

## **‘From Light Through Darkness Into New Light’**

### **A Pageant for a Solar Eclipse**

~by [Hazel Archer-Ginsberg](#)

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#### **Cast of Characters:**

**Narrator**

**‘Initiates’/Persons 1-4** (These can be called by the name of the person playing the part)

**Chorus**— And from within the chorus: **‘Stones’** and **Persons A-D** (called by given names)

**Uriel** - Archangel of Summer-Tide

**Michael** -Christ-Messenger

**Columbia** - The Folk Spirit of America

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*(Person1 sitting in meditation begins to speak the verse. A **Chorus** of voices gradually joins in, coming to stand around her as the ‘Dolmens of a stone circle’)*



**Chorus: Sun Heart Verse** by Rudolf Steiner

Sun, O bearer of rays,  
The power of your light-substance  
Conjures Life out of the Earth's  
Limitless rich depths.

Heart, you bearer of the soul,  
The spirit-power of your light  
Conjures life from the human being's  
Limitless deep inwardness.

If I gaze into the sun,  
Her light speaks to me in radiance  
Of the spirit, – full of grace,  
Weaving through world-being.  
If I feel into my heart,  
The spirit speaks its own true word  
Of the human being that it loves  
Through all time and eternity.

Looking upward, I can see  
In the sun's bright round  
The mighty world-heart

Looking inward, I can feel  
In the heart's warm beat  
The human Sun ensouled.

**Narrator:** The warm humming of the bees stirs-up a revelation from deep within her soul, revealing a picture before her inner eye. She sees herself standing with her colleagues in a great circle of stones. *(Person 1 joins the 'Stones' chanting as they enact the narration under the dialogue)* Echoing off the dolmans, in a slow rhythmic chant, come the words:

**Chorus:** 'From light through darkness into new light' *(Persons 2-4 and Persons A-D as the 'Initiates' enter the circle through the 'Stones')*

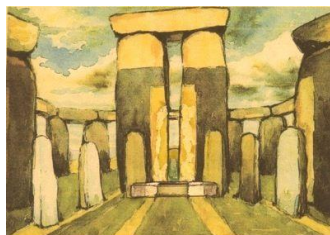


**Narrator:** A group of Initiates stand in the warmth of the noon-day sun, their words reverberating with the sounds of birds and insects. Their attention concentrated on the shadows cast by the standing stones. *(2 'Stones' make the arch)* A few of the higher initiates have gathered where the cromlech form an arch. There the light of the sun is completely cut off, leaving the chamber in darkness.

**Chorus:** *(The chant becomes a hum)*

**Person 2:** We gather to witness in this circle of 12, the Sun-Being on His journey through the Cosmos.

**Person 3:** We have been shown how Time meets Space, as we engage with the shadows cast beneath these stones during the cycle of the year.



**Person 4:** We read the signs produced by these Dolmens, to receive inspiration from the Cosmos and from the Sun, for what we must do here on Earth. We know

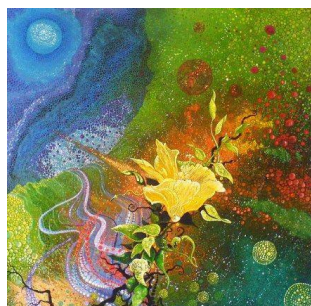
that the spiritual essence behind the physical sun lives on in the various grades of darkness. The shadow cast by the stone prevents the physical rays from reaching us, allowing instead the spiritual rays to penetrate our activity.

**Person 1:** May we be permeated by the hidden forces of cosmic existence, as we enter into the mysteries of the world.



**Chorus:** Preforms eurythmy AUM

**Person 2:** Let the deeds of the Sun for the plants and animals be revealed to us. We pour our dreamy-thinking into the Sun, intertwining, streaming, into flower, leaf and root; into birth and death of calf and bird; working in harmony with the elemental beings.



**Person 3:** As we recognize the spiritual deed of the Sun, we enter the entire Cosmos. The Moon cycles, and the Wandering Stars pour their secrets into our soul, taking us to the boundary of the Fixed Stars.

**Person 4:** Let us find the inner qualities of the Sun element, the Spiritual Sun, here in the darkness – Let us see how these forces permeate the Earth, and how they radiate back from the Earth into cosmic space.

**Chorus:** Preforms the eurythmy '[Peace exercise](#), a blessing for the earth'

**Person 1:** Today, my friends, is a special day – Today we stand at the 13<sup>th</sup> Dolmen which serves as a portal to past Hierophants, those who journey on into the spiritual world, in the life between death and rebirth...

