

Christ Events and the Stars

Unrevised Lecture by Willi Sucher - Christmas 1950

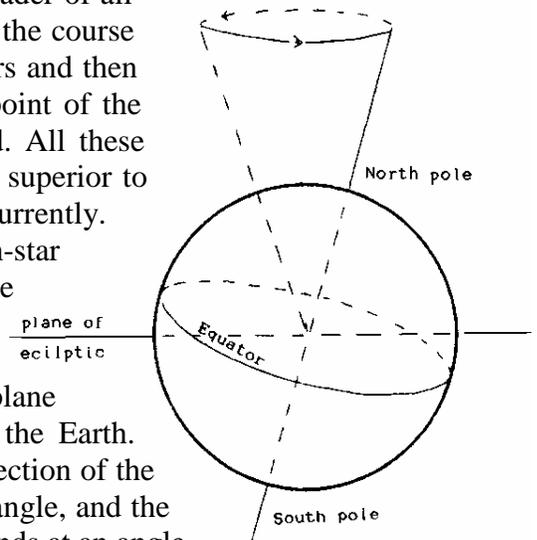
The writers of the Gospels drew their knowledge of events from their super-sensible vision. The record was still present in the Earth's aura of the Events in Palestine at the beginning of our time, and it was their source of information. There is no certainty of the historicity, for no documents were left at that time, and there is still no real evidence of Christ's physical existence, only scanty remarks by the historian Josephus. The greatest Event in the whole of human history rests in darkness. A true occultist may have visions or super-sensible perceptions, but may not always feel justified in presenting them without outward proof from a different and more objective realm.

These writers of the Gospels had grand visions of Christ, but without the true occultist's certainty. However, Rudolf Steiner gave indications of the source of certainty, especially in his *Evolution from the Aspect of Realities*. This knowledge was derived from the stars, and thus it had the ancient starry wisdom of the three Kings, which confirmed their visions.

For instance, we must approach the vernal point, or equinox, as a living organism for a full understanding. We must realize the Earth as a globe rotating around an axis from the North Pole to the South Pole in a 24-hour period of time. Midway between the two poles is the equator of the Earth, which is the equilibrium between the North and South Poles. We can then imagine other circles going to the North and South Poles from the equator. These constitute the latitudes; for example, London's latitude is 51° . These indicate the soul life of the Being of the Earth. We are alive and conscious and moving in three main directions with our soul activities: 1. Thinking, which distinguishes us from the animals and is expressed in our standing in an upright, vertical position, whereas the animal's spine is horizontal to the Earth. (Our position of brain and spine is connected with our power of thinking.) 2. Feeling, which is a different plane, in the realm of sympathy and antipathy; also, we can turn either to the right or the left. 3. Willing, which is chiefly connected with limb movements in expressions that are spatial, is in our ability to move back and forth.

We can detect these same mediums of soul life in our planet Earth. First, there is the axis, which is connected with the upright spinal direction of the North and South Poles. These are regions of extreme cold, where we are inclined to lethargy of movement, brooding, and crystallization related to thinking. Second, the feeling life of the Earth is connected with the equator, which is the leader of all these circles. All points on that circle move from west to east, and in the course of 24 hours turns once to the Sun, seeing it for an average of 12 hours and then turns away again into the night and sky of stars and moon. Every point of the equator longs for sunlight and then turns away when it is saturated. All these points can be accumulated into the feeling life of the Earth, which is superior to that of the human being, as it longs for the Sun and the stars concurrently. Third, the willing of the Earth is connected with the body of the Earth-star in cosmic space, in the realm of the Zodiac. The movement of the equator is from west to east, yet gives the impression that the cosmos moves from east to west. The reflection of the Earth's equator into cosmic space is the celestial equator, for it is a plane expanded into space, making a kind of collar around the globe of the Earth. Where it meets in the heavens, we have the celestial equator, as a reflection of the earthly equator. Thus we find the Zodiac in another plane at another angle, and the cosmic equator crosses the ecliptic Zodiac at two points, because it stands at an angle to the ecliptic Zodiac. These points are the vernal equinox and the autumnal equinox.

Therefore, the plane of the Zodiac, which is on the equator, is the external expression of the will of the Earth. The Earth is also involved in movement in that plane in the Zodiac, which is its outer fringe. The vernal point (0°) is the point of communication between the feeling and willing of the Earth and the willing of the whole cosmos.



The axis of the Earth does not always remain at the same angle but moves around a double cone that describes a circle. Any change in position changes the position of the celestial collar around the Earth, the celestial equator and also the thinking, feeling and willing.

