

# Excerpts from Ann Arbor Lecture November 5<sup>th</sup> Notes

By Mary Stewart Adams

Herewith please find my notes and references:

Though I didn't speak it, here is a verse from Rudolf Steiner that I often use to acknowledge Earth before journeying through the stars in my thinking:

*What we bury deep  
In earth to sleep  
Wrap of earth must be.  
What we love,  
abides above  
all through eternity.*

The verse "Stars spoke once to Man", given by Rudolf Steiner to Marie Steiner, December 1922, served as an introduction to understanding humanity's evolution in star knowledge from *astrology* to *astronomy* to *astrosophy* (I have written about this for the 2014 Stella Natura Calendar). The "stars speaking" refers to the flourish of the astro-logos, or star word from the Ancient Egyptian/Chaldean epoch of around 3000 BC.

The "world destiny" that results in the silence of the stars refers to the beginning of astronomy, the body of knowledge regarding the physical composition of our celestial environment, is a reference to the period known as the Copernican Revolution of the 16th and 17th century, when views of our place in the cosmic order shifted from geocentric (earth-centered) to helio-centric (sun-centered). Our own 'speaking to the stars', the astrosophia or 'star wisdom' is introduced by Rudolf Steiner at the beginning of the 20th century and remains a mystery of our becoming consciousness.

I used a reference to the Catholic Church's denouncing Galileo and astronomical research, after also turning away from the ancient astrology, only to find itself bereft of a star knowledge. In the 1960s, the Church exonerated Galileo and built an observatory, in search of a star knowledge that would be commensurate with its spiritual views. I spoke of astrosophy in this context as "The Christ in astronomy".

Just a few weeks after Rudolf Steiner gave this verse to Marie Steiner, the first Goetheanum burned to the ground. One year later, at the Christmas Conference 1923-24 when Rudolf Steiner re-founded the Anthroposophical Society, he performed a deed that demonstrated how we speak to the stars. This deed is found in the Foundation Stone meditation, which is a gesture rendered in word of the deed he had performed prior in laying the Foundation Stone into the Earth, at 20 September, 1913.

At the time of Christmas-New Year's each year, the star cluster of the Pleiades comes to its culmination, its highest place across our skies. In Native American tradition of Great Lakes,

this is the time for celebrating the New Year, as storied in the tale of the young warriors who seek to imitate the ceremony of the elders but find themselves drifting into the sky. They become the star cluster we know as Pleiades, and a mighty voice instructs the tribe that they must celebrate the New Year five sleeps after the New Moon when Pleiades is highest.

The brightest star in Pleiades has the name Alcyone, which means Foundation Stone.

When the Foundation Stone was laid into the Earth, Rudolf Steiner mentioned/invoked the planet Mercury. Why Mercury? According to researches of Willi Sucher, who developed astrosophy, it is during "Old Moon" phase of Earth evolution that the seed is planted into human astral body for individualized Ego. There is a danger in this development, because Man may eventually turn entirely away from spiritual origins. This danger is inscribed in the Mercury sphere. When Rudolf Steiner invokes Mercury at the laying of the Foundation Stone, it serves as an antidote to this danger, since this stone is laid as the foundation for building a spiritual community in the world.

When Rudolf Steiner died in March 1925, the planet Saturn was 13 degrees Scorpio, tropical zodiac. The position of the planets at one's death can reveal the nature of one's deeds. Saturn can indicate structure, organization. At our gathering November 5, 2013, Saturn occupied 13 Scorpio again, as it has done several times since Rudolf Steiner's death. Since we are at the 100th anniversary of the laying of the Foundation Stone, it is also significant that Mercury met Saturn at 13 Scorpio on 29 October, and at our gathering, November 5, the Sun met Saturn at 13 Scorpio. This is like a sounding out from the spiritual cosmos regarding deeds accomplished on earth.

I spoke of my first encounter with Hazel Straker at Steiner House, February 1995, exactly 18.6 years ago (one Moon Node). At this lecture, Hazel spoke about Rudolf Steiner's lecture of January 25, 1910 in Karlsruhe, where he began to speak for the first time about the greatest mystery of our time: *The True Nature of the Second Coming*. Though his hosts saw that there was a 'cardinal grand cross' astrologically, and asked him to change his topic or his date, he refused, saying he would come on that date and speak about that topic.

