

Interview with Yeshayahu Ben-Aharon Ph.D.

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By Rich Grams of LaCrosse, WI

RG: Can you characterize Ahriman for us?

YBA: "Ahriman uses the Christ's forces for his purposes. This is his main job..turning Michaelic intelligence into Ahrimanic intelligence. God appointed him to do this work and Ahriman is a good servant. He is becoming the god of this civilization, the god of this earth; this is Ahriman. We can only overcome Ahriman if we know him and understand him. (We must) ...appreciate the people, creative and fantastic people who work for him. The greatest human spirits, the greatest humans are working for Ahriman today."

RG: Is it this understanding of Ahriman that led you to create Michaelic Yoga?

YBA: "This (Yoga) is the concept that Steiner uses for working with the *Philosophy of Freedom*. Forget about the yoga name as such. The important thing is that modern consciousness is the starting point for this spiritual development. Anthroposophy can start directly from our day to day thinking, perceiving, feeling, willing consciousness. This is the new way, the middle of the day, the noon way. It's not instead of the traditional meditation; we still need it (traditional practice). But from that moment on when Anthroposophy became socially creative and engaged (traditional practice) was simply not enough. Steiner needed a spiritual path that people could engage in the middle of life; in social activity itself, in the market, in meeting with one another. There were many Anthroposophists and pupils of his who had been meditating and studying for twenty years but couldn't face another human being in a positive way."

RG: What about the school you have been talking about. The Global School of Spiritual Science?

YBA "There is only one school. The school of Spiritual Science founded by Rudolf Steiner. This is my way of contributing to this school. It's not my school but the Michaelic school. So much is taken for granted when you go to hear the first class. There is a whole background of spiritual development that is taken for granted. Reading the First Class is like taking the flower without taking the whole organism. We have to create our own whole living tree. And then develop organically the faculties that will bring us to the level of the First Class. It's not a flower that you can consume up there in the clouds of anthroposophical imaginations once a month. It's a hard work that you do with your colleagues and friends to develop the basic faculties. That's where the root is, in the "Philosophy of Freedom". If the root is not "The Philosophy of Freedom" then the modern consciousness of creativity and freedom will never be developed."

RG: What is The Global Event College?

YBA: “The Global Event College is built from a faculty of 14 Anthroposophist from different fields.; teachers, physicians, scientists who are struggling to deepen Anthroposophy to such an extent that it will be able to speak the language of contemporary culture and science. (By this deepening at the roots) you create something that can use the best forces of modern culture to present Anthroposophy (which then) comes from the same best creative forces which come from the spiritual world. (Contemporary scientists) don’t understand that these forces come from the spiritual world. Anthroposophists could have understood but they were busy studying the same Anthroposophical stuff that was given a hundred years ago. They couldn’t have cared less what people do in the world.”

RG: What then is the relationship of the traditional Anthroposophical material to the Philosophy of Freedom?

YBA: “He (the Anthroposophist) finds a way to the source directly through his thinking and perception. He comes to Imagination, Inspiration and Intuition directly from our daily common consciousness by intensification and enhancement of the very thinking in which we are now conversing. It’s the very thinking in which we are now conversing that leads him to Imagination, Inspiration and Intuition. It’s not the meditation that he’s doing in his room in which he shuts off the senses, shuts off thinking. It’s not the practice of meditation that leads after many incarnations to Imagination, Inspiration and Intuition. This is important! The time factor. Traditional meditation builds forces for the future. There are of course existential foundations and benefits of meditation to be used as a human in our time, I know this. But the cognitive forces that develop in meditation were developed through many incarnations and continue to develop until I reach the higher stages of cognition but meanwhile I am socially active with my ordinary thinking and drives and desires and interests and egotisms. That’s where the need is for the new yoga practice. “The Philosophy of Freedom” is about the transformation of thinking as it is. You come to be creative spiritually through thinking and perception in daily life. You don’t wait until the next incarnation for the fruits of your meditations because you have to do something in social life now. You want to become a teacher, you want to be a physician, you want to meet other people. What do you do? Do you tell them I have to meditate until I reach Inspiration and Intuition or I will not be able to deal with my ego or the conflict with you? I have to have the ability to experience you now. Because modern people are thinking people, socially engaged people they can hear about the new yoga as based on the “Philosophy of Freedom” and pure perception and pure thinking will develop.”

RG: You spoke of the “Noon Meditation”. What did you mean by that?

YBA: “In the middle of the day I am facing our Ahrimanic institutions, my intellect, my egotism, your egotism... we are in the midst of the modern condition. Here I have to have the power to transform my thinking in the moment of the event. I cannot wait and say ‘OK. I can do nothing with this meeting with you but I will work through it in my meditation and karma will work it out.

RG: What is the technique for interrupting during the day our own sensory, cognitive process so that we remain capable as spiritual entities and functional as social beings?

