

In Consideration of The Holy Nights of Christmas

By Mary Stewart Adams

2014-15

The Holy Nights from the eve of the Sacred Birth to 12th Night (or Epiphany eve) provide an opportunity in the yearly course of time to settle into contemplation of the Human Being as a Star unfolding in an Earthly biography.

Each of the 12 days and 13 nights~from midnight December 24th to dawn January 6th~ can be regarded as a microcosmic experience of the macrocosm, allowing us to approach the sublime gesture of the divine spiritual beings whose outer vestments are each of the several constellations of the zodiac. And this we can do while simultaneously contemplating the events in our own lives, in order to uncover the golden threads connecting us to one another, to the goals of Earth evolution, and to the divine spiritual nature that comes to birth again and again at this darkest time of year.

Please note that there are many ways to consider this sacred time, making the most important element not *how* you do it, but rather whether or not you do it. In this approach, the 13 nights will be aligned to the descending and ascending forces of the zodiac as they relate to the human physical form, and this relative to the constellations as they are understood in the tropical zodiac.

In speaking about the forces of the zodiac, Rudolf Steiner described how these forces are not related to the human being all in the same way~there are those that have descended from the spiritual cosmos and are already an ‘ascending force’; and there are those that are still ‘descending’, awaiting transformation by and through the experience of the human being. The ‘ascending signs’ with their bodily correspondence include: Aries/head; Taurus/larynx; Gemini/limbs; Cancer/rib cage; Leo/heart; Virgo/inner organs; Libra/hip. This point of balance that is reached in the human form at the region of the hip can be regarded as a ‘dividing line’ within the human form, of capacities that are freed upward, while the remaining five signs/body members can be experienced as still actively ‘descending-to-earth’:
Scorpio/reproductive organs; Sagittarius/thigh; Capricorn/knee joint; Aquarius/shin; Pisces/feet. Though there is a great deal to be studied in this regard, this list will not here be expounded upon, but is rather included to support the following approach to contemplation of the Holy Nights.

One can imagine the Holy ‘Night’ to begin with sunset and to extend until dawn. There are, in this case, 13 nights from sunset December 24 until dawn January 6. The 13th Holy night is as though hidden in the midst of these sacred nights, occurring

neither at the beginning nor the end, but at that seeming ‘dividing line’ between the forces of the zodiac that are ascending and descending; in other words, between Libra and Scorpio, which makes it New Year’s Eve. The majesty and mystery of this 13th Hidden Holy Night was described by Rudolf Steiner the following way: *On New Year’s Eve our folk soul briefly releases us & consequently what we then think is perceived by the highest hierarchies & has the power in it to be brought into reality.*

Any attempt we can make to prepare for this sacred moment, and to encounter the preparation for it that is the earthly life we pursue and anticipate as Sun seems to circle us ‘round, can work to stem the tide of chaos that would otherwise course through our lives.

Herewith, the list of Holy Nights and their correspondence to the signs of the zodiac:

Sunset December 24 (Christmas Eve) to dawn December 25 (Christmas day)~
1st Holy Night/Aries

December 25 to December 26~2nd Holy Night/Taurus

December 26 to December 27~3rd Holy Night/Gemini

December 27 to December 28~4th Holy Night/Cancer

December 28 to December 29~5th Holy Night/Leo

December 29 to December 30~6th Holy Night/Virgo

December 30 to December 31~7th Holy Night/Libra

This completes contemplation of the ascending forces of the zodiac, from Aries to Libra

New Year’s Eve, December 31st to dawn New Year’s Day, January 1st is regarded as the 13th Hidden Holy Night when, at the sacred moment of midnight, *what we think is perceived by the highest hierarchies and has the power to be brought into reality.*

The order continues...

January 1 to January 2~8th Holy Night/Scorpio

January 2 to January 3~9th Holy Night/Sagittarius

January 3 to January 4~10th Holy Night/Capricorn

January 4 to January 5~11th Holy Night/Aquarius

January 5 to January 6~12th Night/Pisces

The cycle culminates with Epiphany, January 6, when the Kings arrive to witness that the sacred birth has taken place, following the star they recognized through the wisdom in their heads; just as at the outset of these Holy Nights, the shepherds heard the call of the Angelic host in the sacred chamber of their hearts, leading them on to the same sacred birth. “At the turning point of time, the Spirit-Light of the World entered the stream of Earthly Evolution. Darkness of Night had held its sway; Day-radiant Light poured into the souls of men: Light that gave warmth to simple shepherds’ hearts, Light that enlightened the wise heads of kings...”

