

# Introduction to our Calendar

*with the background to its historical names, dates and karma indications*

Our calendar for the first time ever includes results of Rudolf Steiner's karma research. Karmic truths can only thrive in the right way when they are received with a corresponding attitude. Developing this must be left to each individual. At a time in which the highest and most sacred truths of spiritual science – for example, the texts of the “Class Lessons” – can be found online and accessed at lightning speed, there is no other external protection against a superficial or even improper use of such truths and communications. Despite this danger we have decided to add this new layer to our calendar. There is no other way towards a “world history in the light of anthroposophy” (RS) than to engage with concrete karmic facts. These indications are therefore primarily intended for people who, in the midst of their busy daily lives with all their schedules, concerns and obligations, also wish to learn to direct their gaze again and again to sacred karmic truths, which, like sparkling stars, can shine into daily life and “attune it to the cosmos”, so to speak – if we are ready for that.

## The 33 Year Rhythm that Shapes History

Our calendar is based on the 33 year rhythm that shapes history. What does this mean?

On 23 December 1917 (GA 180) Rudolf Steiner spoke of a Christmas year and an Easter year, which lie 33 years apart – the length of the life of Christ Jesus from birth to resurrection. What this means for the great course of history is that what is sown through human deeds in a particular year undergoes a resurrection after 33 years – in both the good and the bad sense. This resurrection is especially intensive when the period of time in a particular year between Christmas and the following Easter is long. In 2014 Easter fell on 20 April, in 2015 it fell on 5 April, and in 2016 it will fall on the 27 March. What is sown in these years will therefore come to fruition years later. Those who ponder this will feel something of the growing responsibility which will be expected of all human actions over the coming years, which are so pregnant with upheaval.

But each year can be regarded not only as a seed year for what is to come but also as a harvest year for the impulses which were developed 33 years earlier. Our Calendar therefore presents external or spiritual events which took place 33 years ago or a multiple of 33 years ago. Some examples:

- 18 June 1815 (6x 33 1/3): Napoleon is defeated at Waterloo
- 5 July 1915 (3x 33 1/3): Rudolf Steiner completes his essay: *Thoughts in Time of War – for Germans and those who*

*not believe they have to hate them*

- 2 February 1949 (2x 33): Death of Max Benzinger; in 1913 he created the dodecahedronal Foundation Stone for the first Goetheanum, in which two pyrites were placed.
- 4 April 1949 (2x 33): Founding of NATO “to keep the Americans in, the Germans down and the Russians out” (Lord Hastings Ismay, 1st Secretary General of NATO)
- 11 June 1982 (1x33): Visit to West Germany by President Reagan, in relation to the NATO aim “to keep the Germans down”
- 19 January 1982(1x33): Death date Maria Nagy, Hungarian Anthroposophist and author

## Occult Celebrations before Christmas and Easter

Something quite unique in our Calendar is that it includes the seven ‘Ceremonies’ before Christmas and the five before Easter. They go back to the inspiration of the English occultist Mabel Collins (1851-1927). Collins was not only close to D.N. Dunlop; she was also much esteemed by R. Steiner, as his reviews of her books *Light On The Path* and *The Story of the Year* show. Contemplation of these ceremonies or feasts can provide anthroposophists with new impulses. Who with Mabel Collins' Good Friday Feast of “I am Alive” is not put in mind of the “Good Friday magic” in Wagner's Parsifal? There can be no doubt that in shaping the Calendar of the Soul, and indeed the anthroposophical yearly festivals as a whole, Rudolf Steiner received a strong impetus from Mabel Collins.

## Historical facts and anthroposophically significant days

Obviously, the Perseus Calendar can only offer a small selection of facts and dates. It focuses especially on historically significant dates such as 28 June, 11 September, 9 November or 8 December. The names of inventors, statesmen, warriors or martyrs for the development of real Christianity had to be severely limited compared to those given in the original Calendar of 1912/13, but could in other cases of course be expanded. All these names or facts “can be useful for those who wish to follow the path of mankind's spiritual development” as R. Steiner says in the original Calendar. Sometimes dates available from the Internet differ from those given by Steiner. A tight selection too had to be made of dates and facts from R. Steiner's life and from the history of the movement that

he founded. Most of the facts presented relate more or less to the activities of Perseus Verlag, founded 23 years ago. Among them are especially the death dates of anthroposophists who have been underestimated or forgotten, but who may nevertheless be of great spiritual significance for the movement in the future e.g. Monica von Miltitz or Helmuth von Moltke the Younger.

