

The Cosmic Heart and the new I AM

Star Events August 11th – 13th

In this article, I will bring together four starry events taking place during this week, which when looked at together with their common theme, can lead us into a more expansive multi-dimensional and living imagination for this time. Included with them is the consideration of the cross-quarter day of August 1st as an overarching picture for the season. These events are, in sequence of how they are presented in the article:

- * **the peak days of the Perseid meteor showers, Aug 11-13**
- * **the Sun entering the stars of Leo, Aug 11**
- * **the inferior conjunction of Venus with the Sun in Leo, Aug 13**
- * **the heliacal rising of Sirius. Aug 10-16 (varying dates based on latitude)**

A book could be written on the esoteric significance of these events coming together during this week. My intent with this short article is to give some indications and thoughts which hopefully you can carry with you during the coming days to, if nothing else, simply encourage an awareness of the great universe of stars around us and their cosmic workings. The first three events occur annually at about the same dates, so you can add them to your ongoing calendar. This year the Venus-Sun conjunction joins them.

One could say that August in general marks a major transition month, starting on August 1st with the cross-quarter day (the midpoint between summer solstice and autumn equinox), which was Lughnasdh to the Celts. It is derived from the combination of the name *Lugh*, who was a god of Sun nature, a savior god, and the word *nas*, or death. Lugh founded this festival as a funeral feast for an earth goddess, akin in some ways to the Persephone story of the Greeks. There are various interpretations, but in general all are related to the Sun forces of life taken up into matter; the dying of the vegetative life into fruits of the harvest, the substance of earth; the ripened grains of wheat which then become the earthly source of life, the bread of life. Under the Christians it became Lamass or “Loaf day,” when with the wheat harvest baked loaves of bread were blessed and broken into four parts by the priests.

In our cosmic age, the Sun transitions out of the stars of Cancer into the stars of Leo on August 11th, which also marks a solar transition away from the turning inward enclosing gesture of Cancer, or one could say the ripening/materializing gesture of Cancer, to a gesture of communion between the higher periphery unmanifest Sun forces and the centric-born Sun seed nature. In one sense during this ripening time, both material fruits for sustenance are created, as well as the new seed for the life to come that is formed and shaped from the periphery. This sun seed force drawn from the periphery for birth in the earth is contained in the nature of the Lion, that same seed force which we call our “I.” We will look later at this cosmic seed force image. We can even see in Leo an image of the healthy cosmic relationship between this higher Sun-I and the centric seed-I we experience as inward self. This can take us to contemplate the questions around the relationship in us between these two I’s and the question of the meaning of “Not I, but Christ in me.”

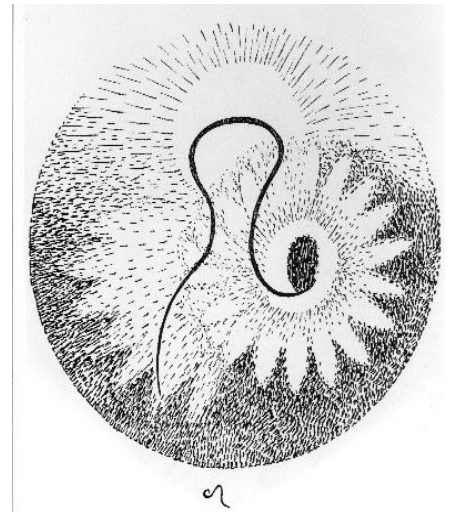
In terms of the cycle of the year, it is this “Sun -I” force harvested in us from summer, which now prepares, along with the Perseids, for our descent into autumn, with the power of Michael, to meet the darkness of matter and those forces separated from the divine light. In this sense the Sun transitioning into the stars of the Lion, coincides annually with the peak of the Perseid meteors dispersing cosmic iron through the atmosphere. The image at right shows the astronomical “radiant point” of the meteor shower which is peaking this week, in the picture of the Perseus constellation, specifically in the sword of Perseus/Michael. Rudolf Steiner describes these meteor showers as follows:

Those impulses that are contained in the dispersed iron (from meteors) begin to have a special meaning for human beings: they are employed in the cosmos in the service of the spiritual by a special spiritual being, who here again acquires a special significance and whom we call the Michael-

