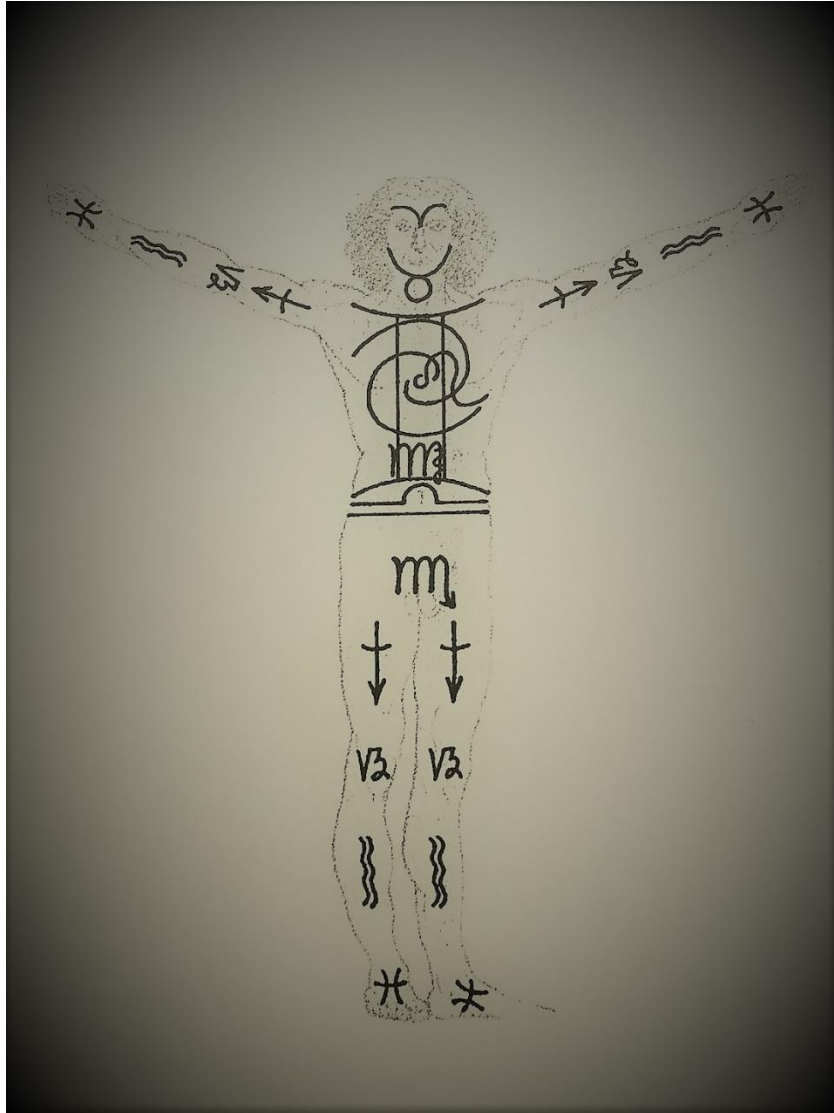


The 12 Holy Nights of Christmas and the Incorruptible Body



For those who have followed my articles over the past few years, you will be aware that much has been written about Pluto, particularly in relation to the Great Conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter at Christmas 2020 and its location in the body of the stars of Sagittarius continuing into 2024. During 2020 both Jupiter and Saturn met Pluto in the stars of the Archer, before coming together in the Great Conjunction just into Capricorn only a few degrees away from Pluto. From my astrosophical perspective this has been a call from the Cosmic Intelligences for a new awakening to the true nature of the human being, even an initiation, as a spiritual being in our current hyper-materialistic world. It is a world consciousness that threatens the proper evolution of humanity forwards. The Great Conjunction itself was and continues to be a great call from the highest spheres of the world evolutionary beings of Saturn and Jupiter for a new annunciation in humanity as this Great Conjunction is the descendant of the Star of the Magi, which was the original annunciation of the world changing event of the incarnation of the Solar Logos into earthly material form, into a human form. Pluto encountering these great planets would challenge us to a