What you will need:

1. A journal of blank pages (main lesson books are ideal), with at least two pages for each of the 13 Nights (so, 26 pages minimum)
2. New Images of the Zodiac; the 12 Virtues as assigned to the zodiac by Rudolf Steiner
3. Chalk, colored pencils, paints, any artistic medium of choice

What to do:

1. Leave the first journal page blank~this can be the space for making the journal your own by creating an appropriate image, or recreating the image that appeared three times in the original Calendar of the Soul (once at the beginning, in the middle, and at the end) of the Christ Being descending in the form of a dove from the spiritual world into the Earth and from there, ascending. This image is included in the New Images of the Zodiac poster available at www.fairytalemoons.com, as well as in the facsimile of the original calendar on sale at steinerbooks.com. You may also find it on my webinar with the Anthroposophical Society at anthroposophy.org
2. Set up the following journal pages according to the order of Holy Nights and the sign of the zodiac to which each corresponds; 2 pages for Aries/1st Holy Night’ next two pages Taurus/2nd Holy Night, and so on...
3. On each Holy Night, at sunset (or sometime throughout the day, but before midnight), review the events of your life from the time when the Sun moved through the corresponding region of the zodiac. For example, on the first Holy Night, from December 24 to December 25, consider what was occurring in your life when the Sun moved through the region of Aries, which was March 20 to April 19, 2014. What you seek to do is to call forth the ‘mood’ of Sun in Aries. The following morning, note your dream or anything that you bear with you back from sleep into the day wake. Then, draw/paint/sketch the new image of the zodiac for Aries, and jot down your

expectations/intentions/imaginings for Sun in Aries next year, 2015. In this way you are looking both forward and back from the sacred space in time where we are graced with knowledge of a strengthened connection between the Earth and stars.

That evening, which will be the 2nd Holy Night from December 25 to December 26, consider the events in your life as they were experienced when the Sun moved through the region of Taurus, April 20 to May 19, 2014. The following morning, create the image for Taurus, and consider your intentions for this period of time 2015 (*a list of Sun in each of the 12 signs of the tropical zodiac follows*).

4. Note on the page where you intend to include your imagination/intention/plans for 2015 that there will be certain celestial events also occurring, which you would prepare for by anticipation during these Holy Nights. *A list follows.*
5. Review this journal each month throughout the coming year, according to the Sun's movement into each of the 12 signs, an activity that strengthens your own knowing about the mood and relationship between the human biography and the stars.
6. Note that once you arrive at the 10th Holy Night, which in this consideration corresponds to Capricorn, you will not have dates to look back on, because the Sun is in the region of Capricorn during the Holy Nights. This is a time for contemplation of the present; followed by 11th Holy Night of the future with Aquarius; culminating in the 12th Night with Pisces, the region of the zodiac through which man attains full ascension of zodiacal forces through the human form (a contemplation of Raphael's *Transfiguration* supports this consideration).

Dates of Sun in the Tropical Zodiac:

Include these dates on the page you will use to contemplate that time in your life

Aries~March 20 to April 20 (1st Holy Night)

Taurus~April 21 to May 20 (2nd Holy Night)

Gemini~May 21 to June 21 (3rd Holy Night)

Cancer~June 22 to July 22 (4th Holy Night)

Leo~July 23 to August 22 (5th Holy Night)

Virgo~August 23 to September 22 (6th Holy Night)

Libra~September 23 to October 23 (7th Holy Night)

Scorpio~October 24 to November 22 (8th Holy Night)

Sagittarius~November 23 to December 20 (9th Holy Night)

Capricorn~December 21 to January 20 (10th Holy Night)

Aquarius~January 20 to February 19 (11th Holy Night)

Pisces~February 20 to March 19 (12th Holy Night)

Dates of celestial highlights in 2015 that can be anticipated through these Holy Nights:

Total Solar and Total Lunar Eclipses, March 20 and April 4, when Sun moves through Aries region of tropical zodiac (corresponds to 1st Holy Night)

Total Lunar Eclipse September 27-28. As Sun moves through Libra stars (corresponds to 7th Holy Night)

Blue Moon July 31st, as Sun moves through Leo (corresponds to 5th Holy Night)

Perseid Meteor Shower August 12-13 (corresponds to Sun in Leo, 5th Holy Night)

Sun/Uranus opposition October 11-12 (corresponds to Libra/7th Holy Night)

Christmas 2015 Full Moon/Super Moon (corresponds to Capricorn/10th Holy Night)

Consider on what night you will meet the overseeing angel of your birth, or the angels of loved ones. For example, if you are born in late October/Scorpio, then imagine the meeting with your angel occurs the 8th Holy Night...

By recreating the New Images of the Zodiac from the original Calendar of the Soul, it is as though we are weaving a basket into which the ripening fruits of the spiritual New Year may be gathered. Journaling in this manner does not attempt to foresee the future, but to enable it. *There will be many questions~live with them!*

Also note that I am grateful for our working together in this manner, and that I am pleased to share I will be at the Goetheanum for this year's Christmas Conference, and will present on my calendar work during the Astronomy Study Days hosted by the Mathematics/Astronomy Section January 2-4, 2015. Information can be found here: <http://www.goetheanum.org/Astronomical-Study-Days.6727.0.html?c&L=1>

In gratitude, with love and friendship,

Mary Stewart Adams

May peace on Earth reign among men of good will