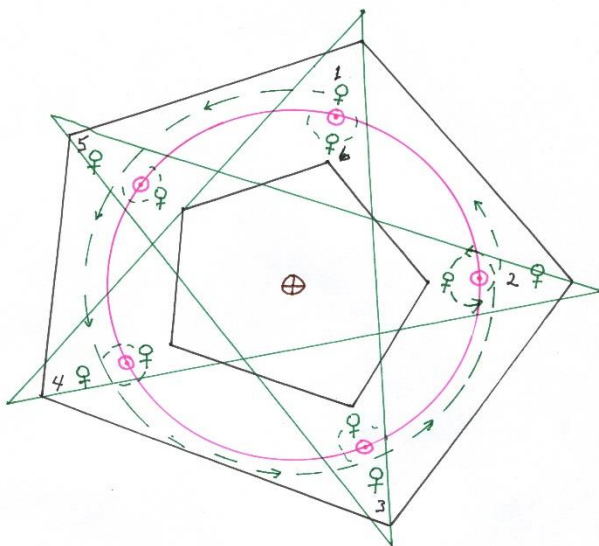


spirit...The cosmic iron with its spiritual efficacy makes it possible for the Michael-spirit to mediate between the supersensible world and the sensory world of Earth. (Rudolf Steiner, Hague, 1923)

One can also see this relationship between the Sun entering the Lion, coincidental with the Perseid meteors peak, in the connection to the forces of the heart, which Leo bears as cosmic formative force, and which are the place of this spiritual seed force of the solar I. In *The Michael Mystery or Anthroposophical Leading Thoughts*, Rudolf Steiner relates the new thinking of Michael with the heart: *Hearts begin to have thoughts, that is the new way of thinking with the heart.* It is Michael's intention that in the future, intelligence will flow through human hearts and be connected to the same divine spiritual forces that created the human in the beginning of time. Again, here we have an imagination of this flow of Leo between periphery (divine spiritual forces/cosmic I) and center, the human heart/centric-I. This picture on the right is a new symbol for Leo. Rudolf Steiner worked with artist Imma von Eckardstein, from France, to develop these new images with the intent that they support work with the Calendar of the Soul. The image is similar to the new symbol which Willi Sucher suggests, (see my book and video course on Zodiac), which depicts a periphery circle connected by a flowing line connecting it to the small circle in the center. This indicates on the one hand the heart, not as an organ pushing from the center, but as a center enlivened and activated by the peripheral forces. It is also a symbol for the true ego which also rather than pushing from the center, finds its true nature in the inflow of communion with others, both human and divine, so that it is not a centric point alone, but rather is formed and enlivened by the flowing communion with the greater periphery.



In relation to this theme, two star events bring me a step further in this contemplation during this time of August of the new heart/I AM forces that must be cultivated. One is the heliacal rising of Sirius which I will go into later. However, first we have, on August 13th, an inferior conjunction of Venus with the Sun in the stars of Leo. For those who have read my book, or listened to my course, or read Willi's work in *Cosmic Christianity*, you will know that Venus creates in its conjunctions with the Sun over an eight-year period a double pentagram form in the heavens, in time. This pentagram