*(The Chorus stops humming)*

**Narrator:** Silence falls upon the scene. A chill runs in the stillness. Even the Wind holds her breath, as the Moon begins to pass in front of our Day-Star, slowly eclipsing the Sun.



**Chorus:** moving the pentagram in eurythmy *(interspersed with text)*

These ancient initiates knew that on a normal day when there was no eclipse, the rays of the Sun penetrate down to the earth, meeting & mediating the rays of human will streaming out into the cosmos. *(Move 1)*

At the time of a solar eclipse, since all the unbridled impulses of human will are not met by the Sun, they are able to radiate out into the darkness, surging out into universal space in an abnormal way. *(Move 2)*

The initiates of old knew these things, & so with an urgent sense of duty, they had gathered in their sacred stone circle, to help meet & mediate the undigested instincts of humanity heaving out into the cosmos. *(Move 3)*

These ancient Hierophants recognized the spiritual reality behind this physical event. *(Move 4)*

A solar eclipse acts like a 'safety-valve', providing an outlet for pressure that has been building up. It is an opportunity to let off steam - to avert the danger of a more catastrophic explosion. *(Move 5) - Then pentagram is moved continuously*

Under normal conditions the 'evil impulses of will' sent out into the cosmos by human beings are burned up and consumed by the rays of the sun. They can



injure only humanity. They do no universal harm. But when there is an eclipse of the sun, opportunity is given for the evil which is willed on earth to spread over the cosmos



*(As the eclipse progresses a sort of mystery drama is acted out by Persons 1-4, representing the stages in the life of a butterfly - beginning with the caterpillar, through the chrysalis stage, to emerge as a beautiful winged creature)*

*The Chorus speaks the verse, while others do expansion/contraction in eurythmy)*

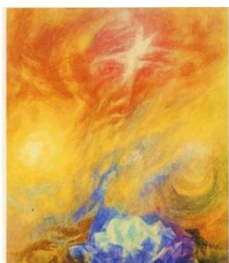


**Chorus:** *“Now that my senses are at home on high  
I hear my soul re-echo from her depths  
A Fiery message from the gods  
‘Welcome the hint;  
Seek your own deep relation to spirit  
In the spirit’s own foundation”.*

*~Calendar of the soul verse 13 by Rudolf Steiner (Owen Barfield)*

*(A bell rings –The Chorus separates into 2 groups, 1 does expansion, while the other group does contraction. They pass between each other, while singing Uriel’s theme:*

**Chorus:** Substances are densified,  
Errors judged and rectified,  
Hearts are sifted  
Receive the light



**Uriel:** *(stepping out from the Chorus)* With great earnestness, as the representative of the weaving cosmic forces, I Uriel, embody myself in a vesture of light.

My intelligence arises through the collaboration of the Planetary Forces, and the Fixed Stars of the Zodiac. I preserve the thoughts of the cosmos, in my thoughts.

Yet I must admonish you, Human Soul - look downward with spiritual eyes into the blue silver-gleaming depths of Earth in Summer. Can you see, weaving around these silver-gleaming crystalline rays, the 'disturbing shapes', which continually gather and dissolve? These shapes are your 'human errors which stand out against the natural order of crystals here below'.

I direct my earnest gaze to these imperfections of humankind, for they must be measured; especially now that the golden radiance from the Sun will not be there to mediate these errors during the solar eclipse.

Humanity has an effect in the world, for good or for ill. Gain from me the impression of how human morality becomes interwoven with nature.

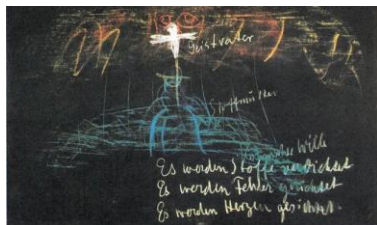
On the one hand, all that is in human virtue & human excellence rises up with the silver-gleaming lines and is seen as the clouds that envelop me in the heights. It enters into the radiant Intelligence, transmuted into cloud-shaped works of art.

See also the human deeds that have 'missed the mark'. To this, I Uriel, as Archangel of Summer, must direct you with my 'warning gesture'. See my 'wing-like arms', raised in earnest admonition, to impart to humankind, 'Conscience' – Pointing out how malevolent the human moral compass has become.

