



Darkness will sweep across America on 21 August 2017, during a rare total eclipse of the Sun. The Moon's shadow will traverse the continental United States, earning the nickname: 'The Great American Eclipse'

For a solar eclipse to touch only America, especially at this time in history, seems like something we need to be awake to, giving us an opportunity to apply research from Spiritual Science to investigate this powerful sign from the heavens.

In "Human Questions and Cosmic Answers" Rudolf Steiner tells us "An eclipse is a physical event behind which there lies a significant spiritual reality." We read further, that on a normal day when there is no eclipse, the rays of the sun penetrate down to the earth, meeting and mediating the rays of human will streaming out into the cosmos. At the time of a solar eclipse, since all the "unbridled impulses" of human will are not met by the sun, they are able to radiate out into the darkness, surging out "into universal space in an abnormal way".

According to Steiner an eclipse acts like a “safety-valve” to provide an outlet for pressure that has been building up; it is an opportunity to blow off steam - to avert the danger of a more catastrophic explosion.

Well it can certainly be said that there is a lot of hot air in America right now. The pressure is building up. Perhaps we can see this as a gift from the cosmos; like the grace an illness can bring to help foster our spiritual growth. It may be wise to view this as good news; that this “safety-value” is going to help blow off some steam!

When we take this into account, keeping in mind the challenges in our current culture; it seems that this eclipse is a ‘perfect storm’; allowing the deep unconscious fear, scorn and hatred of ‘ugly Americanism’ to become a contagion released into the cosmos - Unless we can counteract it with our good will.

Mercury the Messenger of the gods, in retrograde at this time, retraces His steps in order to gather up our past thoughts, words & deeds – giving us a chance to consciously work with the Archangel of Summer Uriel* & the spirit of John the Baptist, for a ‘Metanoia’ – a transformative change of heart.

Mercury is the only planet that was invoked by Rudolf Steiner at the laying of the Foundation Stone, in the 1st Goetheanum. When the Johannesbau became a burnt offering to the gods, the Foundation Stone was laid as a Meditation into our hearts at the Christmas Conference.

Mercury the messenger of the gods is seeking now to gather up the best of what lives in human hearts to carry our speaking sun-ward through the shadow – ‘From light through darkness into new light’.

And so with an urgent sense of duty, The [Central Regional Council](#) of the Anthroposophical Society in America, will endeavor to hold the shield and sword of Michael; working also with the Archangel of Summer Uriel, whose earnest gaze points up the imperfections of humankind, so that we may strive to meet the Christ-Will in our higher “I”. We will also strive to redeem and bring healing to the

Folk Spirit of America: Columbia, whose name invokes the Dove of Peace and the Wisdom of Sophia.

At this [Central Regional retreat](#), we take The 'Bridging Project, our current theme of working with "The Influence of the Dead on Destiny" into the realm of 'Speaking with the Stars', our previous theme; for we know that in the life between death and re-birth the human being is engaged in an intimate conversation with the 'Stars'. We will consciously connect with those on the 'other-side' during this time. All the Beings in the Spiritual World need us to step up – To fire up the ensouled Sun of our human hearts.

We will prepare for, view, and work to hold the light during the solar eclipse, which will sweep from West to East across all of America, and will be visible in the St. Louis area where we will gather.

Through the social arts of eurythmy, song, study, color, meditation, and an interactive '[Pageant](#)', we will engage with the spiritual significance of this powerful cosmic and earthly event. Afterward we will process, share, and continue the conversation, working to understand the mysteries of the will.

On a personal note, while contemplating and preparing for the retreat, as synchronicity would have it, in a meeting with friends from the [Center for American Studies](#) in Concord, I got the idea to write '[From Light Thru Darkness into New Light](#)' - A Pageant for the 'Great American Eclipse'.

For those interested, here is a list of [possible activities](#) to do during this time.

This is a clarion call dear friends – May human beings hear it.

~[Hazel Archer-Ginsberg](#)

[Reverse Ritual](#) - Understanding Anthroposophy Through the Rhythms of the Year

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In **Chicago** and the **Central Regional Council** of The **Anthroposophical Society**

References:

Human Questions and Cosmic Answers, by Rudolf Steiner

*The Four Seasons and the Archangels, by Rudolf Steiner