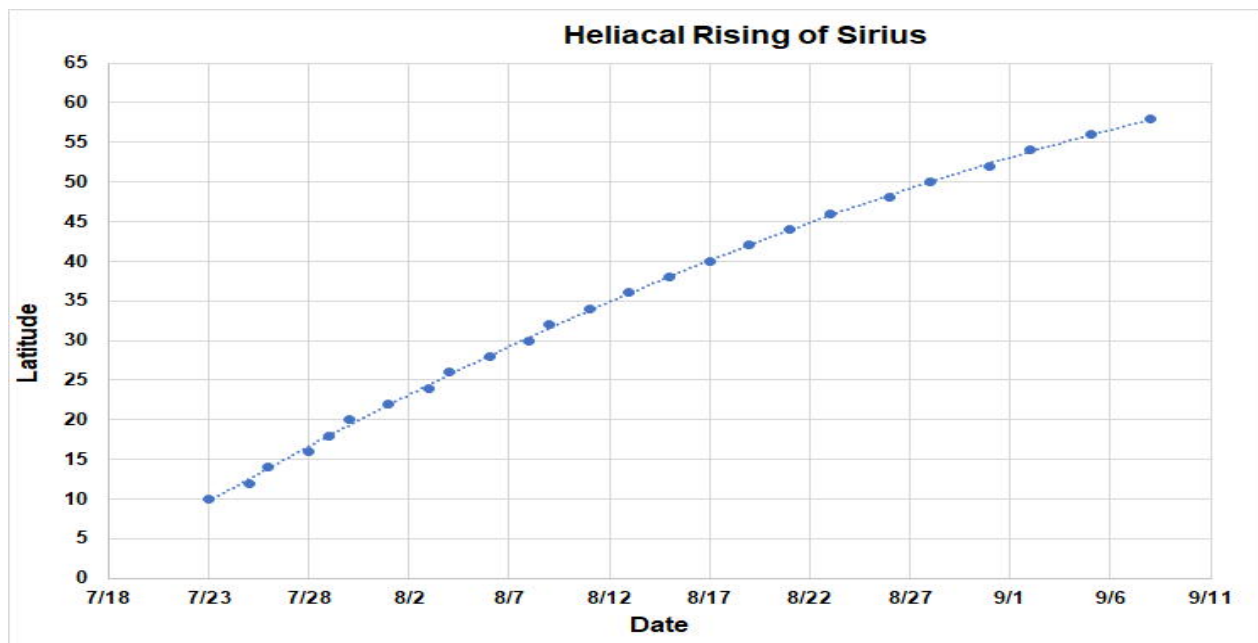


remains intact but slowly rotates backward around the full zodiac over a period of about 1200 years. Yet the five points remain and can be traced back, as Willi Sucher has done, and correlated to five "healings" described in the Gospels. These healings are not so much physical healings but are rather descriptions of the healing of whole streams of the ancient mysteries through the founding of the new Christ mysteries on Earth. Venus is deeply related to the Mysteries. Two of them stand outside of the three years of Christ's embodiment. One is the visit by Jesus to the Essene community shortly before the Baptism and the last one is connected to the Damascus Event of Paul. The other three belong during the three years. This specific conjunction can be traced back and thus carries the etheric memory power of the Raising of Lazarus, which we can now "step into" with this conjunction and actively take up in our own lives. The original Venus/Sun conjunction at the Raising of Lazarus occurred just at the transition from Pisces into Aries. One could see in this the culmination of one incarnation as Lazarus in the final constellation of Pisces and the initiation or birth of the

new human, of John, through the cosmic I AM of Aries which began a new cycle of incarnations, with the first constellation, Aries. Currently this corner/memory of the Lazarus event is in the stars of Leo, where it has been since this conjunction in 1903 and will continue until 2031 when the pentagram rotates taking it into the stars of Cancer. Without

recounting the story here, students of Rudolf Steiner will be familiar with his description of this event as a public initiation, no longer in the secrecy of the temple sleep, but with Christ himself as the hierophant, initiating Lazarus. It was the first initiation of the new Christian mysteries and was done shortly before Golgotha when one could say Christ was his most completely embodied as human. From that moment, Lazarus became a new human spiritually as the John who would write the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation. He it is who inaugurated Johannine Christianity, which was the stream from which the Grail, the Cathars, the Templars and the Rosicrucians down to Anthroposophy, have descended. It is the Christianity which Rudolf Steiner describes as that which is to fully unfold in the 6th Cultural Age if humanity can rise to its destiny, and which is actively opposed by world forces seeking to block its fulfillment. So, hopefully you can begin to build this imagination of Leo and the new ego force of the heart, of the Perseids and Michael's call to think with the heart, and this Venus event offering to us the living memory power of the Lazarus/John event as also a birth of a new I AM impulse on Earth in this first Christ initiation. This can take us into the heliacal rising of Sirius in relation to these events and its connection to initiation and the mysteries historically, as well as its relation to a higher cosmic experience of rebirth and renewal.

The heliacal rising of Sirius is the day when the star Sirius can first be seen before dawn above the eastern horizon. It rises in the east just before dawn. The date varies a bit according to your latitude, but for about 41° North (New York) it will be about August 12. Heliacal rising is a star's relation to the Sun (heliacal = helio) and the eastern horizon (sunrise point). One could perhaps say that this rising is like a stellar Ascendant picture for the year and carries an Ascendant impulse for the year from Sirius. It will then be visible traversing the night sky until spring, the Descendant point of its year. It shines during these months as the brightest star in the heavens, easily located by following the three stars of the line of Orion's belt downward to locate it. Sirius is directly overhead at midnight and directly below at noon around Epiphany, which means it is shining up through the center of the earth as the Sun stands overhead opposite during the day on Epiphany, the day of the sacrifice of Zarathustra/Jesus to offer his vessel to the incarnating Christ Logos (this will be returned to later). So during the yearly cycle, Sirius at Epiphany has a Mid-heaven/Nadir, noon/midnight, egoic-vertical quality as opposed to now it carries an Ascendant, sunrise horizontal quality. Check out the graph below or google the rising date for your own location on the globe then go out before dawn with a clear eastern view to see Sirius rising.