The cardinal signs are Aries, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn. The word 'cardinal' derives from the Latin and means 'hinge'. These are regarded as the 'hinge' signs because it is the Sun's ingress into each of these signs that brings the new season.

Rudolf Steiner chose to speak of St Paul's conversion because it is an example of how contemporary humanity will encounter the Christ from the etheric realm (see Acts of the Apostles ch 9). At Easter, April 20, 2014, we will have a similar 'cardinal cross', though there are two different planets involved. The 1910 cardinal cross included Saturn in Aries, square Neptune in Cancer, opposite Jupiter in Libra; square Uranus in Capricorn. The 2014 cardinal cross includes Uranus in Aries, square Jupiter in Cancer, opposite Mars retrograde in Libra, square Pluto in Capricorn.

We did not make astrological predictions regarding these planets in these positions. Rather, we considered what Hazel Straker described as the sounding forth of a note from the great cosmic lyre that is constructed out of the deeds of man on earth and which embraces the world. The substance of human deeds and striving on earth 'builds' or 'informs' this lyre, and when the planetary configurations repeat, it is as though a mighty note rings out, and it is for us to hear it.

So here we have Saturn occupying the same degree as at Rudolf Steiner death, met by Mercury, which was invoked at laying of Foundation Stone, and the Sun radiating from this same place. We also have the recurrence of a cardinal cross, which marked Rudolf Steiner first speaking about the greatest mystery of our time (the True Nature of the Second Coming), repeating at Easter, April 20, 2014. And this Easter date, determined as it is by the relationship between Sun and Mon at celestial equator, is indicated this year by a Vernal Full Moon that will be totally eclipsed.

We spoke about eclipses, and how thoughts stream down in darkness at lunar eclipse; unbridled will forces stream toward cosmos at solar eclipse. But this latter is like a safety valve on a steam engine that ensures there will be a diluted consequence to an otherwise more powerful experience.

To follow this cosmic gesture, or to 'prepare' for it, we can use the Holy Nights from Christmas to Epiphany. There are many different approaches to the Holy Nights, no one right or wrong. What matters most is that we undertake to engage with the season and the possibility for clearer relationship to the starry worlds. While the Holy Nights allow for connection with starry world, the Holy Week at Eastertide can foster harmonizing within the rhythm of planetary spheres.

From Adrian Anderson's book *Living a Spiritual Year* we learn about the moment of midnight between New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, that at this moment, the human soul is released from the folk soul, and its highest wishes are witnessed/heard by the higher hierarchies. This makes of the New Year's Eve night a sublime moment, standing over and against the regular course of nights from Christmas to Epiphany.

The sequence of days I follow is relative to the ascending and descending signs of the zodiac, and goes like this:

First Holy Night, Dec 24-25 ~ Aries  
2nd Dec 25-26 ~Taurus  
Dec 26-27 ~ Gemini  
Dec 27-28 ~ Cancer  
Dec 28-29 ~ Leo  
Dec 29-30 ~ Virgo  
Dec 30-31 ~ Libra (*this completes ascending signs*)  
DEC 31-JAN 1 ~ 13th Hidden holy Night (see above)  
Jan 1-2 ~ Scorpio  
Jan 2-3 ~ Sagittarius  
Jan 3-4 ~ Capricorn  
Jan 4-5 ~ Aquarius  
Jan 5-6 ~ Pisces (also known as 12th night)  
(*this completes descending forces of zodiac*)

Bodily relationships from ancient astrological tradition are as follows: Aries-head; Taurus-larynx; Gemini-limbs; Cancer-rib cage; Leo-heart; Virgo-inner organism (stomach, spleen, liver, kidneys, etc); Libra-hip; Scorpio-reproductive region; Sagittarius-thigh; Capricorn-knee joints; Aquarius-calf, shin; Pisces-feet.

