

To be cognizant of the human being's central role at this stage of evolutionary progress, we need, as Rudolf Steiner said in 1922: "...an Initiation Science that is able to move rhythmically between Heaven and Earth, an Initiation Science that asks of the Heavens when it wants to understand the Earth, and asks of the Earth when it would inform itself of the Heavens." (*Man's Life in Sleep and After Death*, London, 30 August 1922).

One way to approach this rhythmic movement between Heaven and Earth is to look into the cycle of eclipses for the year, which in 2023 include a Total Solar Eclipse on April 20, and an annular Solar Eclipse on October 14. The April 20 eclipse shadow will fall over a remote, northwest region of Australia in the Southern Hemisphere (it is called the Ningaloo eclipse); the October 14 annular or "ring of fire" eclipse will initially cast its shadow across the western edge of the US, making landfall in Oregon and then moving southeast through Nevada, Utah, New Mexico, and Texas, out into the Gulf and on to Mexico and parts of Central and South America.

The April 20 Total Solar Eclipse falls on the 99th anniversary of the first-ever eurythmy performance of the Foundation Stone Meditation. It was four months after the close of the Christmas Conference, and in 1924, Easter occurred on April 20. The eurythmy presentation of the Foundation Stone was as a final "cosmic inscription" of this deed by Rudolf Steiner, given that he laid the original stone during a lunar eclipse cycle in 1913, with Mercury as witness; he offered it as a meditation starting on Christmas Day 1923 as Venus was rising; and he offered it to the Sun through eurythmy on Easter Sunday, April 20, 1924. Moon, Mercury, Venus, Sun, each sphere engaged in the history of the Foundation Stone from 1913 to 1924.

The October 14 eclipse this year casts its shadow over Los Alamos in New Mexico, where, in 1945, the atomic bomb was developed, later to be tested in Alamogordo, New Mexico. This eclipse belongs to a Saros Cycle that includes eclipses that occurred both in 1861 (the year Rudolf Steiner was born) and in 1879, the Fall of the Spirits of Darkness.

With warm hearts and light-filled heads, we can engage with the rhythm of this year's eclipses through the sublime reality of the Foundation Stone that was laid into the Earth, and into all human hearts that so will to serve the good, the beautiful, and the true in our becoming.

~Mary Stewart Adams  
7 March, 2023

Last Full Moon of Winter

