descended. They acted on human passions, as seducers of people, until the time when Christ incarnated in Jesus of Nazareth. "Christ descended into "pre-hell"... The beings of the rakshasas thus entered a state of paralysis, of lethargy. They were held in check, as it were, so that they became immobile. This was only possible because they were acted upon from two sides: by Zarathustra working in Jesus and by Christ himself, a pure spiritual being.".... "At that time, something happened in the occult field like a banishment of the enemies of humanity, the Antichrist, who was bound but will reappear if the Christian principle in its originality does not confront him again." The time when this could happen would be at the turn of the 20th century. It is hardly doubtful that these entities have been able to work powerfully since the 20th century and that the Christ impulse as a force for cultural renewal has been absorbed far too little.

Demonic secrets

In September 1924 (in connection with Biela's Comet of 1872), Rudolf Steiner spoke to the priests about the animals of the abyss. *"The beast will be released from the captivity of the Earth..."* and *"Before the etheric Christ can be grasped by human beings in the right way, humanity must first come to terms with the encounter of the beast that rises in 1933."* Since 1998, we have once again been dealing with the Sun demon Sorath, in a threefold increase in power through the 3 x 666, the "number of the two-horned beast" from the Apocalypse.

From Michaelmas 1924 onwards and during the time he was in his sickbed, the anti-Michael demons raged against Rudolf Steiner; and Klingsor unleashed his power against him - invisible and unrecognised by people. A saying for Ita Wegman about "demonic secrets" dates from this time. Even though it was intended for her personally at the time, it ends with a general call from Michael to human beings, with the task of eliciting the demons' secrets and sacrificing them to the waiting gods. For only humans can *elicit the demons' secrets*, and only the gods can *unravel* them for humans! - Because a direct fight against demons is not possible.

*"Where the light is
From green demons
Trembles,
And the light-born
Primal forces
To the struggling humans
The riddles proclaim,
Elicited from demons only by humans
And the following can be brought
To the gods;
Found soul the soul
To once waiting gods
Demons' secret
To sacrifice
In a dark place, - -
That there may be Light,
Where without this action
Eternal darkness reigned.
Such a place exists
It has to disappear
Make them disappear one day.
Thus speaks admonishingly
Michael's gaze."*

Rudolf Steiner's farewell to Earth

When Rudolf Steiner left the physical plane, there was no longer any protection from the demons; they could now work unhindered. The awakening made possible and necessary by the pain and shock of loss did not materialise. This was already evident at his deathbed in a shocking way, as the latent tensions between his closest people broke out and terrible scenes unfolded. The entire further tragic development finally culminated in the expulsion of Ita Wegman and Elisabeth Vreede from the Board in 1935. The fact that even such spiritually

highly developed personalities as their fellow Board members (and others) were able to continue their fight against Rudolf Steiner's impulses clearly shows the power of the opposing forces. Rudolf Steiner spoke to Oskar Schmiedel about the opposition to Ita Wegman and said that if the agitation against Ita Wegman continued in this way, it would tear the Society apart. Unfortunately, to this day the awakening to these forces and the recognition of them seems to be negligible.

While it became dark on Earth and people experienced the deep pain and grief of losing their great philanthropist and spiritual teacher, it became light in the spiritual world. Those who awoke into the supersensible world could see: Rudolf Steiner's being shone like a spiritual sun for the deceased, the unborn, and the Christian beings of the various hierarchies. For them it was a sacred reception of this great man. One of those who felt and saw this and put it into words was Friedrich Rittelmeyer:

He turned to the spiritual world with the inner question: *"Where is the teacher? - What came next was a surprise. I saw what a human spirit means for heaven itself, in which earthly things are thought through all the way to heaven. He carried the Earth within him, but he was already permeated on Earth to the point where heaven itself shines in earthly things and earthly thoughts. As when a precious stone is brought out of the depths of the earth and, purified, carries the sun's own light within it, as when this precious stone is brought into the sun, and the heavenly dwellers of the sun see themselves in it in earthly power and earthly beauty and see a new shining of heaven in it. "Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father's kingdom"!* This word was suddenly there. How completely different the words of the Gospels sound in heaven than on Earth! Yes, indeed: just as the sun shines on earthly things, so heaven and earth are united in communion in such a human spirit: *Earth brought back to heaven, heaven shining in new power.*" How many of his spiritual students may well have been able to see Rudolf Steiner in the spiritual world, to cultivate the inner connection and dialogue with him and to continue to work in his spirit?