revolutionary new perspective, penetrating even into the deepest will, of the truly human as represented for us in the Christ's transformative force in the human "I" even down into the human bodily form. The stars of Sagittarius where Pluto has been for years (it crosses into Capricorn in 2024) is itself an image of the human being, lower animal body from which the human torso/heart region emerges who is aiming with his bow for a distant goal. Yet Pluto also has a shadow nature, particularly in our times, which reveals itself in the ascent of the activity of the third adversarial powers, the Asuras, particularly in relation to their primary attacks on the human ego and the human physical body, or one could say the human physical form, which is the expression of the ego. They particularly manifested in the global event of Covid 19 and the responses to it by world governments. They reveal their activity in multiple forms which can be seen in the lower animalization of human life, particularly in calculated, even pleasurable, killing and torture. We see now so many threats to a spiritual life which can realize the true nature of the human ego, the one who is aiming the bow. Some of these are transhumanism and biotechnology; identity politics which circumscribes the human I into a narrow identity bound to physical qualities such as race, gender, ethnicity; and the immense polarization and hatred among humans.

For this reason, I am sending out this article (somewhat edited) which I wrote at Christmas, 2018 on the Holy Nights in relation to the human form and its cosmic nature. For those who have read my book or watched the video course, this relation of the zodiac to the human form will be familiar. These Holy Nights can offer an especially potent opportunity to live deeply in to the question of our true humanity, our true Ego and its expression in our human bodily form, which all humans share. It can become a seed inspiration that can be further realized in the Easter imagination of the Resurrection Body as a picture of the highest realization of Pluto, which is the transformed will and the realization of Spirit Human as our future goal of the fully transformed human form.

Rudolf Steiner describes the correlation between the human form and the ego as follows:

The one and only expression for our I, it is the human form...In other words, in all the vast realm of our experience there is one thing -- the human form -- which is the expression of the human being. It sounds a trivial thing to say, but it is in reality one of the most important utterances that can be made, and one upon which we do well to ponder and meditate. (GA 137, Oslo, June, 1912)

Thus, the human form is the expression of our ego, our "I". It is inseparable from it. Rudolf Steiner then proceeds in these lectures to elaborate this true human form through a description of the human form in relation to the great periphery of our solar cosmos, the twelve-fold zodiac.

Why are these 12 days of Christmas a potent opportunity? Why 12 days? There is an astronomical basis which can serve as a portal to a deeper spiritual understanding. The lunar year is composed of 12 full moons, one in each constellation of the zodiac. Each cycle of full moon to full moon takes 29.5 days, times 12 equals 354 days, the lunar year, which was the calendar basis for many ancient religions, even many to this day. The solar calendar is of course based on the apparent passage of the Sun through the twelve constellations and returning to the same point in 365 days plus about 5 hours, which accounts for our leap year every four years. The difference between the solar year and the lunar year is then about 12 days. An additional astronomical phenomenon is that the lunar calendar and the solar calendar, which then have different cycles due to the difference in length, actually do come into alignment every 33 years. So here we find the significant Christic number of 33 as the rhythmic cycle between when the lunar and solar calendars coincide.

Thus, these Holy Days of Christmas represent a special time, when for twelve days the solar year is, so to speak, outside the lunar year. These are twelve days in which the solar forces can be accessible directly

to our consciousness, without the "filter" or intervening sphere of the Moon influence. One can think of this in the sense that the Moon sphere is connected with the soul world and the time before birth when we weave our soul and spiritual cosmic nature into the physical body and the hereditary forces of the Earth. The Moon sphere is connected with our embodiment into Earth existence. The Sun realm is that realm which is the entrance to the true spiritual world from the soul world. It carries the activity of the higher beings of the Sun sphere. Now these spheres can be viewed from many perspectives in their activity. But for this article we can ask: Who are the solar intelligences which are so accessible in these Holy Nights? They are the Elohim, also called the Exusiai or the Spirits of Form. They are the beings who shape and form the spiritual life and substance offered by the higher beings of our solar cosmos and beyond. When we think of the Sun we must not think only of the fiery disc in the sky. This is actually the least spiritual aspect of the Sun. The true Sun of the Elohim permeates our entire solar cosmos out to the periphery of our solar system zodiac. So, in these Holy Nights we have a special potential with regard to the Elohim, the Spirits of Form and to formative forces altogether. It is during these Holy Nights that the seeds which are now asleep in the Earth receive the forms which they will unfold as tree, or herb, or grass. They are imprinted with their true form during these nights out of cosmic formative forces. So, the rose will unfold into the five-pointed flower or the lily into the six-pointed flower, etc. All the plants reflect the forms of the heavens which are impressed into the seed during these twelve days as its spiritual genetic code.