This constant backward movement of the vernal equinox, through the twelve constellations of the Zodiac, is called the Platonic year of 25,920 years, representing a kind of inter-communication between cosmic feeling and willing in its totality. The vernal equinox has moved by that time through the whole Zodiac of twelve constellations, and this fact has been experienced since ancient times. The movement of the vernal equinox from one constellation to another takes approximately 2,160 years. It is now in Pisces, for instance, and in 2,160 years, from its point of entry, the point of communication will have shifted back to Aquarius.

Now we begin to understand why Rudolf Steiner laid such emphasis on the vernal equinox; for it is there that we have the feeling and willing radiating from the worlds uniting. The twelve constellations are thus like a Cosmic Clock, with the vernal point as the hour hand, moving like time through great cosmic imaginations.

We are all concerned with this great interplay into civilization, because it can be connected with the cultural ages of humanity that move in this rhythm of the vernal equinox every 2,160 years. It is now in Pisces and will relatively soon be in Aquarius. Then this inter-communication will be different and civilization will alter.

At the time of Christ, we have the beginning of the Post-Christian Earth of 1 AD, which is a significant point in this cosmic conversation of great majesty between willing and feeling. The vernal point was then working from Aries into Pisces, and this was important to the writers of the Gospels with their ancient star wisdom, who could read through the zodiacal constellations. There are many “vernal points” of the Zodiac, for each planet has its own Zodiac.

One important aspect is our human form, which is the Divine archetype of the human being in the Image of God. We stand as a spiritual entity in reality beyond the Zodiac. Here is the connection with the constellations of the Zodiac shining through our forms (drawing). The vernal point now stands in the realm of willing and feeling. It started out thousands of years ago and has now come to us in order to begin anew. This Divine representation of humanity has descended and reached the region of the cosmic head. As earthly beings, we stand on the Earth and reach up to the heavens with our head. However, our Cosmic Representative reaches out with Limbs into the cosmic space and walks in the firmament, while the Head of the Cosmic Representative reaches into and becomes the Earth. This Cosmic Being then descended to the Earth, and people in those times were still able to read what took place in cosmic space. At the time of Christ, it was realized as the Incarnation of our Cosmic Representative, and certain people knew it well in those days. It is symbolized by Rudolf Steiner in his carved statue, the Representative of Man.



This cosmic clock has many hands, and this vernal point time was not yet the biggest hand; for other signs also showed the time of Christ on Earth to be of equal importance. These other signs proved the historicity of the Events to those who wrote the Gospels.

What time does the Cosmic Clock announce as it moves toward Pisces? What is the task of this Age? The great transition from Aries/Ram to Pisces/Fishes took place at the time of Christ. Rudolf Steiner said that the time of Pisces started in 1413 AD. Is this a contradiction? Astronomically, my indication is correct as being the time of Christ, but on Earth the Age of the Aries culture continued until 1400 AD. Before then the Age of Pisces was only a hidden esoteric stream.

All the constellations have a spiritual “point of gravity” that fixes them in space. In 1413 the vernal point had reached the “point of gravity” of Pisces, and the culture could then really begin as an exoteric impulse. What does this demand of us? In Greek culture we learned to use our brain and our senses, and we had fully incarnated in the world of physical reality in thought and art, as we have realistically recognize the Greeks to have done. They said they would rather be “a beggar in this world than a King in the realm of the shades.”

We must carry over the Aries culture and transform it. With Aries we became earth people and with Pisces we move out into the cosmos. We have to combine these two; to stand firmly on Earth, yet become related again to the world of the stars. The Church of Samis, in the Book of Revelations, holds the message for present

humanity, while the Representative of Man stands as an admonishing Guardian with the Seven Stars in His Hand.

Therefore, we need to stand in earthly realities and spiritually amalgamate with a new knowledge of the cosmic world (see Steiner's *Occult Science*). This gives us an indication of a new cosmology. To the ancients, it was a help to achieve certain proof of super-sensible precepts. To our modern world, cosmology becomes a source for certainty of the tasks of our present age. We are not determined by the stars, but we take the starry worlds by the hand, as of a good and older friend, to be guided by their wisdom, yet not ruled by their power.

Answer to a question: The Cosmic Being stands upon the heavens and its Head is the Earth. The cultural Ages are ruled by the constellations and not by the signs. When the vernal point moves into Aquarius, which will be very soon, in a few hundred years' time, then the fundamental task will be to find the ancient Mysteries again in a real Christian sense, completely transformed. Much has been accomplished by Rudolf Steiner, but despite statements to the contrary, the vernal point is not in Aquarius yet; it will take from 300 to 500 years' time. The equinoxes are the times of the year when day and night are of equal length, pointing to rejuvenation in the life of the Earth in nature. The Sun is in communication on 21 March and on 23 September.

The human cosmic picture originated on one of the Egyptian Temples, written in hieroglyphic carvings on the stone walls. The human head originated in the region of the Ram, which is the spiritual archetype of the head as it was worked out in the course of evolution.