*(Again the Chorus in 2 groups – one expanding, the other contracting. They pass between each other, while singing Uriel's theme:*

**Chorus:** Substances are densified,

Errors judged and rectified,  
Hearts are sifted  
Receive the light



*(A 'White Dove' swoops in and around Uriel, who drifts off) A bell rings.*

**Narrator:** From the silver-sparkling blue depths of the Earth, bound up with human weaknesses & error, is gathered a picture of Earth-Mother – called Demeter or Mary, arising now as the Folk Spirit of America, Columbia.



**Chorus** sings: Hail Columbia!

*"Celestial choir! enthron'd in realms of light,  
Columbia's scenes of glorious toils I write.  
See mother earth her offspring's fate bemoan,  
And nations gaze at scenes before unknown!  
See the bright beams of heaven's revolving light  
Involved in sorrows and veil of night!"*

*The goddess comes, she moves divinely fair,  
Olive and laurel bind her golden hair:  
Wherever shines this native of the skies,  
Unnumber'd charms and recent graces rise."*

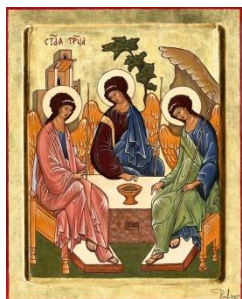


**Columbia:** (coming from out the Chorus) How can we 'behold the outcome of the working together of Spirit-Father with Earth-Mother, bearing so beautifully within itself the harmony of the earthly silver, with the gold of the heights'?

**Chorus** sings: 'America the Beautiful':

*"O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain!  
America! America!  
God shed his grace on thee  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!"*

**ALL:** Between the Father and the Mother we behold the Son.



*(This part consists of the Chorus taking on an individual voice thru persons A-D, but coming in with their lines as if speaking one sentence, one unified thought)*

**Person A:** In the new mysteries, we strive toward an enhanced awareness of our will forces; an effort to 'make straight the path' –

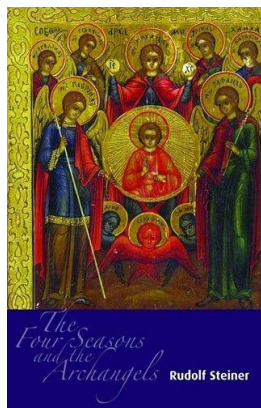
**Person B:** To recognize our potential for discordant, as well as selfless acts; an effort to enable the Higher "I" to come to expression ever more fully in the mysterious recesses of our personal priorities, with respect to will -

**Person C:** Like the call of conscience from John the Baptist, the need arises to let the light of the Higher "I" shine into our being, knowing that the union of creator and created is affected by the disharmony from our imperfect deeds -

**Person D:** We respond to the Summertime call for a yearly 'metanoia', by reviewing our deeds of the past year, like we do at the time of the Holy Nights,

while Uriel's 'eye of heaven' gazes down upon us. With the help of the Archangel of Summer Uriel, let us seek to know the will forces; that our deeds may add to the advancement of the Earth's Being.

**Uriel:** As above so below.



*(A bell rings and Michael appears from out of the Chorus)*

**Uriel:** Soon I will pass the seasonal chalice to you mighty brother Michael, protagonist of Freedom, ever holding the balance of Autumn, radiating the countenance of Christ. With your sword of thinking, humanity can bring Cosmic Intelligence to bear. Your shield reflects the opposing image, the counter-force to the slavery of fear and hate.



**Michael:** Now and in the time to come.

Human Soul: Let your heart be penetrated by the Word of Love. Let your head pierce the Will of Worlds. May your limbs be conscious of your souls' aspiring that you may know: The Christ in you.

And I will hold the shield and sword with you, at the time of greatest darkness.

**ALL:** *'Light divine,  
Christ-Sun,*

*Warm  
 Our hearts;  
 Enlighten  
 Our heads;  
 That good may become  
 What from our hearts  
 We are founding,  
 What from our heads  
 We direct,  
 With focused will'*

~From the Foundation Stone Meditation by Rudolf Steiner

(Bell rings and everyone spirals off to the sides, leaving Person 1 sitting in meditation.  
 Person 4 enters calling her name)

**Person 4:** Oh, there you are – I didn't mean to disturb you. I wondered where you were.



**Person 1:** I'm here – I was thinking about an interesting imagination I had this afternoon while meditating. We were all together in a Druid circle, it was extraordinary. Where are the others? – I want to share it with everyone. It was an alchemical process, and it may help us in our work with the solar eclipse.



