

THOMAS MEYER NORTH AMERICAN TOUR

Autumn 2017 — Lecture topics

1. The Sign of Five: (three lectures)

Three lectures on the subject of the eponymous book; “The world seems to be standing within a demonic storm that threatens to overwhelm it,” states Thomas Meyer at the outset of his call for wide-ranging, spiritual-scientific knowledge of the world. Appeals to traditional religious belief will no longer pacify this storm, nor is “goodwill” enough. “The Sign of Five” tackles the central task of our time—the struggle with evil—and presents the five most important spiritual events since the beginning of the Age of Michael:

1879: The rise of the Archangel Michael to the rank of Time Spirit (Archai);

1899: The end of Kali Yuga and the beginning of the Age of Light;

1933: The appearance of Christ in the Etheric;

1998: The assault of Sorath, “one of the greatest ahrimanic demons”;
the present time and the pending incarnation of Ahriman.

Within the context of “the sign of five” we stand now at the fifth place—Ahriman’s pending incarnation. The lectures will vary in content depending upon the interests of the specific audience to particular topics within the overall theme.

2. The Mexican Mysteries and the Mystery of Golgotha (one lecture)

This lecture will delve into the deeply esoteric mystery that links the Mystery of Golgotha and the simultaneous, parallel crucifixion of an “initiated black magician” in Mexico, as revealed by Rudolf Steiner in *Inner Impulses of Evolution: The Mexican Mysteries and the Knights Templar* (CW 171). Comprehending this event in the light of Steiner’s law of polarity and its relationship to the Earth’s nine subterranean spheres is critical to understanding modern times, when new forces are entering human evolution from both sides of the two thresholds: the threshold to spiritual worlds and the threshold to the subterranean worlds.

3. The Subterranean Spheres in the World and in the Human Being (two lectures)

Rudolf Steiner gave only five lectures specifically about the Earth's subterranean spheres, four in 1906 and one in 1909, and never returned to the topic specifically. However, his very last writing on March 30, 1925 (in *Anthroposophical Leading Thoughts*), was titled "From Nature to Sub-nature" and addressed the need to make such forces fully conscious. He warned "Human beings can do this only if they rise in spiritual knowledge as least as far into super-nature as they have descended into the technical sciences in to sub-nature." The nine levels of the spiritual world have their polar reflection in the nine layers of the subterranean world. Awareness of these complimentary, though opposing, spheres is found in literature (Dante), mythology, and legend. The degree to which modern humanity is influenced by these unconscious and semiconscious forces and the necessity of becoming fully conscious of these chthonic energies to achieve balanced progress in our moral-spiritual development will be presented in the light of Spiritual Science.

4. "The Meditative Path of the Michael School" (one lecture)

A new translation of the esoteric "First Class Lessons" by Rudolf Steiner was published in English at the end of 2016. This translation is available to anyone and is intended for those who are seriously interested in what may be described as "The Meditative Path of the Michael School in Nineteen Steps." Thomas Meyer, editor of the book, will be prepared to discuss the four phases of the Michael School. The first phase consists of a purely suprasensory "institution," active in the spiritual world for centuries and culminating in the "cosmic cult" at the turn of the 18th to 19th centuries. A reflection of its teaching can be found in Goethe's fairy tale and, later, in Spiritual Science as developed by Rudolf Steiner. Many souls who were later drawn to Anthroposophy were spiritually present in this phase. A certain disturbance during this first phase was brought about by the influence of the demonic beings engendered by the materialistic and nominalist philosophy of Francis Bacon. This disturbing influence had to be checked by the individualities previously incarnated as Aristotle and Alexander the Great.

The second phase brought down to earth a mantric-meditative essence of the suprasensory teachings of the Michael School. Rudolf Steiner accomplished this during the period between February and September 1924 in the form of the nineteen stages, or steps, of the meditative path of the Michael school. The third phase of the Michael school was to be continued in the suprasensory world, starting after Steiner's death and continuing until the present time. In this third phase Steiner

himself was to become a teacher next to Michael. The contents of the teachings of this phase are not found in external documents. They are not accessible to ordinary consciousness, but only to clairvoyant consciousness or symptomatic research.

The fourth phase will start when Rudolf Steiner (or those chosen by him) continues the Michael School *on Earth*, adding new mantras to those given outwardly in the second phase, and spiritually in the third phase. To preserve the continuity of the school, knowledge of and especially exercising the content of the second phase are basic and indispensable. At the end of the second phase, Steiner outlined the inner character of the new mantras to which his illness and death prevented him from giving concrete form.

5. The World-Historic Significance of Anthroposophy (one lecture)

Spiritual Science, or Anthroposophy, is destined to complement natural science and its technological fruits through scientific research dealing with suprasensory realities. Thus, a growing dichotomy between knowing (the natural phenomena) and believing (the suprasensory phenomena) can be bridged. Through Spiritual Science, the spiritual nature of human beings and human development through repeated earthly lives is revealed, and the great spiritual impulses of our time (the activity of Michael, the Christ, Sorat, and Ahriman) can be put into the light of understanding. In contrast to many streams of the so-called New Age, Anthroposophy is the only spiritual stream of our age with a truly scientific approach.