The fully conscious fight against evil

In the 33-year rhythm of historical events, both beneficial and harmful impulses are renewed in social life. We will therefore have to reckon with the fact that after 99 years the power of the demons will "resurrect" to an even greater extent than it is already clearly effective in all areas. *"What people have to learn is: the fully conscious fight against the evil that occurs in the development of mankind.* It will depend on us humans how much counterweight and balance can be created by awakening to the working world of beings and by placing ourselves all the more selflessly at the service of the advancing spiritual leaders. The relationship with the deceased and the conscious co-operation with them will also be of great importance for future development. There are strong obstacles to overcome, for example the flood of *"press lies"* in the world acts like a black wall separating us from them.

What is needed above all is a will to awaken to reality. *"But*

that which is above all *esoteric* within the whole Anthroposophical Society is **the will to awaken**. This will must first take hold within the Anthroposophical Society. **Then it will be a radiating outwards for the awakening of the whole present civilisation.**” What a tremendous responsibility this expresses for the members of the GAS! At the same time - what concrete possibilities to work in the sense of the true task of this Society.

In the development of the world and the Earth, the most diverse types of demons have arisen since time immemorial, and new ones are constantly being created by human beings,



Harrowing of Hell

both on a spiritual level (which will not be discussed in detail here) and on a physical level. In the following description, Rudolf Steiner gives advice on how we should behave towards such beings: “...we must know that we are bringing demons into humanity through our machines, and we must also know how we can develop the appropriate resistance to these demons. Only in this way can we place ourselves in the right relationship with the spiritual world, that we recognise these ahrimanic-demonic forces, that we consciously know that they are there. For the harmful powers are only harmful because we remain unaware of them, because we know nothing about them.” We have to face up to the fact that “**we are surrounding ourselves with a world of demons, with a true hell, by constructing machines over machines...**”! We have to “develop those strong forces within us that can boldly confront these demons. However, this does not involve standing in the spiritual world blindly, but with conviction.”

...If we place ourselves in the world in such a way that the knowledge is in our soul, then we place ourselves correctly in the Michaelic age. However, that means: **we bring ourselves into such a relationship with the spiritual world that Michael**

can also become effective in us... When we see through it, when we realise how demonic-elementary forces are at work in our mechanisms, then we will also **find the way to the spiritually true, right inspirers**. And these are connected with the spirit that relates to the other spirits of humanity’s leadership in the same way that gold relates to metals, with **Michael...** “**Today ...it is a matter of cultivating everything intellectual and rational up to clairvoyance, because it can be cultivated up to being clairvoyant.**”

In order to be able to fulfil this task, we need Michael’s courage of insight, his “spiritual sword” of spiritual thinking and discernment - and the deepest, most intimate relationship with the Christ impulse. The two are inseparable: The encouragement from Michael and the ensoulment, the filling of the heart with the spiritual sun of Christ. Then “*standing in the spiritual world guided by conviction*” becomes possible, armed for the view into the abyss, into one’s own soul abyss, into the abyss of evil and the hell of demons, which are spreading ever more strongly on Earth, and filled with the will to serve the good. However, it can only be experienced if people themselves bring the thoughts to life through their active will, feel them and warm them through with the strength of their hearts so that they can become effective right into the will.

Background to current events

With regard to world events and world politics, we are reminded once again of the lectures in cycles GA 173 to 178, which are fundamental for an understanding of the background to current events from then until today. Without them, a real awakening to current developments is hardly possible, not even in the spiritual dimensions. To name just a few examples:

Rudolf Steiner speaks of the “*increasing tendency of the intelligentsia to associate with evil...*” and of the fact that “*the great politics are controlled by the Western European secret orders*”, “*brotherhoods always influence public opinion...*”, “*they systematically work on public opinion through hidden channels*” Already at the time there was a “*tremendously large number of such secret societies*”. They are tremendously effective instruments for world plans. Retarded Angeloi are important helpers in consciously working with lies - the power of evil. In this context, he also speaks of “*ceremonial magic*”. Elsewhere: “*the magical practice of presenting lies as truth*”. Public opinion is used to “*deliberately mislead people*”. The “*secret of controlling the masses*” will probably also include the fact that the permanent repetition of lies by authorities can dampen people’s consciousness to the point of dream consciousness. - This effect occurs even if you are not aware of the untruth you are spreading. He speaks of the “*magical power of modern journalism, which can make people believe anything*”. Manipulation of people today is facilitated above all by the effect of electricity, of electric currents, because through them “*people no longer want to think*”... We have experienced it to an excessive extent during the Corona period: “*the wave of confusion from the Ahrimanic side*”, especially to be observed in the mixing of lies and truth. “**The only thing that helps against Ahriman is to see through him**”

Unfortunately, it sounds very topical that public opinion is also *propagating war as a sacred duty*. “*Today we suffer from the **selection of the worst**, who always come out on top. That is also something that is part of a healthy sense of reality and therefore also of common sense: recognising this selection of the worst.*” This is how awake people feel today, this “*selection of the worst, who are worshipped by so-called public opinion.*” Think, for example, of Bill Gates, who was received as a great philanthropist and benefactor and was allowed to announce on prime-time public television on Easter Sunday (!) 2020 that he intended to vaccinate seven billion people against coronavirus.