But what then is our human relationship to these Elohim, the Spirits of Form? How can the Holy Nights of Christmas become an ever more conscious and renewed relationship to the cosmic Sun forces as well as the greater Sun which is now united with the Earth?

To answer, let us begin with the beginning.

In the book of Genesis, the first two chapters tell the Creation story in mighty imaginative pictures. But they tell two different stories of Creation. Let us focus on the sections which tell of the creation of Adam. Chapter 1 states that *"God created man in his image, in his own image God created him; male and female he created him."* The Hebrew word for God is the plural Elohim. The word for man is the Hebrew word "A-dam" which means human being, not just man in the limited gender sense of today. In fact, the text does not say "male and female" implying two beings, but should rather be translated male/female, one being before the separation into genders. And the word "image" in Hebrew can also be translated as "phantom", "representative form", "resemblance".

In Chapter 2 of Genesis, we read also about the creation of A-dam, but a quite different creation story. *"The Lord God formed man of the dust of the earth and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul."* Genesis then later goes on to describe the creation of woman out of the rib of Adam as a separate being. The word Lord God used in Chapter 2 is the Hebrew word Jehovah or Yahweh, not Elohim as in chapter 1. This story brings in the "dust of the earth", whereas the first story only speaks of "man" as the image of the Elohim.

So, in Chapter 1 we have the story of the Elohim, the Spirits of Form, creating Adam, a cosmic archetypal Adam. In Chapter 2, at a later time, when there was the "dust of the earth", we have Jehovah (or Yahweh), the god of the Hebrew people, creating Adam from dust of the earth and breathing life and soul into him. Who was Jehovah? Jehovah was the leader of the Elohim on the Sun before the Earth, in cosmic evolution, had to be separated out from the Sun due to its further densification process. The Sun Elohim world was too rarefied to hold the Earth in its evolutionary progression and so separated out. However, Jehovah sacrificed to remain with the Earth. Later when the Moon had to separate out from

the Earth sphere, Jehovah took his abode in the Moon sphere. From there he served to reflect the higher Sun for the Earth. He became the Moon Elohim deity, whereas the other Elohim remained as the Sun deities. There are indeed great mysteries in this story, for in Jehovah we can see the role taken by the Moon in the task of embodiment to serve human evolution. We can see the difference between the reflected light and the pure solar light. We can see the role of Jehovah as the god of the Hebrew people in their task to keep the hereditary bloodline pure for the preparation of the eventual bodily vessel of the Messiah. This is of course a profound study, which goes beyond the intent of this article.

Let us now move on with our theme. If the Elohim, the Spirits of Form, created Adam, the cosmic human form, what is the nature of this form and from where does it come? Rudolf Steiner reveals answers to the question: What is the central significance of our human form?

But first let us return to Christmas and the birth of Jesus.

As Genesis has two creation stories, so too Christmas has two creation stories, two genealogies of Jesus. In Luke we are told of the poor family in the stable, the birth with the animals and the shepherds coming to worship the pure infant. Legends say that this child in the stable radiated light and spoke as soon as he was born. In Matthew we have a house to which the Magi from the east come to greet the royal child whose birth they foresaw in the stars. In Luke, the genealogy of Jesus goes all the way back to Adam. In Matthew the genealogy goes back to Abraham. But there is one key distinction to notice which makes all the difference. The genealogy in Matthew follows the line from David to his son King Solomon and on to the birth of Jesus. The genealogy in Luke also follows the line up to David, but then continues with his son Nathan on to Jesus. Thus, we have two streams of ancestors that divide after King David. Historically in Judaism it is noted that David had several children who included Solomon and Nathan. They were both children born of Bat-Sheba. Here we could develop a whole other research line around the mystery realities underlying the story of David and Bat-sheba. But for now, only note that both Solomon and Nathan were born of Bat-Sheba and King David. But this child Nathan is nowhere mentioned in the Old Testament, whereas Solomon is well known as the great King Solomon, author of the Proverbs who built the Temple. Solomon carried the exoteric kingly line of David. Nathan carried the esoteric Priestly stream, the hidden mystery stream. This is a truth in all history -- there is the exoteric historical story and the hidden esoteric realities.