YBA: “Stopping the intellectual instinct. It has become instinct in our constitution, the brain bound Ahrimanic intellect that is controlling our cognitive processes. The mind soul which developed in the fourth cultural epoch has become instinctive in us. Now we live in the age of the consciousness soul. The mind soul has become unconscious in us and everything that is unconscious is ruled by other forces. So when I enter the workshop of my mind consciously with the consciousness soul I find Ahriman there. He is the one who has automatic answers to your questions. He is the one who will react to the meeting with other people. That’s where my basic instinct to criticize you, to judge you, to work from my habits, from the knowledge that I have acquired in my life and see nothing new in the event of the meeting comes from.

RG: Is this something more than just self-awareness?

YBA: “Oh yes. Much more than self-awareness. It’s a real war with myself and with Ahriman, with the whole materialistic culture in which I have to save my soul and save the moment from the meeting with my intellect. It’s not being aware that I am being intellectual its being able to stop the machine from working and instead create a living spiritual process in the moment which will let me perceive you in a pure way without intellectualizing you, explaining you, judging you. I have to experience you. I have to put a stop to the machine. To put it out of order at least for a moment. In a twinkling of an eye we will be changed. In the event itself. It’s not something you know in advance. What you know in advance you will never meet.

RG: Is this part of the reason why the progression into the consciousness soul is so difficult?

YBA: “Yes. Because the consciousness soul either transforms the intellect, which can only happen through conscious confrontation, or it enhances it incredibly, even to infinity. When the consciousness soul serves the intellect it adds all the spiritual forces to the intellectual soul which is controlled by Ahriman.

RG: Should a person who is really striving for the consciousness soul have a different inner experience that they are really able to recognize when they have made that moment happen?

YBA: “Of course. You enter into your body, You enter into your brain and you find it occupied. You are not the master in your own thinking process, perceiving process, memory process. All those things that you say ‘I think, I judge, I criticize’ and it's not you. Now you see it’s Ahriman sitting there and he’s running the whole operation and you have to confront it. It’s as real a confrontation as I have with you here.

RG: This sounds like a really concrete picture. Can a person can really depend on that picture being there?

YBA: “Yes. It’s a war. You are facing an immense power who is by magnitude of thousands more intelligent and clever than yourself. He has gained mastery over all cosmic intelligence that is here on the earth. He is using it since the beginning of the Michaelic Age, a hundred years or more. There is no way you can win this war unless you bring in new forces of love and the Christ forces.

RG The Christ event started when?

YBA: “The Christ event started in the 1930’s but it was completely overshadowed by the second world war and then started to emerge again in the 1960’s and 70’s. The event starts 1933 -1945 and also Hitler starts at the same time. I read Steiner speaking about those years and said to myself ‘How can this be?’ I look at history and in those years Hitler and Auschwitz and Gulag and Stalinism appeared... how it (the Reappearance of the Christ in the Etheric) has reversed itself to create the most radical era. There was never such a reversal of what happened in the spiritual world and what happened on the earth as in those twelve years (1933 – 1945).

If you want to find the Christ Event you have to start at the end of the twentieth century and then go backwards. You know He’s there but He is surrounded by the blackest, evil forces. You have to go through this cloud yourself, with your heart. It’s the most wounding, painful process imaginable. You cannot do it alone without great spiritual help. Then you see what He (Christ) is doing in those years. How He is working to transform evil in those human beings who are committing the greatest evil that humans have created on the earth. So the first reappearance was reversed. Ahriman is not only covering but is reversing (the Reappearance).

This is what brought me to the Singularity because the next great covering and reversal of the Christ event is connected to the Singularity. It’s not going to be another war like the second world war. It’s not about Auschwitz and the Gulags but great efforts are now underway to make sure that when Christ appears again... I should say when a new emphasis is given... He doesn’t disappear, He is always there... that there will be a reversal of the new revelation as there was a reversal of the first one. I recognize that the Singularity is part of this reversal.

RG: This is a big, big idea!!

YBA: “In the book ‘The Event in Philosophy, Science, History and Art’, my new book, the second chapter is about the Event in history. There I present the discovery that the “Ur phenomena” of modern history is the reversal. All good spiritual impulses are reversed. This is the rule, not the exception. This applies to great historical moments and to all our personal lives. The good is reversed to its opposite. Good intentions, good ideas when they are realized on the earth they are reversed.

RG: That seems to be what's happening in world events and in our personal lives.

YBA: “Yes. First you have the Christ event then you have capitalism reversed, socialism reversed, nationalism reversed and you get the three great beasts of Capitalism, National Socialism and Bolshevism. They cover the Christ but they also use His forces.

RG: So now one has to reverse the reversal?

YBA: “Exactly! Steiner said that he created Anthroposophy out of natural science.... out of the given. Take the given modern life and turn it into spiritual science. Once it is created you can use it but then you are a consumer but we must be producers of spiritual science. Steiner produced spiritual science all his life and he expected his co-workers to produce spiritual science from scratch from brute nature, from raw materials. But the raw material is your life. It's not to repeat the finished product that someone else has already created. We are to learn from Steiner how to create spiritual science not to repeat his created finished forms.

YBA website: <http://www.event-studies.org>