“*The infinitely sad thing is the ignorance and the reckoning with ignorance... which is naturally caused... by that black magic that is called journalism today...*”

With regard to what is yet to come, Rudolf Steiner speaks of “*wars of exploitation*” and how “*certain devices will set masses of people in motion, simply force them to do so*”. “*The individual will gain more and more power over certain masses of people. **For the course of development is not that we will become more democratic, but that we will become brutally aristocratic, with certain individuals gaining more and more power.***” This brings to mind gentlemen like Elon Musk and others who, as private individuals, send tens of thousands of satellites into the sky with enormous consequences for the whole of humanity, as if the Earth and the cosmos were their private property. Or the long-proven possibilities of using certain frequencies to influence people’s state of mind.

Rudolf Steiner commented on our term “constitutional state” that it does not exist, simply because there is no other possibility than to have a claim to power and the exercise of power with the state. “*The concept of the state is inconceivable without the concept of power.*” “*...and that when we speak of justice and freedom, we actually mean force, real force*”.

Don’t we get the impression that these predictions are frighteningly topical today? The world situation seems to be highly dangerous and a Third World War seems to be being prepared and talked up, in which Germany of all countries should and wants to become the spearhead against Russia - and completely “give up” its “spirit”. What has been happening for years is spiritual suicide, with Germany failing to do its job as mediator and centre and creating a new wave of terrible guilt. What was the point of all the cries of “never again war”? Only to reassure the masses, while in reality the truth about the spiritual background of the war was never wanted to be known, but became a *colony of America*. For decades, world power and world government plans have been forged and implemented - and not even in secret - which are intended to separate Germany and Russia once and for all and prevent the formation of the cultural nucleus for the 6th post-Atlantean cultural epoch, or better - eradicate it. - But there is not a word about this in the official journals of our Society and I have never heard any of the leaders speak about it. - Is this not the reason why the inner opposition to Rudolf Steiner is as powerful today as it was then, especially from within the leadership and the representatives of the anthroposophical institutions?

We are once again in the midst of tremendous trials of the same kind as 99 years ago. Will a sufficient number of Michaelites awaken this time to prevent the worst? The Corona-lie-pandemic has shown that it was mainly non-anthroposophists who realised the dimensions of the secret agenda that is increasingly coming to light. What a shame, what a tragedy.

...serve the good

Only by awakening to the spiritual reality of beings at work can we develop the necessary strength to confront evil. Just as the apocalypse with its powerful images of the future, which present us with great trials and horrors, cannot and should not frighten us, but rather strengthen our will! - Because the increasing awakening to the supernatural beings also means that the relationship with the good spiritual powers can become ever more lively. It is above all in the right kind of meditation that the solar sphere of the etheric Christ, Michael and his flock - and Rudolf Steiner - can be found. They are waiting there for people and the willingness to place themselves at their service. We have already written on various occasions about what the Christmas Conference and the assumption of leadership of the Society meant for Rudolf Steiner and what risks were associated with this sacrifice. It was not understood and not accepted and its true nature - did it not remain largely unrecognised? This, too, showed the strength of the opposing forces. But what was the deeper cause of the failure?

I dare to ask: Has Rudolf Steiner been loved too little? Has Christ been loved too little...? Isn’t that why the demons were able to work so powerfully in the 20th century? And what about us? The true power of knowledge is love.

Even if we are still in the midst of the time of battle - the truth will prevail, it is only a question of time. The real battles between spiritual beings in the spiritual world are only played out on earth. There the battle is in the right place, there it can also bear fruit! And everything we can think about, deepen and penetrate in terms of truths and see through the lies helps the Michaelic forces and Christian angels in their battle against the forces of lies and demons. Every truth can become *esoteric* and be resurrected in us from dead thinking. We can help to build the living body of Christ on Earth so that He can appear in the etheric and be seen by many people through the natural clairvoyance that has long since begun. In times when not much can be achieved externally, meditation is of particular importance, as is all spiritual work, especially in community.

Rudolf Steiner spoke of “*living through the heart with anthroposophy...*” at the opening of the Christmas Conference. If hearts can open themselves to the divine light, the Christ-sun, our powers of love will strengthen the good.