### Guidelines to Indications

Names with asterisks (An example 4. 4. 1785 \**Bettina von Arnim, Mother of Gisela Grimm*)

The relevant personality belongs, according to R. Steiner, to a spiritual family, the core of which consists of the following individuals: Arthur Hallam, Bettina von Arnim, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Alfred Lord Tennyson, William E. Gladstone, Herman Grimm, Joseph Joachim und Marie-Georges Picquart. Analogously extended to include: Gisela Grimm-von Arnim, Hermann Joachim, Christian Morgenstern, Helmuth von Moltke.

See *Representative Men In the Light of Anthroposophy* (Steiner Books); Helmuth von Moltke – *Light for new Millennium*, (Rudolf Steiner Press, London) Vols 1 & 2 [Helmuth von Moltke – Documents on his Life and Work, Vols 1 & 2] ed., Th. Meyer.

The karma indications shown in different colours

Besides the founding of a science of the spirit, Rudolf Steiner's "core mission" was research into concrete karmic relationships in history and in present times.<sup>1</sup> This systematic research began in January 1889 with the death of Crown Prince Rudolf of Austria-Hungary; it reached its high point and relative conclusion in the karma lectures of the year 1924, which are available today, published in six volumes (GA 235-240). The results of his research, communicated in these lectures, form the base level for spiritual research into biography and history in the future. For without real concrete insight into individual karmic relationships, without consideration of repeated earth lives in concrete individual form, all historical research remains abstract and lacks any spiritual foundation, as is in fact very much the case today. Over 100 years after the appearance of the original Calendar, it seemed to us to be the right time to begin to integrate results from Steiner's karmic research into our calendar. In 1912 Steiner's research in this area was still in the midst of development, and the general climate of the times in those days was not amenable to the reception of research into reincarnation.

<sup>1</sup> See Th. Meyer, Rudolf Steiner's "Core Mission", Temple Lodge, 2nd ed. 2010.

Today, however, there is much greater openness to such communications, although they are often diverted into sensationalism and speculation. It is therefore timely to draw the attention of seriously interested contemporaries to the results of Steiner's karmic research which have been achieved and tested by means of the strictest spiritual scientific methods and are often unknown even to anthroposophists.

**All the indications in red** marked in the Calendar come from communications in the Karmic Relationships volumes I to VI, in the Collected Works of Rudolf Steiner (Gesamtausgabe) GA 235 to 240. As a rule, after the Roman numeral for the relevant volume, an Arabic numeral shows the corresponding lecture (e.g. Georg von Hertling, II/8 = Vol. II, lecture 8). In the case of indications from vols. II and VI (GA 236 and 240), the dates of the lectures have been included, as in later editions of these volumes the order of the lectures varies.

The indications of incarnations that Steiner researched could not always be given without gaps. This counts on readers seeking to work on these indications responsibly and autonomously.

**Names marked in green** refer to indications which Rudolf Steiner gave outside the karma lectures (of 1924), where in each case the corresponding GA number and lecture date are provided.

**Indications marked in blue** are based on reliable oral indications from Steiner, which were recorded by others. An example of this third category relates to the karmic relationship between Goethe and Moses, to which Steiner had first referred on 30 August 1912 in Munich in a somewhat veiled way (GA 138) and which was definitely confirmed by Rudolf Meyer, who also passed on the indication concerning the relationship between Judas and Leonardo da Vinci.

**Indications marked in orange:** The last category comprises a few indications which do not come from Steiner but from certain individuals who had reincarnation experiences that deserve to be taken seriously. These include the experiences of Ludwig Polzer-Hoditz, W.J. Stein or the Swedish author Barbro Karlén. Understandably, concerns might be raised about this last category. The relevant indications were not made flippantly; the publisher takes responsibility for communicating them.

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