

Central Region of the Anthroposophical Society in America

Speaking with the Stars

Some thoughts about eclipses – prepared by Hazel Archer Ginsberg

In "Human Questions and Cosmic Answers" Rudolf Steiner states: "An eclipse of the sun is due to the fact that the moon comes between the sun and the earth, cutting off the rays of the sun."



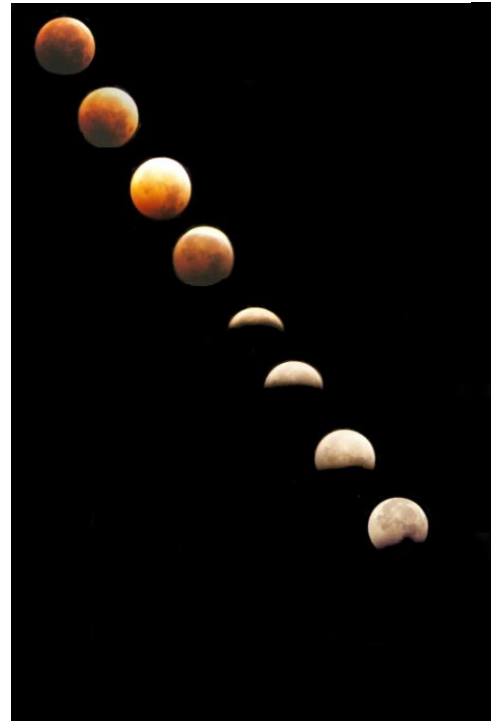
At the time of a solar eclipse, for instance, something totally different takes place in the part of the earth affected from what is happening when there is no eclipse. When we know that on the one hand the rays of the sun penetrate down to the earth and on the other hand the forces or rays of will stream out to meet the sun. At an eclipse, these forces radiate into the darkness, and there ensues a period of time, short though it may be, in which all that is of the nature of will upon the earth flows out into universal space in an abnormal way. It is different altogether from what takes place when there is no eclipse. Ordinarily, the physical sunlight unites with the radiations of will streaming towards it. When there is an eclipse, the forces of will flow unhindered into cosmic space.

The old initiates knew these things. They saw that at such a moment all the unbridled impulses and instincts of humanity surge out into the cosmos. And they gave their pupils the following explanation. They said: Under normal conditions the evil impulses of will which are sent out into the cosmos by human beings are, as it were, burned up and consumed by the rays of the sun, so that they can injure only man himself, but can do no universal harm. When, however, there is an eclipse of the sun, opportunity is given for the evil which is willed on earth to spread over the cosmos. An eclipse is a physical event behind which there lies a significant spiritual reality.

And again, when there is an eclipse of the moon, the man of today merely says: "Now the earth comes between the sun and the moon; hence we see the shadow cast upon the moon by the earth." That is the physical explanation. But in this case also the old initiate knew that a spiritual reality was behind the physical fact. He knew that when there is an eclipse of the moon, thoughts stream through darkness down upon the earth; and that such thoughts have a closer relationship with the subconscious life than with the conscious life of the human being. The old initiates often made use of a certain simile when speaking to their pupils. It is; of course, necessary to translate their words into modern language, but this is the gist of what they said: "Visionaries and dreamers love to go for rambles by moonlight, when the moon is full. There are, however, certain people who have no wish to receive the good thoughts coming to them from the cosmos, but who, on the contrary, are desirous of getting hold of evil, diabolical

thoughts. Such people will choose the moment of a lunar eclipse for their nocturnal wanderings.

Eclipses of the sun and moon, recurring as they do in the course of every year, may really be looked upon as “safety-valves.” A safety-valve is there to avert danger, to provide an outlet for something or other — steam, for instance — at the right moment. One of the safety-valves which makes its appearance in the cosmos and to which we give the name of a solar eclipse, serves the purpose of carrying out into space in a Luciferic way, the evil that spreads over the earth, in order that evil may work havoc in a wider, less concentrated sphere. The other safety-valve, the lunar eclipse, exists for the purpose of allowing the evil thoughts which are present in the cosmos to approach those human beings who are desirous of being possessed by them. people do not, as a rule, act in full consciousness, but the facts are nevertheless real — just as real as the attraction of a magnet for small particles of iron. Such are the forces at work, in the cosmos.” ~Human Q’s & Cosmic A.



Rudolf Steiner also gave us hints as to how to come to terms with ‘Evil’. He reveals that the gods themselves called their opponents into being. Lucifer is an Archangel which has been left behind and Ahriman is a left-behind member of the Archai. Humanity, striving toward Freedom, stands as the Tenth Hierarchy and has as its task to integrate the vast gifts of Nature and Spirit while accepting the possibility and finding the strength to lead evil (i.e.: Lucifer and Ahriman) back to the good.

So you see, we can look at these celestial events as an opportunity to be part of the Cosmic conversation –to join in the dance - to do our part.

On my Italian side of the family, the Moon was traditionally represented by a mirror. During an eclipse, people would breathe on a mirror, creating clouds of condensation on its surface. Since it was believed that the wolf swallowed the Moon during an eclipse, people saw it as their duty to breathe on the mirror to cause the wolf to cough up the moon and return it to the sky.

The Vikings tell a tale about two wolves who wish to eat the Sun and Moon. Skoll (repulsion) goes after the Sun and Hati, running ahead of the Sun, goes after the Moon. When either are caught, there is an eclipse. When this happens, the people on Earth rush to rescue the Sun or Moon by making as much noise as they can in hopes of scaring off the wolves.