So, who was Nathan and who was this Jesus, descended from him? In Nathan is a physical blood line genealogy indicated? Or is it perhaps a spiritual genealogy carried by the Nathan line in the Mysteries? In Hebrew it is Natan, meaning "He gave". Who is the "He" who gave? The name Natan is also a palindrome, meaning a word that is the same spelled backward and forward which indicates an association with the Mysteries. It is a mystery initiate title name. Is Natan a historical name or is it a title? Or is it both? An understanding of the nature of the Nathan Jesus can help with this question. Again, Rudolf Steiner provides insight in describing the nature of the Nathan child. He describes when and how our human egos (i.e. form) began the process of incarnating into earthly bodies, the body "made of the dust of the earth", and through which began our participation in the "Fall", the decline and separation of our ego, of our form, from the Elohim, from "God".

*Those Egos who have since continued to incarnate were not present in men on Earth. They were not yet separate from the substance of that hierarchy which first brought the human Ego into being: the hierarchy of the Spirits of Form. ...But when in due time man was given over to physical incarnations on the Earth, something was held back. A certain Ego substance was not brought into the stream of physical incarnations...Instead **this Ego preserved the form** which man had before proceeding to his first earthly*

incarnation...the Ego of Adam before his first embodiment in the flesh. (GA 131, Karlsruhe, October, 1911)

The Nathan Child brought into incarnation for the first time the Adam of Chapter 1 of Genesis created by the Elohim, the Spirits of Form. Rudolf Steiner goes on to describe how this Ego/Form substance which was held back was given into the care of the most Holy Mysteries through Atlantean and post-Atlantean times, "*preserved in an important Mystery Center, as in a tabernacle*" (GA 131). This is the genealogy of the Priestly line of Nathan and the sacred Sun Mysteries of the Elohim which protected the pure human Ego, the human uncorrupted Form, in preparation and readiness for the incarnation of the Logos. In the exoteric Old Testament, the content is focused on the line of the Jehovah stream, the preparation of a body with pure blood lines of the Chosen people of Israel. But there are also indications of the Sun Priests in the Old Testament, as in the story of Melchizedek, who brings out bread and wine and blesses Abraham. It is not the offering of the blood sacrifice of the Hebrews, but the offering of the Sun symbols of bread and wine. There are also the two sacred Mounts: Mount Zion and Mount Moriah. On Mount Moriah the Temple in Jerusalem is built and is the home of the High Priest Sadducees. Mount Zion is the Sun Mount where the Sun Mysteries were preserved and on which the Last Supper took place in the "upper room".

So, what is this preserved human Ego Form, the 1st Adam described in Chapter 1 of Genesis?

If we return to the Oslo lecture cycle referred to previously, Rudolf Steiner creates this Form, which has over evolution taken on more and more material physicality, but which also contains the original uncorrupted ideal. It is the Form of the Zodiac. The Spirits of Form shaped out of the 12 forces of the highest hierarchies, each with its own unique quality, the totality of the Human Form as intended by the Originators of our human evolution. The Zodiac symbols now are a dim shadow picture of the activities of mighty cosmic Beings. This 1st Adam is the same Adam known in the ancient esoteric Hebrew tradition of the Kabbalah as Adam Kadmon. (image below)



Let us build this human form. In doing so, I ask that you not only consider the physical bodily expression of the zodiac constellation but more importantly the dynamic quality and spiritual power of this Form,

which we all share as human beings. In truth, the non-material physical body is a body of dynamic forces. Just as we all universally share the human "I", we also all share the universal human form in which we are not divided by physical material bodies of race, ethnicity, gender, etc. The cover image of this article is a representation of this archetypal human physical form.

ARIES orientation to uprightness. A fundamental quality of humanness. Notice how the toddler thrills at standing upright. It is the joy of the emerging ego experience. The ego experience and the upright human form go together. In the symbol for Aries, we also see the line of the brow and nose, the downward thrust of the form and so the association with the head and thought. In this we can explore also the relation of thinking to uprightness.

TAURUS orientation to speech, in the broad sense of the word speech, meaning the expression of the inner life in sounding, but not simply sound as the animal can make, but sound that shapes meaning, logos. This has evolved to physical speech in which lies the germ of the future power of the word as creative force. The symbol for Taurus shows the area of the throat and larynx including the ear canals also associated with speech/hearing.

