
What *else* is happening in our Society!

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An Opportunity for the Coming Century for Anthroposophy? A Whitsun Call!

Whitsun



(Giotto di Bonedone)

Where sense perception ends,
There first is found the door
Which opens for the soul
True life realities.
The soul creates the key
When it grows strong within itself
In battle which world powers
Wage against human forces
Upon its own soul grounds;
When it dispels through its own strength
The sleep which, on the sill of sense,
Shrouds the powers of knowing
In spirit night!

One can understand this Whitsun verse as an encouragement to make a concrete effort towards an understanding of world events, to learn to see through how 'world powers' work. For an understanding can only come to those who understand the reality of the being of evil, the working of the adversary, and have realised that it works in us. And then ask, 'how these powers work?'

«Why do we speak of a threshold? Why do we speak of a guardian of the threshold? We speak of it because, as if by a grace of the wise guidance of the world, that which is fighting and roaring and waging war in our everyday life was at first withdrawn from the soul of man.

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A Whitsun Call!

We are in the midst of the time of perhaps the most important and significant return of spiritual impulses which were given 99-100 years ago (1923-1925) by Rudolf Steiner and were to become effective. They were not sufficiently grasped and so a «*world turning point of time*» could not become a reality. With this return, we are certainly, as then, at an important turning point for our Anthroposophical Society and for the anthroposophical movement, because it too is existentially connected with the events of that time, whether conscious or unconscious.

We should not underestimate the importance of the underlying 33-year rhythm, as it is «*related to the most sacred and redemptive gift that humankind has received through the Mystery of Golgotha*» [GA 180], the duration of the life of Christ Jesus. And the significance does not lie solely in 'theoretical, vain knowledge' with which, for example, historical hindsight can be held. «*Such things alone gain value when they become practical deeds, when conviction of them fills our soul, so that it cannot do otherwise than act in their light. Then, however, the soul is full of love for those beings on whom the deeds are to be done in this light. But then the soul is full of love for those beings for whom the deeds are to be done in this light.*» [GA 180]

The social and spiritual impulses lying in the 33-year rhythm will be able to resurrect and be renewed in a wholesome sense if we become aware of them and give the beings working in them the opportunity to participate.

However, what we create out of the current circumstances does not concern us alone. It may be uncertain whether the worldwide efforts towards totalitarian social structures can still be averted. But we cannot expect a change for the better if we do not even succeed in developing a future-oriented and freedom-oriented social structure for our society. However, according to the cyclical nature of historical events, now might be the last opportunity, probably for a long time, to enter into a process of evolutionary change. In this way, the aristocratic-centralized-state like structure that has existed since 1926 could be transformed.

Can we see these current positive developments and the development process that has just begun, in the context of the revolving cycles of historical events? I think so, because

what has now become possible was completely unthinkable just a year ago: The real possibility that the urgently-needed renewal of social relationships could become reality! For the first time in the history of the Society, a renewal process could be started that is not dominated by the Society's leadership and whose forming, safeguarding of results and implementation would depend solely on whether and how the members participate in it. So we are faced with the question: Will enough committed people get involved? Can we overcome the resignation that nothing can be done? That it will turn out as it always does? That is precisely the crucial question now: *Can we get out of our 100-year-old habits? Do we have the courage for renewal? Are we even aware of the opportunities that have now become available to us?*

Especially in the current developments, which would have been unthinkable a year ago, help from the spiritual world has become clearly noticeable and we should have the courage to trust in this help for the possibilities and tasks that now lie ahead of us. The revolving cycles of historical events are a reality – and wish to be heeded. Their 'co-responding' workings are now a given.³

With this in mind, we would like to call upon and motivate you to actively participate in the process that has just begun. Only if the process is broadly supported and enough members participate, especially those who have the necessary skills and could possibly take on responsibility, can a renewal succeed. The real danger is that the process will peter out, that there will be too little commitment and interest, and that resignation will prevail. But it is not only about the General Anthroposophical Society, it is also about Anthroposophy, about whether it can fulfil its civilising task and mission. In this respect, non-members are also asked, basically everyone is asked in their sense of responsibility for the anthroposophical cause to make a personal contribution right now. Regardless of how one feels about the Society and the School of Spiritual Science with the Goetheanum, these are the institutions that are considered to *represent Anthroposophy in the world* – and no one can be indifferent to how Anthroposophy is represented and whether it can fulfil its civilizing task, its mission. In this sense, all those who are not (yet) or no longer members are hereby expressly addressed to become attentive. Those who feel responsible should get involved and get involved according to their own possibilities. Ways will be found.

The current range of topics, *which can be expanded at any time* as necessary, already includes central themes:

- Worldwide involvement of members in developments.
- Development of a future image and culture for the Society.
- Development of appropriate communication.
- Development of a contemporary and spiritually appropriate social structure.
- The question of threefolding for the social structure of the Society.

- The responsibility for the Weleda AG.

Future questions:

- How can the youth be addressed?
- What kind of cooperation makes sense (e.g. with regard to the WHO)?
- Development of the arts - currently more concretely with speech formation and the dramatic arts.

These can and should be worked on in a variety of ways, everywhere: in groups on site and/or online, regardless of location. The forms of work in the thematic groups are to be developed by the members themselves – in due course, it will be important to have exchanges with other groups, also across themes. Even if this is not planned, it will also be possible to develop working contexts in which non-members can participate.