I spoke about the New Images of the Zodiac created by Imma von Eckardstein in colleagueship with Rudolf Steiner for the original *Calendar of the Soul*, and how the original calendar had three component parts that included these new images across the top of pages where dates were listed that included the feast days and name days, as well as the Moon images of zodiac alongside, with Soul Calendar verses at back. Sun zodiac images were included following the sidereal zodiac, whereas Moon images followed the tropical zodiac.

Rudolf Steiner instructed the artists to recreate these images each year during the Holy Nights as a way to 'weave a basket' for gathering the spiritual fruits that were ripening toward us in the coming year. To not prepare for receiving these fruits means they will ripen, drop to earth, and rot.

Knowing that we have total lunar eclipse followed by cardinal grand cross at Easter 2014, we can build toward it throughout Holy Nights activity from 2013-2014.

"We are assembled at the propitious hour; let each perform his task, let each do his duty; and a universal happiness will swallow-up our individual sorrows, as a universal grief consumes individual joys." from Goethe's *Fairy Tale of the "Green Snake and the Beautiful Lily"*

### **Books mentioned and used for research/background:**

\*Cycles of Becoming by Alexander Rupert, student of Dane Rhudyar (humanistic astrology)

\*The End of Night, Searching for Natural Darkness in a World of Artificial Light by Paul Bogard (dark sky advocacy and info regarding light pollution, nocturnal habitat, human circadian rhythms, etc)

\*"The True Nature of the Second Coming" lecture given by Rudolf Steiner at Karlsruhe, 25 January, 1910 (Feast of St Paul), and available

here: [http://wn.rsarchive.org/Religion/TruNat\\_index.html](http://wn.rsarchive.org/Religion/TruNat_index.html)

\*Anthroposophy and Astrology~The Astronomical Letters of Elizabeth Vreede letter #1, year two "When Mercury Stood in Libra" regarding the position of the planet Mercury in the tropical sign Libra at the laying of the Foundation Stone 100 years ago, September 20, 1913

\*Occult Science by Rudolf Steiner, and Isis Sophia~Outline of a New Star Wisdom by Willi Sucher for information about Old Moon phase of Earth evolution and the seed of individuality planted into human astral body

\*Theosophy by Rudolf Steiner for information regarding spiritual organization of human being, incl astral body

\*The Christmas Conference 1923-24 for info regarding refounding of Society after the burning of the 1st Goetheanum

\*The Foundation Stone by Zeylmans von Emmichoven for further information on the Foundation Stone as a meditation, and Mercury

\*"Human Questions, Cosmic Answers" lecture by Rudolf Steiner, re: nature of eclipses, and available here: [http://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/HumanCosmic/HumCos\\_index.html](http://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/HumanCosmic/HumCos_index.html)

\*Living a Spiritual Year by Adrian Anderson regarding the Holy Nights

\*I use Neil F Michelsen's American Ephemeris for the 20th Century 1900 to 2000, and same for 2000-2050 for locating planet positions in tropical zodiac ~ including identifying position of Mercury at laying of Foundation Stone in 1913; identifying cardinal grand cross January 25, 1910 and Easter, April 20, 2014; position of Saturn at 13 degrees Scorpio at RS death 30 March, 1925 and during our gathering, 5 November, 2013.

\*Star Lore, Their Names and Meaning by Richard Hinckley Allen for information regarding Pleiades and the brightest star Alcyone, which name means 'foundation stone' and the date of its culmination

\*Star Songs and Water Spirits edited by Victoria Brehm, a narrative reader of Native American tales of Great Lakes region, including the story of Pleiades and determining the date for New Year

\*MSU Abrams Planetarium Sky Calendar; info

here: <http://www.pa.msu.edu/abrams/skycalendar/>

\*John Donne poetry excerpt from his poem "First Anniversary" (line 205+) regarding Galileo's use of telescope to confirm heliocentric views of Copernicus in 1609-10, available here: <http://www.bartleby.com/357/169.html>

\*Information regarding the Headlands International Dark Sky Park can be found here:

[www.emmetcounty.org/darkskypark/](http://www.emmetcounty.org/darkskypark/)