GEMINI symmetry in the broad sense, as we experience it now in our relationship to left and right and the symmetry reflected in our bodily form. It is our means of orientation in the outer environment. In the symbol we see the two lines parallel like the long spinal column dividing us into left and right sides.

CANCER the enclosure into itself, the gesture towards self-containment. In the first three we have a relation to the outer environment but now the gesture turns towards the inner with the orientation to enclosure within. It is reflected now in our thorax, our rib cage, which is the house of our inner organs, inner life.

LEO rhythmical interrelation between the inner and outer, or the active inner forms (organs) which have both an inner quality as well as a relation to the outer environment. These are reflected bodily in our organs of lungs and heart which are both inner yet highly related to the outer environment.

VIRGO the true inside. With Virgo we have now gone deeply into the enclosure, the inner world of our form and come to the inner mysteries. Here is where the mysteries of transubstantiation take place. In our bodies it is the area of digestion and the intestines and the transformation of material foods into life and energy to support consciousness.

LIBRA the Scales. Here we turn now outward again in the capacity for balance in the broad sense. In the human form we have the region of the above and below and our balance between them in order to orient ourselves to the lower world of walking, the limbs. In Libra there is a mighty threshold or portal to the lower human. Physically it is to our pelvic area, the joint of the waist which divides our upper from our lower body.

SCORPIO Continuing in the relation to the outer world again, this is the region of procreation out of the self. It is opposite Taurus and thus the mysteries of creation, of the word, and of procreative forces now physically expressed in our bodies with the sexual organs of procreation.

SAGITTARIUS the force of movement outward into the environment through the will. It is connected bodily with the thigh and the upper arms through which we move our limbs forward/outward into the environment.

CAPRICORN flexibility in meeting the outer environment. Joints in the broad sense, reflected bodily in our elbows and knees. It gives us the capacity to meet the environment not rigidly but to adapt and meet it with flexibility.

AQUARIUS the meeting with the periphery; the touching point expanded now to the periphery in the broadest sense. This is reflected bodily in the calves and the forearms. It is this region where the blood comes nearest to the surface of the skin. One can think of how a mother tests the heat of the baby bottle milk by sprinkling it on the forearm.

PISCES encountering and taking up the periphery. Here we now work with the periphery, engage with it, but in two very distinct ways: the one in meeting and moving through the environment, the walking of our path of destiny. The other through taking up the environment creatively to mold and shape it through the hands.

This is Adam as created by the Elohim. This is the human form before incarnation into the "dust of the earth", and which has evolved over time into our personal physical body with the consequences of the karma of many incarnations. Yet this 1st Adam, Adam Kadmon, the original protected Ego/Form substance incarnated for the first time in the Jesus body described by Luke and took on bodily material form for 30 years until the Christ Ego, coming from beyond our Solar universe, from the most High Trinity united with this form. Here we have the Holy 12 of the Christmas Days as a unity which then meets the 13th day, Epiphany, when the Christ enters the 12-fold form. The 13 Days are then the 12 + 1. This then is the culmination of the Holy Nights and Epiphany which then leads us to the Easter event of the Resurrection and the new incorruptible resurrection body. This is the essence of Easter and a study in itself. The incorruptible body is restored for humanity and accessible to us now through the deed of resurrection. Yet it should not be viewed as just a restoration of the 1st Adam Kadmon form to humanity but an entirely new form permeated now by the ego life in the body, transformed to the new Incorruptible Body. The resurrection, not the cross, is the symbol of Christianity. It is the deed beyond human understanding which is Christianity. It is the restoration and fulfillment of the true human being to which we are striving, now with the power to achieve this goal.

So, over these 12 Holy Days of Christmas, the Sun sphere is open to us in ways not possible in the rest of the year. We can take this time to ponder the human form, the zodiac human ego substance, the twelve-fold periphery which is the expression for our Ego, "the one and only expression". Since the deed of Christ, we can ponder what we "give" to the stars through our union with the transformed body which indwells us now. This ***"is in reality one of the most important utterances that can be made, and one upon which we do well to ponder and meditate."***

I wish you all radiating stillness to ponder and meditate in this special crucible of the Holy Nights.

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