

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 from Oregon to South Carolina, earning the nickname: 'The Great American Eclipse'. (The path touches ONLY the mainland of the United States. The last time this happened was 29 July 436) This is an emphatically exceptional event, since the path of totality for most eclipses meander over oceans and islands with no regard whatsoever for human borders or the geography of the landscape.

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, Cosmic Answers](#)', Rudolf Steiner tells us that a solar eclipse is 'the physical event behind a significant spiritual reality'. 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'.

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, and that the pressure is building up. Perhaps we can try to 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!

Under normal conditions these 'evil impulses of will' which are sent out into the cosmos by human beings are burned up and consumed by the rays of the sun, so that they can injure only humanity itself, but can do no universal harm. When, however, there is an eclipse of the sun, opportunity is given for the 'evil' which is willed on earth to spread over the cosmos. (Steiner calls them 'evil' because they 'miss the mark' - made up as they are of unconscious, lower animalistic, selfish instincts or passions)

When we take this into account, keeping in mind the condition of America today, with our current aberrant administration - its vast amount of double-talk, the falsehoods held up as reality, the blatant greed and selfishness, the disregard for human rights and environmental safeguards occurring in the United States right now; 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.

And so with an urgent sense of duty, The [Central Regional Council](#) of the Anthroposophical Society in America, will gather to help meet and mediate these 'undigested instincts' in the American unconscious, that are want to wreak havoc during the solar eclipse. We 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: From Soul to Soul Between Life and Death’, 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’. With this in mind we can ask: How will this ‘Great American Eclipse’ affect those in the spiritual world?

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, 19 – 22 August 2017.

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, around an initiative that has been germinating for over 20 years, I got the idea to write ****‘From Light Thru Darkness into New Light’ - A ‘New World Drama’ for the ‘Great American Eclipse’.**

[Click here](#) to read the PDF version.

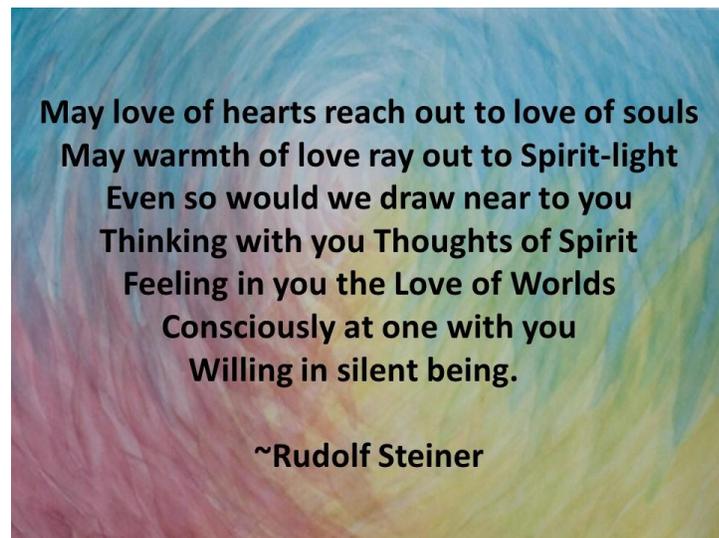
Hold us, dear friends and readers of Das Goetheanum, in our time of darkness, for we are all truly a circle within a circle.

I leave you now with this verse from Rudolf Steiner that we are currently working with here in the Heart-land of America:

“May love of hearts reach out to love of souls

**May warmth of love ray out to Spirit-Light
Even so would we draw near to you
Thinking with you Thoughts of Spirit
Feeling in your Love of Worlds
Consciously at one with you
Willing in silent being”**

~Rudolf Steiner



~[Hazel Archer-Ginsberg](#)

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

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***Study:** "May Human Beings Hear It!" By Sergei Prokofieff

Chapter 8. Rudolf Steiner and the Karma of the Anthroposophical Society

References:

Human Questions and Cosmic Answers, by Rudolf Steiner

The Four Seasons and the Archangels by Rudolf Steiner