I recently received an email from someone asking about the so-called "Lion's Portal" spoken about in astrology when the Sun aligns with the star Sirius in Leo. The whole portal time period is said to be from late July to about mid-August. However, Sirius is not in the sign of Leo but at 14° the sign of Cancer tropically. In astrosophy, using the true stars, not the tropical signs, the Sun is in the stars of Gemini at alignment with Sirius, which is another topic. Without going further into the "lion's portal" in astrology, we can, in this significant time of the heliacal rising of Sirius during the Perseid meteors and the Sun entering Leo stars, take a deeper look into the star Sirius. As I perceive it, this confluence of events

in mid-August speak to a richer understanding of the spiritual gesture of Leo in relation to the new cosmic communion out of the new “I” experience we are called to develop.

For the Ancient Egyptians, Sirius was a most significant star and its rising marked the date when the Nile would swell and the waters of new life and renewal would bring fertility to the land, marking the start of their new year. The star was named Sodpet or Sothis, for the Greeks, and was a manifestation of Isis. In *The House of the Hidden Places*, published in 1895, the author W. Marshall Adams delves into the initiation rituals of ancient Egypt described in the Book of the Dead which took place in the Great Pyramid of Giza. He describes the role of Sirius as follows:

Therefore, the Great Pyramid was so constructed that, at this sacred moment, the light of the Dog Star fell upon the square “Stone of God” at the upper end of the Great Gallery, descending upon the head of the high priest, who received the Super Solar Force and sought through his own perfected Solar Body to transmit to other Initiates this added stimulation for the evolution of their Godhood. This then was the purpose of the “Stone of God,” whereon in the Ritual, Osiris sits to bestow upon him (the illuminate) the Atf crown or celestial light.

The initiation was timed for when Sirius shone through the actual door or portal of the pyramid down into the chamber as a cosmic spiritual power for the initiate.

This special significance of Sirius has been carried by many esoteric brotherhoods and was central in the Masonic Brotherhood. It was often represented in the art and architecture of their lodges. It was called the Blazing Star. (The Blazing Star) originally represented SIRIUS, or the Dog-star, the forerunner of the inundation of the Nile; the God ANUBIS, companion of ISIS in her search for the body of OSIRIS, her brother and husband. Then it became the image of HORUS, the son of OSIRIS, himself symbolized also by the Sun, the author of the Seasons, and the God of Time; Son of ISIS, who was the universal nature, himself the primitive matter, inexhaustible source of Life, spark of uncreated fire, universal seed of all beings [the Word].... To achieve perfection, the initiate must successfully understand and internalize the dual nature of the world (good and evil; masculine and feminine; etc.) through alchemical metamorphosis. This concept is symbolically represented by the union of Osiris and Isis to give birth to Horus, the star-child, the Christ-like figure, the perfected man of Freemasonry – who is equated with the Blazing Star. (From: *Morals and Dogma of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry*, essays compiled by Albert Pike, first published in 1871)

Sirius then holds a special significance for the Freemasons in relation to the Christ/star child born of Isis/Sophia. To take up this image of Sirius as “the sacred place” and the “seed of all beings” and its special place in esoteric brotherhoods and the initiations of ancient Egypt, brings us to the question of the true spiritual nature of this cosmic being/star/place, and, to draw on the seed image, to its heliacal rising as the Sun enters Leo with its seed/heart/“I AM” potentiality. In many sources I have researched references to Sirius can be found as the cosmic or galactic source of our spiritual Sun, the higher octave of the stellar logos. It has raised many questions for me, unanswered questions, but ones which are in one sense completed, or perhaps better, illuminated by what Rudolf Steiner says about Sirius.