(Person 4 calls in Persons 2 and 3 by name)

A question arose in me: How might the life cycle of the butterfly be applied to the human being - as a conscious, alchemical process of transformation?

**Person 2:** hmm, Interesting.

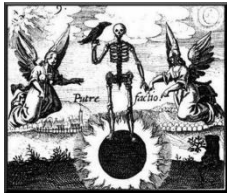
**Person 3:** Let's see...How about you stand here in the middle and we gather around you in a circle.

**Person 4:** Now try weaving in and out between us, as if you are moving through the planetary spheres, like a human soul does between death and a new birth.

*(They do this with the **Chorus** while speaking the dialogue)*

**Person 1:** Oh I get it; Like at the 'Cosmic Midnight Hour'. And now I am choosing to come back into incarnation with intention. I start out like a caterpillar, not fully formed - still guided by the spiritual world, and yet while partaking in the world of nature, I grow into my human sheaths one at a time.

**Person 2:** And as you grow and develop as a human being, perhaps you come into contact with Spiritual Science, *(Person 3 hands Person 1 a Steiner book with a laugh)* this can often redirect and bring focus to your path, so that perhaps you begin to see the spirit behind nature.

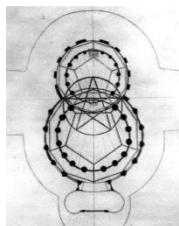


**Person 3:** Right, good one, and we all know how that can throw a person into what has been called the alchemical state of Nigredo, a dark-night of the soul, a real dissolution. *(A black veil is placed over Person 1)*

**Person 4:** In that state of darkness we must see past the sense-perceptible, continuing to work into the Albedo stage of purification, to cross the threshold, to consciously enter the void, to dissolve in the chrysalis stage all that 'caterpillar karma', so that the cosmic impulses can penetrate and inculcate the chaos.



**Person 1:** Right...I picture this as the death stage in the modern Christian initiation. It can be likened to the time of the eclipse on Good Friday! And tomorrow when the physical light is extinguished, it actually makes the spiritual essence behind the light more potent! It reminds me of a lecture Steiner gave where he spoke about his visit to England & Wales; he mentioned that If we could go up in a balloon and look down from above on the larger and the smaller circles given to us by the Druids, these ancient stone circles would appear like the ground-plan of the 1st Goetheanum, which was destroyed by fire!



**Person 4:** Quite an interesting thought – a reminder that rising from those ancient circles, and now springing up like a phoenix from the ashes of the Goetheanum - The Foundation Stone must live like a Sun in our hearts, and be put into service thru the enlivening of our will; and that sometimes it takes a cosmic anomaly to wake us up to our destiny!

**Person 1:** I also see a correlation to what the Druids did when they gazed at the configurations in the shadow of the dolmens -reading what appeared in the darkness – an answer to a question given to the Spiritual Sun.

**Person 2:** Hey, that gives me an idea. During the solar eclipse we could offer up our questions, letting them stream out, while holding the light in the darkness. This could be seen as the Rubedo stage in alchemy, when the purified Sulphur sparks activity.





*(The black veil is replaced by a red one)*

**Person 1:** Yes, to stream out thoughtful, sincere questions in a conscious way would be a good antidote to all the unconsciousness rising up from the monkey-mind of most folks. What do we want to speak to the stars?

**Person 3:** My question, and what stands out most strongly for me, is the calling to work with our Time Spirit Michael during this time. Since we are dealing with an eclipse of the Sun, isn't it important to remember how Michael has remained aligned with the Sun as the guardian of the Christ-mysteries in the cosmos? And that in our time the spiritual key for understanding the 'Mystery of Golgotha', as an earthly, AND as a comic event, is to be found on the Sun.



**Chorus:** performs IAO around the figure of **Michael** who takes hold of the red veil

**Person 4:** We can bring to consciousness the power of the light that touches everyone no matter where they live or what they believe; Christ as the Spiritual Sun of the universe.

**Person 3:** We can link the earthly and cosmic Christ-impulse through our heart-thinking, to help counteract these unbridled human instincts that will be surging out into the cosmos.

**ALL:** Wwe can counteract it with our good will.

**Person 4:** We have our work cut out for us! Perhaps we are fortunate that this safety-value is going to help blow off some steam!

**Person 3:** True. It would be wise to see this as a gift from the cosmos, like the grace an illness can bring to help foster our spiritual growth.

**Person 1:** You know it makes sense that the Planetary Beings, and all the Hierarchies of the Zodiac, working with the 'so-called dead', for the continuation of our evolution, will be impacted, doesn't it?