These cultural examples, of which there are many, may seem ‘superstitious’ through modern eyes, but it was felt by our ancestors to be a call to humanity to take action, to be present, to take part.

The ancients had their way of reacting to the harmonies & disharmonies of the cosmos.
What will we do as the 10th hierarchy striving in freedom, 'that good may become'?

Ideas for actions:

Become star-singers, bowing and greeting, honoring acknowledging respecting, in reverence.

~ Gazing upon the rising and setting sun. Becoming spiritually receptive to all that takes place at day break.. awe wonder, inner devotion, reverence combined with a yearning for knowledge.

Sunrise gathering time to speak to the stars, form questions, send will forces out into cosmic space.

Moonrise to receive, thoughts are brought down to earth on the waves of moonlight.

New moon time for questions or ideas we want to bring into fullness, bring them to the sunrise, to the sun. Then we must be patient, listen, wait 14 days till full moon to get answers from within.

This is a conversation.

We can speak to the Spiritual Beings who interpenetrate the cosmos:

Questions to Mars, are received by the Angeloi, Answers come from Venus – we can use Mantrams in this speaking.

Questions to Jupiter are received by the Archangeloi, - Answers come from Mercury - we can use Rites in this speaking.

Questions to Saturn go to the Archai, Answers come from beyond the Zodiac - we can use long term missions/our spiritual research in this speaking.

This is a vast subject which we can get into at a later time.

Those who are in the 1st Class can use the lessons as a study guide to speaking with the hierarchies

Other suggestions for engagement:

~Verse for the Michaelic Age

~Aurora Jacob Boehme

<http://meuser.awardspace.com/Boehme/Jacob-Boehme-Aurora-electronic-text.pdf>

~Novalis

~Star eurythmy

~Dance of the Planets, verse by RS

<http://www.tiptoes-lightly.net/storage/stories/the-dance-of-the-planets-r-steiner.pdf>

~Foundation Stone Meditation

~Hallelujah

~Lords prayer

~ True Nature of the Second Coming By Rudolf Steiner

http://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/GA118/English/APC1961/TruNat_index.html

~The Mysteries, A Christmas and Easter Poem by Goethe, Cologne, December 25, 1907, GA 98

<http://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/19071225p01.html>

~Four Seasons/Archangels: Lecture III: The Easter Imagination

in the presence of the sculpture THE GROUP, there would have to be enacted a kind of Mystery Play, with man and Raphael as chief characters — Raphael with the staff of Mercury and all that belongs to it. showing man taught by Raphael to see how far the Ahrimanic and Luciferic forces make him ill, and how through the power of Raphael he can be led to perceive and recognize the healing principle, the great world-therapy, which lives in the Christ-principle. — then at Easter there would be, amid much else, a certain crowning of all that can flow into mankind from the Ahrimanic and Luciferic secrets.

~Easter as a Chapter in the Mystery Wisdom of Man, Esoteric Easter: Lecture IV, THE ARISTOTELIAN CATEGORIES

The Easter atmosphere in Anthroposophy which leads back to the Mysteries, but also to the conviction of immortality and repeated resurrection in the spirit.

World-engendered being, thou art shaped in light,
By the Sun empowered in the Moon's full might;

Mars' creating chiming, power to thee is bringing,
And Mercury, moving limbs in oscillation swinging;

Jupiter's radiant wisdom is on thee gleaming,
And Venus' love-bearing beauty is on thee beaming;

So that Saturn's world-aged spirit-inwardness
Doth to space's being and to ages now aborning consecrate thee.

~The Easter Festival in relation to the Mysteries lec. 2 Moon-birth and Sun-birth. Necessity and Freedom. Stages of the Ancient Easter Initiation

Stand in the porch of Man's life-entrance,
Read thereon the World's writ sentence.

Dwell in the soul of Man within,
Feel, in its pulsing, Worlds begin.

Think upon Man's earthly ending,
Find therein the Spirit's wending.

~Background of the Mystery of Golgotha -Pre-Earthly Deeds of Christ, March 7th, 1914

In the Primal Beginning was the Word
And the Word was with God
And a God was the Word.
The same was in the Primal Beginning with God.
It was there where all things came into being,
And nothing came into being but through the Word.
In the Word was the Life, and the Life was the Light of men.

In the Primal Beginning is the Thought,
And the Thought is with God,
And a God-like being is the Thought.
In it is Life,
And the Life shall become the Light of my Ego.
And may the Divine Thought shine into my Ego
That the darkness of my Ego may grasp the Thought Divine.

In the Primal Beginning is the Thought,
And Infinite is the Thought.
And the Life of the Thought is the Light of the Ego.
May light-giving Thought fill the Darkness of my Ego,
That the Darkness of my Ego may grasp the Living Thought
And live and weave in its Divine Primal Beginning.

In the Primal Beginning is Memory,
And the Memory lives on further,
And Divine is the Memory.
And the Memory is Life.
And this Life is the Ego of Man
Which streams into Man himself,
Not he alone, the Christ in him.
When he remembers the Divine Life
In his Memory is the Christ.
And as the radiant Life of Memory
Christ will pour Light
Into every Darkness of the immediate present.

In the Primal Beginning was the power of Memory.
The power of Memory shall become Divine;
And a Divinity shall the power of Memory become.
All that arises within the Ego shall become
Something which has arisen
Out of the Christ-permeated, God-permeated Memory.
In it shall be the Life;
In it shall be the radiant Light
Which, out of the Thinking which remembers,
Shines into the Darkness of the present time.
May that Darkness as it is to-day
Comprehend the Light of the Memory which has become Divine!