Starting in 1998 (3 x’s 666), we at the Astrosophy Center, (which is now inactive though the work continues at astrosophy.com), felt it was important to begin publishing a Journal for Astrosophy. This was born and inspired particularly out of the remarks by Steiner quoted below about the “center of the Earth” and our thinking at that time on the year 1998 in relation to 666. In 1924, in response to a question put to him by Countess von Keyserlingk, about the star Sirius, Rudolf Steiner replied. (This is remembered in her book *Koberwitz 1924*. The Count and Countess von Keyserlingk were pupils of Steiner and it was at their estate the Steiner gave the agriculture course at Pentecost, 1924):

*When Rudolf Steiner had visited us last time, he had said something which had caused me a lot of thinking ever since: here on earth, one could close the doors, but in the spiritual world this is different. On Sirius everything that men are thinking is heard. Next, I had searched for anything I could find, in order to grasp the identity of Sirius. Mythology told me only that this was the star of Zarathustra and that it was venerated as Isis in the constellation of the Dog. The Astronomical Course also could not clear me up about the secret of Sirius. So, I thought I should approach the question in a different way and I put it as follows: Where is the realm in heaven and in the cosmos where all human suffering and all human joy are noticed? ... I asked Rudolf Steiner about this and he said: **‘Sirius is the Heart of Jesus-Zarathustra and it is in the depth of the earth.’** Next Rudolf Steiner drew a simple sketch and spoke slowly, so I could write it down: **“Sirius is the cosmic thought which Christ makes of His own heart - thus it is found in the earth.”** He drew a curve, which indicated the earth and wrote ‘metabolism and fulfillment’,*

as if the thoughts which were sent from the heart of Christ, i.e., from the Sun, through Sirius were led to the midpoint of the earth. From there they would attain fulfillment through the metabolism."

Earlier I mentioned the position of Sirius at the time of Epiphany shining up through the Earth with the Sun overhead opposite during the day. This offers me perhaps a glimpse of what Steiner might mean when he says that *Sirius is the heart of Jesus-Zarathustra in the depth of the Earth* and that it is *found in the Earth*. Is the picture of Sirius radiating through the center of the Earth opposite the Sun at Epiphany a star picture, and one aspect, of what is meant by the heart of Jesus-Zarathustra in the depth of the Earth? What mysteries are hidden in this? It is clear that this star then is connected to the long stream of the work of Zarathustra, the greatest Sun initiate who embodied as Jesus to prepare for the incarnation of the Sun Logos. What does it mean for the new work of Sirius in relation to the new work of Zarathustra since Christ united with the Earth? Can this shine light for us on the ongoing task of Zarathustra, who initiated Hermes of ancient Egypt and Moses, and guided the Sun mysteries throughout evolution until the culmination and transition of his task with his deed of sacrifice for Christ? According to Steiner, he works now as the Master Jesus in furthering world evolution towards the realization of the true Christianity. Steiner also speaks of Master Jesus particularly in relation to the heart forces of Christianity. Also, we can consider what Steiner said connecting Sirius to the "cosmic thought" and to Christ's own heart, drawing a curve from Sun, through Sirius to the midpoint of the Earth. Is this also connected with the Michael Sun activity as his countenance and the fallen intelligence in the earth in relation to Sirius and His Heart?

We have many questions and many challenging thoughts about Sirius which cannot be "resolved" here, but which I hope can become, as it has for me, something to carry in further contemplation of Sirius and the stars in general as well as a potential source of further research, some of which I have shared in tidbits in this article. As I said at the beginning, each of these topics could deserve much more writing and consideration. However, I want to tie it into our themes in this article and the building of a large imagination for this week. We have looked at the heliacal rising of Sirius when the Sun steps into the stars of Leo; the Sun/Venus conjunction bearing the cosmic memory of the first initiation by Christ of Lazarus and the founding of the new work of John; and we include in this picture the Perseid meteors heralding the call of Michael to "think with hearts" and raise the fallen earthly intelligence back to a cosmic intelligence so that a new culture of the thinking heart, of the Universal Human, might be founded in our time. I think it is clear to all in our current times how the forces of opposition are working to "kill the heart" of humanity through polarization, nationalism, hatred, and violence. Can humanity fill the "empty place" in the middle, the empty place of the heart? It is our work to place Christ, the true I AM in the middle. May we carry this with us as we enter now this time of Michael.

Hearts begin to have thoughts, that is the new way of thinking with the heart.

Jonathan Hilton
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