**Person 2:** We may want to remember that all these Spiritual Beings may bear the brunt of the unmitigated human will forces spewing forth during the solar eclipse.



**Chorus:** performs the 7-pointed star in eurythmy

**Person 1:** What would it be like to consciously connect with those on the 'other-side' during this time? –

(One by one, Persons 1-4 join the Chorus, doing the 7-pointed star)

**Person 3:** All the Beings in the Spiritual World need us to step up –  
To fire up the ensouled Sun of our human hearts.

**Person 2:** Yes, we can hold our dearly departed under the shield of Michael, opening at the same time to receive their insights from the spiritual realms. As we add our spirit light to the darkness.

**Chorus** divided into:

**Person A:** "May love of hearts reach out to love of souls

**Person B:** May warmth of love ray out to Spirit-Light

**Person C:** Even so would we draw near to you

**Person D:** Thinking with you Thoughts of Spirit

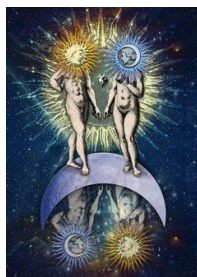
**Person A:** Feeling in you the Love of Worlds

**ALL:** Consciously at one with you

Willing in silent being” ~Rudolf Steiner



**Person 4:** Yes, we have to awaken to our will-forces, to align with the Will of the Time Spirit Michael, who holds the Christ-Will.



**Person 1:** And this will assist us in our transformation – from caterpillar to butterfly - turning lead into gold - in freedom - forging the future of humanity, so that we can emerge from the dark chaos of the chrysalis, to become Angel Beings, as the 10<sup>th</sup> hierarchy of Love and Freedom.

**Person 2:** Wow, this is a great imagination to tune into. I can see how it will serve the highest good.

**Person 4:** I really see Michael working with us during the eclipse, lending us his sword and shield.

**Person 3:** And I also think it's important to connect with Uriel, the Archangel of Summer, there are a lot of lessons to be learned from this Being about the mysteries of redemption and the will-forces.


**Person 4:** And let's not forget that we need to redeem and bring healing to the Folk Spirit of America, our beloved Columbia, so we can re-align our nation with the impulses of Truth, Freedom & Equality, fostering a healthy social organism thru our working to understand and implement the 3-fold social order; ever evolving our connection to Anthroposophia, and to each other.



**Person 2:** Yes, we have a lot to do. And all the while, we must remember that we are not alone, we have allies all around the world, as well as in the powerful spiritual beings, and the so-called dead, working with us.

**DEDICATION**

If my deeds and my thoughts  
Would serve the earth,  
Then my thoughts and my deeds  
May also serve the heavens.



**ALL:**

**Person 4:** This feels like a destiny moment. It is an amazing opportunity; and a great responsibility to consciously "Speak with the Stars".

*(All Persons fall silent for a moment, before speaking The Michael Meditation by Rudolf Steiner)*



**Person 1:** *“Springing from Powers of the Sun,  
Radiant Spirit-powers, blessing all Worlds!*

**Person 2:** *For Michael's garment of rays  
You are predestined by Thought Divine.*

**Person 3:** *He, the Christ-messenger, reveals in you —  
Bearing humankind aloft — the sacred Will of Worlds.*

**Person 4:** *You, the radiant Beings of Æther-Worlds,  
Bear the Christ-Word to the human being.*

**Person 1:** *Then will the Herald of Christ appear  
To the thirstily waiting souls,  
To whom your Word of Light shines forth  
In cosmic age of Spirit-Man.*

**ALL:** *You, the disciples of Spirit-Knowledge,  
Take Michael's Wisdom-beckoning,  
Take the Word of Love of the Will of Worlds  
Into your souls' aspiring, actively”!* ~Rudolf Steiner



**ALL:** Eurythmy Hallelujah

**(THE END)**



## References:

Man in the Past, Present, and Future; The Evolution of Consciousness – The Sun-Initiation of

The Druid Priest and his Moon-Science, by Rudolf Steiner

Human Questions and Cosmic Answers, by Rudolf Steiner

The Four Seasons and the Archangels, by Rudolf Steiner

Rudolf Steiner's last address, Verses and Meditations, The Foundation Stone, by Rudolf Steiner

Hail Columbia - "To His Excellency, General Washington", by Phillis Wheatley

"America the Beautiful" Words by Katharine Lee Bates, Melody by Samuel Ward

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