Reverence, humility, devotion, willingness to sacrifice, selflessness - all these virtues cannot be practised and cultivated enough in relation to the Christ Word of anthroposophy and its creator Rudolf Steiner, who himself was the greatest servant of higher powers.

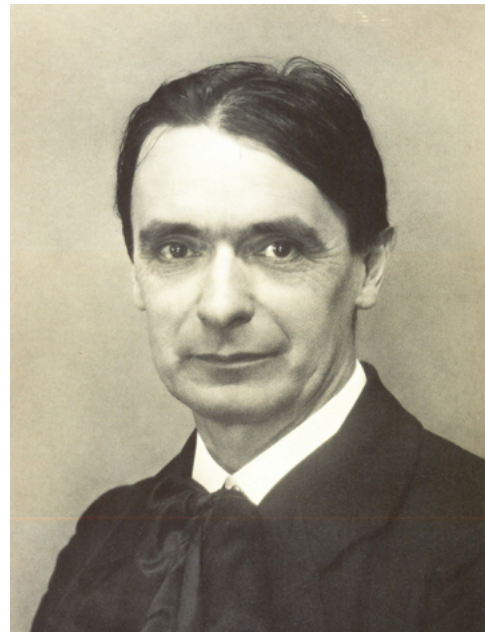
Those who can live in love with the question of Rudolf Stein-

er's essential secret have a great effect against the power of the demons. The answer he gave Ita Wegman, probably towards the end of his life, can inspire amazement and awe. Ita Wegman: "My question was: *Why is so little said about Christ and why so much about Michael? Answer: There is a secret - Michael is my servant, he said.*" And soon after his death she made a note: "Not only Michael expressed himself through him, but far higher powers also made themselves known; Michael was the servant of his spirit."

Report from the cremation

The following report on the cremation in Basel on the original Good Friday, 3 April 1925, was written by Dr Heinrich Hardt, who was still very young at the time.

"It was a cloudless, radiant spring sky under which the immense crowd was gathered around the Basel crematorium, which was packed inside. Stuten's music had faded away and Albert Steffen's speech could be heard in fragments by those of us standing in the open air. I was deeply saddened by the passing of my beloved teacher and even more so by the imminent disappearance of his dear earthly form, his spiritually imbued head, his highly honoured starry forehead. All this was now to be consigned to the elements. - Warm memories of his indications and revelations concerning plants, animals and elemental beings, which were intimately connected with all of nature, pervaded my soul, and despite all the dignity and beauty that had been bestowed on the whole event by human hearts and human hands, I had the feeling that it could not be otherwise than that nature itself, which is *not* obedient to us humans, was expressing its own participation in this hour. The beings of nature themselves, who are fraternally familiar to our spiritual teacher, yes, *they* must, they will show their participation, simply their visible presence, otherwise this unique, at the same time so painful and yet also so sublime hour would remain incomplete. - The shape of a large antique vase could be seen on the gable of the grey crematorium, and I looked at it with a searching, expectant gaze: when and from where did the large, beautiful bird come to sit on it, ignoring the proximity of so many people and thereby proving its non-accidental presence? - But the vase remained as it was. - Then - it may have been two or three minutes later - the soft cries of seagulls and a gentle rustling sound made me look up at the sky. What did I see? - Standing exactly vertically above the crematorium at a height of about 40 metres was a structure like a living crown. It was made up of around 22 to 24 seagulls. Their flight was cheerful and lively. Against the bright blue sky, their plumage sparkled silver and, on their breasts, golden. An indescribable triad of colours! From time to time, individual birds swooped through the circle in half lemniscate (figure-eight) form and arranged themselves in a new order. The whole crowning wreath, this all-emblazoning crown, remained in exactly the same place for minutes, as if held by the hands of the gods. I nudged my friend on my right and we looked up for a long time, deeply moved. A glance at the bystanders showed us that, unfortunately, nobody was looking up except us. We felt the urge to shout, to shout, to draw attention - we were still so young! - but the realisation



that we were disturbing them made us stay quiet. - Only very gradually did the nuptial flight - as ornithologists call such an event - slowly hover backwards to the right, maintaining its circle as seen from us. But that's where the unveiled sun flashed! Our eyes had to close as the feathered, vividly moving, high crown came all too close to its rays. - Inwardly shaken by the beauty of this fulfilling, deeply soul-stirring event, we then left the site with the others, gazed into the silently flowing Rhine and thanked those birds for their unspeakable round dance, as if in secret solidarity."

Eva Lohmann-Heck

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Remarks

Unfortunately, the remarks were lost in translation. We apologise for this oversight. Right now we can only refer to the German version at www.wtg-99.com/Rundbrief_80.

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