The aim is to develop solutions that are supported as broadly as possible and then present them to the entire membership. Decisions on their implementation will then have to be taken by the General Assembly, possibly in 2024, or even later.

The framework in which all this can happen is in the member forums - on site in Dornach and online (in English and German). These are neutrally moderated and led by Harald Jäckel (mediator and management consultant) and we have already had very good experiences with this kind of work in dialogue forums in February and March. Further structures will have to be developed at the next meetings – everything is still at the very beginning. So it is still possible to join the process that has already begun.

Please note the information on registration and preparation.

We will be happy to answer any questions, if you are interested, also via Zoom and before the second members' forum on 3 June 2023.

Thomas Heck

³ Detailed references and above all investigations of relevant periods can be found in the book «*3 x 33 Jahre Weihnachtstagung und die Krise der Allgemeinen Anthroposophischen Gesellschaft*», Thomas Heck. Available from the author or in bookshops. (Currently in German)

Registration and preparation

Notes from the invitation email from the Goetheanum:

Registration for the next Members' Forum on Saturday, 3 June from 15:00–20:00 CEST can be done via the invitation (by email or link):

Information for the invitation:

<https://wtg-99.com/link1>

Tutorial Zoom and Murals:

[This is strongly recommended for **online participation**]

Some online participants had difficulties with navigating this electronic format. There will be an open Zoom meeting on Thursday, 1 June from 15:00 to 16:00 for members who want to learn more about using Zoom and Murals. You can register here: <https://wtg-99.com/link2>



Schreinereisaal (Carpentry Hall), prepared for the members' forum.

The next calendar dates for 2023

Saturday – 3 June 2023, 15:00 - 20:00.

Friday – 30 June 2023, 15:00 - 20:00.

Saturday – 9 Sept. 2023, 15:00 - 20:00.

Friday – 10 Nov. 2023, 15:00 - 20:00.

Dates for 2024 are not yet available.

It is as if there is a surface, while below a rumbling, roaring and fierce war is raging. So that even that which we live through everyday of life is an ongoing victory. However, it must continually be won anew. In the future, it will only be won anew when human beings know that they have hitherto been unconsciously guided by a benevolent, wise guidance of the world. In the depths of the soul, we must really find that which is not known in the ordinary life of the senses, but that which only the spirit can experience. It is in those human depths where the human being is connected with those forces of the world which transcend good and evil with the greatness of their spirit.»¹

And so a key is then given for a broadened and above all differentiated understanding of the human being in social life, because in it – regardless of whether it is in actual encounters or in global world events – this struggle demonstrates its impact. Thus we are not always dealing with 'good' intentions – undoubtedly inherent in every individuality, for «a human being can live in the belief that a certain intention leads him/her to an action; in truth, this intention is only a conscious mask for another that remains unconscious.» Here we see how «the opposing powers ... make use of people on earth to achieve their ends».²

The recognition of this unconscious working should have been learned initially in the 17th century:

The wanderer in the Chymical Wedding «is supposed to gaze into the intentions of human Will and Action more deeply than are available to ordinary consciousness. The performer of the 'Chymical Wedding' wants to say that this ordinary consciousness only gets to know the exterior of Will and Action, and that through this consciousness people only become aware of the exterior of their own Will and Action. The deeper spiritual impulses which pour out of the supersensible world into this Will and Action, and which shape human social coexistence, remain unknown in this consciousness. A human can live in the belief that a certain intention leads him to an action; in truth, this intention is only a conscious mask for another one that remains unconscious.»³

To awaken more and more to this will be decisive in being able to serve in the right way, the advancing Christian-Michaelic powers and beings, in the present spiritual struggle.

1 GA 272
2 GA 260a
3 GA 35

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We would like to sincerely thank all supporters of our work.

Dear former members and all those who do not wish to join the Society:

Please feel free to write us your reasons (by e-mail to umfrage@wtg-99.com) or use the form on the internet (www.wtg-99.com/Umfrage).

All information will be treated absolutely confidentially and only the reasons given will be published, anonymously.

«Ein Nachrichtenblatt» (A News Sheet)

News for Members of the Anthroposophical Society and Friends of Anthroposophy
Published 2 a month.

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«KERNPUNKTE» (Core Issues)

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3 x 33 Years of the Christmas Conference and the Crisis of the AAG

A collection of material

Thomas Heck

This book contains a collection of individual contributions on the current situation of the General Anthroposophical Society, taking into account Rudolf Steiner's references to the 33-year rhythm (periods of circulation of historical events):

- Crisis Aspects of the General Anthroposophical Society and the School of Spiritual Science.
- The 33-year rhythm based on the duration of the life of Christ Jesus, especially in connection with Rudolf Steiner's founding of the Society and the resulting time cycles (1923 - 1956 - 1989 - 2022).
- A detailed examination of the years 2001 and 2011 (3 x 33 years after the foundings of 1902 and 1912), in which essential impulses for renewal became visible, which, however, could not be realised and instead, in the 100th year, authoritative ones asserted themselves.
- Other topics include Corona and 'official anthroposophical medicine', the development of Weleda, the relationship between members and the Society leadership, the handling of the question of the identity of the General Anthroposophical Society (constitutional question) and an initiative to revise the Society's constitution.

256 pages, 18 € / CHF

(shipping in DE and CH 4 € / CHF)

Order: thomas.heck@posteo.ch

In bookshops: Books on Demand

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Currently in German only entitled:

3 x 33 Jahre Weihnachtstagung und die Krise der AAG